

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT
ARIZONA

1440 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0307
PHONE: (202) 225-2435
FAX: (202) 225-1541
www.house.gov/grijalva



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

April 30, 2008

COMMITTEES:
RESOURCES
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
APPOINTMENTS:
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ENVIRONMENTAL
TASK FORCE CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC PRIVATE CALENDAR OBJECTOR

Mark Rey
Undersecretary
Natural Resources and Environment
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

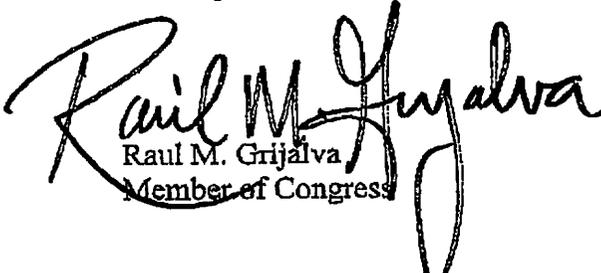
Dear Mr. Rey:

I am writing to you today to inquire into the selection of the firm SWCA Environmental Consultants to conduct the environmental analysis for the Augusta Resources Corporation's "Rosemont Ranch" copper mining project on the Coronado National Forest, Southeastern Arizona.

Given the scrutiny on projects involving sensitive federal lands and on this project in particular, it is essential that the company conducting the analysis be above reproach in its objectivity and scientifically-based analysis of the environmental values inherent in the land and resources in question.

I request a briefing by your staff on this matter at the soonest possible date. In particular, I would like to know more about the competitive process that was used to select this particular firm. What other firms were considered? What criteria were used? I would also like an update on the review process your agency is conducting on the selection of SWCA. Please contact Kelsey Mishkin on my staff at (202) 225-2435 to schedule a meeting.

Best regards,


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress