



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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Trisha Tillotson
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**Notice of Availability of a Draft
Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and
Notice of Public Meeting to Provide Comments
on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project EIR
January 4, 2022**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A 60-DAY REVIEW PERIOD HAS BEGUN TO PROVIDE INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND RESPOND TO THE ADEQUACY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PREPARED BY THAT PROJECT KNOWN AS THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT.

The EIR (SCH #2020070378) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project is now available for review. Public comment on this document is invited for a 60-day period commencing on January 4, 2022 and ending on March 4, 2022. More information is provided below.

LEADY AGENCY: County of Nevada

PROJECT TITLE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The Idaho-Maryland Mine Project's ("Proposed Project") surface components would be located on approximately 175.64 acres consisting of the Brunswick Industrial Site, the Centennial Industrial Site, and a 0.30-acre portion of East Bennett Road for off-site improvements associated with a potable water pipeline easement. The Proposed Project would also involve underground mining within an approximately 2,585-acre mineral rights boundary owned by the project applicant. The potable water pipeline easement would be located along East Bennett Road, and would be contained within the existing right-of-way.

The Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites are located within unincorporated western Nevada County and are owned by Rise Grass Valley. The 119-acre Brunswick Industrial Site (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs] 006-441-003, -004, -005, -034; and 009-630-037, -039) is located southwest of the intersection of East Bennett Road and Brunswick Road, and is accessible from Brunswick Road or East Bennett Road. The 56.41-acre Centennial Industrial Site (APNs 009-550-032, -037, -038, -039, -040; and 009-560-036) is located southwest of the intersection of Idaho Maryland Road and Centennial Drive.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Project would reinstate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration and mining proposed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, during full operations. Following completion of mining and processing activities, the project sites would be reclaimed to open space and land suitable for

future development of industrial uses. The Proposed Project would consist of the following components:

- Dewatering the existing underground mine workings;
- Underground mining at a depth of 500 feet or more in areas underlying the mineral rights properties;
- Construction and operation of aboveground processing and water treatment facilities at the Brunswick Industrial Site;
- Engineered fill placement for potential future industrial pad development at the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites;
- Installation of a potable water pipeline for residential potable water supply; and
- Reclamation of the project sites in accordance with the proposed Reclamation Plan.

The majority of the aboveground facilities, access to the underground mining, and a portion of the engineered fill would be located on the Brunswick Industrial Site. The aboveground facilities would be located within a 29-acre industrial area that would include but not be limited to, a headframe building around the existing concrete silo used to hoist rock from the Brunswick shaft; covered conveyor system used to transport a) barren rock to a truck hauling area within an adjacent enclosed building, and b) gold concentrate to the processing plant; a processing plant to grind rock and recover gold minerals through various processes; and other appurtenant structures such as office and warehouse space. An above-ground water treatment plant would also be built at the Brunswick Industrial Site to treat groundwater associated with initial and ongoing (“maintenance”) dewatering of the underground mine workings. A new aboveground pipe would convey treated water from the water treatment plant along an existing dirt road to the planned discharge point at South Fork Wolf Creek. The pipe and discharge point are located entirely within the property boundaries.

Engineered fill generated by the proposed mining activities would be placed on approximately 31 acres of the Brunswick Industrial Site to create a level pad of approximately 21 acres for potential future industrial use. In total, up to approximately 60 acres of the 119-acre site could be subject to surface disturbance and/or development for the aboveground facilities and fill placement. The remaining 59 acres would remain undeveloped and would not be subject to surface disturbance or infrastructure improvements.

Engineered fill would also be placed on the Centennial Industrial Site, provided that the separate DTSC cleanup project has been approved and completed on the Centennial Industrial Site. In that case, engineered fill would be transported by truck from the Brunswick Industrial Site and placed on approximately 44 acres of the Centennial Industrial Site to create approximately 37 acres for potential future industrial use. The remaining approximately 12 acres would remain as a private driveway for site access and open space. The open space area would include Wolf Creek, a 100-foot setback for riparian area on Wolf Creek, and an undisturbed area providing protection for identified special-status plant species.

After full placement of fill at the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites to the pad design elevations, the need for hauling of engineered fill would continue due to ongoing mining over the Use Permit term of 80 years, and thus, hauling would shift entirely to local and regional markets for sale as construction aggregate and fill. If the separate DTSC cleanup project is not approved by DTSC and completed within the term of the Idaho Maryland Mine Project use permit,

engineered fill would be placed on the Brunswick site, but not the Centennial site, and the remainder would be hauled to local and regional markets.

A buried potable water pipeline would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project to provide water to residential properties along a portion of East Bennett Road. The pipeline would extend an existing NID potable water pipeline along an approximately 1.25-mile segment of East Bennett Road to provide potable water service to residential properties currently on wells that may be affected by the project's dewatering of the mine. NID would be the water supplier for the potable water service.

Generally, the following approvals for the Proposed Project are being requested from Nevada County at this time: Rezone, Use Permit, Reclamation Plan which includes a Financial Assurance Cost Estimate, Variance to the Building Height Limits, Management Plans, Amendment to the Final Map for Bet Acres, and Boundary Line Adjustment. In addition, project implementation would require other agency permits. Please see Table 3-11 in the Project Description chapter of the EIR for a list of agencies from whom additional permits may be required.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS: The EIR identifies significant impacts for the following California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental topic areas: Aesthetics; Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise and Vibration; Transportation; and Wildfire. However, the EIR includes mitigation measures that would reduce project impacts related to Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise and Vibration (off-site haul truck traffic noise; operational noise and vibration); Transportation (hazards related to construction traffic); and Wildfire to less-than-significant levels.

The EIR determined that the project would have certain impacts to Aesthetics; Noise (temporary construction noise along East Bennett Road); and Transportation (e.g., intersections) that would remain significant and unavoidable even after implementation of the feasible mitigation measures set forth in the EIR.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE ON SITE: The project sites are not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

ADDRESS WHERE COPY OF EIR IS AVAILABLE: The EIR and other project materials are now available for public review and download on the Nevada County website at: <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/3195/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley>.

A printed copy of the Draft EIR is available for public review at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Nevada County Planning Department, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959
- Madelyn Helling Library, 980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959
- Grass Valley Library – Royce Branch, 207 Mill Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Planning Department highly recommends scheduling an appointment ahead of time to review the Draft EIR.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT EIR: January 4, 2022 to March 4, 2022. All comments on the Draft EIR must be received by the County no later than 5:00 pm on March 4, 2022 to be considered. Pursuant to Section 15088(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, late comments will be considered only at the County's discretion. Comments must be submitted in writing (email or hardcopy) and be directed to:

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902
Phone: 530-265-1423
Email: Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

DRAFT EIR PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING: A Special Public Meeting before the Nevada County Planning Commission will be held on **February 23, 2022, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Eric Rood Administration Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, First Floor, Nevada City, CA 95959** to receive comments from public agencies and the general public on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. Future notice of public hearings will be provided in accordance with Nevada County noticing requirements.

The Special Public Meeting of the Planning Commission will be held at the Eric Rood Administrative Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at 950 Maidu Avenue, First Floor, Nevada City, CA 95959. In adherence with Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order, and the Nevada County Public Health Officer's Order, pertaining to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please see the February 23, 2022 agenda after posting for the most updated information regarding the meeting format, as well as the various options being made available for public agencies and members of the general public to provide public comment. If there continues to be a high rate of COVID-19 spread within our community, the Planning Commission may attend the meeting and participate remotely to the same extent as if they were present. **For information on how to participate in the Special Meeting, please see the Agenda, which will be available at least five (5) days before the meeting at <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/AgendaCenter/Planning-Commission-10>**

Seven (7) days prior to the Special Public Meeting, all documents pertaining to the proposed actions, Staff Reports and other supporting documents will be available for public review and consideration at the Nevada County Planning Department, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or can be found online at: <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/517/Projects-Scheduled-for-Public-Meeting>.

There will be no transcription of oral comments at this meeting. Comments received will be summarized by staff for inclusion in the Final EIR. Those who wish to have their verbatim comments incorporated in the Final EIR must submit their comments in writing.