



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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November 13, 2017

Neil Bosworth
Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest
2324 East McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85006

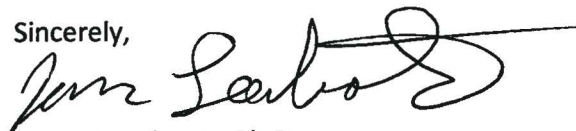
Dear Mr. Bosworth,

On September 15, 2017, we responded to your letter of September 6, 2017, requesting the U.S. Geological Survey participate in five tasks related to Tonto National Forest's NEPA process concerning the Resolution Copper Project. At that time, we had formally declined to participate in Task #5: the invitation to membership in the Groundwater Modeling Workgroup.

We have reconsidered our initial decision. We respectfully request that Tonto National Forest include the U.S. Geological Survey as part of the Groundwater Modeling Workgroup with the following understanding: (1) The U.S. Geological Survey is not part of the formal NEPA process as a stakeholder agency; (2) formal U.S. Geological assessments on the groundwater models require internal peer review and USGS Director approval before being sent to Tonto National Forest; and (3) U.S. Geological Survey contributions would be integrated into the broader document set produced by the federal partners on the Groundwater Modeling Workgroup.

Thank you for your reconsideration of our shift in the level of participation. We look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,



James Leenhouts, Ph.D.

Cc: Mary Rasmussen, Tonto National Forest
Chris Garrett, SWCA