

## Statement for Salt Lake County Planning Commission in regards to the Salt Lake County West General Plan, 12/15/2021

On behalf of Rio Tinto we appreciate the opportunity to have participated in this process.

We have a strong track record as a community partner supporting various non-profits and community organizations through the Kennecott Foundation. Rio Tinto has been a proactive supporter of economic development in the northwest quadrant, and just this year we have allowed for Rio Tinto water rights to flow to the Jordan River and into Farmington Bay at the Great Salt Lake for the benefit of habitat and wildlife. Rio Tinto owns a lot of land and complies with state and federal regulations and we strive to be great stewards. As this process continues, we hope we can help align expectations on the future use of land owned by Rio Tinto Kennecott.

Over the last few months, we have had multiple productive conversations with staff on the shared drafts of the Salt Lake County West General Plan. In these conversations our primary concerns for Rio Tinto land have been centered on *safety* and *industry*.

1. Rio Tinto values safety at every level of our organization.
  - a. Trespassing has been an issue in Butterfield Canyon where people have wandered up the drainages into the waste rock and reclamation operations. We have also tried to manage trespassing recreators along our tailings pipeline corridor, as well as people discharging firearms on our property.
  - b. Over the coming decades as the County's population grows, we want to reduce risk to both those recreating and those working in active mining zones by separating incompatible uses.
2. Rio Tinto is the world's second largest mining and minerals company. We support private property rights which protect our investments and reduce risk for all businesses.
  - a. Rio Tinto Kennecott has been operating in the Salt Lake Valley since 1906 and has a bright future. We aim to continue to operate here at Kennecott for the foreseeable future.
  - b. Accordingly, decisions about the use of Kennecott's land for mining and then closure activities will continue to be made over coming decades. We aren't sure when closure is, nor do we understand every constraint that will exist at that time. And right now we don't know when or where recreation and conservation uses can be supported.
  - c. At this time we don't know what the future holds but we believe it is important to protect industrial and mining uses as an option that can deliver benefits for Salt Lake County. We support future land uses and policies that allow flexibility.
  - d. We hope that Salt Lake County will support current and future economic drivers and industry. The County's support for industry facilitates our ability to directly employ more than 2,000 Utahns.

We expect this will be an ongoing conversation over the weeks, months, and years ahead, and we are committed to being at the table. Thank you to Salt Lake County for including us as a partner in this process.

Gaby Poirier, Rio Tinto Kennecott Managing Director

