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Community Water
at Green Valley

15515 E. Hillton Ranch Road
Vail, AZ
February 21, 2008

Ms. Kristin Mayes
Arizona Corporation Commission
1300 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Ms. Mayes,

On December 7 of last year, I sent you a letter as a follow-up to the hearing in Green Valley regarding the potential Augusta Resources copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains.

I have never heard anything back from you or anyone in your office, which is disappointing. I had hoped to hear at least that you are strongly considering the needs and desires of the local population, in the process of making decisions regarding this potential threat to our area.

I am taking the liberty of sending you another copy of that letter, on the off chance that it never reached you.

I thank you for being concerned about the needs of Arizona residents, and hope that you will help us maintain the quality of life in our area.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. White

Jennifer A. White

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15515 E. Hillton Ranch Rd.
Vail, AZ 85641
December 7, 2007

Ms. Kristin Mayes
Arizona Corporation Commission
1300 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Ms. Mayes,

I am writing to express my concerns and ask questions of the commission. I attended the forum in Green Valley on Wednesday, but had to leave after two hours, so I did not have a chance to speak. I appreciate the willingness of the commission members to provide a public forum. Some other branches of our state government have not been as responsive to public concerns.

As a bit of background, I live about a mile off of state route 83, between Interstate 10 and the town of Sonoita. I am a Pima County resident. Davidson Canyon, and the wash, runs along route 83 for much of its path northward. The Santa Rita mountains are southwest of my property, and the proposed site of the Rosemont copper mine is approximately 4 miles south/southwest.

The Davidson wash provides the drainage for much of the eastern side of the Santa Ritas and the foothills, and runs into Cienega Creek, which is already designated as a unique Arizona waterway. The Andrada Ranch and the Empire Ranch, as well as countless smaller horse properties and residential properties, count on the groundwater of this region for our animals and our homes. Because of the geography and topography of the region, the water runs northward from the Santa Ritas, along the Davidson, down into the Cienega, and presumably helps to feed the aquifer that is reported to be at the base of the Rincon Mountains, north of Interstate 10.

If Sumitomo Corporation, doing business under the aegis of Augusta Resources, is allowed to pull 5,000 acre-feet of water per year, just uphill from us, it stands to reason that our wells will go dry very quickly. They say that they are going to recharge 105,000 acre-feet to replace the 100,000 acre-feet that they plan to pull out, but that recharge is apparently planned for an area northwest of the mountains, and will flow downhill toward Tucson.

One of our neighbors was recently exploring in the area of the proposed Rosemont mine, and saw a lot of equipment there. When he questioned a worker at the site, he was told that there were already 9 wells drilled, down to a depth of 1000 ft.

My well, downstream from these wells, is at 720 ft, so this appears to be a disaster in the making. There are around 30 households along Hillton Ranch Road alone, using either private wells or shared wells. Hillton Ranch is only one of many similar roads in the area, which is gradually changing from countryside to a suburban area south of Vail.

I would strongly request that you hold a hearing on this issue in Vail, as you did in Green Valley. The residents of Green Valley are trying to get CAP water guaranteed to them through the construction of a pipeline, but we over on this side of the mountain are looking at the possibility of losing our water altogether.

Green Valley is growing quickly. When I drove over there on Wednesday to attend the meeting, I saw many bladed areas being readied for new housing. If Green Valley is so concerned about the stability of their water supply, why are they being allowed to develop so many new properties?

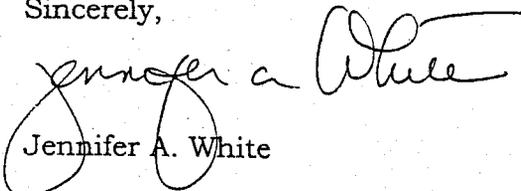
If I no longer have a viable water well, my property will become virtually worthless. I won't be able to live on it, but neither will I be able to sell it. I am 59 years old and do not have the time to make up that kind of devastating financial loss. How can I pay the mortgage on a property with no water? It is not reasonable to have to haul water from town for horses and other animals. Will the county or the state reimburse me for my lost property value? Will any government body require that Sumitomo/Augusta buy out or reimburse citizens whose property they have ruined? I am beside myself at the prospect of being forced off my land at this age.

I beg you to look into these questions before allowing this project to go any further. According to Augusta Resources' website, the Rosemont mine is a "done deal". Please let them know that it is not so. The needs and rights of the citizens of Arizona should be held in higher regard than those of foreign corporations who seek only to take profits overseas, while destroying the precious water supply and scenic beauty of this state.

Please share this letter with your fellow commissioners. I do hope that we will be able to see all of you at another forum in the near future, for residents of the Vail area.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider these issues.

Sincerely,



Jennifer A. White

cc:

Governor Janet Napolitano
Representative Marian McClure
Senator Tim Bee
Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll
Representative Gabrielle Giffords
Representative Raul Grijalva