



# Staff Report

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**Agenda Item:**           **Letter Of Support To Ralph Costa, Bureau of Land Management Recommending Freeport-McMoRan Corporation For The 2009 BLM Reclamation Mineral Development Award** – Approval of a letter of support to Ralph Costa, Bureau of Land Management recommending Freeport-McMoRan Corporation for the 2009 BLM Reclamation Mineral Development Award.

**Sponsored By:**       Doug Von Gausig, Mayor

**Staff Contact:**       Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk

**Meeting Date:**       January 12, 2010

**Background:**       In 2007-2008, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold remediated their mining lands around Jerome. Most of this remediation was done to stop the infiltration of acid and pollution-laced water from the mines and associated waste piles to the regional aquifer. The project also covered the old waste piles visible from Clarkdale by covering them with soil and re-vegetating them with native vegetation, similar to the remediation of the local tailings a few years ago.

Each year the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) gives awards out to mining companies that have exhibited environmental and cultural sensitivity, and have "done the right thing." The BLM gave Freeport such an award in 2008 for their Clarkdale remediation. The Mayor has written a letter of nomination to the BLM supporting another BLM award for Freeport-McMoRan's Jerome remediation. The Jerome remediation improved and protected Clarkdale's groundwater supply as well as the viewscape.

Mayors and ex-mayors of Jerome have also been asked to lend their support to an award.

**Recommendation:**   Staff recommends that the letter of support be approved for the Mayor's signature and forwarded to Ralph Costa, Bureau of Land Management recommending Freeport-McMoRan Corporation for the 2009 BLM Reclamation Mineral Development Award.



# Office of the Mayor

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January 12, 2010

Ralph Costa  
Bureau of Land Management  
One North Central Avenue  
Suite 8000  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

RE: 2009 BLM Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program

Dear Mr. Costa:

On behalf of the Town of Clarkdale, I would like to nominate Freeport-McMoRan Corporation (FMC) for the Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award for their diligence in reclaiming the United Verde Mine site. The United Verde Mine is located west of Clarkdale, in the historic mining district of Jerome, Arizona, and is the sister project of the Clarkdale Tailings, which received honors from the BLM in 2007. As the mayor of Clarkdale, I and the community I represent would like to applaud FMC's efforts to improve and protect water quality in the highly sensitive Verde Valley setting. In addition, the reclamation will substantially improve the natural beauty of the area as the vegetation matures.

During the construction phase of the United Verde project, I had the unique opportunity to work with FMC in another capacity. I am a professional photographer and I was retained by FMC to document the construction as it progressed. I also consider myself an environmentalist. Working directly on this project has given me a whole new appreciation for FMC and their people. I was truly impressed by their sensitivity to the community, attention to detail, adherence to safety protocols, and most of all their willingness to do the right thing.

Your consideration of this project is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Doug Von Gausig  
Mayor

The Historic Town of Clarkdale  
[www.clarkdale.az.gov](http://www.clarkdale.az.gov)