

Gasquet Community Services District

September 21, 2015

Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208-2965
BLM_OR_WA_WITHDRAWALS@blm.gov

RE: Comments in Support of Proposed Mineral Withdrawal on Specified Lands in
Southwestern Oregon, 80 Fed. Reg. 37015 (June 29, 2015).

On behalf of the Gasquet Community Services District, we provide the following comments in support of a 5 year mineral withdrawal on all lands specified in Southwestern Oregon, 80 Fed. Reg. 37015 (June 29, 2015). We also support a 20-year or permanent mineral withdrawal in order to preserve our drinking water supply.

The Smith River provides drinking water to thousands of people in Del Norte County. Proposed mining activity by a foreign-owned corporation would be located upstream of the water supply intakes for residents in numerous communities. Our service district provides drinking water to approximately 300 residents/households in Gasquet, California. Presently, the water we distribute to our customers is of the highest quality --- and this is critically important to our community. Our service district is small and we could not afford additional treatment costs if mining waste and activity polluted the water.

Recent mine accidents in British Columbia and Colorado have polluted rivers that used to provide clean drinking water to downstream communities. We do not want to see such a tragedy happen here. Existing laws and regulations against mining waste spills are inadequate to protect our drinking water. Therefore, we urge you to move forward with the proposed 5-year or longer mineral withdrawal and to work towards securing a permanent mineral withdrawal for the North Fork Smith River and surrounding watersheds.

Sincerely, Mark Dodd



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