

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: April 4, 2019

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: David Carranza, Economic Development Director

CC: Jerene Watson, Interim City Manager; Department Directors

SUBJECT: CITIZEN PROPOSAL FOR SLAG MOUNTAINS

The report is in response to a proposal brought to the City Council by resident Barry McInerney before Council on March 13, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

I met with Mr. McInerney to discuss the idea of having kinetic art placed on the slag piles at the entrance of Douglas, AZ. His idea has merit in my opinion and offered him my information of what the City has done through our economic development efforts to date to get rid of the slag mountains. There have been two inquiries regarding purchase and repurpose the slag from major companies that could bring in 50 - 100 jobs over five years to remove the Slag safely for reuse. Both times we have not received a positive response from Freeport McMoran. There are several possibilities such as the cost of environmental cleanup, but there has been no direct response to date on their reasons to decline offers.

Therefore, Mr. McInerney's idea of art placement at the top of the slag mountains could have the ability to transform these mountains into a destination along with other colleges to be represented through art. As is noted in the attached brochure Mr. McInerney has put together the cost would be minimal yet the rewards would be great.

At this point, we will seek a meeting with Freeport McMoran to discuss this idea as well as wait for Mr. McInerney to get art groups to endorse this idea and attend the future meeting. Arts appeal is universal and this could be a very nice attraction for us to help start. If you have an interest in attending this meeting, please let me know.

At this point, this is still in the exploratory stage and will require more work to make this happen.

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION:

This report is for information only.