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Report

Rincon Conceptual Mine Closure Plan

Rev.0 – August 2025

The Conceptual Mine Closure Plan prepared for the mining activities planned for the Rincon Project (hereinafter, the Project) of Rincon Mining Pty Limited (hereinafter, RMPL). was developed initially as part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and submitted to Salta's Mining Authority in April 2024. The conceptual closure plan was then updated in July 2023 considering updated project description from the feasibility study, updated baseline data and latest groundwater numerical model predictions.

The Conceptual Mine Closure Plan describes the activities to be implemented in a mine with respect to the closure of its components, from the preparation of an initial plan to the execution of closure activities during its useful life and at the end of its useful life, to comply with applicable legal requirements, as well as specific environmental and social objectives.

Considering that the Project has a long useful life (40 years) and the description of the project is at the level of feasibility engineering, the description of the closure activities has been defined at a conceptual level, since it arises from the beginning of the closure planning and contains contextual information on environmental and social considerations, and the planning of strategies that will lead to the achievement of the primary objectives of the closure. Through this planning, in addition to the commitment with the interested parties, early planning and a multidisciplinary approach, the closure process will be made more efficient.

Additionally, the closure plan outlines maintenance and monitoring activities and expected post-closure conditions.

Contents

1 Project General Description

1.1 Background

The international company Rio Tinto (RT) acquired the Rincón Project at the end of March 2022. Rincon Mining Pty Limited (hereinafter RMPL) is the holder of mining concessions for the extraction of lithium granted by the mining court of the province of Salta. The Measured Resources are estimated at 4.9 million tonnes (Mt) of lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE) and the Indicated Mineral Resources are estimated at 0.9 (Mt) LCE. The Inferred Mineral Resource is estimated at about 6 Mt of LCE. The Proven plus Probable Mineral Reserve is estimated at 2 Mt LCE (over a life of mine (LOM) of 40 years).

In 2019, through Res. 05/2019, the project for the extraction of lithium brine and production of 25,000 t/a of Lithium Carbonate at the Rincón Project (Rincon Mining Pty Limited or RMPL) was approved. Then, to fine-tune process modifications, the Pilot Plant project was approved, through Res. 071/2020. Subsequently, in December 2022, an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report was presented, with the objective of adapting the existing facilities to be able to operate a 3,000 tpa commercial demonstration plant (Rincón Rapid Plant, RR).

In April 2024, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was presented for the Rincón Full Potential Project Commercial Plant (RFP), which consists of the construction and subsequent operation of a plant with a production capacity of 50,000 tpa of lithium carbonate (Li_2CO_3), battery grade, organized in two production trains of 25,000 t/year each. The production of this plant will be added to that of the 3,000 t/year commercial demonstration plant, resulting in a total production of 53,000 t/year of battery grade lithium carbonate, once both projects are in operation.

1.2 Location

Rincón Full Potential Plant Project (RFP), is in the province of Salta, approximately 270 km west of its capital, the city of Salta. The nearest town, San Antonio de los Cobres, is 110 km away. Its coordinates are 24°01'13.3” S and 67°02'16.3” W.

The site is approximately 3,725 meters above sea level, in the Puna region of Salta. From the city of Salta, you can access it via National Route No. 51, and you can reach the site along mining trails.

Figure 1 shows the location map and access roads.

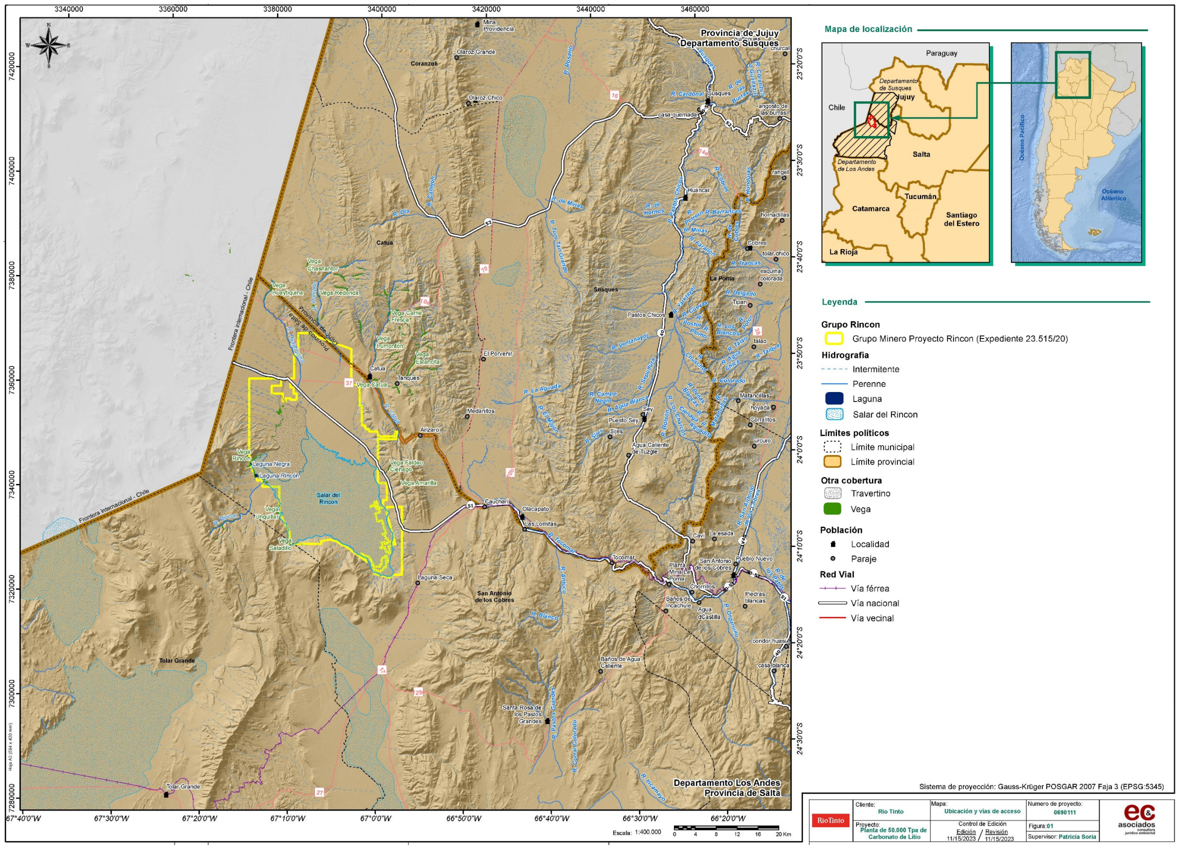


Figure 1 - Project location map

1.3 Key potential environmental impacts

The key water related impacts associated with the Project are likely to relate to the abstraction of raw water from the Catua Alluvial Fan, the abstraction of lithium bearing brines from the Salar, and the management of spent brine in the SBDF. These activities have the potential to influence groundwater flows, levels and quality within the Rincón Basin. These changes in the groundwater environment have the potential to impact surface water features (e.g., streams, springs, lagoons, etc.), vegas (e.g., wetlands) puesteros aljibe (e.g., hand dug wells) and the Ojos de Agua which exist within the Rincón Basin, which in turn has the potential to impact the biodiversity and local communities that interact with these features.

Various water related studies have been completed, are ongoing or are proposed to advance the hydrogeological understanding of the Rincón Basin, to fill in existing data gaps and ultimately reduce the risk of impact associated with the Project's predicted influence on the surface water and groundwater environment.

The vega and lagoon ecosystems rely on a delicate balance of groundwater inflows, which are critical for maintaining soil moisture and supporting specialized vegetation communities. These vega/lagoon environments develop at the interface between colluvial/alluvial sediments and the edge of the Salar, where descending subsurface flow concentrates and discharges to the surface, often in contact with low-permeability barriers such as clay layers. The numerical model is indicating up to 0.5m of drawdown in the Laguna Rincon and up to 25m drawdown in the Vega Unquillar. No other vega or lagoon is expected to be potentially impacted.

Many of these ecosystems are located within the boundaries of the Los Andes Wildlife Reserve, a nationally recognized protected area under provincial management. In this context, the eco-hydrogeological model helps identify critical interactions between the subsurface hydrological regime and the ecological functionality of the reserve, supporting the design of adaptive management strategies, targeted monitoring, and protective buffer zones that ensure the Project's compatibility with the conservation goals of the protected area.

The eco-hydrological model developed for the project is essential for predicting the potential impacts of brine/water abstraction on high-Andean wetland ecosystems, defining thresholds and supporting adaptive management strategies. It also aligns with international standards (IFC Performance Standard 6) by providing a science-based approach to understanding the environmental dependencies of sensitive ecosystems. The model defines eco-hydrogeological zones based on the degree of vegetation dependence on groundwater: (i) phreatophytic zones, where plants access the water table directly; (ii) zones saturated by capillary rise or ponding; and (iii) zones influenced by seasonal surface runoff. This zoning is supported by the installation of shallow piezometers, soil moisture content studies, and floristic monitoring.

A unique component of the eco-hydrological model is the presence of Ojos de Agua hosting extremophile microbial communities. These Ojos de Agua are priority conservation targets. The Ojos de Agua are natural depressions which exit within the carbonate platform to the northwest of the main Salar nucleus. They exhibit specific physicochemical conditions (pH, radiation, conductivity, temperature) that support biodiversity adapted to extreme environments. A dedicated monitoring approach has been established for these sites, including microbiological analyses and seasonal sampling campaigns in collaboration with INIQUI-UNSa-CONICET.

Significant site investigations have been completed on the Ojos de Agua A. Hydrochemical data from Ojos de Agua A has been collected on three consecutive monitoring campaigns (December 2024, March 2025, and April 2025). A study is ongoing to assess the resilience of the extremophiles and to develop measures to protect these ecosystems. The purpose is to evaluate the magnitude of potential brine abstraction and spent brine seepage - related impacts on the biological communities inhabiting the "Ojos de Agua", as well as their environmental resilience.

The resilience study methodology was designed to obtain iterative results from the study of the effects exerted on the structure and functionality of the microbial community of EMEs at the genetic and ecological level. The evaluation will be carried out in three phases, which are detailed below.

- PHASE I: Pilot test. To gain critical insights from the experimental setup and obtain preliminary results on the effects of effluents, to inform and refine subsequent phases of the study (Completed)
- PHASE II: Pre-Essay. To build on the findings from the pilot phase by evaluating the response of microbial ecosystems to additional environmental stressor, such as turbidity changes, dewatering, or flooding, simulating cumulative impacts under controlled conditions (planned for 2025).
- PHASE III: Resilience Experiment. To adjust the experimental design and upscale representative scenarios using insights from Phases I and II, with the aim of identifying resilience thresholds and informing long-term monitoring and mitigation strategies (planned for 2026).

1.4 Process Description

Battery grade Lithium Carbonate will be obtained through direct extraction, by adsorption in columns, using a resin that selectively retains the LiCl present in the brine. The processes through which the fresh brine will go will be Adsorption, Concentration, Removal of impurities, Precipitation and Purification, as graphed in Figure 2

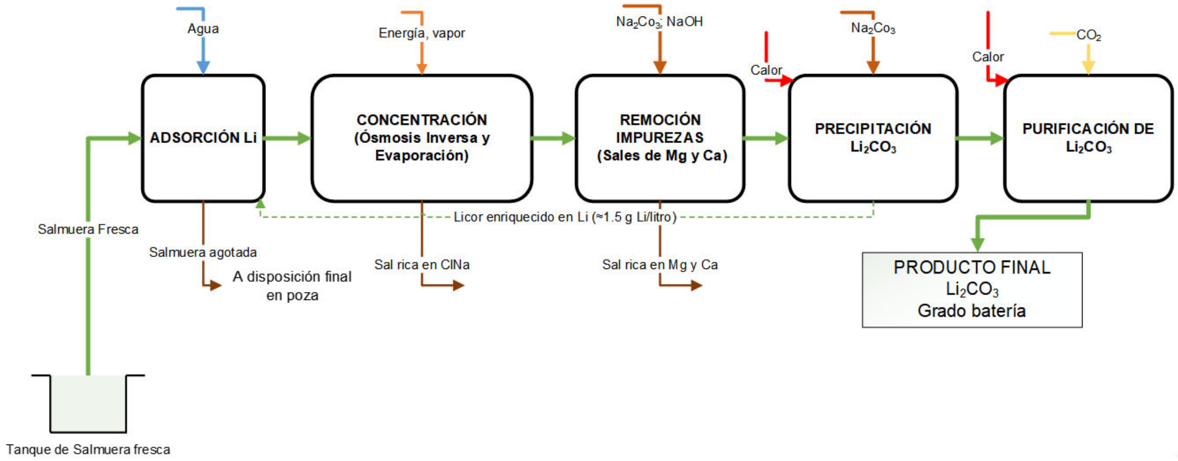


Figure 2 - Lithium carbonate process

The fresh brine will be extracted from an extraction field made up of 139 wells and will be piped to the plant, where it will be stored in dedicated tanks.

For the entire process it is necessary to use a series of reagents such as sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid; inputs such as coagulants, flocculants and anti-scalants; and steam, water, electrical energy, compressed air.

The waste generated by the lithium extraction process is the spent brine and filtered waste from the process plant.

As support for the described process, the project considers the following facilities:

- Process plants. Plant 50 Ktpa.
- Spent brine disposal facility (SBDF).
- Filtered Waste Storage Facility (FWSF).
- Brine and raw water extraction wells.
- Roads and parking areas
- Raw water well field
- Pipelines and ducts.
- Camps and auxiliary components.
- Main electrical substation and transmission line poles.
- Sewage treatment plants.
- Drinking water treatment plants (reverse osmosis).
- Airstrip
- Components related to the R3000 Plant (FWSF).

- Legacy components (ponds) (associated with the pilot plant).
- Topsoil deposit.
- Quarries

2 Obligations and Commitments Identifications

2.1 Legal Framework

Although in Argentina there are no specific regulations at the national level applicable to the closure of mining operations, Article 4 of Law 24,585 on Environmental Protection for Mining Activities stipulates that the activities included correspond to: Prospecting, exploration, exploitation, development, preparation, extraction and storage of mineral substances included in the Mining Code. Additionally, in Annex II, it establishes that the Environmental Management Plan must include actions related to: "cessation and abandonment of exploitation and post-closure monitoring of operations".

On the other hand, regarding the provincial level, section m) of item 2.1.2 of Annex I of Resolution No. 019 of the Mining Secretariat of the Province of Salta stipulates that "... together with the presentation of the exploitation method or any modification to the accepted method, the mining company must present a conceptual draft of the Mine Closure Plan". It also establishes that the Closure Plan must be reviewed every four years in such a way as to adapt to the mining project over time".

Additionally, the closure plan will address compliance with the requirements of Rio Tinto's standards and international standards such as the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), International Finance Corporation (IFC) closure standard, and aligned with international industry best practices and the Good Practice Resource Guide for Mine Closure of the Secretariat of Mining Policy of the National Ministry of Production and Labor.

3 Closure Vision, Principles and Objectives

3.1 Closure Vision

RMPL has defined its closing vision as follows:
"In partnership with our local stakeholders, we will be a role model for mine closure, creating value and protecting environmental resources in a manner compatible with the surrounding landscape and sustainable and acceptable alternative land uses."

3.2 Closure Principles

3.2.1 Human health and safety

Mine closure activities will be carried out with special care to comply with applicable legal standards to protect the health and safety of people and property of third parties. At closure, the Project will be left in a safe condition for people and residual hazards will be managed through safety measures.

3.2.2 Physical stability

The areas disturbed by the Project and any remaining facilities must be physically stable, with the purpose of reducing the probability of occurrence of environmental risks or risks to the physical integrity of people and/or populations and their activities in the area and outside the site, particularly the SBDF and the FWSF will require closure design considerations to ensure stability post-closure.

3.2.3 Environmental quality - Chemical stability

Upon closure of the Rincon Project, the site will be in a stable condition that does not generate unacceptable environmental impacts. Closure of the Rincon Project will protect and/or rehabilitate raw water resources (surface and aquifer). Progressive rehabilitation, to the extent practicable, will be planned to reduce environmental risks on and off site throughout the life of the project.

3.2.4 Land use

Upon closure of the Rincon Project, the landscape will be gradually restored to the extent possible, to reduce visual impacts where possible by exploring opportunities. The project will seek opportunities for future land use that should ideally create shared value and cost-effective solutions.

3.2.5 Socioeconomic transition

Socioeconomic transition will be considered throughout the life of the project through a participatory approach to strengthening regional institutional and local capacities to foster partnerships with the government and other stakeholders that seek to create sustainable opportunities for diversification of the *puna* economy and support the resilience of the communities. As well as the implementation of social closure and communication plans; and consider the transfer of infrastructure at the request of the populations in the area of influence of the Rincon Project.

3.3 Closure Objectives

The closure objectives set forth will be refined through the closure planning process during the operational phase of the mine. The following closure objectives have been established for the current phase of the Rincon project:

3.3.1 Physical stability

- Leave areas disturbed by the Project and remaining facilities in a stable, long-term condition.

3.3.2 Environmental quality - Chemical stability

- Achieve environmental quality in compliance with national and Salta province regulatory/legal requirements and aligned with international good practices.
- Monitor and develop mitigation strategies for the long-term residual impacts of lithium mining on the ecosystem and land.

3.3.3 Rehabilitation

- Leave the areas disturbed by the Project reshaped and revegetated (if feasible), in a manner compatible with the surrounding landscape.
- Explore alternative solutions over the life of the project that could reduce the long-term visual impact of the site.
- Perform closure planning in the design of operations and plan/execute progressive rehabilitation/socioeconomic transition during the operational phase to reduce environmental and social risks.

3.3.4 Socioeconomic transition

- Through participatory planning strategies, strengthen the institutional capacities of the government of Salta and San Antonio de los Cobres and regional development planning agencies to create opportunities in other productive sectors that will allow for a more sustainable and socioeconomically viable economy after project closure.

- Strengthen the organizational capacities of indigenous communities to make decisions on social investment programs and other decisions that impact the future use of the natural resources that these communities use in accordance with the law.

- Make a progressive transition from a focus on local employment to capacity building for the employability of the inhabitants of the area of influence to support a more resilient population and create opportunities for their labor reinsertion in other economic activities, taking as a reference the economic vocation of the place independent of the mining project (e.g. grazing, tourism,).

- Support socioeconomic transition throughout the life of the project (e.g., end of construction) and after the productive life of the project, including infrastructure transfer.

- During the life of the project, assess and monitor potential residual liabilities to be progressively rehabilitated so as not to limit opportunities for appropriate future use of the site.

- Use information gathered during early and ongoing engagement processes with local regulators and surrounding communities during the life of the project to update the closure plan, socioeconomic transition and future land uses to ensure agreement on closure criteria.

4 Project Components Description

4.1 Site Description

The Project will extend across the mining properties and easements described in Table 1, covering a total of 86,781.5 ha.

Table 1- Properties include mining project

Name	Surface (ha)	Tipe
Grupo Minero Proyecto Rincón	80,032	Grupo Minero
Mina Américo	2,873	Mina
La Costera III	1,782	Mina
Servidumbre	150	Serv. p/camp
Servidumbre	10	Serv. p/camp
Servidumbre	1,494	Serv. p/camp/piletas
Servidumbre de Agua	288	Serv. p/Agua
Servidumbre Faldeo Ciénago	0.8	Serv. p/Agua
Servidumbre Traza Gasoducto	49	Serv. p/Gasoducto
Servidumbre Laguna Seca	50	Serv. p/Infraestructura
Servidumbre Cauchari	25	Serv. p/Camp/agua
Servidumbre Huaytiquina	4	Serv. p/Agua
Servidumbre	18	Serv. p/camp
Servidumbre	5.7	Serv. Salmueroducto
	86,781.5	

4.2 Main components

4.2.1 Process plant

The process plant will consist of the construction of two production trains of 25,000 tons per year of lithium carbonate each. The construction types considered are:

- Construction type 1: Modular steel structures

- Construction type 2: Modular prefabricated

The plant is divided into:

Process sector
This sector will be built with modular steel structures (Constructive Type 2) and will cover a total area of 52,935.52 m^2 (covered area and uncovered area).

Within it, there are buildings associated with the production of lithium carbonate. Building No. 1, coded as Area 2101 and 2102, corresponds to the adsorption column building located west of the production trains. It occupies a total area of 6,524 m^2 and contains five columns that selectively adsorb lithium chloride with resins.

To the east of building N°1, there is Area 2201 and 2202 (building N°2) where lithium concentration by high pressure reverse osmosis (HPRO) is carried out. This facility occupies a total area of 5,202 m^2. From this site, a concentrate rich in lithium chloride is obtained that is sent to the nanofiltration process, an intermediate stage in the lithium concentration process.

The lithium concentration stage by evaporation is developed with the objective of reaching the concentration required to enter the carbonation process and recover water.

In the same premises are buildings No. 4 and No. 5, occupying a total area of 1,872 m^2. These correspond to the process areas: 2401 and 2402where the brine treatment, carbonation and neutralization are carried out. During brine treatment, reactors are used with the objective of releasing the brine from Calcium and Magnesium. After this separation, the brine enters the carbonation and neutralization stage.

Building No. 6 (process area No. 2601 and No. 2602) is located to the east of each production train, occupying a total area of 1,500 m^2. In it, the stages of lithium refining, bicarbonation and recrystallization are developed. These stages allow obtaining a battery grade precipitated lithium carbonate solution.
The last building in this sector is No. 7, which corresponds to area 2701 and 2702, occupying an area of 2,844 m^2 where the drying, micronizing and finished product storage stage takes place.

In the northern sector of the plant, area 4300 for raw water treatment and process water storage will be located, occupying a total area of 6,500 m^2.

Reagents sector
The plant will have a sector for the storage of reagents, occupying a total area of 1,958 m^2, built with modular steel structures (construction type 2). Within this sector, the following facilities are included:

- Area 2811 and 2812-Reagent Building (flocculants, coagulants)
- Area 2821 and 2822-Disposal of chemicals for water treatment
- Area 2831 and 2832-Sulfuric acid collection
- Area 2841 and 2842-Hydrochloric acid collection
- Area 2851 and 2852-Sodium hydroxide collection
- Area 2861 and 2862-Carbon dioxide collection
- Area 2871 and 2872-Soda ash discharge building

Auxiliary facilities in the process area
The auxiliary facilities related to the process plant are detailed below, specifying their total surface area and type of construction required:

Table 2 - Auxiliary facilities

Train 1	Train 2	Description	Surface (m^2)	Constructive type
4212	4212	Boiler room	528	Type 2
5153	5153	Access control and parking	4,612	Type 3
5110	5110	Administrative building/Office	307	Type 3
5140	5140	Laboratory	510	Type 3
5152	5152	Control room	289	Type 2
5122	5122	General maintenance workshop	866	Type 1 and 3
5130	5130	Replacements warehouse	1,084	Type 1 and 3
5150	5150	Canteen	268	Type 3
5154	5154	Fire buildings	77	Type 3
5150	5150	Bathroom and cafeteria units	154	Type 3

4.2.2 Spent brine disposal facility (SBDF)

The spent brine is the liquid effluent from the extraction of lithium chloride (LiCl) from the brine, which is transferred to a spent brine disposal facility called SBDF (Spent Brine Disposal Facility).

Characteristics of spent brine
The main components of the spent brine stream are raw spent brine and raw demineralized water from lithium elution recycling, with minor contributions from other process streams. Annual brine production will increase over the life of the plant, reaching a maximum value of approximately 52 gigaliters towards the end of the production stage. The ratio of spent brine to raw water is nominally 80-90% spent brine and 10-20% raw water.

Comparison of the spent brine with the raw brine reveals two notable differences. The spent brine has a 21% reduction in total dissolved solids (TDS) content (256 g/L vs. 326 g/L) due to dilution in raw water. In addition, the spent brine has a tenfold lower concentration in lithium content (~0.2% TDS vs. ~0.02% TDS) due to the lithium extraction process.

Evaporation of the brine results in the formation of a bed of halite crystals of uniform elevation. The Mohr-Coulomb cohesion of the crystallized halite is estimated to be 500 kPa, equivalent to a low strength rock. The predicted permeability is approximately $1x10^{-4}$ m/s, similar to that of fine sand. The deposited crystal is covered by liquid brine (0 to 0.5 m depth) during operations.

The deposition zone is unlikely to generate dust during operations due to the liquid brine layer. Both deposited and remolded halite are expected to have a low potential for dust generation due to the cohesiveness of the material. In addition, given the remote location of the SBDF, the halite is not expected to pose a significant risk to air quality during operation or closure.

Physical configuration of the SBDF
The configuration adopted considers a total footprint of approximately 24.7 km², to be developed in two stages and a maximum final height of around 12 m.

The containment embankment for its final configuration is composed by an embankment crest of 6 m width, 2H:1V inner slope and 2.5H:1V outer slope. The containment embankment is expected to be constructed in successive raises throughout the LOM following the downstream configuration. The starter dam is expected to be constructed with crystallized halite. Potential borrow sources are crystallized halite stored in the R3000 SBDF, the salar nucleus and the legacy ponds.

Subsequent embankment raises are expected to be constructed with crystallized halite harvested from the RFP SBDF. The design incorporates a geosynthetic liner on the inner slope of the embankment (upstream fase), which extends 30 meters into the SBDF to mitigate infiltration, erosion, pore water pressures in the embankment, and dissolution of the embankment material.

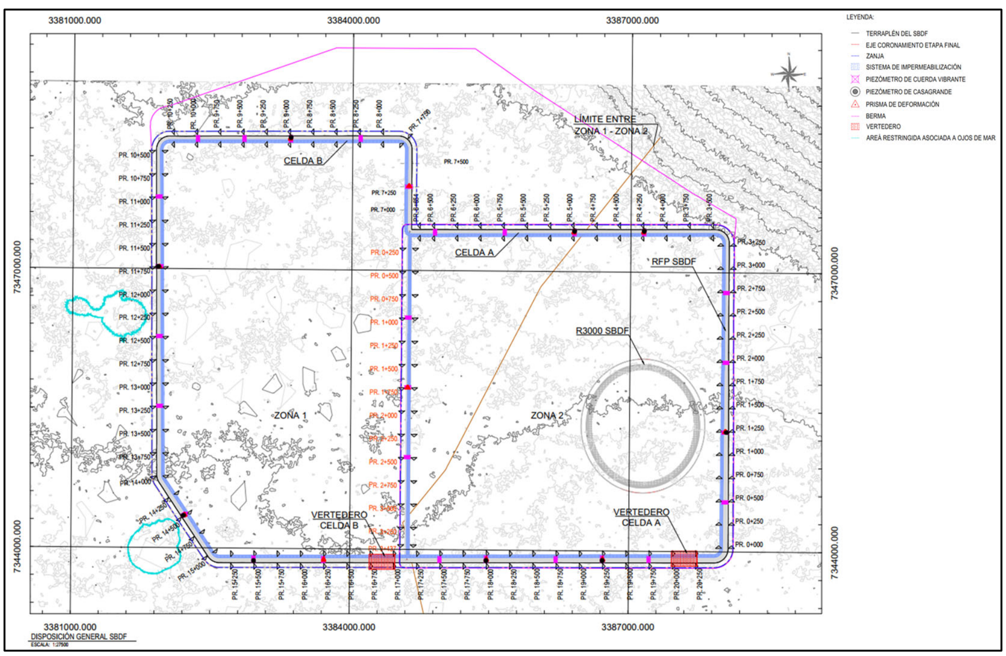
The conceptual closure design presents this methodology as a base design case.

SBDF Design criteria
For the purpose of the FS, SRK adopted infiltration rates of 1% to 4% for the mass and water balance and process-affected surface water management.

Emphasis is placed on avoiding the accumulation of liquid brine, in line with Rio Tinto's D5 standard and global good practice, as it can lead to increased dam rise velocity, high risk to dam safety and construction constraints.

The depleted brine would be pumped to the facility through a pipeline from the process plant area, approximately 9 km away. Infrastructure and ancillary services for the SBDF include access roads, pumping equipment, lighting, electrical infrastructure, personnel facilities, and systems to monitor water levels and geotechnical parameters.

The 3,000tpa lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE) plant (R3000 project) will have, as a final disposal area for spent brine, a SBDF of circular format and volume adequate to the production scale of the pilot plant. Seeking to optimize the footprint of the Rincon 50ktpa lithium carbonate Project, the SBDF design for the 50ktpa production scale considered encapsulating the previous SBDF, thus avoiding impacts on untouched land. The next figure presents the layout of the Project SBDF, with the location of the brine disposal system from the previous 3,000tpa plant.



[1]

Figure 3 – Layout of the SBDF

A surface water collection trench was projected 50 meters from the toe of the outer embankment slope, encircling the RFP SBDF. This perimetral 50-meter-wide buffer provides space for the expected daylighting of a portion of the infiltrated brine from the RFP SBDF. The RFP SBDF blocks the site's natural surface runoff. A bund, constructed from the excavated material for the trench, protects it from surface runoff from the upper catchment area. This bund was designed to divert surface runoff around the RFP SBDF site for a 1:100 year event. For closure, the bund will be increased by 25% the flood protection is based on a high-level assumption for a 1: 10 000 flood event.

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[1] *Resolution 101/25 (DIA for Rincon 50ktpa project received 26th August 2025) requires the buffer zone between the SBDF and the Ojos D'Agua to be increased from 250m to 700m not reflected in Figure 3.*

SBDF Geotechnics
The SBDF is in the travertine terraces ($CaCO_3$) of the salar, also known as carbonate platform. This formation, formed by bacterial and hydrothermal/geothermal processes, is located above the upper aquifer of the salar. This type of rock is ideal for SBDF installation as it has a lower permeability than salt, and has better overburden bearing capacity. Therefore, the SBDF location analysis considered this area for the installation of the structure.

The embankment will be constructed using halite, the dissolution of which has been calculated to be negligible in the arid environment of the SBDF. Dissolution of the spent brine within the facility is also negligible due to the high total dissolved solids (TDS) content of the liquid brine.

Evaluation of slope stability confirms compliance with minimum Factor of Safety requirements and acceptable displacements during the MCE Maximum Credible Earthquake. MCE with a PGA of 0.612 (SRK 2023) was adopted for seismic design based on GISTM (GISTM, 2020) and D5 (Rio Tinto, 2021) to meet the closure requirements. Settlement induced by the lowering of the raw water aquifer level has been preliminarily assessed as a very low risk.

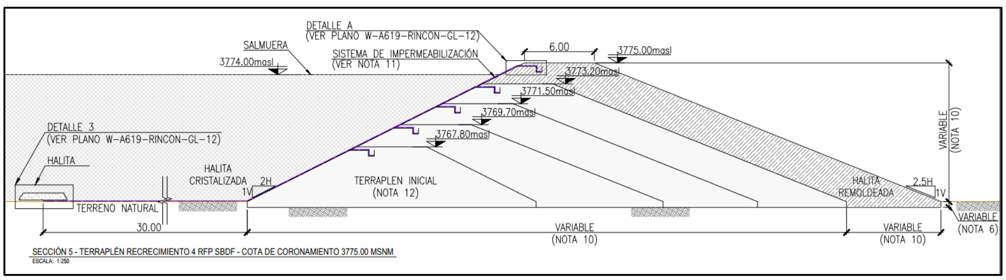

Figure 4 – SBDF typical cross-section at the end of LOM

Hydrogeology and water management
Groundwater levels in the SBDF area range from 0.5 m to 1.1 m below ground surface.. It is hydraulically connected to the lithium brine resource, flowing southward toward the salar core, and linked to the Catua fan aquifer, flowing southward. The Catua Fan freshwater core remains above ground in the SBDF, even after a estimated ~10 m water table drawdown for fresh water supply, so reverse flow or contamination of the Catua Fan aquifer with spent brine is not expected.

Surface water management involves the maintenance of free edges, spillways, external runoff diversions and downstream seepage collection, ensuring effective control of water levels, seepage and erosion. The facility will adopt a minimum operating freeboard of 0.65 m, and a minimum total freeboard (i.e. from the crystallized halite surface to the crest of the weir) of 1 m. In addition, the facility is designed to safely pass the probable maximum flood (PMP, 24-hour flood or 1:10,000 AEP (post-closure)) through the spillway allowing the natural drainage of surface water towards the salt flat, without interfering with the natural recharge of the aquifer.

4.2.3 Filter waste storage facility (FWSF)

Waste characteristics
The brine treatment waste stream consists of Magnesium Hydroxide ($Mg(OH)_2$) and Calcium Carbonate ($CaCO_3$) which are generated as sludge of pH between 11.9 and 12 from the lithium carbonate extraction process.

In total, 1.21 Mm^3 of waste is planned to be stored in the FWSF over the anticipated 40-year life span.
The filtered residue is unlikely to undergo significant volumetric changes due to consolidation, compaction or evaporation of pore water. Initial test data show that the filtered residues comprise mainly silt-sized particles, with a maximum particle size of 1,755 μm (with more than 95% of the particle diameter between 2 and 50 μm). The liquid limit and plastic limits are estimated at 135.3% and 40,8% by weight of solids, respectively.

FWSF Design
Design safety criteria were selected following Rio Tinto's internal guidelines, the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) and the Global Industry Standard on tailings management (GISTM). Containment embankments are required as the waste material is unlikely to be self-supporting. Although the number of cells can be adjusted, the FWSF of the deposition plant over the life of mine would not exceed an area of approximately 8 hectares (including ancillary facilities).

The proposed dams will be earthen embankments with ultimate heights from approximately 5.5 m to 6.0 m with a crest elevation ranging from 3,778.7 to 3,782.3 m. The embankments will be constructed on a prepared foundation of homogenous fill and lined with a geomembrane on the upstream face.

The design incorporates a crest width of 8 m to accommodate truck movements. The upstream and downstream slopes are assumed to be 3H:1V. The upstream 3H:1V slope is the steepest practical slope for installing a waste isolation system (HDPE Liner).

The embankment will be raised in 2 stages including a starter dam for the initial height of approximately 4.0 m to 5.0 m and then a 1.5 m raise to the final embankment elevation. A typical embankment cross section is shown as Figure 5.

The proposed perimeter embankment will be constructed using locally available well graded sand material with a staggered crest elevation for each individual cell following natural topography. The filtered waste would be transported to the FWSF storage facility by truck and spread in the cells using a suitable excavator with north-south and west-east slopes of 1% and 0.6%.

FWSF Geotechnics
The inferred surficial soil at the FWSF location, based on available information from nearby drilling, generally consists of compact to very dense non-plastic granular materials with varying grain sizes, ranging from silt to gravel. Based on available information, the bedrock is expected to be more than 50 m deep. In the area of FWSF, the simulated depth to groundwater is between 1 m and 50 m below ground surface.

The embankment will be constructed of locally sourced granular materials composed primarily of sand. Foundation preparation for the embankment will include removal of topsoil from the embankment footprint, moisture conditioning and compaction as required.

The slope stability evaluation confirms compliance with the minimum Factor of Safety requirements and acceptable displacements during the Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE). The following geotechnical criteria were adopted for the FWSF FS level design:

- Design Seismic Event: Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) with a PGA of 0.612 (SRK 2023) was adopted for seismic design based on GISTM (GISTM, 2020) and D5 (Rio Tinto, 2021) to meet the closure requirements.

- Minimum static slope stability factor of safety of 1.5 for both long-term and short-term condition was adopted based on D5 (Rio Tinto, 2021), and

- Minimum post-seismic slope stability factor of safety of 1.1 was adopted based on D5 (Rio Tinto, 2021).

The following figure shows the typical cross section of the FWSF slopes.

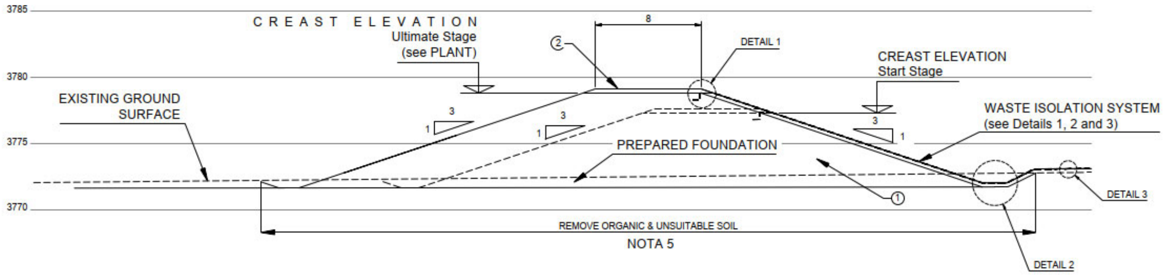

Figure 5 – Schematic cross-section of FWSF slopes

Hydrogeology and water management

The FWSF site is located near the southern end of the Catua alluvial fan, downstream of the raw water well field. Groundwater is estimated to be 7 m below ground level at the site. To isolate the waste, a double geomembrane seepage barrier has been conservatively considered for the FWSF, with a seepage collection system. However, additional geochemical and hydrogeological modeling is planned to potentially optimize the liner design.

The waste surface is intended to be kept as dry as possible by collecting all surface runoff and stormwater at the corner of each cell in the decanted water collectors, and then pumping it, if necessary, to a decanted water and surface runoff collection basin located to the south of the FWSF. The water from this basin can be evaporated or recycled into the plant system. The surface water collection basin and cells of the FWSF are designed to store the 24-hour Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) and include an emergency spillway.

Drainage will be constructed along the perimeter of the facility to collect infiltration and runoff over the embankments. The drain will be used to convey runoff to the water sump. Runoff from the upstream external catchment will be diverted around the facility.

4.2.4 Brine extraction wells

During the useful life of the project, 139 brine extraction wells will be built in different phases. These will be built with stainless steel material and will have vertical turbine-type pumps. Their depth will vary between 34 to 210 m.

The brine is extracted from the salar by means of deep well pumps with a capacity of up to 107 L/s depending on each well, then it is stored in an intermediate transfer pool with a capacity of 12,000 m^3. Hydrogeological modeling predicts that lithium brine wells will pump a total volume of approximately 1,365 Mm^3 of brine over the 40 years of operation, with average pumping rates for Fractured Halite Salt wells varying between approximately 40 and 350 m3/h (approximately 10 to 100 L/s) and the Arenas Negras wells that pump at rates that vary between approximately 60 and 95 m3/h (approximately 17.2 and 26.4 L/s).

The closure of the extraction wells, for its part, will generate a stop in the exploitation of this resource, leading to a 90% recovery of the pre-existing water balance conditions generally in less than 40 years after the operation ends, with some specific areas that will take longer than 40 years to recover to 90% pre-mining level conditions.

4.2.5 Raw water extraction wells

The purpose of these wells is to extract water for industrial use at a rate of 36 m^3 /h (10 L/s). This is a free aquifer with a static level at an average depth of 70 meters. On the Catua Formation, i.e. the hydrogeological system composed of sediments of the alluvial fan located immediately north of the plant area, 37 raw water extraction wells will be constructed (within the Salar del Rincón basin).

This region is located on the western edge of the hill that separates the alluvial system from the Catua River valley, where the town of the same name is located. The system also receives water from the Pompón and Huaytiquina rivers on its western edge. The material of construction of the tubing for the wells will be stainless steel. The depth of the wells will vary between 99 m and 237 m. These wells will be equipped with vertical turbine type pumps.

Start of operations of 16 units for 1-2 years, and then operation of the remaining 21 units. The maximum operating flow rate is expected to be 140L/s, however design allowance support will support peak abstraction of 210L/s.

The raw water to be used by the project has an acceptable quality limit of salt content equivalent to an electrical conductivity of 11,000 µS/cm. This limit is linked to the operating capacity of the osmosis membranes, and was considered an environmental advance, since the project initially had more demanding specifications in terms of water quality (lower salt content). During the development of the feasibility studies, the necessary modifications were made to allow the plant to operate with lower quality water. This measure allows water from nearby sources to be used and not transferred from other sources, thus reducing the project's footprint and its cumulative impacts.

During the operation stage, not only the measurement of the resource in quality and quantity is foreseen, installing certified flowmeters, but also the preparation and presentation of effective reports to the application authority, including periodic updates of the numerical model of groundwater and its holistic interaction at the basin scale.

After the closure of the raw water extraction wells, the hydrogeological modeling developed foresees the restoration of the groundwater level in a large portion of the Rincón basin by 90%, generally in less than 40 years after the closure of the mine, however some areas are predicted to take longer than 40 years. Worth noting the numerical model did not consider high intensity rainfall events, and it is very possible that most of the water level will recover to pre-mining conditions in the fringe of the salar after one or more intense events.

4.2.6 Auxiliary components

Roads and parking areas

The internal circulation roads will be built on a subbase composed of two layers of selected compacted natural soil, on top of which a base will be made with a consolidated compacted granular soil.
It will have transverse slopes for surface runoff to the lateral ditches, which will carry the water through the designed circuits to points established for natural runoff.

The construction of internal roads is planned for the project. These were identified by type according to their distribution. Type 1 roads correspond to those located in the area of raw water and brine wells, which do not require heavy traffic and whose width will be 6 m. Type 2 roads correspond to those distributed in the area of pools, electrical substation and plant where traffic will be heavy and whose width will be 10 m. The following table details the lengths for the projected roads:

Table 3 - Dimensions of the planned roads

Roads	Lengths (m)
Type 1	
Roads to raw water wells	29,370
Roads to brine wells	74,822
Type 2	
Roads to process plant	284
Roads to FWSF	1,263
Roads to SBDF	13,984

Within the plant there is a parking area for light vehicles in the office area. Operationally, there may be some defined spaces for some trucks in different areas (Layout) and a truck waiting parking lot with access control is planned in an area outside the new plant.

4.2.7 Domestic effluent treatment plant

The domestic effluent treatment plant for the Camp of 1,500 people will be compact and modular, composed of three modules, each one will consist of an Aeration Chamber, a Secondary Sedimentator, and a

Disinfection system. The effluents generated will be deposited in the water proofed basins built for this purpose.

4.2.8 Ducts and pipes

Raw brine pipelines

The pipelines will follow the above-ground route from the well sector to the intermediate transfer basins sector, which have a capacity of approximately 12,000 m^3. The brine is pumped from the wells to the nearest well and then, through the pipelines, it is transported to Basin No. 1 for subsequent pumping to the plant.

Raw water pipelines

The raw water impulsion will be carried out by vertical submerged well pumps through HDPE and coated steel lines, being the traces buried to each plant. Two pipe networks will be created (Matrix 1 South and Matrix 2 North) which will feed each train of 25,000 tons per year.

Sewage and storm drainage ducts

The sewage drainage will consist of sanitary cores that will be drained by gravity through a network of pipes with inspection chambers. This network will lead to five pumping wells distributed in different sectors of the plant, which will feed a main pumping chamber and then pump the material to the treatment plant, which will be in the new camp. As for rainwater drainage, channels were planned throughout the project.

Firefighting pipeline

The water network will be buried in three-layer metal piping to prevent corrosion. The piping will be laid along the outside perimeter of the plant, making perpendicular crossings to generate rings that will feed the fire protection equipment. From the derivations of these rings, antifreeze hydrants with Ø6" body and at least two Ø2½" connections will be installed in the proximities of the buildings and service areas that will have their associated hose cabinet, where two Ø2½" hoses with their respective jet-fog nozzles will be kept.

It is important to clarify that the Project's fire protection system considers specific items for the Puna climate, such as the installation of anti-freeze hydrants, which have 200-liter foam barrels. The system will also include a firefighting room and cabinets around the Operational Area with firefighting equipment.
The carbonation, drying, refining and brine treatment buildings will have inside them Ø1" winders that will allow fighting a fire inside the building.

4.2.9 Camp and auxiliary facilities

In addition to the components already mentioned, there will be the following components:

Operation camp and Construction camp for 1,500 people

A main access road is planned to divide the 2 operation camps (stage 1 and 2) and construction of 1,500 people. A unidirectional circulation is proposed for waste removal and for kitchen/laundry suppliers, etc. Within the camp area there will be the following facilities:

- Main building for staff access, located on the access street.
- Dock for passenger buses, with sidewalk leading to access.
- Nursing building with medical offices, also near the sports area, for quick evacuation in case of emergencies or transfers.
- Kitchen/dining room, laundry and other services are planned with the same services as the permanent camp that will have built-in sanitary facilities for the use of both kitchen staff and diners.
- Dormitory buildings designed on 2 levels, with stairs at both ends. Each with 38 bedrooms (18 units on level I + 20 units on level II) each with a private bathroom. In total there would be 20 modular buildings, for an occupancy of 1,500 people. Each building will have a room for water heaters, a room for cleaning supplies, and a laundry room with a washer and dryer for staff use.
- Sports and gym building

- Recreation building with bathroom and locker room facilities that will be shared with the sports and gym building.
- Access control building for guard and barrier systems.

4.2.10 Concrete plant

Concrete plant components are formed by:

- Aggregate dispenser
- Cement dispenser
- Water dispenser
- Additive dispenser
- Pneumatic circuit
- Command system

4.2.11 Airstrip

It is 3,600 meters long and occupies an area of 950,000 m^2 (including the ellipse protection area for takeoff and landing approaches) and is made up of:

- Road surface (track itself)
- Entrance street
- Internal circulation street
- Perimeter fencing

4.2.12 Energy and services

The electrical energy supply of the 50Ktpa Rincon Full Potential plant will consist of different power stages:

- 33KV overhead line: The two 33KV power line will consist of 22km overhead triples (circuits) laid on a single-pole concrete column with a total power of 50MW.
- Main electrical substation: will contain all the necessary equipment to lower the voltage to 33KV; transformers, drives, panels, protections, control, measurement and communications. The dimensions of the substation will be approximately 140 x 80 meters.

4.2.13 Quarries

The soil will be obtained from local quarries that will be developed within the area of the Rincón mining group. Two quarries are planned, one for finer materials (clay), named “Cantera Sapito”, and another for coarser materials, named “Cantera Rococo”.

Each quarry consider the maximum area of 500,000 m^2 and will have transverse slopes for surface runoff to the lateral ditches, which will lead the water through the designed circuits to points established for natural runoff.

4.2.14 Rincón 3000 components (3KTPA)

- Rincon 3000 Plant (including its associated facilities)
- Concrete plant
- Electrical sub-station
- Reverse osmosis plant for drinking water
- Sewage treatment plant
- Access roads

4.2.15 Components associated with pilot plant (Legacy)

- Evaporation ponds: 1.5 km2
- Process ponds: 0.197 km2

5 Summary of Engagement Activities

Since 2009, RMPL has carried out numerous communication and engagement activities with the several stakeholders present in the direct and indirect areas of influence of the Rincon Project.
The successive social baseline studies conducted in influence areas from 2009 to date have provided valuable information regarding the living conditions, expectations and needs of the different communities surrounding the Project.

In June 2025, a supplementary baseline has been completed that expands information about the dispersed rural population and indigenous communities, increasing the number of identified herders (puesteros), recording land use and ecosystem services with an emphasis on water sources. All this information has been validated by the three communities.

The studies have enabled increased engagement with the communities as the Project progressed from the exploration stage in 2009 to the current development plans to build and commission a 50ktpa production scale lithium carbonate operation, the Rincon Project.

In recent years, a formal licensing process for the Rincon 3000 project has been underway with the communities in 2023, which included Prior Consultation meetings in May and a Public Hearing on December 5, 2023. Additionally, in 2024 as part of the licensing process for the expansion of Rincon RFP, prior consultations with the communities were carried out. The public hearing is scheduled for July 24 2025. All these communities engagement activities for permits include information on the closure plan included in the IIA of the 50ktpa Lithium Carbonate Plant, emphasizing the life cycle approach, the relationship with stakeholders and planning.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will contemplate the engagement objectives for each stage of the Rincon project life cycle. This will consider the activities to communicate and validate the social and environmental baseline, impacts and management plans regarding the RFP project with respect to the Rio Tinto standard and the IFC Performance Standards, as well as keeping communities informed about the progress of the project.

The SEP is a document that will develop from the beginning of the project and will be constantly updated to reflect the engagement needs required to address the expectations and concerns of stakeholders before the start or completion of each stage of project development.

6 Evaluation of Post-Mining Use Alternatives

During the life of mine, alternative post-mining land use activities will be investigated in the project area, aligned with the engagement processes and expectations of surrounding communities and regulatory groups and as technically and economically feasible. During the progress of closure planning, such alternatives will be considered for modification of closure activities as appropriate.

Activities will be considered that align with the expected post-closure monitoring and maintenance of the remaining Project facilities.

In addition, the reuse of infrastructure that can provide special value for post-mining use will be evaluated including wells, pipelines, power infrastructure, camps, offices, sewage and potable water treatment plants, airstrips and other buildings and equipment, which can provide the greatest benefit to the region.

As stated in the closure vision and objectives, the equipment, infrastructure and materials disposed of will be evaluated for on-site or community reuse, resale/salvage or, if no continuing purpose is identified, recycling or safe disposal.

7 Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Opportunities of Closure

The identification of closure risks/opportunities and subsequent analyses, prior to the design of the Closure Plan, are of major importance to define the mine closure and post closure activities. The risk identification and assessment were carried out based on Rio Tinto's Risk Assessment procedure with the participation of a multidisciplinary team to ensure consideration of all aspects of mine closure (environmental, social and technical).

The main risks identified were:

- Decrease in the local employment rate and income of workers, associated with the closure and termination of project activities.
- Reduced availability of groundwater in Catua alluvial fan for other uses after closure.
- Overflows due to higher rainfall that exceeds the design of the spillways and perimeter drainage channels.
- Permanent change to landscape following closure due to SBDF and FWSF.
- Post-closure drawdown in the ojos d’agua potential impacting extreme bacteria critical habitat
- Water recharge does not occur as anticipated. Due to change in climate change precipitation trends and therefore groundwater recovery takes longer than predicted.
- Predicted subsidence of up to 1.9m across the brine well field area due to brine extraction, resulting in additional measures required for land rehabilitation.
- Decrease in the local economy due to lower demand for goods and services
- Increased expectations of indigenous peoples for rehabilitation of the site following closure.
- Future possible water extraction by other projects or by Catua community resulting in over-exploitation of the groundwater resource.
- Contaminated water leakage due to breakage or failure of waterproof cover of FWSF

- Dispersion/deposition of salt loads and dust due to erosion/weathering of the external SBDF slopes and top over time.
- Erosion of the external SBDF slopes over time.
- Unsuccessful revegetation
- Potential impact on ecosystem services, leading to the affectation of puesteros and indigenous people
- Potential geochemical changes in the groundwater system in the salar and surrounding lagoons

The mitigation activities and controls described in the following chapters have been planned to reduce the identified risks. However, as the useful life of the mine progresses, studies and research will be carried out to close the knowledge gaps found and reduce risk uncertainty based on the recording of data collected over time in such a way that opportunities for improvement in closing activities and reduction of post-closing deadlines can be determined.

Some of the studies to be conducted are:

- Climate change and climate change adaptation study to verify the design of runoff water channels (verification whether they meet the maximum expected precipitation or no) and to predict the impact of climate change in the recovery of the availability of groundwater in Catua alluvial fan.
- Installation of piezometers in the areas near the wetlands/vegas and monitoring wells around the margins of the salt flat.
- Rejection trial of spent brine to reduce potential impacts in the Lagoon, Vegas and ojo’s d’agua.
- Updates on the hydrogeological study of the brine and raw water extraction fields. Monitoring of the water table during the mine operation.
- Baseline monitoring and an impact assessment to understand the cumulative impact of the project and other users on groundwater.
- Periodic infiltration monitoring at representative points.
- Perform physical/geotechnical stability studies of the brine wells field and SBDF and FWSF slopes with acceptable long-term safety factors including monitoring data during the operation.
- Develop studies on the potential reuse or reduction of filtered waste and alternatives for different disposal of spent brine (Re-injection) and filtered waste, (if future regulation allows this), to achieve government authorization. Do risk/opportunity assessment compared to the current process.
- Develop test and investigation of the reprocessing potential of legacy pool material.
- Assess potential impacts to downstream environment due to SBDF salt erosion and salt dust transport.
- Develop studies to identify the optimal thickness of the FWSF cover and the material and size of the granular material, to promote runoff, storage and evaporation of water in the cover layer.
- Develop studies and test plots to determine the effectiveness of the coverage for the site conditions.
- Revegetation field study (test plots) and evaluate the viability of the seed bank as support for revegetation.

- Monitoring air quality (particulate matter) or atmospheric dispersion in real time.
- Updates stakeholder engagement plan considering commitments made during operation phase (Participation and communication in water use and closure plan) and cost evaluation.

On the other hand, opportunities have also been identified and assessed. The main ones were:

- Use of infrastructure for the benefit of communities (water wells, generation/transmission infrastructure, roads and/or airstrip)
- Progressive rehabilitation of the legacy ponds, using waste/material into the project stream.

To take advantage of the identified opportunities, during mine closure planning, the reuse/salvage of the project infrastructure for the benefit of the communities will be promoted, as an opportunity to improve their quality of life. For this reason, during all phases of the Project, constant communication will be maintained with the communities through the engagement plan and the different social programs to be implemented during closure.

A risk matrix was presented in the ESIA andrisks are reviewed periodically

8 Closure Activities

Closure planning is carried out from design to pre-closure of the mine, by a multidisciplinary team that includes representatives from management and technical areas (environment, social, geotechnical, planning, hydrology, geology, legal, communications, human resources, finance etc.). Likewise, the participation and commitment of the communities and indigenous populations and of the regulatory entities will be sought for the definition of the closure criteria.

The life of mine is estimated at 40 years. This estimate is based on current proven and probable ore reserves and an annual production rate of 50,000 tons per year.

The planned closure activities for each component are described below, according to the stage of the mine life in which they are carried out.

Progressive closure activities are planned to close components during the life of the mine, because their use is no longer necessary or because the nature of the operation allows their partial closure. This stage considers the closure activities of the temporary components used during the construction of the Project. Decommissioning activities will begin in year 41, once operations finish.

Post-closure activities are intended to evaluate and document the effectiveness of the closure activities and will be performed to demonstrate compliance with the agreed closure objectives and criteria.

8.1 Progressive Closure Activities

Progressive closure is a scenario that occurs simultaneously with the operation stage of the project, when a component or part of a component is no longer required for ongoing operations. Progressive closure is beneficial to both the environment and RMPL. It benefits the environment by allowing early reclamation of the land, controlling future environmental impact (e.g. erosion, etc.) and reducing the burden towards closure including associated costs due to the availability of personnel and equipment on site, generating experience for the closure stage.

Progressive closure also makes it possible to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed closure activities and, if necessary, to modify them to obtain better results in the final closure. As part of the progressive closure, monitoring will be conducted to determine the existence of contaminated sites for subsequent remediation.

The components for which progressive closure activities have been considered are indicated below:

8.1.1 Camp 1500 and occupied areas for construction

All areas occupied for the construction of the Project that are no longer required for operation will be progressively dismantled and remediated. The general closing activities for these components are:

- Removal of materials/equipment.
- Dismantling, demolition and removal of concrete.
- Establishing post mining landform and reestablishment of natural drainage.
- Covering with natural soil and revegetation (if applicable according to the characteristics of the environment).

8.1.2 Components associated with the Pilot Plant (legacy ponds)

Drilling campaigns has been conducted to obtain additional physical and chemical data on the material contained in the legacy ponds in order to evaluate opportunities for reuse or recycling of the material for the construction of the first embankment of the Cell A of the SBDF, results are under evaluation.

8.1.3 R3000 slurry waste storage facility (SWSF)

The activities planned for the closure of this component are similar to those mentioned for the FWSF.

- Level as necessary to promote positive drainage away from the facility.
- Promote runoff and evaporation of water in the upper layer.
- Apply an evapotranspiration cover composed of soil and granular material from a local quarry, so that contact of the waste with surface water is avoided and continues to allow evapotranspiration.
- Revegetation appropriate to the environment and soil conditions.
- Maintain and improve, if necessary, non-contact water drainage channels around the facility.
- Maintenance of leak monitoring wells.

The waste generated during progressive closure of the facilities will be transported by companies authorized by the province for this activity until its final disposal.

8.1.4 Laguna Rincon, Vegas and Ojos D’Agua

Various mitigation options are currently being evaluated should it be predicted that the Project would impact some of the key environmentally sensitive water related receptors. Appropriate mitigation measures will be different for different sites and will depend on the site specific characteristics, existing hydraulic mechanisms, sensitivity/resilience and other factors. Ongoing studies are focused on advancing our understanding of these sensitive receptors and it is with this understanding that appropriate mitigation measures will be derived. Potential mitigation measures for the lagoons, vegas and extremophile ecosystems may include the following:

- Cessation or reduction of abstraction from brine wells in the immediate vicinity.
- Increase the width of the SBDF drainage in the foot of the embankment to further promote evaporation and reduce the risk of water level rise in the ojos d’agua.
- Injection of brine or spent brine into sediments which will act as a hydraulic barrier and reduce the risk of dropping groundwater levels.

- Construction of a physical low permeably barrier to act as a hydraulic barrier to reduce the risk of dropping groundwater levels.
- Irrigation and/or surface water flow augmentation to maintain saturated conditions at the ground surface, particularly applicable to the Vegas.
- Injection of spent brine during operations to reduce the localized drawdown post closure and therefore reduce the time required to mitigate the drawdown in the ojos d’agua upon closure.
- Pumping diluted brine directly into the Ojos de Agua and reduce the risk of spike changes in the quality of the brine seeping under the SBDF.

A Water Adaptative Management Plan was developed for the project with the purpose of defining operating principles to monitor and implement mitigative frameworks, including groundwater thresholds, scope for reinjection trials and modelling, regular update of numerical models, sampling program etc.

8.2 Final Closure Activities

Final closure will begin when mining and processing operations are completed. The components to be closed at the end of the operation are as follows:

8.2.1 Process plant

The closure activities planned for this component are as follows:

- Decontamination of infrastructure that has had contact with hazardous chemicals.
- Dismantling of electrical lines and equipment.
- Dismantling, demolition and removal of residual concrete (surface and underground) buildings and steel structures.
- Establishing post mining landform and reestablishment of natural drainage.
- Covering with natural soil and revegetation (if applicable according to the characteristics of the environment).
- Soil investigation/monitoring to determine the existence of contaminated sites for subsequent remediation (if required).

8.2.2 Spent Brine Disposal Facility (SBDF)

The spent brine disposal facility will be located on travertine bedrock upstream of the salar. The spent brine will evaporate within the facility contained by a perimeter embankment composed of local halite material. The inner face of the embankments will be lined with HDPE geomembrane to prevent internal erosion.

The SBDF re-growth method will be downstream which limits the opportunity for progressive closure activities at the facility, so all closure activities will be performed at the end of the mine's productive life. The closure activities planned for the SBDF are:

- Allow evaporation of the brine in the installation.
- Level the surface to promote positive drainage to and from downstream to the salt flat.
- Maintain and improve the spillway to allow drainage of water from the facility in the event of extreme storms and rainfall and keep flood protection.
- Maintain and improve non-contact water detour channels to accommodate expected long-term flows (i.e., long return period appropriate for the post-closure period and expected climate).

- Improve and reshape the material cover on the outer slopes to prevent erosion.

8.2.3 Filtered waste storage facility (FWSF)

Once production at the plant is finished and the facility for filtered waste is no longer needed, the last two cells still in operation will be closed. The planned closure activities are:

- Level as necessary to promote positive drainage away from the installation.
- Promote the evapotranspiration of water in the upper layer.
- Apply an evapotranspiration cover composed of soil and granular material from a local quarry, so that contact of the waste with surface water is avoided and continues to allow evapotranspiration. Revegetate according to the environment and soil conditions.
- Maintain and improve, if necessary, the non-contact water drainage channels around the facility.
- Maintain of seepage monitoring wells.
- Improvements to the surface runoff and potential leachate collection pool to allow evaporation and keep flood protection.

8.2.4 Brine wells and raw water wells

The wells may be used in post-closure monitoring activities or for future use for benefit of the communities, hence some of them could remain in place after closure, unless they represent a health, safety or environmental risk, or it is determined that the community is uninterested or unable to maintain wells.
The activities planned for the closure of these components are:

- Removal of associated infrastructures (concrete, instrumentation, electrical wiring), piping and booster pumps.
- Bentonite plug, cement or material suitable for saline water up to 2 m below the surface.
- Cutting and removal of the caising pipe 1 m below the surface.
- Signage (if necessary)
- Soil investigation/monitoring to determine the existence of contaminated sites for subsequent remediation (if require).

8.2.5 Pipelines and ducts

All pipes and ducts will be uninstalled and removed from the area. The affected areas will be reshaped and covered with natural soil and will be revegetated (if applicable according to the characteristics of the environment).

8.2.6 Roads and access

Most of the main access roads will be maintained after closure of the access areas for maintenance and monitoring. Roads will be identified that will remain where needed based on subsequent land use and in accordance with the requirements of the surrounding communities. Closure activities are:

- Establishing post mining landform and reestablishment of natural drainage.
- Covering with natural soil and revegetation (if applicable according to the characteristics of the environment).

- Soil investigation/monitoring to determine the existence of contaminated sites for subsequent remediation (if require).

8.2.7 Camp and auxiliary components

Facilities located within the camp and auxiliary facilities will be dismantled. Closure activities are:

- Dismantling of electrical lines and equipment.
- Removal of light structures.
- Demolition and removal of residual concrete.
- Establishing post mining landform and reestablishment of natural drainage.
- Covering with natural soil and revegetation (if applicable according to the characteristics of the environment).
- Soil investigation/monitoring to determine the existence of contaminated sites for subsequent remediation (if require).

8.2.8 Main electrical substation and transmission poles and lines

Decommissioning tasks will include the dismantling of the electrical substation infrastructure and transmission lines, as described below:

- Transmission line de-energization.
- Removal of the conductors and dismantling of the gantries.
- Emptying of power transformers.
- Disassembly and removal of transformers.
- Removal of electrical, control and protection equipment from buildings and other facilities.
- Disassembly and removal of circuit breakers and disconnectors.
- Demolition of concrete bases.

8.2.9 Airstrip

The planned closure activities for the airstrip are:

- Dismantling of the perimeter fence.
- Demolition of the roadway and streets.
- Establishing post mining landform and reestablishment of natural drainage.
- Covering with natural soil and revegetation (if applicable according to the characteristics of the environment).
- Soil investigation/monitoring to determine the existence of contaminated sites for subsequent remediation (if require).

8.2.10 Topsoil management

The topsoil recovered and stored during construction and operation activities will be used as cover soil in the closure of the different components of the project. Once the material is used, the post-mining landform will be established, and natural drainage will be restored.

8.2.11 Quarries

The closure activities that will ensure the stability of the quarries are:

- Reshape the material that may remain on the site.
- Use the material collected during the operation as fill.
- Soften the slopes by promoting the correct drainage of surface runoff water towards the perimeter channel.
- Construction of perimeter drainage (V-shaped channels) with a lateral slope of 1V:2H on both sides.
- Revegetation according to the environment and/or initial conditions.

If no construction material is required during operations, progressive closure may be implemented.

8.2.12 Rincón 3000tpa components

The components of Rincon 3,000 will be closed with the same methods used for the Project components.

8.3 Workforce

For the closure and post-closure, direct staff will be defined based on the scope and deadlines to carry out the work of managing activities and ensuring compliance with the commitments made.

8.4 Waste management

During the closure of the facilities, the generation of different types of waste is expected, among which are: Household solid waste such as: organic waste, plastic, paper, cardboard, wood, etc. Its generation rate per person will be maintained as detailed in the Project description. Industrial solid wastes such as: demolition concrete, high density polyethylene (HDPE) debris, metals from dismantled structures, hallucinogenic panels, electrical cables, electronic waste, etc.. Hazardous wastes such as: washing water from the facilities, rags and tow impregnated with cleaning and decontamination substances, used batteries, used oil filters, etc.

The following activities will be carried out to manage the waste generated:

- Household waste that cannot be recycled will be disposed of in the landfill of the Province of Salta.
- The water resulting from the cleaning of the facilities will be separated in tanks and will be removed in appropriate containers to be disposed of in an authorized place through a waste management company authorized for this purpose.
- Removal from the Project of all machinery and mobile equipment, except those required for closure and maintenance and those required to be donated or sold.
- All chemicals and industrial wastes must be disposed of or properly disposed of by a licensed waste operator.
- Remaining oils or fuels from engines and machinery will be removed and disposed of at authorized sites through a waste management company authorized for this purpose.

- The metal waste will be sold to recycling companies.
- Soils possibly contaminated with hydrocarbons found in the closed areas must be disposed of through a waste operator authorized for this purpose.

9 Temporary and Sudden Closure

During the operation stage it is possible that mining activities may be suspended due to technical problems, less favorable operating conditions, changes in economic conditions or by mandate of the authority. In these cases, a care and maintenance plan will be developed, in addition to implementing measures to anticipate the social impacts caused.

In case of inactivity or temporary cessation for more than two years, a Temporary Closure Plan project must be submitted to preserve and recover the environment.

RMPL will make every effort to ensure that the site remains in a proper, clean and orderly condition during a temporary closure. Temporary suspension of operations without the implementation of a care and maintenance plan may result in:

- Some surface areas require maintenance and rehabilitation.
- Environmental impact mitigation activities are maintained or implemented if required.
- Areas affected by remaining solutions, process chemicals, inadequate disposal and management of effluents.
- Sudden unemployment of the labor force and the corresponding socioeconomic impacts.

In the event of a temporary closure, the number of people on site will be reduced; however, people present must be sufficient in number and knowledge to be able to successfully carry out care and maintenance activities, monitoring tasks, as well as to be able to solve any problems that may arise.

This section establishes the temporary closure measures, placing special emphasis on the main components of the Project that could represent a greater risk to safety, health or the environment and that, due to their condition, must remain active. The next table summarizes the temporary closure activities for the operation stage.

Table 4 - Activities applicable to the different components of the project under a temporary closure scenario

	Dismantling	Demolition, reclamation and disposal	Physical stability - Physical care	Environmental quality - Chemical stability	Water management - Care of water management infrastructure	Landform	Revegetation
Process plants			X				
Quarries			X	X	X		
SBDF			X	X	X		
FWSF			X	X	X		
Raw water extraction wells				X			
Brine extraction wells				X			

Legacy ponds	
Auxiliary installations	

Regarding to social programs, the implementation of management measures aimed at mitigating potential negative impacts related to temporary closure activities will be evaluated, prioritizing those related to local employment, safety and health. These measures will also be prioritized insofar as they allow for the continuity of social responsibility projects, as well as the achievement of closure objectives. Likewise, a Communication Plan will be designed to inform adequately the communities about the reasons and the activities of the temporary closure. For human resources, this includes the requirement to establish and implement a Retrenchment Management Plan in accordance with IFC (PS2), while also ensuring compliance with any applicable national labor regulations.

10 Social Closure (Social Transition Plan)

The objective of the Social Transition Plan is to have a framework for the social closure of the Rincon Project operations. Closure of the mine is expected around year 2068, however, it will be developed considering progressive closure during the operation stage.

The plan responds to the needs of the Project during the operation stage, as well as the identification of risks, impacts and opportunities for social closure. The communities and indigenous populations in the direct influence area will participate in the co-design of the closure plan, which will define the strategy and the investment and communication programs to mitigate these impacts and amplify the opportunities.

The plan's approach aligns with RMPL's social and community performance commitments and long-term development plans that derive from engagement with communities in the Project's area of influence.
In addition, RMPL seeks to ensure that it leaves a positive legacy for the Project's area of influence by achieving the regional development objectives of the area through both operational and closure social programs.

10.1 Social investment initiatives

The initiatives described in this plan correspond to social closure impacts preliminarily identified, so the social closure impacts and opportunities reflected in the Social Transition Plan must be confirmed and adjusted in the initiatives to be developed in the closure stage.

In turn, as part of the Rincón Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the definition of social investment initiatives will be worked on in coordination with the communities in the influence area and with the participation of a multidisciplinary team from RMPL including social, human resources, procurement and other experts.

The participation of indigenous peoples in the definition of social closure programs will consider the mitigation of impacts to their collective rights and the development opportunities of the indigenous population in the area.

Some of the initiatives of the Relationship Plan are described in the following table:

Table 5 - Social investment initiatives for closure

Social initiative	Description	Target
Capacity building for employability	The initiative seeks to develop local transferable skills capabilities to improve access to employment and employability opportunities for employees and non-employees, especially women, youth and vulnerable groups.	Improve capabilities, skills and training opportunities in the influence area to support access to other job and/or business opportunities alternative to working at RMPL.

Management capacity building for regional socio-economic development	The initiative seeks to develop capacities to strengthen the management of development programs.	Improve land-use planning by the government and other development agencies. Improve the organization and decision making of indigenous communities.
Infrastructure reuse program	Improve community infrastructure by repurposing and transferring mine assets for community use.	Establish a plan to transfer or appropriately reuse the infrastructure of the mine assets to provide the community with structures and equipment that can be used by them after Project closure.

10.2 Communication strategy

The Social Transition Plan will consider a communications strategy to guide the RMPL team in sharing information throughout the project life cycle.

The objective of the strategy is to stablish a dialogue with internal and external stakeholders of the Rincon Project, including social closure activities through appropriate and timely dissemination of information, and to minimize concerns and manage expectations and speculation about progressive closure (construction and operations phases), definitive closure, and post-closure.

The communication strategy identifies and maps key stakeholders and provides a synthesis of the information needs of each group regarding social closure. It will also contain key messages for managing expectations regarding closure, considering communication and information dissemination schemes. In turn, the strategy will consider a recommended high-level timeline and communication channels for its achievement.

Thus, in key stages such as the construction phase, stakeholders will be informed in a timely manner about the closure of construction activities to manage the expectations of workers and suppliers of goods and services.

In turn, transparent information will be shared about Project opportunities during the operation stage, in accordance with the workforce requirements of that stage, and in accordance with the Project's commitments to stakeholders. Likewise, the selection process to be implemented during the operation of the Project will be communicated, according to RMPL's policies.

11 Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Activities

As the closure tasks proposed for each of the components of the Closure Plan are completed, monitoring and maintenance of the environmental parameters applicable to each component will be carried out.

Monitoring activities are preliminary projected to be conducted for a period of 30 years after closure or until compliance with closure criteria agreed and reviewed with stakeholders is achieved (according to hydrological model, 90% of recovery will occur generally in less than 40 years, however some areas could see a recover of ~50% within 40 years). It is expected that, with the increased availability of monitoring data, the frequency and extent of monitoring will be reduced from year to year.

11.1 Post-closure monitoring

Post-closure monitoring activities are aimed at verifying compliance with closure criteria and objectives. The Water Adaptative Management Plan, a live document, will be maintained during life of mine and adjusted accordingly to meet Closure criteria, including evaluating options to reduce Closure legacy and post-monitoring durations.

11.1.1 Stability monitoring physical

Geotechnical monitoring of physical stability will be performed on the following components:

- Spent Brine Disposal Facility (SBDF).
- Legacy ponds.
- Filtered Waste Storage Facility (FWSF).
- Area of brine extraction wells.

Periodic inspections will also be performed to identify areas that may have air or water erosion and determine the need for maintenance. Tailings stability monitoring may include the use of piezometers and satellite-based technologies such as InSAR (Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar).

11.1.2 Cover and vegetation monitoring

Considering the low vegetation cover in the area surrounding the project and the use of natural soil in the area for the landform of the affected land, it is expected that the vegetation will be successfully implanted; however, to ensure this success, periodic inspections will be carried out to determine the survival rate of the planted species, avoid the invasion of exotic species and the need for maintenance and re-vegetation. Inspections will be carried out to verify the condition of the coverings in place (geomembranes, soils, etc.).

11.1.3 Environmental monitoring

Monitoring of environmental parameters will be carried out according to the parameters and frequency established in the Closure Plan. These will include:

- Surface water quality monitoring.
- Groundwater quality monitoring.
- Limnology monitoring
- Soil monitoring.
- Terrestrial fauna monitoring (included Extremophiles).
- Flora monitoring.

Water monitoring will include monitoring of groundwater levels, groundwater quality, surface water levels, surface water flows, and surface water quality. Water monitoring will be conducted at existing and constructed wells at representative locations, and surface water features throughout the Project site and will provide appropriate data to assess the recovery of the aquatic environment after mine closure.

It is anticipated that water monitoring will continue for a minimum of 10 years after mine closure and may extend to more than 30 years, particularly in areas of critical habitat (i.e. ojos d'agua). It is also anticipated that reviews of the water monitoring data will be conducted annually. The annual water monitoring data will be compared to the recovery projections predicted by the hydrogeologic model and the monitoring program will be modified, if necessary, based on the observed results.

A water monitoring network and program will be confirmed by the environmental management plan and updated every two years during the mine operation.

11.2 Social monitoring

The objective of social monitoring will be to verify the success in achieving the objectives of the different social programs implemented.

Post-closure social monitoring demonstrates that the closure of a mine does not mean a violent physical abandonment of the area of operation, but also a commitment to contribute to the sustainable development of the stakeholders influenced by the mine. Specifically, it will seek to maximize opportunities that can improve the living conditions of the population, the reduction of dependence on the mine and an agreed relinquishment.

Consequently, appropriate indicators and targets for measuring the achievement of social monitoring objectives should be developed considering the results obtained by the programs implemented during operation and in the progressive and final closure stages, so that these indicators can be effectively evaluated in the post-closure stage.

Social monitoring may be carried out through the following activities:

- Collection of social information
- Community consultation
- Monitoring of the objectives of the social programs (percentage of labor reinsertion, number of local companies working for other projects, number of structures reused, among others).
- Community social monitoring committees.

11.3 Post-closure maintenance

Post-closure maintenance activities are carried out to repair or improve the results of the closure of the different facilities. They are carried out as an action plan because of the monitoring and inspections performed. Maintenance activities include the following:

11.3.1 Maintenance of physical stability (erosion)

It is possible that extreme precipitation events or winds may cause slope erosion and damage some of the vegetation and cover material. Therefore, maintenance work is considered, as necessary.

11.3.2 Maintenance of water infrastructure (spillways and canals)

The water diversion channels, and perimeter channels will be cleaned and maintained at a determined frequency, preferably after the rainy season.

12 Schedule

The project closure schedule is based on a projected 40-year life at a production of 50K tons/year of battery grade lithium carbonate. Any change in production levels would affect the closure schedule.

Table 6 - Closure schedule for the Rincón Full Potential Project (50Ktpa)

Closure activities	***Year***					
	1-10	***11-20***	***21-30***	***31-40***	***41-42***	***43-70***
Progressive closure activities						
Camp 1500 and construction areas/post-construction rehabilitation						
Legacy components						
Final closure activities						
Process plant						
Quarries						
SBDF						

FWSF
Water and brine extraction wells
Camp and auxiliary facilities
Roads
Social transition plan
Post-closure maintenance and monitoring
Water monitoring (Surface and underground). Limnology / established biodiversity triggers. Landform stability monitoring

13 Closure Cost

The cost estimate for the closure of the Rincón Project is based on the activities outlined in this Conceptual Closure Plan and reflects updates made since the ESIA. Key reductions in estimated closure costs have been achieved through strategic enhancements in closure planning and operational integration. Specifically, these include reducing the volume of final FWSF through processing improvements and integrating closure considerations into day-to-day operations—such as optimizing the reprofiling of the SBDF to reduce future closure effort. Furthermore, current closure costs exclude a number of human resource costs, taxes, fees, and other operator-specific costs.

It is expected that the closure activities and the scope of work described in this Conceptual Closure Plan will change and be refined as the site enters the operational phase and additional site-specific data (i.e. numerical model reconciliation) become available.

Likewise, both the closure activities and the associated costs will be updated every four years during the closure plan reviews. Therefore, the cost estimate is based on existing information, site-specific unit rates, and third-party quotations, as well as reasonable assumptions based on experience. The prepared cost estimate considers the following indirect costs:

- Closure of auxiliary facilities (camps, temporary installations, etc.): 10%;
- Work team (Project management, engineering, health and safety, etc.): 20%;
- A contingency amount of 30% was added to both indirect and direct costs.

It is anticipated that progressive closure activities will be carried out during the construction and operation periods. The conceptual closure cost (undiscounted) for the Project is presented in Table 7.

Table 7 – Conceptual Closure Cost

DESCRIPTION	**COST (USD)**
DIRECT COSTS	80,000,000
INDIRECT COSTS	24,000,000
CONTINGENCY	31,000,000
TOTAL	135,000,000