



**TOWN OF PATAGONIA SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND STUDY SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER—Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. ROLL CALL—Mayor Wood present, Vice-Mayor Stabile present via zoom, Council Members Finch, Claverie, & Retherford present.
STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Robinson, Deputy Town Manager Fuentes, Library Clerk Deb Robinson.
PUBLIC PRESENT: SEE ATTACHED SIGN-IN SHEET.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE—Mayor Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. *UPON MOTION, THE COUNCIL WILL RECESS INTO A STUDY SESSION TO LISTEN TO TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON PRESENT A POWER POINT REGARDING THE EARLY ACTIONS COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AGREEMENT WITH SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CITY OF NOGALES AND SOUTH32/HERMOSA.*
MOTION: Mayor Wood moved to recess into a Study Session TO LISTEN TO TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON PRESENT A POWER POINT REGARDING THE EARLY ACTIONS COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AGREEMENT WITH SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CITY OF NOGALES AND SOUTH32/HERMOSA.
SECOND: Council Member Claverie.
VOTE: The motion passed by a 5-0 vote with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile via zoom, Council members Finch, Claverie, & Retherford.
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: None
TIME: 6:05 PM
Town Manager Robinson presented a Power Point display and walked everyone through it until the Protections Road Map was displayed. After pointing out the 6 task headers, the Town Manager invited Carolyn Shafer to present her viewpoint on the overall agreement. Carolyns manuscript is attached along with the power point presentation. After the power point presentation, Mayor Wood conducted a question-and-answer session with the public.
UPON CONCLUSION, THE COUNCIL WILL RECONVENE BACK INTO SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING.
MOTION: Mayor Wood moved to reconvene back into Special Council Meeting.
SECOND: Council Member Claverie.
VOTE: The motion passed by a 5-0 vote with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile via zoom, Council members Finch, Claverie, & Retherford.
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: None
TIME: 7:00 PM.



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MARCH 4, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.**

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON SIGNING THE EARLY ACTIONS AGREEMENT WITH SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CITY OF NOGALES, AND SOUTH32/HERMOSA.
MOTION: Council Member Finch moved to APPROVE TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON SIGNING THE EARLY ACTIONS AGREEMENT WITH SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CITY OF NOGALES, AND SOUTH32/HERMOSA.
SECOND: Council Member Claverie.
VOTE: The motion passed by a 5-0 vote with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile via zoom, Council members Finch, Claverie, & Retherford.
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: None

6. **ADJOURN**
MOTION: Mayor Wood moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Council Member Finch.
VOTE: The motion passed by a 5-0 vote with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile via zoom, Council members Finch, Claverie, & Retherford.
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: None

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:01 PM.

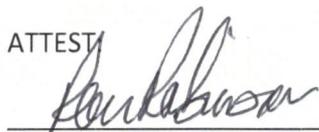
I hereby confirm the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate copy of the minutes from a Special Council Meeting held March 4, 2026 at 6:00 pm. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated 11th Day of March, 2026.

APPROVED:


Andrea Wood, Mayor

ATTEST


Ron Robinson, Town Clerk



Town of Patagonia

Sign in Sheet for Special Council meeting and Study Session

March 4th, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Print Name	Signature	Address
IN PERSON //////////////////////////////////////	////////////////////////////////////	////////////////////////////////////
CHRISTEA GAY	<i>[Signature]</i>	47 CAMINO LA PAZ. PATAGONIA
EMILY YACHOLEC	<i>[Signature]</i>	144 Forrest
ZANDER AULT	<i>[Signature]</i>	62 Redrock Dr
Marynell Spicer	<i>[Signature]</i>	405 Sierralan Patagonia
ROBERT BRANDT	<i>[Signature]</i>	169 THRASER AVE. Pat.
SUSAN Lange	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 535 - 355 Santa Rita Ave
Ralph Schmitt	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO 1102 Rd
Dave Lumin	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 33 Santa
Mary Gay Schoolcraft	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO BOX 1002 Patagonia
Michael Collins	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 12 Pat
Nancy Coyne	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 1244 Patagonia
VIA ZOOM MEETING //////////////////////////////////////	////////////////////////////////////	////////////////////////////////////
MICHAEL STABILE		
MARC MERESITH		
Alex JOHNSON		
HEIDI AULT		
TOD BOWDEN		
PILA MARTINEZ		
CAULB WEAVER		
ZAN HARTIGAN		
LILA BOWDEN		
SONORA PORTER		
LONNIE GOFF		
MARY TOLENA		
ASHLEE WOLF		
ANN GOSLINE		

Town of Patagonia, City of Nogales, Santa
Cruz County, South32

Early Actions Community Investment Funding Agreement



Early Actions Funding Agreement

- This is not the CPBA. The CPBA will be completed once we have the FEIS and Biological Opinion from the federal agencies.
- This funding agreement is the same format as other funding agreements between South32 and government entities.
- Includes Early Actions based on the University of Arizona Gap Analysis and local topic-specific focus groups.
- Development of the Early Actions Protection Roadmap.

Most IMPROVANT - develop protection

Early Actions

- Each Early Action will require a scope of work before proceeding, including cost.
- Early Actions include:
 - Protections Roadmap
 - Emergency Service
 - Community Health Infrastructure
 - Early Education and Childcare
 - Nature Based Restorative Economy/ Recreation
 - Affordable Housing
 - Other

Protections Roadmap

Task Name	Lead Entity	2025				2026				2027				2028			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
Task 1. ENGAGE																	
Engage facilitator/liaison (F/L)	CPBA, Expert Consultant																
Define roles and responsibilities	CPBA, Expert Consultant																
Define schedule and deliverables	CPBA, Expert Consultant																
Task 2. DEFINE GOALS																	
Develop a vision statement	CPBA, Expert Consultant, F/L																
Define goals	CPBA, Expert Consultant, F/L																
Task 3. DATA REQUESTS																	
Detailed technical review	Expert Consultant																
Data availability analysis	Expert Consultant																
Task 4. EXPLORE PROTECTION OPPORTUNITIES																	
Develop and execute plan to enhance	Expert Consultant																
Improve monitoring	Expert Consultant																
Improve preparedness	Expert Consultant																
Task 5. MONITOR & COMMUNICATE PROGRESS																	
Bi-annual written updates from Hermosa	South32																
Annual update from CPBA	CPBA																
Annual summary from F/L	F/L																
Include dashboard on public facing website	TBD																
Task 6. ANNUAL REVIEW																	
Establish Technical Review Board (TRB)	TRB																
TCRB visit site annually	TRB																
TCRB develop recommendations	TRB																

Final EIS February 2026

ROD July 2026

Emergency Services

- Independent Emergency Services Audit: assess the readiness, gaps, and coordination capabilities of emergency services in the region (Countywide).
- Expand fire and EMS, infrastructure (Patagonia).
- Designs to expand Patagonia main office to create a space for the local Marshall's Office (Patagonia).
- Patagonia Flood Control Study Phase II (Facilitated by County) (Patagonia).

Community Health

- Funding to support Mariposa mobile clinic for remote and underserved areas. (Includes equipment and possibly staffing) (Countywide).
- Purchase County Mobile Health Vehicle/Clinic to increase convenient access to primary care, immunizations, screenings, and health education (Countywide).
- Housing Project study and design for Mariposa residency program (Countywide).
- Vehicle purchase for Mariposa Clinic transportation programs. (Countywide).
- Design for expansion of clinic for imaging, ER, and crisis counseling in Patagonia (Patagonia).

Education/Early Education

- Create a strategic childcare plan for the entire County. Work toward solutions for capacity, affordability, and quality. Will look for partnerships from private business, government, and nonprofits (Countywide).
- Design and concept drawings for Patagonia daycare birth to 5. (Patagonia).

Nature Based Restorative Economy/ Recreation

- **County wide parks, recreation, and open space master plan. This covers parks, birding, trails (horse, hiking, walking), cycling, sports facilities, natural open spaces, and recreation programming. Includes inventory and needs assessment, economic impact, possible impacts from growth, environmental considerations, and a strategic plan with a CIP (Countywide).**

Affordable Housing

- Design and engineering for Affordable Housing Project (Patagonia).
- Update current Santa Cruz County Housing Strategy 22-27 and create an implementation strategy which includes regulatory changes, affordable housing projects, environmental considerations, and infrastructure expansion with CLP. Would emphasize housing for middle income professions such as teachers (Countywide).

Other

- Reimbursement for the Sewer and water engineering study (Nogales) .

All of us in Santa Cruz County are in unchartered territory. We live in a global biodiversity hotspot that, according to scientists, is in need of research and protection for species survival. We are challenged by the 21st century extractive capitalism model that is far more damaging than historical mining ever was. The company's motive is high profits for funding management compensation packages and greater investor returns. The residents of Santa Cruz County want to protect our natural resources and create a climate resilient county that protects the health and wellbeing of our people while honoring our cultural heritage and our unique ecosystem both of which support our strong and growing nature based restorative economy.

We are forced to negotiate an agreement because our state and federal governments have failed to protect us; the latest example is the ADEQ Clean Water Act 401 Waiver which our community is currently working to respond to on or before Mach 20. Through the early discussions about a Community Protections and Benefits Agreement, the governmental entities have resisted being maneuvered into signing an agreement primarily benefiting the mine company.

The second slide says "This is not the CPBA. The CPBA will be completed once we have the FEIS and Biological Opinion from the federal agencies." Going forward, the local, regional, and national organizations that were part of the review of the Environmental Impact Statement and Mine Plan of Operation must be heard by the governmental entities before completion of the CPBA.

In my opinion, the Early Actions Community Investment Agreement is the interim agreement which has been suggested rather than being pressured into the actual CPBA agreement. This investment agreement was negotiated to get funding for actions that need to happen sooner rather than later. I support approval of the Early Actions Community Investment Agreement and I also acknowledge the concerns of our community members that it is vitally important that the governmental organizations each find a way to allow our local residents to provide input on the Protections Roadmap tasks.