



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 11, 2015

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

Re: **Pima County Coordination with Freeport-McMoRan Inc.**

As the Board of Supervisors is aware, Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (Freeport) has announced it will curtail its Sierrita Mine in Green Valley. This will result in the loss of approximately 450 jobs in addition to the previous announcement of an anticipated cut of 580 jobs. This announcement is the result of a decrease in the prices of copper and molybdenum, which are produced at the open-pit mine facility.

Pima County Community Services Employment and Training Department (CSET) has been working with Freeport for the past two months. Since the announcement of the initial workforce reduction, the company has been allowing CSET to be on site and conduct orientations. Now that the full impact of the cuts is known, Freeport and CSET are working together to also provide intake and workshops at the jobsite.

Since the time of the initial announcement, CSET has conducted orientation for about 400 Freeport employees. The orientation describes resources available to the impacted employee and information about how he or she may connect to those resources. Currently, two additional orientations are scheduled at Freeport on December 16 and 17 and additional off-site orientations are scheduled at OneStop Centers on December 22 and 29. Each orientation typically involves 10 to 40 employees. CSET involves partners in these orientations such as the State Employment Service, which provides information about Unemployment Insurance.

In addition, Ms. Patricia Gastelum, the CSET Rapid Response Coordinator, met with about 40 managers and supervisors at Freeport approximately 30 days ago to discuss best practices and further explain the available services.

It is our understanding the layoffs will begin in mid-January 2016. The company has offered early retirement packages to those who are 55 and older and have worked for Freeport at least 10 years. Currently, other Freeport locations that are not cutting workers are giving the Sierrita miners every consideration for jobs should they choose to relocate. CSET is also providing relocation assistance, which is allowable under the dislocated worker program.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **Pima County Coordination with Freeport-McMoRan Inc.**
December 11, 2015
Page 2

Both the Town of Sahuarita and local assistance groups have been very supportive. Employees who live in the Tucson area can access CSET's OneStop Centers. The Sahuarita Town Hall will also be used for activities that may include intake and assessment, basic computer skills, employability skills (career exploration, resume development, etc.), remedial education and career planning.

CSET also offers job search assistance to spouses and anyone else who visits the Sahuarita Town Hall. Orientations are being held there each Tuesday at 6 PM.

Pima County will have skill training tuition assistance available, and Freeport has applied for Trade Adjustment Assistance on behalf of the affected employees. If awarded, this would significantly increase the training funds available to each person.

Finally, staff has initiated conversations with Santa Cruz, Cochise and Pinal Counties to coordinate efforts on behalf the impacted employees and their families.

CHH/mjk

c: Chad Fretz, Manager, Concentrator, Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Operations
Jan Leshner, Deputy County Administrator for Community and Health Services
Charles Casey, Director, Community Services, Employment and Training