

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO WITHDRAW AREAS FROM MINING AND MINERAL EXPLORATION

WHEREAS, filling of mining claims, trespass, mineral extraction, and mineral exploration activities have become a significant threat to our conservation of natural landscapes, wildlife, water resources, and public health; and

WHEREAS, within the last two years, the County has had to commit taxpayer resources to opposing mineral exploration and mineral extraction activities on or adjacent to County natural reserves including Rancho Seco, Six Bar Ranch, Oracle Ridge properties, Bar V Ranch, and Cienega Creek; and

WHEREAS, the County has expended over \$50 million in County bond funds to purchase these properties for conservation; and

WHEREAS, these properties were purchased by Pima County to conserve federally endangered and threatened species, and prevent the future listing of vulnerable species as endangered or threatened; and

WHEREAS, even portions of the County's Tucson Mountain Park are still open to mineral entry and were subject to exploratory activities in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2007-15 on January 16, 2007 opposing the proposed Rosemont Mine in the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest, and requesting the withdrawal of certain areas from mineral entry; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2005-124 on June 7, 2005 opposing mining within County reserves and biologically sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, rapid population growth throughout Arizona, combined with significant tourism and economic development that is dependent on the natural beauty of this State, make the State incompatible with current mining practices and mining laws; and

WHEREAS, current mining practices and mining laws have resulted in inadequate and under-funded mitigation and reclamation in connection with mining activities; and

WHEREAS, inadequate and under-funded mitigation and reclamation have resulted in irreversible impacts to our native fish and wildlife, impacts to water quality and quantity, and visual blight; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of this County see few local tax benefits from mining and are instead left with the undue burden associated with air, water and visual pollution from previous mining activities; and

WHEREAS, mining has lead to public health concerns in Pima County, including impacts to ground water in and around the mines in Green Valley, and on Bureau of Land Management land known as Saginaw Hill; and

WHEREAS, in the case of Saginaw Hill, the Bureau of Land Management is left with the expense of assessing the public health impacts from mining activities that occurred historically on the property and remediating such impacts in order to protect public health; and

WHEREAS, 1,299,600 acres of Federal lands in Pima County, made up of the Ironwood Forest National Monument, Organ Pipe National Monument, Saguaro National Park, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Goldwater Gunnery Range, Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area, Rincon Wilderness Area, Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Area, Baboquivari Peak Wilderness Area, and Coyote Mountain Wilderness Area are already closed to mineral entry subject to existing valid rights at the time of designation; and

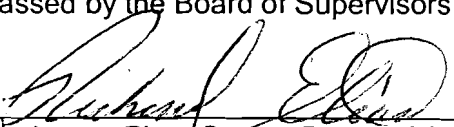
WHEREAS, withdrawing from mineral entry the federal lands within the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest in Pima County, excluding the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Area which is already closed to mineral entry, would close an additional 52,000 acres to mineral entry; and

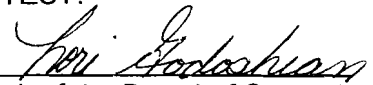
WHEREAS, withdrawing from mineral entry the remaining federal lands within the Coronado National Forest in Pima County, excluding wilderness areas and the Santa Rita Mountain Range, would close an additional 186,000 acres to mineral entry.

NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

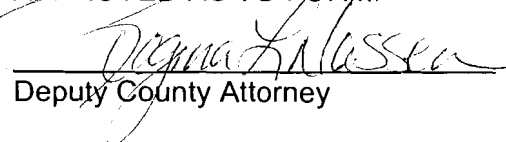
1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of all federal lands within the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest in Pima County.
2. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of the remaining federal lands within the Coronado National Forest in Pima County.
3. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of all County-owned natural reserves where the federal government owns the subsurface mineral rights.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this 20th day of February, 2007.


Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Deputy County Attorney