

# What are the mining megaprojects "Cardones and Pitalla"?

By Patricio and MAS

A great threat haunts our state.

Coping requires informed and decisive participation of all.



These projects, in exchange for a few tens of jobs would cause strong impacts on the environment, polluting the water and affecting employment and the health of tens of thousands of people; leaving a barren landscape of death and destruction

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## "Cardones and Pitalla"?

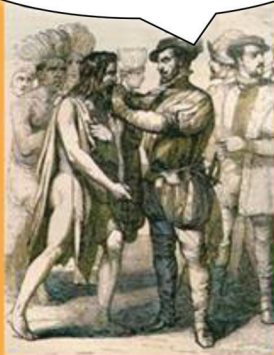
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246,000 hectares of La Paz, BCS, have been given in concession to toxic mining projects, including Los Cardones project from Gold Corp and Invecture (property of TV Azteca owner: Ricardo Salinas Pliego) and San Antonio-La Pitalla, owned by Argonaut Gold. They could devastate our territory in searching of gold



Furthermore, this region is an important area for ecotourism. And it is the water recharging spot for all the aquifers of the southern part of the peninsula

We also came here for the GOLD, dammit ii



Nowadays, this metal is more craved than ever because it has become the refuge of the capitals that are threatened by the financial crisis.



In September 2012, the gold price reached a record of 1923.20 per ounce (28.3 grams)

(Medio Ambiente y Sociedad, A.C.)



In the mining area there are endemic species of flora and fauna such as a tropical deciduous forest, a pine-oak forest and animals like PUMA and DEER. It is also an important habitat for some species of MIGRATORY BIRDS.



With a "little help" of their "friends" from the three levels of government, these companies aim to start a time open mining operation with the use of cyanide, a practice banned in 2010 by the European Parliament. In 2,000 in Romania, the Baia Mare mine caused a brutal environmental disaster. Many of the mining practices that they apply in Mexico and other poor countries are not allowed in Canada, USA, etc. Home lands of many of these mining companies



In Rumania, in 2000 year, the BAIJA MARE mine produced a big environmental disaster.

More than 50 million tons of milled mineral contaminated with cyanide would be placed on "tailing dams" made of compacted earth covered with plastic. The rest (over 200 million tons) will be placed directly on the soil (waste rock). Both will contain high levels of arsenic and heavy metals (lead, mercury, chromium, etc.)



But what is the problem with this type of mining?



NOU PROBLEM

In order to remove the hundreds of millions of tons of rock 20 to 80 tons of explosives would be detonated daily. By the way, the region is classified as a seismic one



Don't forget the after crushing ore "benefits" which are gotten by applying water with cyanide



which are gotten by applying water with cyanide

So it gets "super beneficial"

The mineral is "leached" absorbing the gold which afterwards is separated by using physical and chemical methods

To complete this dangerous process they would use 3000 tons of cyanide per year



No more than 0.3 grams of cyanide are needed to kill a kid.

To get the "benefit" 25 million liters of water will be used.

At day ii



\*A cubic meter is a thousand of liters

Over a thousand liters of water are used to extract each ounce of gold



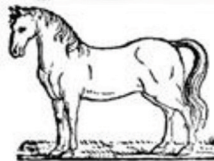
Every day they will pollute more than one thousand cubic meters of water per hour.

In 4 hours a mine consumes the amount of water that a country side family would use in 28 years.



It is a good thing that we have plenty of it! Isn't it true Bonafina?

Where are they going to get the water from?



In the mountains. Affecting our aquifers. They want to fool us with the story of desalination, but the National Mining Law gives the companies all the water that comes out during the huge excavations (over 1 km diameter and 500 meters depth.)

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What ??





IN BCS hurricanes and floods are frequent and they can drag prey contaminated wastes. Those wastes would pollute the aquifers and pollute the valuable California Gulf shorelines including Cabo Pulmo reef. This would irreversibly affect the populations of southern BCS and its terrestrial and marine fauna.

Ready to serve!



So, our green mountains and aquifers would become scarred landscapes, poisoned wells and springs

~~Contaminants~~  
would affect people, aquifers, coastal plants and animals, fisheries, agriculture, tourism etc.



Contaminants would affect people, aquifers, coastal plants and animals, fisheries, agriculture, tourism etc. The "stored" toxic wastes, will be time bombs that could explode sooner than later with terrible consequences for all living species.



Due to public pressure, both the State and Municipal Government have declared that they are against Toxic Mega Mining, but this has not stopped the mining companies. During the past 3 years, they have insisted on applying for permits.

**TODAY, WE NEED A LAW DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE MEGA TOXIC MINING IN THE STATE,** Such a law would compel the state and the local authorities to guarantee access to water, health protection, and the promotion of economic activities.

Both the Governor Marcos Covarrubias and Mayor Esther Ponce have the enormous responsibility of responding to society on these important issues

