

Agenda

Santa Cruz Technical College, Nogales South 32 Advisory Panel Meeting March 5, 2025

Schedule

- 3:30-3:40 – CAP overview and meeting rules
- 3:40-4:00 – NEPA basics
- 4:00-4:30 – South32 Grinding/Crushing
- 4:30-5:00 – South32 General Project Update
- 5:00-5:30 – Community Topics/Upcoming meeting topics

Attendance

Meeting Facilitators (Acorn International): Ranay Guifarro

South 32 Hermosa Advisory Panel Members Present: Linda Shore, Trina de la Ossa, Fritz Sawyer Jonathan Lutz, Daniel Gutierrez, Micheal Young, Josh Rubin, Eva Zuniga, Gerry Isaac, and George Wise

South32 Hermosa Advisory Panel Members Absent: Maureen de la Ossa, Lou Jeong, Francisco Padilla, and Guillermo Valencia

South32: Sandra Moraga, Troy Kimball, Denise Bowdon, and Nathan Eiselein

Minutes

3:35 Greetings

Meeting is called to order CAP members, and the public was welcomed to the meeting

3:39 CAP Meeting Rules

- The expectations for the public were reviewed.

3:40 NEPA Basics

Ranay reviewed NEPA with specifics including :

- The USFS plans to release a detailed environmental impact assessment on the Hermosa Project which point it will initiate a 45-day public review/comment period
 - The possibility of the CAP providing capacity building would be to help promote broad awareness, review, and comment/questions during the DEIS public comment period
- NEPA Practical recommendations/tips based on our experience.
- Link to References/tips for reviewing the EIS:

- <https://medium.com/@cleanenergyorg/7-tips-on-how-to-review-an-environmental-impact-statement-2be6526cfd11>
- <https://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/files-pdf/Navigating%20EIS%20Fact%20Sheet%20-April%202022.pdf>
- <http://eli-ocean.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/Public-Participation-Educational-Material.pdf>

3:55 Grinding and Crushing- Nathan Eiselein

- Overview of Crushing
- Crushing happens first at the 'Primary crusher' located underground
- The crushed ore is then hoisted from underground to the surface, and stored in the Surface Coarse Ore Silo's where it waits for further processing
- The next step in the process is the SAG mill (Semi-Autogenous Grinding), the ore is then screened and the oversize is sent to the Cone Crusher.
- The SAG mill has the capacity for steel balls to be added for additional grinding relief
- The material then moves to the Flotation Process, which separates the valuable minerals from the gangue/host rock. Zinc and Lead Concentrate is the product of the flotation process, and the tailings is sent to the filtration plant where it is either used for paste backfill underground, or stored in the surface tailings storage facility (TSF). All water in the Flotation Process is reused in a closed loop.
- Zinc cyanide will be used in the process, and the cyanide will be transported to the site as dry cyanide.
- Cyanide will not be used in large quantities
- Cyanide naturally breaks down from sunlight whatever would be left over would be treated by the water treatment plan

Questions asked:

- What training will be provided to the local emergency services in the county
Needs to include awareness for all reagents that will be used and transported to the mine
- What is the longevity of the chemicals if a spill were to happen?

Links for further detail:

The underground crusher:

[Eccentric Roll Crusher - ERC®](#)

Please note: This crusher is underground. It will not be mobile like in the video.

The video also does not show the water spray we will have on the unit. It's just a general demonstration on how the equipment works.

The filter press:

[Automatic Filter Press AFP2525](#)

Please note: The filters in the video do not necessarily reflect the ones we will have on site. Again, this is just a nice demonstrational video on how the machinery works.

4:40 South32 Project Update- Sandra

(Please view the slides at the bottom of these notes as they provide a more comprehensive review of what was discussed in the meeting)

- Review of the job opportunities page on the South32 website.
- The Patagonia and Nogales South32 offices have computers available for the public to use and apply for job openings.
- Review of the Supplier process and application for those interested in becoming a supplier for South32

4:55 Community Thoughts/ Questions for Next Meeting Topics

Community Questions

- San Rafael Valley rancher(s) discussed concerns on water for cows and questions on where the ribs are being placed
- Access to the cross Creek connector
- No understanding of what happens to the spring
- What is the mine, and what is it doing?

Reflection/evaluation sheet

No reflection sheets for the March meeting



Community Advisory Panel on the South 32 Hermosa Project

Monthly Meeting

South32 Hermosa Project

March 5, 2025

Acorn International, LLC
BOS | IAH | Worldwide



Meeting Agenda

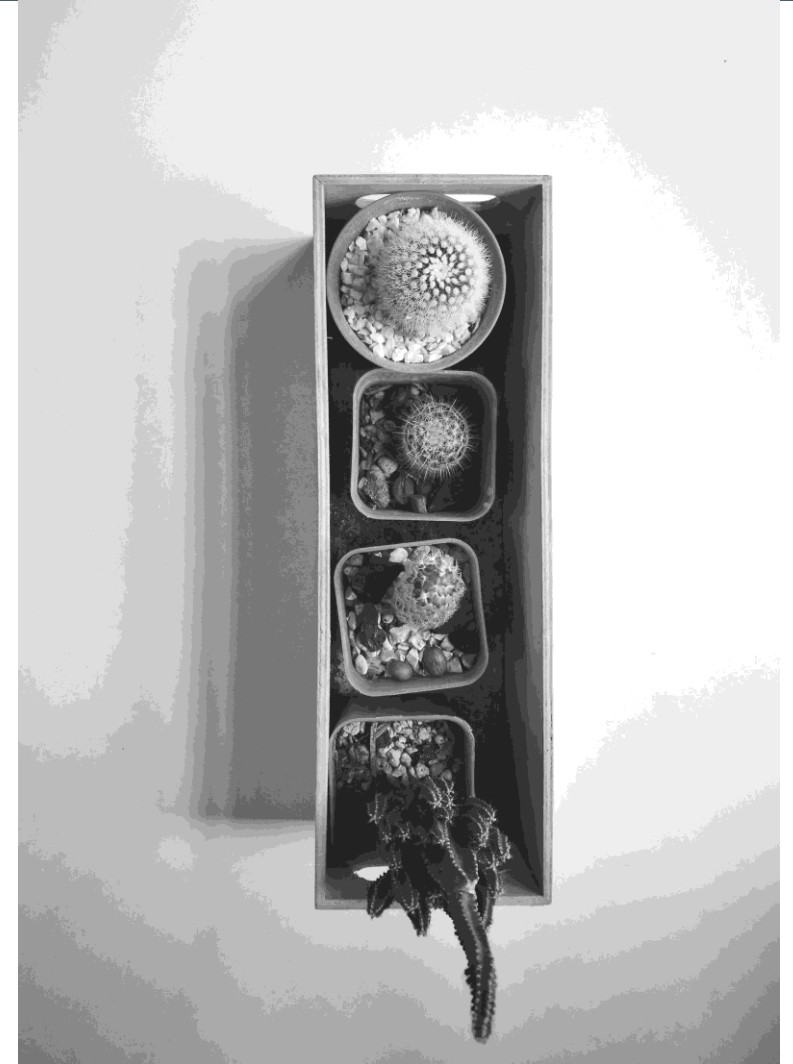
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Meeting Rules

Section 6 – Meeting Arrangements

“Meetings will be open to the public, but those who are not members of the CAP will be observers only (not active participants or speakers in the meetings.) CAP members may decide (by consensus) to make any portion of a meeting, or a full meeting, closed to the public. Any items raised during the meeting not included on the agenda may be deferred to the following meeting if information needs to be obtained or personnel present are unable to provide an informed response. No question will remain unanswered.”



NEPA

- The USFS plans to release a detailed environmental impact assessment on the Hermosa Project which point it will initiate a 45-day public review/comment period
- Objective: of this capacity building would be to help promote broad awareness, review and comment/questions during the DEIS public comment period. The hope is that this will also help ensure that comments on the DEIS are (a) representative of all community members' interests & opinions and (b) actionable for any further study or mitigations that may be needed. This is based on the capacity-building philosophy that “a rising tide lifts all boats.”
- Scope: The CAP may wish to provide public information, provide small group outreach, and/or sponsor informal capacity building sessions (via a fact sheet, page on web site, and/or speakers at various events/forums) during April and early May to help build the capacity of community members in reviewing and commenting on the DEIS. The references and practical experience tips below may be helpful content.



NEPA

- Short references / tips for reviewing EISs:
 - US Department of Energy's [7 Tips on How to Review an Environmental Impact Statement | by cleanenergy.org | Medium](#) (especially helpful, 2-page list of tips for reviewing and commenting on any EIS – not just for energy programs)
 - Env Law Institute's 2- page guide on how to navigate the EIS process [Gulf Coast Recovery & Restoration: 101](#)
 - ELI's 2-page guide on how to prepare impactful comments on an EIS [public participation](#)
 - US Forest Service's NEPA Implementation Guidance (pages 17-19 provide minimal guidance on how USFS is to request and consider comments on DEIS)



NEPA

- Practical recommendations/tips based on experience:
 - The DEIS will be long, include technical language and may feel intimidating. Don't be intimidated!
 - Before accessing the DEIS online at: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/fast-41-covered-projects/south32-hermosa-critical-minerals-project>, take time to think about :
 - What is important to you, your family, and your friends about what you value in this community?
 - What could impact these features in a way that would matter to you?
 - Based on these concerns, what information do you need to know about the project?
 - Write down your answers to these questions and keep them nearby while you start to read relevant sections of the DEIS. It's easy to get pulled down into rabbit holes while reviewing these documents, and having this list nearby will help keep you focused on what is most important to you.
 - With these questions in mind, read the DEIS executive summary (typically <20-30 pages and in plain English / Spanish)

NEPA

- Look at the table of contents, and identify which sections address your concerns – read those sections and make notes of any questions or concerns you may have.
- When providing comments, keep in mind that the Forest Service will be most likely to know how to address specific questions and actionable/practical comments on specific topics of interest (e.g., those that are most important to you), and will not be required by its regulations to address only items that are within the scope of its jurisdiction under NEPA. The Forest Service team and its EIS consultants will not generally have the leeway or capacity to address general comments (e.g., “please grant / deny approval for the project”) or comments that could create conflicts for the FS regarding potential litigation.
- Try to attend public information sessions where the Forest Service presents and explains the DEIS and answers frequently asked questions.

South32 Grinding and Crushing



South32 Project Update



Community Thoughts

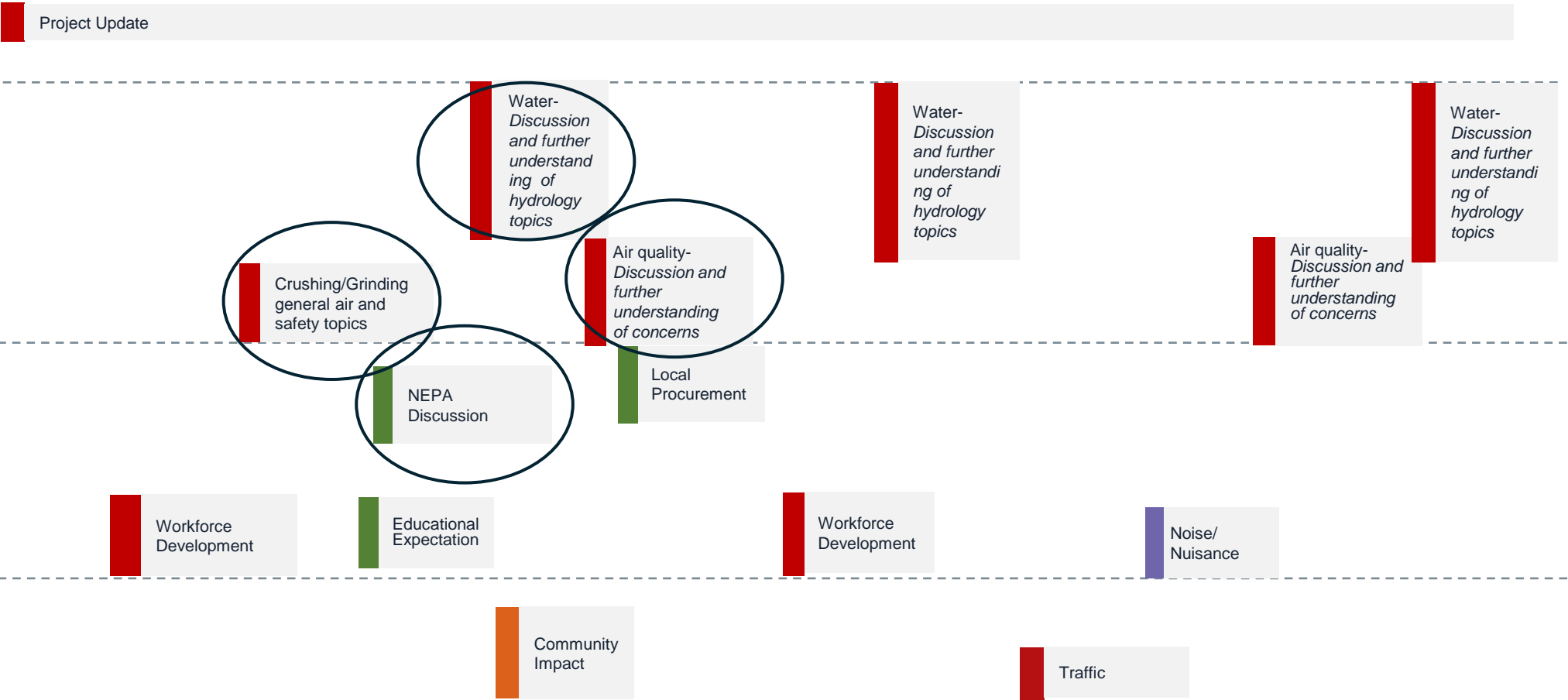
- What have you heard from the community?
- What types of people have you talked to?



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HERMOSA PROJECT ADVISORY PANEL

ROADMAP UPDATE

JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025	APR 2025	MAY 2025	JUN 2025	JUL 2025	AUG 2025	SEPT 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025
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EMPOWER

Participate in community meetings to connect interested groups with the panel and bring forward their questions to facilitate outcomes desired by the panel

INVOLVE

Identify alternatives through participating in meetings, doing homework and own research, responding to surveys, participating in temporary workgroups

COLLABORATE

Participate in developing solutions and monitoring for accountability

CONSULT

Provide South32 feedback as to alternatives course of action during meetings, homework, surveys

INFORM

Share information through panelist

Identifying the opportunities in which CAP can support the community and South32 in each of these topics will be ongoing. This is the 'Involve' aspect of this Roadmap.

Next Meetings & Tour Info

Meeting	Location
February 5 th	Nogales
March 5 th	Patagonia
April 2 nd	Nogales
May 7 th	Patagonia





Thank you!

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