“There are some things in the world we can’t change—gravity, entropy, the speed of light, and our biological nature that requires clean air, clean water, clean soil, clean energy and biodiversity for our health and well being. Protecting the biosphere should be our highest priority or else we sicken and die.”
David Suzuki, award winning scientist, environmentalist, broadcaster

November 15, 2018

Thank YOU for your continued support of Patagonia Area Resource Alliance’s mission to educate and engage the community about the risks and realities of mining, to raise awareness of our precious and imperiled natural resources, and to actively advocate for the protection of the water and the ecosystem.

2018 has been a very busy year for mining company activity in our beloved Patagonia Mountains and Sonoita Creek Watershed. The mining company construction activity at the Hermosa project is now owned by South32, an Australian Mining Company. The patented claims cover 533 acres plus unpatented claims on 19,100 acres of public lands. An underground stoping mining operation (South32 has a mining operation in Australia that is very similar to the Hermosa plan) was designed to “shoehorn” onto about 400 acres of the patented land in order to begin production in 2020 with minimal Federal and State oversight.

**The project’s Achilles heel is that the site will be out of tailings room by 2028.**

Recent View of South32 Hermosa Mine Construction Site
(looking toward the San Rafael Valley; Flux Canyon Road on lower left and Harshaw Road on right)

South32 has stated that it will release a feasibility report in CY2019. PARA intends to be prepared to immediately respond to any permit applications for infrastructure or any other activity on public lands.

Please support PARAs work with a financial donation to continue our efforts to protect the Patagonia Mountains and Sonoita Creek watershed and to prevent further environmental degradation to our public lands, our water, and our air for future generations.

A thriving community depends upon our economic AND environmental health — for now and for the future. Visit [www.PatagoniaAlliance.org](http://www.PatagoniaAlliance.org) for updates.

THANK YOU from your 2019 PARA Board Members
Carolyn, Chris, Connie, Coyote, Dick, Ken, Valerie
Carolyn Shafer has been a PARA Board member since 2012. Carolyn earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Florida Atlantic University and has worked in a variety of industries (law firms, power line construction, public charter school, art gallery). Her advocacy commitment is based on a strong & deep belief that “Water Matters More”.

Chris Werkhoven’s career was as a PhD researcher in semiconductor process chemistry and micro-electronic device physics, ending as a senior vice president responsible for corporate product development and marketing of billion dollar companies in various parts of the high-tech industry. Chris’ advocacy commitment stems from his desire to contribute to protecting natural resources and the environment.

Connie Williams, retired math/science teacher, is currently a member of three local non-profit Boards and has a lead role in 4 other non-profits. Most of her work relates in some way to climate change and building local support for sustainable, regenerative practices and lifestyles. Connie is concerned about the environmental services and ecotourism impact of the proposed mine as well as the social impact to our communities.

Nancy Coyote hails from Oregon. She was educated at the University of Oregon and during 32 years of civil service with the US Forest Service. Her career included coordinating and then managing the Volunteers, Youth, and Partnership programs at all levels of the agency. She and her husband moved to the Patagonia Mountains in 2012 and have come to appreciate, love, and work to protect these Sky Islands. Coyote joined the PARA Board in Nov. 2015.

Dick McCune retired from 25 years with Marriott and Ritz Carlton as a construction director. He lived in Bali, Indonesia for 18 years. In Arizona he serves as Precinct Committeeman for Santa Cruz County Democrats working to get out the vote in 2016 and 2018, and is affiliated with Organizing for Action. Dick says: “I strongly believe our mining laws are antiquated, needing a political effort to have them amended. I resent the fact that a foreign company will mine our resources without paying for them, only to be shipped on our roads to Mexico onward to China.”

Ken Ludwig worked for the U.S. Geological Survey as an Isotopic Geochemist from 1973 to 1995, including a decade on understanding the nature and origin of uranium deposits in the U.S. and Australia, and several years in studying groundwater flow in the Death Valley area. Subsequently Ken worked as a Senior Staff Scientist (and also President) from 1996 to 2012 with the nonprofit Berkeley Geochronology Center. Ken is concerned about the industrialized mining operations inevitable effect on the environment and groundwater resources.

Valerie Neale is an Art History and English Literature graduate of University College, London. In 1990 Valerie became a CPA and then earned a Master in Tax at Golden Gate University. The primary focus of her private practice was tax planning and estate planning for individuals and for-profit businesses. Valerie wants to contribute to maintaining, restoring and conserving the uniquely bio-diverse nature of this particular geographical area.