

ADOPTED BY THE PATAGONIA TOWN COUNCIL ON AUGUST 14,

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY TOWN COUNCIL AS A MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE PATAGONIA GENERAL PLAN.

The Town Of Patagonia is situated in a dry grassland environment. The Town gets its water from the Sonoita Creek and the Harshaw Creek drainages. These drainages were never officially recognized as the Town's watershed, and recently, through the efforts of the Mayor, Town Manager, and Planning and Zoning Committee, the Forest Service officially designated the Sonoita and Harshaw drainages, which encompass 89,000 acres, as the Municipal Watershed of the Town of Patagonia. One of the eight Planning Principles set forth in The Town Plan specifically states that the Town must, "Closely study and reject mining (resource extraction) proposals, which pose a threat to the environmental, economic or cultural resources of the Patagonia area." With the official designation of the watershed we need to be even more vigilant of any industrial activity in the watershed.

In a 2007 study posted in the journal Science, it states that much of the region (southwest) has been in a severe drought since 2000, which the study's analysis of computer climate models shows as the beginning of a long dry period. The study predicted a permanent drought by 2050 throughout the Southwest -- one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation.

Water is the one thing that all of us can't live without. The Town should work with the US Forest Service to ensure that there is a comprehensive ground water study conducted before any industrial activity that's going to use water from our watershed commences. The study must contain a baseline metal determination and flow rate coming from both drainages. This study should be paid for by the proponents wanting to conduct the industrial activity and the contractor/hydrologist should be chosen by the Town. The contractor would work under the direction of the Town manager.

ADOPTED BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE ON JUNE 17, 2013

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