

January 23, 2019
Field Trip
MEETING SUMMARY

Field Trip Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Fire Department
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Rick Cartier – Superior Chamber of Commerce alternate
Todd Pryor – Town of Superior
Jim Schenck – Rebuild Superior
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club
Lynn Martin – JF, JI Ranch
Sylvia Werre – Top of the World
Mila Besich Lira – Town of Superior

Community Working Group members not present:

Karen Kitchayan Jones – San Carlos Apache Tribe
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Fernando Shipley – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Board
Tweedy Armitage – Superior Historical Society
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce
Tiffany Rowell – Superior community
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison
Jeff Bunkleemann – Central Arizona College
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District Board / Maricopa County
George Martin – JF, JI Ranch
Richard Matthews – Queen Valley Fire Department
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board

Resolution Copper Company:

Hesston Klenk – Communities Manager
Kami Ballard – Environmental & Permitting Manager
Jason Nelson – Tailings Engineer
Sebastian Chamorro – Westland Resources Archaeological Field Director

Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

John Godec, Debra Duerr

Public Guests:

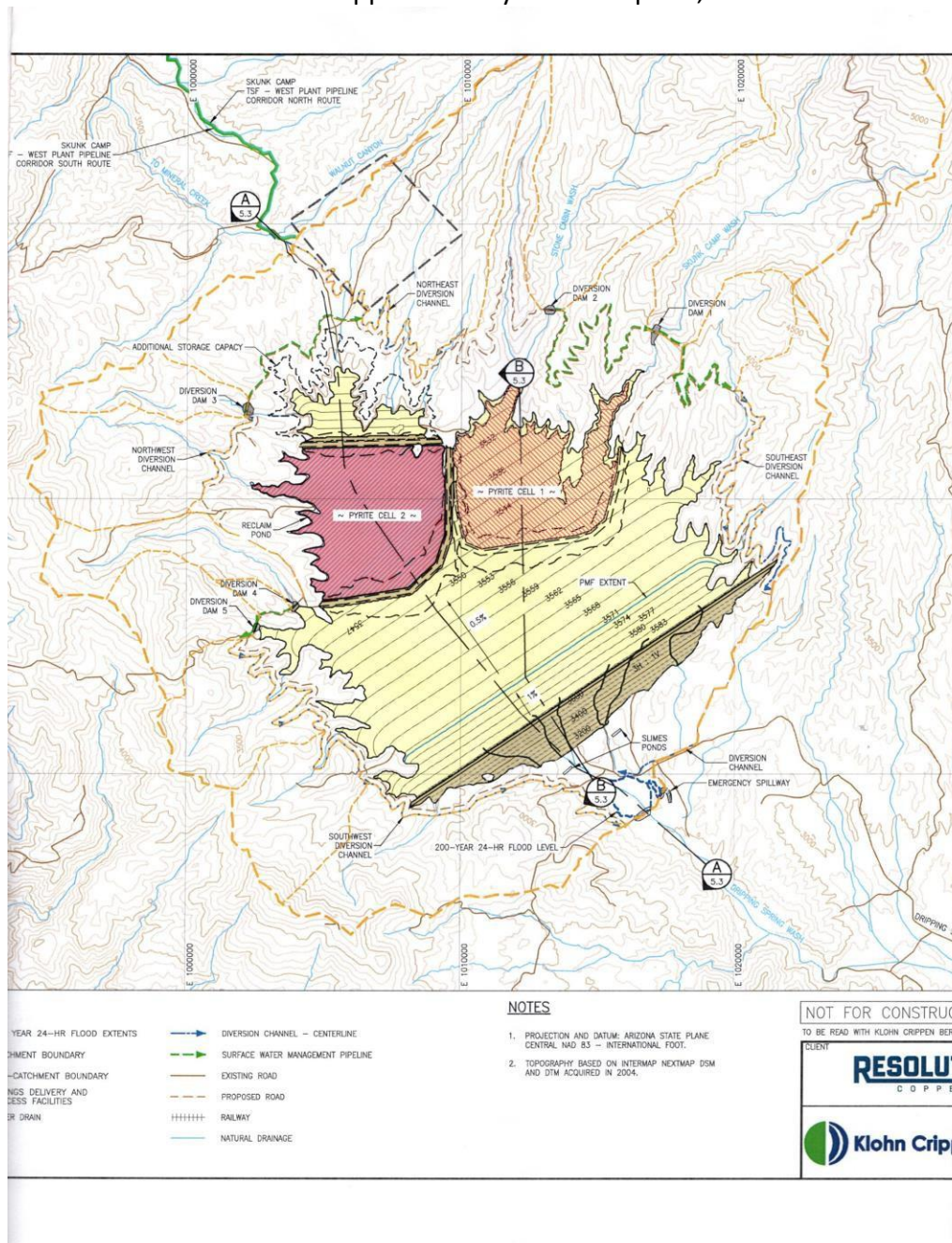
Richard Provenzio – United Superiorites

Tailings Site Description

At the request of the CWG, Resolution Copper organized a field trip for CWG members to visit one of the alternative tailings disposal locations being studied in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange. The tour was led by Jason Nelson, Resolution's tailings design engineer. At the last CWG meeting, Vicky Peacey described this site as:

Alternative 6 – Skunk Camp – This site has steep topography and one central drainage area, so seepage control would not require as many collection points and would need only one pump-back well. The design would incorporate a full centerline dam for tailings and a full downstream dam for the pyrite tailings. Many surface water diversions would be needed here. About 20 residents live six miles away. Resolution has met with these Dripping Springs residents to discuss the Forest Service’s alternative proposal and concerns they have.

Resolution has developed a conceptual site design for the tailings facility, as shown below, and is currently conducting subsurface geological testing to determine site conditions. The tailings placement would consume an area approximately 3 miles square, in a site of 18 miles around.



Information & Discussion

The site is located approximately in the center of a triangle formed by US Highway 60 on the north, State Highway 177 on the west/south, and State Highway 77 on the east/south. It is currently accessed from SR77 via Dripping Springs Road.

Features of the site and items discussed by the CWG include the following:

- The size of the facility would be about the same as that proposed at the Near West site included in Resolution's Mine Plan of Operations. Visual simulations are being prepared.
- A slurry pipeline of approximately 20 miles in length would be constructed between the West Plant processing area in Superior and the tailings site; this is much longer than that required for the Near West site and would go through more challenging terrain. The pipeline would likely be buried in most places.
- Dripping Springs Road traverses the site and would need to be relocated.
- The topography of the site would make tailings drainage collection much easier than at the Near West site, requiring a single collection point rather than multiple points located around the facility.
- Many existing washes and drainages within the site would need to be diverted or mitigated.
- Based on preliminary site characterization testing, the site seems to be underlain by Gila conglomerate, which is suitable for this use. There is also alluvium that appears to be consolidated.
- Cultural resource studies are being conducted in the area. Many archaeological resources are present throughout the region. More detailed surveys will be needed.
- There do not appear to be concerns about sensitive, threatened or endangered biological resources. Bighorn sheep were mentioned as being present in the area.
- The area does not appear to be a heavily used recreation area. Minimal evidence of off-road vehicle use was seen. Hunting impacts will likely be a concern, and various campsites appear to be used by seasonal hunters.
- Water quality monitoring will be conducted if this site is selected as the preferred alternative. Resolution has discussed the current community monitoring program with area residents and has committed to conducting a similar program here.

CWG members who attended the field trip expressed their opinions that this site seems to be well-suited to the project tailings disposal facility, mainly because it is more isolated from more highly populated communities, minimizing visual impacts, and does not experience as much recreational use as the Near West site. It is located on the other side of a ridge from the Asarco Ray Mine, so members thought that area residents are probably more familiar with mining and associated operations.

The group also met briefly with representatives of Resolution's archaeological resources team from Westland Resources and their partner Native American monitors, who were doing field work in this area. They were invited to speak with the CWG at an upcoming meeting.

Photos

Some photographs from the CWG field trip follow.



Asarco Ray Mine



Ray Mine Tailings



Dripping Springs Road South of Site



Site Overview from South



Site Orientation



Site Orientation



Test Drilling Site



CWG Members at Drill Site



Site Overview from North



Meeting with Archaeologists



Cultural Resources Lesson



Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:

*Wednesday, **February 13**, 2019*
Superior Chamber of Commerce
6:00pm

Representatives from the Central Arizona Project will discuss the proposed Statewide Drought Management Plan details and status.