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**File Code:** 1560  
**Date:** August 26, 2022

Terry Rambler  
Chairman  
San Carlos Apache Tribe  
P.O. Box "0"  
#3 San Carlos Ave.  
San Carlos AZ, 85550

Dear Chairman Rambler,

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC), during formal government to government consultation, requested that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) initiate a third-party review of the existing analysis related to potential water impacts from the proposed Resolution Copper Mine and Southeast Arizona Land Exchange. The Tribe stated that they believed additional analysis of the potential impacts to water was warranted considering the current water crisis in the Southwest and future water needs in the Region.

In response to the Tribal request, Bernie Gyant, consultation official representing the USFS, engaged the national hydrology team from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct a review of all the water data analyzed in the FEIS for the proposed project and specifically tasked the team with evaluating the adequacy of the original analysis and with suggesting areas for additional analysis, if they found that such additional analysis was warranted. SRPMIC requested a copy of the BLM review once complete.

The BLM water study is now complete, and this letter formally conveys that review to you for your records. After careful consideration of the BLM review, the USFS has concluded that some topics raised by the BLM review team may merit further consideration. The USFS intends to explore some of the issues raised in the BLM review and compare their analysis with the FEIS to ensure accuracy.

The USFS appreciates your continued engagement on the project. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to meet in formal consultation on this topic, please reach out directly to me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

NEIL  
BOSWORTH   
Digitally signed by NEIL BOSWORTH  
Date: 2022.08.29 09:28:39 -0700

NEIL BOSWORTH  
Forest Supervisor

