Date: June 20, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher
County Administrator

Re: Update: Regional Flood Control District Discussions with Hudbay Minerals, Inc.

During the June 7, 2022 discussion related to adoption of Resolution 2022-32, Supervisor Scott requested an update on discussions with Hudbay Minerals, Inc. regarding their Copper World project. The Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) met with Hudbay on May 5, 2022. Due to the limited hydrological and hydraulic information available, RFCD requested preparation of information to help identify the watercourses and extent of the regulatory floodplain on the Hudbay property. Hudbay indicated that they would hire a consultant to prepare the information.

There has been no further communication with Hudbay since May 5, 2022. Another meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2022 to review stormwater management and phasing for the project, and to discuss the consultant’s scope of work for preparing the requested watercourse and floodplain information necessary to determine the extent of the RFCD’s authority and permitting requirements. I will provide another update to the Board after the July meeting.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation
TO: Jan Lesher  
County Administrator

FROM: Suzanne Shields, P.E.  
Director

DATE: June 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Copper World Mine Update

At the June 7, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Rex Scott requested an update on the discussions that the Regional Flood Control District (District) have had with Hudbay Minerals, Inc., regarding the Copper World Mine. Although the District’s authority is limited, there will be elements of the mine that will require written authorization.

The District met with Hudbay on May 5, 2022 to discuss the overall mine plan, stormwater control that the mine will be obligated to put into place due to State requirement, the potential phasing of the mine, and those elements that are likely subject to the District’s permitting requirements.

Currently, there is not much hydrologic or hydraulic information available to determine the regulatory status of each watercourse or the extent of the regulatory floodplain for those watercourses that are regulatory due to the remoteness of the watercourses on the Hudbay property. During this meeting, the District indicated that it is the obligation of the applicant to provide hydrologic and hydraulic information when this information is not otherwise known, and recommended that the first task Hudbay should undertake is to provide this information to the District for review and approval. This information would establish more precisely, where the District’s authority lies on the site. The District has substantial guidance on how to prepare this information and Hudbay indicated that they would hire a consultant to begin this process using the District’s guidance.

No further correspondence has occurred since the May 5 meeting other than to set up a meeting for July 13, 2022. The agenda topics will include a Hudbay presentation of how the stormwater will be managed on the site, how the facilities will be staged, and a review of the consultant’s scope of work and methodology for delineating the regulatory floodplains and how they will tie into the design of the facility.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

SS/tj

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator – Public Works  
Eric Shepp, P.E., Deputy Director – Regional Flood Control District