

RESOLUTION NO. 1324-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, REGARDING THE PROPOSED IN-SITU LEACH MINING OF COPPER BY CURIS RESOURCES LIMITED, ALSO KNOWN AS THE FLORENCE COPPER PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Curis Resources Limited is actively seeking federal, state, county, and local regulatory approval to operate an in-situ leach mine known as the Florence Copper Project on 990 acres of property located within the Town of Florence and 160 acres of Arizona State Trust Lands; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Florence is a municipal water provider designated as having an Assured Water Supply with a service area located within the Pinal Active Management Area; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Florence is also a Designated Management Agency under the Central Arizona Association of Government's 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan with the authority for implementation and enforcement of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, in-situ leach mining is a method of mining or recovery of minerals which presents risks to the environment as well as to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, such risks include possible groundwater contamination and the degradation of natural groundwater conditions through the groundwater restoration process utilized after completion of the in-situ leaching operations; and

WHEREAS, because mining operations using the in-situ process have the potential to cause damage far below the surface, early detection of such problems may not be possible; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of an in-situ mining operation may adversely impact the taxpayers of the Town of Florence with few local tax benefits, which is fiscally unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, in-situ leach mining of copper is currently not permitted on the properties of the proposed Florence Copper Project; and

WHEREAS, the guiding principles and overall vision expressed and approved by Florence voters in the Florence General Plan 2020 are currently inconsistent with in-situ leach mining of copper on the properties of the proposed Florence Copper Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Council hereby express their strong opposition to the risks presented by the Florence Copper Project and urge all federal, state, and county agencies involved in the permitting process for the Florence Copper Project to recognize that approving such a project along the Gila River, in close proximity to populated areas and a vital aquifer is ill advised;


SECTION 2. Because such risks involve the possibility of injury to the health, safety and welfare of the Town's residents as well as their water supply, the Florence Copper Project may do irreparable harm to the economic well-being of the Town of Florence;

SECTION 3. For the aforementioned reasons, the Mayor and Council further urge such agencies to deny any and all permit applications for the Florence Copper Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT:

SECTION 4. Whereas, the provisions of this Resolution are necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Resolution is hereby exempted from the operation of the referendum provisions of the state Constitution, and shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Council and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Florence, Arizona, this 19th day of December, 2011.



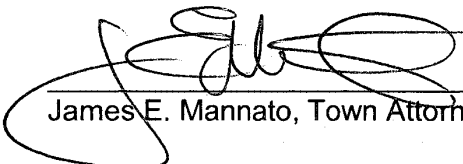
Vicki Kilvinger, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



James E. Mannato, Town Attorney