NOP Comment Letters

1. A. Chapman
2. Adam Kolton-Mitlyng
3. Adam Weiss
4. Agnes Bajka
5. Alexander Wright
6. Alexandra Ward
7. Alicia Salvato
8. Alison Anderson
9. Alison Barrow
10. Amanda Evans
11. Amanda Simpson
12. Amber Beckler
13. Amber Taxiera and Ray Marceau
14. Amy Buock
15. Andrea Niosi
16. Anje' Waters
17. Ann Somervell
18. Anne Bomberg
19. Anne Moore and John Hardesty
20. Annette Glabe
21. Annette Taylor
22. Annya Cohen
23. Anthony Asher
24. Anya Stanger
25. April Cretzman
26. Ari Rampy
27. Ariana Zimmerman
28. Ariel Good-Phlegar
29. Arly Helm
30. Art Healy
31. Arthur Gould and Cynthia Yaguda
32. Ashley Overhouse, South Yuba River Citizens League
33. Ashlyn Rhodes
34. Aubrey Niles
35. Ayla Nereo
36. Azriel LaMarca
37. Moore
38. B.J. Griffin
39. Badri Matlock, San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association
40. Barb Skillings
41. Barbara and Bill Larsen
42. Barbara and Richard Hochwald
43. Barbara Brooks
44. Barbara C. Murray
45. Barbara R. Dougherty
46. Barney and Nancy Dewey
47. Barry Angell
48. Barry Myers
49. Barry Stukin
50. Bernard Zimmerman
51. Bethany Wilkins
52. Betty and Larry Levin
53. Bill Heck
54. Bill Lawrence and Diane Walker
55. Bob and Shirley Williams
56. Bob Clark
57. Bob Morgan
58. Bob White
59. Boni and Kim LaValley
60. Bonnie Veblen and Sara Tiffany
61. Brad and Colleen Carson
62. Bren Banister
63. Brenda Sapp
64. Bret Cagle
65. Brett Bennett
66. Brian and Denise Flaherty
67. Brian Evans
68. Brian Smith
69. Brittany Roussel
70. Bruce Boyd
71. Bruce Klimesy and Deborah Colo
72. Bryanna Graydon
73. Cain Murphy
74. Cal and Debbie McKitrick
75. Carey Webster
76. Carina Grove, Dept. of Conservation - Division of Mine Reclamation
77. Carissa Hayes
78. Carl Brooks Peterson
79. Carlyle Miller
80. Carmen Barrios
81. Carol and William Brady
82. Carol Cavanaugh
83. Carol Levow
84. Carol Menaker
85. Carola May
86. Caroline Courtright
87. Caroline Groux
88. Carolyn and Steve Battaini
89. Carolyn McGrath
90. Carolyn Weisswasser

91. Carolyne Holland
92. Carrie Cummins
93. Carrie Finlay
94. Carrie Levine
95. Catalina Davis
96. Catherine Boyle-Dowd
97. Catherine Prudhomme
98. Cathy McCain
99. Caulen Lauria
100. Charles Frank
101. Charles Spencer
102. Cheryl Berkema
103. Chip Close, Nevada Irrigation District
104. Chloe Metcalfe
105. Chris Lambert
106. Chris Streng
107. Chris Themelis
108. Chris Whitlock
109. Christine Peterson
110. Christopher and Susan Claydon
111. Cindy and Dennis England
112. Cindy and Pete Siegfriend
113. Claudia Orlando
114. Cody Grout
115. Collette Castro and Michael McLean
116. Connie Crockett
117. Courtney Ferguson
118. Cris Kelly
119. Cris Mulvey
120. Curtis Grout
121. Custis Haynes
122. Cyndi Denicore
123. Cyndy and Mark Frey
124. Cynthia Bailey
125. Cynthia Bradford
126. Cynthia Stewart
127. Cyrus Sweet
128. Dale Weidmer
129. Dan Brereton
130. Dan Frisella
131. Dan Lubin, California Department of Parks and Recreation
132. Dan Roberts
133. Daniel Behn
134. Daniel Bingham
135. Danielle Lee
136. Darlene Ward
137. Darryl Snow
138. Daun Langston
139. Dave Gordon
140. David Agran
141. David Bowman
142. David Kimmel
143. David Kraus
144. David Murphy
145. David Myers and Stephanie Wells
146. David Unterman
147. David White
148. David Wills
149. Dawn Krusi
150. Debbie Gibbs
151. Deborah Shriver and Maureen Miranda
152. Deborah Underwood
153. Debra Buddie
154. Debra Snell
155. Dee Anne Dinelli
156. Dee Webster
157. Delphine Griffth
158. Denise Bellas
159. Denise Martin
160. Diana Behn
161. Diane Ennis
162. Diane Nichols and David Mooney
163. Diane Turner
164. Diane Walker
165. Dianna Suarez
166. Dianne and Joaquin Didomenico
167. Diedra Spohler
168. Don and Andrea Thompson
169. Don and Jane Pelton
170. Don Haislet
171. Don Martin
172. Don Wiljamaa
173. Donald Rivenes
174. Donna Greenberg
175. Donna Levreault
176. Donna Taggart and Peter Selaya
177. Douglas Hammes
178. Dylan Kuenzi
179. E. Jane Velasco
180. Ed and Lynette Cepeda
181. Ed Suchow
182. Ed Tillotson
183. Edeal Falck
184. Edson Holmes
185. Edward Nold, Jr.
186. Eileen Jorgensen
187. Elaine Whooley
188. Elenita Duelo

189. Elise and Ken Stupi
190. Elizabeth Rogers
191. Ellen Clephane
192. Ellen MacDonald
193. Emily West
194. Eric Dunn
195. Eric Hellebust
196. Eric LeMonnier
197. Erik Heinrich
198. Erik Siljak
199. Erika Seward, Bear Yuba Land Trust
200. Erin Berquist
201. Evan Rashby
202. Evelyn Soltero
203. Fallon Cox, Caltrans
204. Felicia Tracy
205. Florence Lefrancois
206. Florence Themelis
207. Francis Hamilton
208. Francisco Mariscal
209. Frank Lawrence
210. Frank Lynch
211. Frank McCarthy
212. Frederick Bianchi
213. Frederick Finney
214. Gabe Barber
215. Gary Baker
216. Gary Dowd
217. Gary Griffith
218. Gary Zimmerman
219. Gene Berson
220. Genna Pieri
221. Geoffrey Nelson
222. George Brake
223. George Chileski
224. George Engel
225. George Scarmon and Jeanne Clark
226. Georgia Cutter
227. Gerald Thomas
228. Gerard Brown
229. Geri Stout
230. Gianna Roederer
231. Glen Garrod
232. Glenna Rogers
233. Gordon Shaw
234. Grace Baker
235. Grady Wilson
236. Greg and Robin Van Ess
237. Greg Ward
238. Gregory Weisswasser
239. Greta Watson
240. Gwen Eymann
241. H. Michael Ross
242. Hank Meals
243. Hannah Lawson
244. Harry Woodum
245. Harry Wyeth
246. Hassan Ebrahimi-Nuyken
247. Heidi Zimmerman
248. Helena Velasquez
249. Hilary Dart
250. Hillary and Steve Haas
251. Holli Diel
252. Holly Toyoguchi
253. Howard Kuhlmann
254. Hunter Merritt
255. Ingrid Nelson
256. Iona Swift
257. Itara O'Connell
258. Ivan
259. Jacob Brandon
260. Jacqueline Meehan
261. Jacqueline Peigare
262. Jacquie Weills
263. Jake Simpson
264. James and Susan Bratt
265. James Bair
266. James Haufler
267. Jamie Barber
268. Jan Fleming, Ironhorse Homeowners Association
269. Jan Weaver
270. Jane Calbreath
271. Jane Garcia
272. Jane Ginsburg
273. Jane Hedgpeth-Kesssler and Michael Kessler
274. Janet Cameron
275. Janet Cinquegrana
276. Janet Goodban
277. Janet Johnston
278. Janet Peake
279. Janet Sibley
280. Janet Tache
281. Janie and Greg McKenzie
282. Janis Brown
283. Jared Dozal
284. Jared Krause
285. Jasmine Bailey
286. Jean and Catz Forsman

287. Jean Matsuno
288. Jeff and Gale Peach
289. Jeff and Marla Daley
290. Jeff Bellucci and Simone Leask
291. Jeff Brownwood
292. Jeff Johnson
293. Jeff Kane
294. Jeffrey Mason
295. Jennifer Buck-Diaz
296. Jennifer Burt
297. Jennifer Durrett
298. Jennifer Long
299. Jennifer Miao, Community Environmental Advocates Foundation
300. Jennifer Scott and Jack Lifland
301. Jennifer Wilkerson
302. Jennifer Wynne
303. Jerry Gazzoneo
304. Jerry Grant
305. Jess Riegel
306. Jesse Cohen
307. Jessica Pollatsek
308. Jessica Salcido
309. Jezra Lickter
310. Jill Southard
311. Jim and Erika Haynes
312. Jim and Linda O'Kay
313. Jim and Renate Otto
314. Jim Carlson
315. Jim Hall and Marianne Kennedy
316. Jim Wahler
317. Jim Weir
318. Jo Ann Schilling
319. Joan A. Jernegan
320. Joan Esclamado
321. Joan Goddard
322. Joan Naszady
323. Joan Smith
324. JoAnn Chatlien
325. Joanna Pedroncelli
326. Joanne Wohfeld
327. Joe Nelson
328. Joel Moalem
329. John and Gwendy Reeder
330. John and Lugene Boyd
331. John Bianchi
332. John Bretlinger
333. John Cosenza
334. John Hellwig
335. John Hirst
336. John Kelly
337. John Kreilkamp and Ilka Nadler
338. John Kuehn
339. John Mincks
340. John Totino
341. John Voorhes
342. Jonas Ketterle
343. Jonathan Keehn, Wolf Creek Community Alliance
344. Jonathan Lyerly
345. Jonathan Siegal
346. Jorge Velasquez
347. Joseph Sowa
348. Joy Waite
349. Joyce Hoffman
350. Joyce Miller
351. Jude Bischoff
352. Judith Daley
353. Judith Funk and Jerry Earwood
354. Judy Askins
355. Judy McGrain
356. Judy Silberman
357. Jule Enzor-Wilson
358. Julia Carroll
359. Julia Link-Herrera
360. Julia Park Tracey
361. Julie Becker
362. Julie Clarfield
363. Julie Dennis
364. Julie Hardin
365. Junet Bedayn
366. Justin Pfaffinger
367. Kalita Todd
368. Kalyani Marsh
369. Karel Hendee
370. Karen Aubrey Niles
371. Karen Colwell
372. Karen Eldar
373. Karen L. Ahrns
374. Karen Loro
375. Karyn Gladstone
376. Kate de Paepe
377. Katherine Thompson
378. Katherine Whitry
379. Kathie Michaelides
380. Kathleen Fraga
381. Kathleen Madeira
382. Kathleen Meier
383. Kathleen Minor
384. Kathryn Gerwig
385. Kathy Doty

386. Kathy Irving
387. Kaye Wedel
388. Kayla Pfaffinger
389. KC Chapman and Daniel Perkins
390. Keeley Martinez
391. Keith Thomassen
392. Kelly Gough
393. Kelly McClure
394. Ken Hardin
395. Kenneth Heftel
396. Kent and Molly Gallagher
397. Kent Crockett
398. Kent Sheldon
399. Keri Rinne
400. Kevin Austin
401. Kim Davidson and Bonnie Jones
402. Kim Honeywell and Erin Murphy
403. Kim Taylor
404. Kimberly Blue-Falvey
405. Kimberly Clouse
406. Kira Greene
407. Kirsten Cousins
408. Kirstin Brown
409. Krisha Montmorency and Gabriel Sakakeeny
410. Kristin Verducci
411. Kurt Lorenz
412. Kurt Wahi
413. L.C. Nancy
414. Lance Goddard
415. Lani Howard
416. Lara Love
417. Larissa Berry
418. Larry McGrath
419. Larry Rieger
420. Laura Gerhart
421. Lauran and Cy Rinck
422. Lauren and Donald Gagliasso
423. Lauren Anderson
424. Lauren Dalke
425. Lauren Drutz
426. Lauren Lewis
427. Lauren Machado
428. Laurie Woodum
429. Lawren Giles and Dianne Marshall
430. Lenda deAnn Wooard
431. Leonard Brackett
432. Leslie Lettyak
433. Letitia and Robert Jacobs
434. Lew Snavely
435. Lillian Edwards
436. Linda Aeschliman
437. Linda and Daniel Ketcham
438. Linda and Gary Chappell
439. Linda Elston
440. Linda Fischer
441. Linda Greig
442. Linda Howe
443. Linda Lanzoni
444. Linda Lumbard
445. Linda Shores
446. Lisa Barker
447. Lisa Borkenhagen Hioki
448. Lisa Cammarota
449. Lisa Lillie
450. Lisa Nowlain
451. Lisa Redfern
452. Lisa Schliff
453. Lissa and Charlie Luckinbill
454. Liz McGuire
455. Lizbeth Martin
456. Loretta Merritt
457. Lorraine Gervais
458. Lorraine Hendriksen
459. Lou Johnson
460. Lou Meyer
461. Louis B. Jones
462. Louis Quaintance and Jean Matsuno
463. Louise Renehan
464. Louise Taylor
465. Lucetta Swift
466. Luke Berliner
467. Luke Hunt
468. Macie Burnett
469. Maciel and Jason DiGuilio
470. Maddie Medrano
471. Maggie Knapp
472. Maile Claire McGrew-Frede
473. Maisie Ganz
474. Maniko Dru Dadigan
475. Marcella Pierce
476. Marcy Risque
477. Margaret and Milan Vodicka
478. Margaret Powers
479. Margot Duxler
480. Marian and Koi Rudzynski
481. Marian Devincenzi
482. Marianne Furlong
483. Marianne Hicklin
484. Marilyn Nyborg

485. Marin Lipowitz
486. Marina Bokelman
487. Marina Francis
488. Marion Culhane
489. Marisa Laursen
490. Marjorie Milroy
491. Marjorie Plog
492. Mark Johnson
493. Mark Machado
494. Mark Maulhardt
495. Mark Wilson
496. Martha Turner
497. Marv Hoffman
498. Mary Anderson
499. Mary Ann Coleman
500. Mary Ann Davis
501. Mary Good
502. Mary Long
503. Mary McClain
504. Mary Rank
505. Mary Stallings
506. Mary Wollesen
507. Maryanne Murphy
508. Maura Pearlstein
509. Melanie Peman
510. Melanya Gonshorowski
511. Melissa Cade
512. Menkin Nelson
513. Mercedes Ricciardi
514. Meredith Evans
515. Merv Kril
516. Michael Bader
517. Michael Bennett
518. Michael Gaboury
519. Michael Mauldin
520. Michael Onewling
521. Michael Rogers
522. Michael Shaw
523. Michael Shea
524. Michael Zysk
525. Michaelyn Logue
526. Michelle Bacon
527. Mick and Lee Janeway
528. Micki Besancon
529. Mike Pasner
530. Mike Shea
531. Mikhel Neshat
532. Miles Baker
533. Mira Clark
534. Miranda Townsend
535. Missy Neville
536. Monica Filimonov
537. Monique Derenia
538. Morgan Bierschenk
539. Morgan Margulies
540. Nancy Gilbert
541. Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez, Native American Heritage Commission
542. Nancy Herrick and Roger Morrison
543. Nancy Morris
544. Nancy Piette
545. Nancy Rojo
546. Nancy Tilman
547. Natalie Martinez
548. Nathan Cotton
549. Natini Pistone
550. Nicholas Jensen, California Native Plant Society
551. Nicky Maloney
552. Nicole Bejsovec
553. Nicole Dowd
554. Nicolette B.
555. Nina Allen Cunningham
556. Noam Rappaport
557. Nolan Clark
558. Nora Nausbaum and Bill Douglass
559. O.J. Barba
560. Ofer Kolton
561. Oliver Nelson
562. Olivia Steele
563. Pam Heard
564. Pam Jung
565. Pamela Hall
566. Pamela Montgomery
567. Pamela Osgood
568. Pamela Ruth
569. Pamela Whitman
570. Pat and Ray Rutter
571. Patricia Bennett
572. Patricia Cooper
573. Patricia Durger
574. Patricia Sharp
575. Patrick Donaghey
576. Paul and Jennifer Weir
577. Paul Harrar
578. Paul Hespel
579. Paul Jaffe
580. Paul Jewel
581. Paul McMillan
582. Paul Naragon

583. Paul Schwartz
584. Paul Tebbel and Lynn Schweissinger
585. Paul Turner
586. Paula Orloff
587. Pauli Halstead
588. Paulina Berczynski
589. Peggy Burks
590. Penelope Curtis
591. Pete and Cindy Siegfried
592. Pete Levine
593. Peter Fromm
594. Peter Mason
595. Peter Perkins
596. Peter Roloff and Mara Barnett
597. Peter Zimmerman
598. Phil Perrin
599. Philip Turner
600. Phyllis Hegeman
601. Price Murphy
602. Rachel Budde
603. Rachel Leonard
604. Rachel Woodward
605. Ragan Powers
606. Raina Sacksteder
607. Ralph Silberstein
608. Ray Bryars
609. Ray Kinman
610. Rebecca Lexa
611. Rebecca Robles
612. Rebecca Sweet Engston
613. Rebekah Nelson-Voorhees
614. Reed Hamilton
615. Regan Gere
616. Renee May
617. Renee Rodman and Jack Favour
618. Rhonda Clark
619. Rich Burton
620. Rich Kalwa
621. Richard and Barbara Hochwald
622. Richard and Dolly Melim
623. Richard and Susan Miller
624. Richard Drace
625. Richard Esquibel
626. Richard Hansen
627. Richard Lipowitz
628. Richard Merrifield, Silk Tassle-Side Hill Circles Homeowners
629. Rick Sanger
630. Ricki Heck
631. Riki Colby
632. Risa Roseman
633. Rita Jennings
634. Rob and Suzanne Ferroggiaro
635. Rob Katzenstein
636. Rob Lewis
637. Robert and Margarita Fish
638. Robert Berman
639. Robert Clark
640. Robert Jewel
641. Robert Kelaghan
642. Robert Mora
643. Robert White
644. Robin Curtis
645. Robin Siegal
646. Rochelle Davisson
647. Roger Schutt
648. Roland Rouda
649. Ron and Marsha Foster
650. Ron Graddy
651. Ron Wayne
652. Ron Werner
653. Rona Seabrook
654. Ronda Shaw
655. Rondal Snodgrass
656. Rosalie Adduci
657. Rose Capaccioli
658. Rosemary Motz
659. Ross Guenther
660. Russ Woodward
661. Ruth and Darrell Goodin
662. Ruth Burton
663. Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
664. Sadie Gomez
665. Sal Giacinto
666. Sally Ashcraft
667. Samual Warmerdam
668. Sandra Ferreira-Miller
669. Sandra Rockman
670. Sara Brownwood
671. Sarah Gordon
672. Sarah Myrenton
673. Sarah Powers
674. Sarah Taranto, Lonnie Lasley, and Wendy Sinclair
675. Sarai Devi Dasi
676. Saul and Elena Rayo
677. Savannah Hanson
678. Savannah Vucinich
679. Scott and Betty Nance
680. Scott and Sharlyn Fletcher

681. Selene Mitlyng
682. Sena Shellenberger
683. Sharon Davisson
684. Sharon Delgado, Earth Justice Ministries
685. Sharon Loucks
686. Sharon Perrin
687. Shasha Soukup
688. Sheerlie Ryngler
689. Sheila Cameron
690. Shelley and Joe Murdock
691. Shelley Salvatore
692. Shirley Fenile
693. Shirley Freriks
694. Sima Hsu
695. Sophia Crawford-Hayes
696. Sophia Schluff
697. Star Carroll
698. Stephanie Carrillo
699. Stephen Barr and Pamela Whitman
700. Stephen Hein
701. Stephen Joslin
702. Steve Hartshorn
703. Steven and Judith Goldman
704. Steven Sparks
705. Steven Temple
706. Summer Scanlan
707. Susan Frisbie
708. Susan Hollon
709. Susan Kane
710. Susan Logsdon
711. Susan Mincks
712. Susan Reuter
713. Susan Weills
714. Suzanne Hall
715. Suzanne Smith
716. Suze and Frank Pfaffinger
717. Sylvia Ainslie
718. Sylvia J. Crane
719. Tamara Luckinbill
720. Tanya Telford
721. Taylor Donovan
722. Teresa and Dudley Gaman
723. Terry and Susie Wood
724. Theresa Hioki
725. Theresa Hirashima
726. Theresa Huck
727. Theresa Sullivan
728. Thomas Kluge
729. Thomas Maher
730. Thomas Mooers
731. Tiera May
732. Tim Conner
733. Tim Stokes
734. Tisha Hamberlin
735. TJ Meekins
736. Tod and Donna Bowman
737. Todd Gilson
738. Todd Wulf
739. Tom and Robin Milam
740. Tom Behlmer
741. Tom Davisson
742. Tom Heard
743. Tony and Lauren Lauria
744. Tony Sauer
745. Tony Zumba
746. Toon Vandevorst
747. Trish McCoy
748. Turiya Hill
749. Tyana Maddock
750. Tyler Zwick
751. Valentina Masterz
752. Valerie Kack
753. Vickie Fromm
754. Victoria Lorini
755. Vince Giese
756. Vince Lu
757. Virginia Ware Quinan
758. W. Peter Clark
759. Wayne and Linda Ivie
760. Wayne Brooks
761. Wendy Davis
762. Wendy Hartley
763. Wendy Thompson
764. William Bensing
765. William Clark
766. William Cole and Linda Bowell
767. William Culbertson
768. William Doleman
769. William Wauters
770. Wilman Dea
771. Woniya Thibeault
772. Wren LaFeet
773. Xylem Larla Dey
774. Yvonne Bartlett
775. Z.C. Nancy
776. Zach Anderson
777. Zach Liptak
778. Ziola Meereiltagh

From: Linda Aeschliman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Issues to address in considering re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:26:52 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt - In addition to all of the required environmental review issues that will be considered for this proposal, I would like to emphasize the following:

Long term impacts on air, water, and soil quality
Threats to already rare native plants and their habitat - one example is the Pinehill Flannelbush that grows in the area under consideration

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I look forward to participating on an ongoing basis.

Sincerely,
Linda Aeschliman
10971 Monte Vista Ct.
Nevada City CA 95959

From: david@agranconsulting.com <david@agranconsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:43 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: 'Microsoft Outlook' <dagran@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: I wholeheartedly oppose the Rise Mine Proposal... please do not become beholden to this toxic folly

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I am gobsmacked that this is even being considered. We have been through this folly before…

This is a bad idea anyway you look at it. We do not want to sell out our wonderful community for some extra tax revenue and a few jobs (100 jobs with huge risk and devastation and liability that falls on the county) for the potential devastation of this endeavor.

I live on Banner Mountain, Quaker Hill Cross Road. My well is already low flow, and my wells run rate is diminishing over time…. I also have old mining vestiges around my property. Anything that puts my low flow well at risk, anything that puts the quality of my water at risk… Is a non-starter, any promises they make are not worth the paper they are written on.

We have been through this charade before (I have been in the area for 12 years now). At that time there were issues with too many things to even recall them all:

- what and how do you deal with the oceans worth of polluted water in those thousands of flooded mine tunnels,
- how do you even ascertain the seismic stability of those thousands of miles of tunnel, especially once you remove all that toxic water
- The environmental risk and long term liability and potential millions or billions of cost to clean up the mess that is currently there and any mess that happens is just ludicrous.
- How environmentally do you deal with all the toxic tailings that will be pulled out from underground (the last folly was going to start a bathroom tile manufacturing adventure)
- How do you even process out the gold in an environmentally sound manner.
- What about all the noise
- What about all the traffic
- What about the infrastructure that needs upgrading to accommodate
- What about the truck pollution and light pollution
- And funding is always unstable… how can you guarantee that when gold prices plummet which they will – gold prices are volatile and your smoking dope if you think they are not or have been hoodwinked into believing otherwise…. even though gold is at historic highs, by the time this ever could break ground this whole project and financing could collapse as unaffordable….
- Mining companies when times are tough and they are bleeding red ink… it is much easier to grab what assets you can… declare bankruptcy.. and skip town leaving the townfolk and community to clean up the mess…. Just go look at all the super fund and other EPA clean up sites around the country from mining devastation.

Nevada City, Grass Valley Nevada County has moved past its mining glory days, let bygones be bygones…. This is a flawed idea, without adequate funding, and no mitigation funds would ever be enough if the “OHH shit accident” happens, and when they pull out cuz the economics do not pan out. Who is holding the toxic goop…and liability… the County, the taxpayer, the community.

This is a huge risk, in so many ways… and the County would be irresponsible and not adequately protecting the communities interests if they continue down this road.

And you know this will be tied up in litigation for years if not decades, if the County proceeds with

this folly…. And whose tax payers dollars are going to be paying for all of that…?

Lets stop this folly and spend the county's precious resources on smart economic development…and parks and recreation and tourism, and homelessness, and schools and elder care…. Something smart and 21st century.. not economic and environmental devastation. What are you all thinking?

Thank you and respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

David W. Agran M.Ed BCC
Quaker Hill Cross Road
Nevada City
760 310 6869

From: dagran@sbcglobal.net <dagran@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: david@agranconsulting.com
Subject: RE: Where is the financial assessment and risk mitigation study??... long term if they abandon us and gold prices plummet ? please do not become beholden to this toxic folly

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

HI Matt,

Me again, so I just watched the scoping video on youtube…

Where is the financial feasibility and financial risk assessment done.

You can dance through all of those hoops, but where does the financial viability of the company come in and the “ohh shit” the worst has happened and the county is left holding the bag risk assessment.

I also strongly oppose any changes to set backs so they can encroach on streams wet lands etc.. if you start bending solid science based laws and policies to protect the environment for mining operation… all bets are off… if anything you should be strengthening them not weakening them.

This is just a horrible idea, and all those changes you need to make, will be litigated… pure folly, I can not understand how the county is even considering this…. (Though I am sure it is a very fun project for all the county’s professionals to get involved in… fun and interesting work…. But the outcome would be devastating for us.

Thanks for your clarification.

David agran
760 310 6869

From: david@agranconsulting.com <david@agranconsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:43 AM
To: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us; matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
Cc: 'Microsoft Outlook' <dagran@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: I wholeheartedly oppose the Rise Mine Proposal... please do not become beholden to this toxic folly

Hi Matt,

I am gobsmacked that this is even being considered. We have been through this folly before…

This is a bad idea anyway you look at it. We do not want to sell out our wonderful community for some extra tax revenue and a few jobs (100 jobs with huge risk and devastation and liability that falls on the county) for the potential devastation of this endeavor.

I live on Banner Mountain, Quaker Hill Cross Road. My well is already low flow, and my wells run rate is diminishing over time…. I also have old mining vestiges around my property. Anything that puts my low flow well at risk, anything that puts the quality of my water at risk… Is a non-starter, any promises they make are not worth the paper they are written on.

We have been through this charade before (I have been in the area for 12 years now). At that time there were issues with too many things to even recall them all:

- what and how do you deal with the oceans worth of polluted water in those thousands of flooded mine tunnels,

- how do you even ascertain the seismic stability of those thousands of miles of tunnel, especially once you remove all that toxic water
- The environmental risk and long term liability and potential millions or billions of cost to clean up the mess that is currently there and any mess that happens is just ludicrous.
- How environmentally do you deal with all the toxic tailings that will be pulled out from underground (the last folly was going to start a bathroom tile manufacturing adventure)
- How do you even process out the gold in an environmentally sound manner.
- What about all the noise
- What about all the traffic
- What about the infrastructure that needs upgrading to accommodate
- What about the truck pollution and light pollution
- And funding is always unstable… how can you guarantee that when gold prices plummet which they will – gold prices are volatile and your smoking dope if you think they are not or have been hoodwinked into believing otherwise…. even though gold is at historic highs, by the time this ever could break ground this whole project and financing could collapse as unaffordable….
- Mining companies when times are tough and they are bleeding red ink… it is much easier to grab what assets you can… declare bankruptcy.. and skip town leaving the townfolk and community to clean up the mess…. Just go look at all the super fund and other EPA clean up sites around the country from mining devastation.

Nevada City, Grass Valley Nevada County has moved past its mining glory days, let bygones be bygones…. This is a flawed idea, without adequate funding, and no mitigation funds would ever be enough if the "OHH shit accident" happens, and when they pull out cuz the economics do not pan out. Who is holding the toxic goop…and liability… the County, the taxpayer, the community.

This is a huge risk, in so many ways… and the County would be irresponsible and not adequately protecting the communities interests if they continue down this road.

And you know this will be tied up in litigation for years if not decades, if the County proceeds with this folly…. And whose tax payers dollars are going to be paying for all of that…?

Lets stop this folly and spend the county's precious resources on smart economic development…and parks and recreation and tourism, and homelessness, and schools and elder care…. Something smart and 21st century.. not economic and environmental devastation. What are you all thinking?

Thank you and respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

David W. Agran M.Ed BCC
Quaker Hill Cross Road
Nevada City
760 310 6869

From: Karen Ahrns <karen@nevadacounty4rent.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: FW: comment on mine opening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley:
I am writing to express my profound concern about the possible reopening of the mining project locally. This mining project will be devastating to a huge swath of Grass Valley. You cannot let us go backwards in time to repeat the same bad mistakes of the past that have

polluted ground water and wells, poisoning the environment and having a horrible impact on the environment.
I am not a scientist and have not studied this in depth. But I am a homeowner in Nevada City and I am acutely aware of how traffic and industry can negatively impact the quality of our lives. I believe this will be the case with this project.
The economic benefit cannot possibly outweigh the inherent risks to our community!
Please confirm receipt of my letter. Thanks for your time and attention to this threat.
Sincerely,

Karen L. Ahrns
Property Associates Management Co.
1035 Sutton Way, #D
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-477-4328
www.nevadacounty4rent.com
BRE Lic. #01223622

Alison Anderson

August 16, 2020

TO:
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner
Community Environmental Advocates-NC

RE: Public Comment on the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. As someone who has lived within a few short miles of the mine site for over 20 years, I see no benefit to anyone except the project's investors in this extraction of resources from our community. I recommend Jonathon Keehn's excellent synopsis of the ways in which Rise Corporation has already broken the community's trust.
https://www.theunion.com/opinion/columns/jonathan-keehn-reopening-idaho-maryland-mine-still-a-bad-idea

My specific concerns are as follows:

- The high probability of polluting the local water supplies, both underground, residents' wells, and what would go into the watershed of Wolf Creek
- The excessive and extreme noise in a predominately residential area, 24 hours a day both in operations and transportation
- The excessive noise and air pollution for the local high-tech firms close by in the area, 24 hours a day – many of whom I am told have sworn to relocate out of the county if this is approved. Having lived and worked within earshot of loud operations and gun ranges, I know first-hand that noise travels - especially with certain terrain; it is not just those within a mile or two who would be heavily impacted.
- The unwarranted decrease in property values
- The unwarranted loss of residents and business well and/or water quality from their wells
- The potential release of currently stable toxins from past mining endeavors
- The significant environmental destruction of local flora and fauna habitat in one of the county's primary open space areas for wild animal vagility and health
- The additional traffic congestion in an already dense-traffic area
- The hazards of transporting flammable substances in our already highly fire-vulnerable community
- The passing off of road wear and tear costs to us the local taxpayers – and potentially passing off toxic cleanup to us, as I understand this company has done before when they went bankrupt in the past.
- The likelihood of jobs for "experts" from outside Nevada County, rather than providing stable long term jobs for locals---while at the same time the high likelihood of LOSING a great deal of our businesses who will leave the are due to the invasiveness of this operation.

19511 Wymer Ln, Grass Valley, CA 95945 | alisonanderson@icloud.com

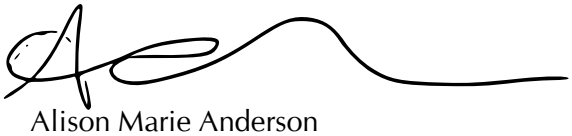
Allowing this operation to proceed would create a NET LOSS for both our community and our local economy – on top of the already immense devastation caused by the pandemic situation from which recovery will not be easy.

I request that, as part of the vetting of this project, a complete and thorough investigation be done in the following areas to address our community's very real concerns:

- A Watershed impact study
- A Land Use and Planning study
- A Noise impact study
- A hazards & wildfire safety study of the fuels and explosives that will be transported in
- A traffic flow and road damage impact study
- An Environmental Impact Study
- A local fiscal benefit study
- A local study of high tech firms among other businesses, on whether they would remain in Western Nevada County in the face of the worst case scenario for: air, water, noise, traffic and other impacts.
- A Property value impact study

This county has long suffered too much from prospectors coming to the area and stripping our environment, our culture, our public health, and our economic well-being. I urge you to do whatever it takes to create a resounding "NO" to these plans.

Thank you for your consideration,



Alison Marie Anderson
530-798-8222

-----Original Message-----
From: Alison Anderson <alisonanderson@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:24 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: my letter and requests regarding the Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
Please find attached my letter of concern with specific requests regarding the consideration of reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine operation.
thank you,
Alison Anderson

Alison Anderson

August 16, 2020

TO:

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner
Community Environmental Advocates-NC

RE: Public Comment on the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. As someone who has lived within a few short miles of the mine site for over 20 years, I see no benefit to anyone except the project's investors in this extraction of resources from our community. I recommend Jonathon Keehn's excellent synopsis of the ways in which Rise Corporation has already broken the community's trust.
https://www.theunion.com/opinion/columns/jonathan-keehn-reopening-idaho-maryland-mine-still-a-bad-idea

My specific concerns are as follows:

- The high probability of polluting the local water supplies, both underground, residents' wells, and what would go into the watershed of Wolf Creek
- The excessive and extreme noise in a predominately residential area, 24 hours a day both in operations and transportation
- The excessive noise and air pollution for the local high-tech firms close by in the area, 24 hours a day – many of whom I am told have sworn to relocate out of the county if this is approved. Having lived and worked within earshot of loud operations and gun ranges, I know first-hand that noise travels - especially with certain terrain; it is not just those within a mile or two who would be heavily impacted.
- The unwarranted decrease in property values
- The unwarranted loss of residents and business well and/or water quality from their wells
- The potential release of currently stable toxins from past mining endeavors
- The significant environmental destruction of local flora and fauna habitat in one of the county's primary open space areas for wild animal vagility and health
- The additional traffic congestion in an already dense-traffic area
- The hazards of transporting flammable substances in our already highly fire-vulnerable community
- The passing off of road wear and tear costs to us the local taxpayers – and potentially passing off toxic cleanup to us, as I understand this company has done before when they went bankrupt in the past.
- The likelihood of jobs for "experts" from outside Nevada County, rather than providing stable long term jobs for locals---while at the same time the high likelihood of LOSING a great deal of our businesses who will leave the are due to the invasiveness of this operation.

19511 Wymer Ln, Grass Valley, CA 95945 | alisonanderson@icloud.com

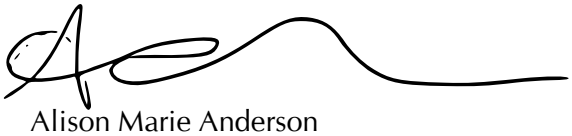
Allowing this operation to proceed would create a NET LOSS for both our community and our local economy – on top of the already immense devastation caused by the pandemic situation from which recovery will not be easy.

I request that, as part of the vetting of this project, a complete and thorough investigation be done in the following areas to address our community's very real concerns:

- A Watershed impact study
- A Land Use and Planning study
- A Noise impact study
- A hazards & wildfire safety study of the fuels and explosives that will be transported in
- A traffic flow and road damage impact study
- An Environmental Impact Study
- A local fiscal benefit study
- A local study of high tech firms among other businesses, on whether they would remain in Western Nevada County in the face of the worst case scenario for: air, water, noise, traffic and other impacts.
- A Property value impact study

This county has long suffered too much from prospectors coming to the area and stripping our environment, our culture, our public health, and our economic well-being. I urge you to do whatever it takes to create a resounding "NO" to these plans.

Thank you for your consideration,



Alison Marie Anderson
530-798-8222

From: Alison.Anderson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: letter and requests regarding the Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:54:48 AM
Attachments: AA Idaho-MD mine letter 8-16-20.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

hello - I just wanted to make sure this letter was received — I realize you are probably very busy but as it's the deadline I'd appreciate knowing you have it ok?
thank you,
Alison

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Alison.Anderson" <alison@casaditerra.net>
Subject: letter and requests regarding the Mine
Date: August 16, 2020 at 9:25:05 PM PDT
To: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Hello Mr. Kelley,

Please find attached my letter of concern with specific requests regarding the consideration of reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine operation.

thank you,
Alison Anderson

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

I am writing to inform you that I am opposed to reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine. This is completely incompatible with the existing residential neighborhood that now exists and I have many objections to this eighty year project.

1. My first concern is dewatering of our well. Our property backs up to the Brunswick site (12940 Mink Court in the Brunswick Manor development) with our well located within 100 feet of the mine's southern boundary. We were told by Peters Well Drilling at the last mine proposal that there was a definite possibility of our well going dry. Will this happen? If not, why? There must be an approved plan in place before dewatering that will assure we have water, and a bond that covers the cost.

2. Will dewatering of the mine and the continual volume pumped daily from the mine into Wolf Creek erode the existing waterway and cause overflowing? Who monitors this process? Rise Gold has a poor record so far. What penalties will be in place? Will there be a realistic bond in place to cover the cost?

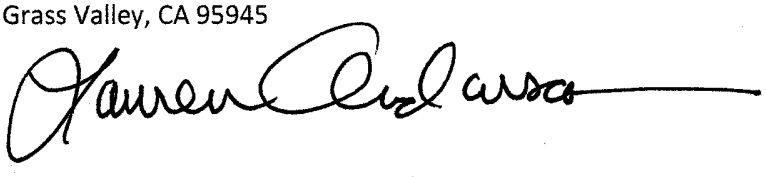
3. What will the loss of water do to the surrounding forest? Will the old in-ground fire sprinkler system at the southern property line of the Brunswick site be reactivated? If not, why not?

4. Sound—We can already hear people talking when there is activity going on below us. The mine's trucks backing up and the loading and moving of mine tailings will be unbearable. Will there be a maximum decibel level allowed? Who, when. and how will this be monitored. What recourse will the affected homeowners have if the level is exceeded? The volume of grinding, dumping and transporting of heavy industrial waste is not appropriate for the existing zoning and is not compatible with existing housing, roads, and traffic.

5. I have great concern for the air quality that will be affected by the dust and exhaust that will be emitted from the mining process. How can this possibly be remedied?

I have lived here for almost 30 years and this is the third run at reopening the mine. There should be a determination by the County to keep the zoning as it is so we don't have to keep going through this. The trade off for all we will lose, what we will have to put up with, and the major problems that may occur do not make this an acceptable project by any stretch. Consider other mine problems in the County that we are already dealing with.

Sincerely,
Lauren Anderson
12940 Mink Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945



From: Lauren Anderson <lauren@ladesign2.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:20 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find a copy of my letter for the EIR report for questions about the Mine Permit …. Thank you …



Lauren Anderson / Design
12940 Mink Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945

530.273.2600

Casa DiTerra
TRAIL BUILDING

TO:

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner
Community Environmental Advocates-NC

RE: Public Comment on the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. As someone who has lived within a few short miles of the mine site for nearly 30 years, I see no benefit to our community or our local economy in approving this extraction of our local resources. I recommend Jonathon Keehn's succinct synopsis of the ways in which Rise Corporation has broken the community's trust already:
https://www.theunion.com/opinion/columns/jonathan-keehn-reopening-idaho-maryland-mine-still-a-bad-idea

My specific concerns are as follows:

- The high probability of polluting the local water supplies--both groundwater & resident wells, and what would go back into the watershed of Wolf Creek
- The excessive and extreme noise in a predominately residential area, 24 hours a day both in operations and transportation
- The excessive noise and air pollution for the local high-tech firms close by in the area, 24 hours a day – many of whom I am told have sworn to relocate out of the county if this is approved.
- The unwarranted decrease in property values
- The unwarranted loss of residents and business well and/or water quality from their wells
- The potential release of currently stable toxins from past mining endeavors
- The significant environmental destruction of local flora and fauna habitat in one of the county's primary open space areas for wild animal vagility and health
- The additional traffic congestion in an already dense-traffic area
- The passing off of road wear and tear costs to us the local taxpayers – and potentially passing off toxic cleanup to us, as I understand this company has done before when they went bankrupt in the past.
- The likelihood of jobs for "experts" from outside Nevada County, rather than providing stable long term jobs for locals--while at the same time the high likelihood of LOSING a great deal of our businesses who will leave the are due to the invasiveness of this operation. I believe it would create a NET LOSS for both our community and our local economy – on top of the already intense devastation caused by the pandemic situation.

We are requesting that, as part of the vetting of this project, a complete and thorough investigation be done in the following areas to address our community's concerns:

- A Watershed impact study
- A Land Use and Planning study
- A Noise impact study
- A Traffic flow and road damage impact study
- An Environmental Impact Study
- A local fiscal benefit study
- A local study of high tech firms among other businesses, re whether they would remain in Western Nevada County in the face of the worst case scenario situations for: air, water, noise, traffic and other impacts.
- A Property value impact study

Given our history this county has already suffered enough from prospectors coming to the area, stripping our environment, culture, health and economic well-being. Take a look at the research Sierra Fund has done on the toxics left behind here by the gold rush era. I urge you to do whatever it takes to make this a resounding "NO" to their plans.

Thank you for listening to my concerns,



Zachi Anderson

-----Original Message-----
From: zachi@casaditerra.net <zachi@casaditerra.net>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:01 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: my letter regarding the Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello -

Please find attached my letter of concern and requests related to the Idaho-Maryland mine operation.

Thank you,
Zach Anderson

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Anderson <andersonmaryf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:14 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Reopening the Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn: Julie Patterson-Hunter, Clerk of Nevada County BOS To be read at the Board of Supervisors meeting of August 11, 2020

I would like it noted that I am in opposition to reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine. I have lived on Mink Court directly above the Brunswick site for the last 28 years. This is the third time that I find myself having to plead with the County not to allow reopening of the mine, for numerous reasons that I will address at another time.

I find it unfair that you did not allow the public to attend or make comments at your virtual scoping meeting. Also, there was supposed to be 30 days to make comments as to concerns we think should be addressed in the DEIR and we have not been allowed that either, since we did not see the recorded version of this meeting until July 27. Even though requests have been made to extend the time for public comment, that also has been denied.

It would seem to me that with a project of this size and the probable detrimental effects on our county, you would welcome input from the residents you serve. I hope this will be the case going forward. Thank you for entering my letter in your minutes .
Sincerely,
Mary Anderson

Sent from my iPad

From:	Sally Ashcraft
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	No! to reopening Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:37:58 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I am writing out of concern that our community is once again having to worry about the negative impacts of here-today/gone-tomorrow mining on their families, neighbors and neighborhoods, quality of life and health, and property values.

Please consider that the inevitable smoke-and-mirror promises, bonds paid upfront by mine owners, and the dubious local benefit of boom and bust jobs, will in no way balance the deficit that such impacts incur.

Thank you for consideration of my strong reservations about allowing the re-opening of mines, particularly by companies whose controllers and shareholders have little concern for, and no vested interest in, the success and sustainability of the local economy and environment. Mine owners, operators, and investors (by definition) are primarily committed to short-term maximal gain. For the sake of Nevada County residents and our children and children's children, I urge you to resist the reduction of our home to merely a source of profit.

Thank you,

Sally Ashcraft

PO Box 219
Nevada City, CA 95959

From: KEVIN AUSTIN <redeaglefalling@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Kevin AUSTIN <redeaglefalling@comcast.net>
Subject: Fwd: Rise Grass Valley Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr Kelley,

My name is Kevin Austin. My wife and I recently purchased a property at 12770 Hoppy Hollow Road. We are absolutely in love with this place, the surrounding area, and the community. I could list the positives about Grass Valley but I'm very sure you are already quite familiar with them.

Peg and I have recently become aware of the Rise Grass Valley Mine application/proposal to re-open the mine off Bennett and Brunswick. I have done some research into this project and I am greatly concerned about the negative impact this business would have on the area, residents, quality of life, etc. From what I have learned...the air pollution would increase...noise, traffic, and dust would become more intense…water quality and quantity for local residents/businesses would decrease…the safety, "peace and quiet" and overall beauty of the area would diminish and compromise the well-being of "two-legged and four-legged" residents.

Mr Kelley, I am a firm believer in capitalism and the right of all citizens to prosper however, sometimes we must take a serious and hard look at the pros and cons of making money vs living a quality life in comfortable surroundings. I, like a lot of area residents, are living here because we want to live in such a beautiful and peaceful location. I truly believe that the Rise Grass Valley Mine, which is a non-US based company, will have a very negative impact on this wonderful area. It would be very nice if you and the Nevada County Planning Department would not support the approval of the Rise Grass Valley Mine.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my email. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this issue with me. I would be more than willing to do so at your convenience. You can reach me via email or phone….408-761-2036

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,
Kevin Austin

From: Ayla
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Resident comment re: Idaho Maryland
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:55:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt, and thank you so much for welcoming comments on the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project.

I am extremely concerned that this project will have irreversible detrimental impacts on the surrounding ecosystems and waterways, as well as possible irreversible negative effects on local residents' wells. I understand there have been efforts to mitigate impacts and keep discharge particulates and contaminants below EPA standards. But these mitigations do not solve the greater environmental and community concerns. Our waterways are the life and vitality of this land, of our community. The dangers of mining runoff in our waterways is too great. We must think ahead to future generations, with long-sighted vision, protecting these ecosystems and waters that give us life.

I imagine a lot of financial interests are involved here. I know these are hard decisions. But I beg you, please think of the land, please think of our community members and our children's children who will depend on a health ecosystem and clean waters to live and thrive.

I write you today as a resident, local landowner, and concerned citizen, urging you and the county to please NOT move forward with this proposed project.

Thank you for looking beyond the money interests, and doing what is right for the land, the waterways, and our community.

all the best,

Ayla

--
there are ones who'll keep us sleeping
and there are ones who'll bring the dawn...

LISTEN: http://aylanereo.bandcamp.com/
website: www.aylanereo.com

From: Nicolette <asinglestarinavastgalaxy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 6:04 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Gold operation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

I'm a concerned, longtime resident raised right here in Nevada County. My family and I live directly across the street from Rise Gold's entrance. We're on Old Mine rd right off of E Bennet st, meaning we will be directly impacted by the operations of this mine.

Running a mine right on top of residential communities creates hardships and seems rather dangerous. My neighborhood and I are disturbed by the these facts alone: at minimum, you will have two hundred large dump truck trips either coming or going from the mine and could be as many as 450 per day seven days a week for 14 hours per day for as long as the mine is in operation. Your application is asking for an operating life of 70 years. The entrance the trucks would use is the gated area on E Bennett as mentioned earlier, across the street from our home on Old Mine.

I ask myself, how will I get to work on time, be able to grab groceries, have undisturbed sleep, or just be able to come and go freely from my home when this traffic congestion is happening 14/7 with no relief in sight?

As you may be aware, Nevada County "Gold Country" has a vast history in hydraulic mining that may have proved fruitful in the collecting of gold yet was completely detrimental to the environment. Sinkholes and abandoned mine shafts are littered throughout our landscape, most notably the major sinkhole that almost took out some businesses in the pine creek shopping area. I do not want to experience one of these events in my own backyard.

My home, like many, is on a well system. I drink this water everyday, unfiltered. With your mining operations, I'm wondering how polluted our ground water will get and if we'll have drinkable water anymore. I read that arsenic is associated with your mining operations and I don't want these poisons contaminating our waters.

I'm also concerned about local wildlife populations declining, being that their natural habitats will be (and have been) destroyed. Displacing animals can easily lead to their demise. The NID canals and little greenhorn creek are water sources for people and wildlife, and the toxicity levels will inevitably rise. This sounds like a class action lawsuit waiting to happen. Has your company had environmental experts come out and survey what natural resources and indigenous animals will be directly effected by your mining operations? What about endangered species?

Sadly, like many people, I'm left feeling more concerned and question how it is even practical for your company to run its operation. I stand for our community over for profit, environmental destruction. We do not support this mine being reopened.

Sincerely,

Nicolette B.

From: Michelle Bacon <michellecbacon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 8:03 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>

Subject: Idaho Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear board members.
Please consider the devastation that will take place in our community if your proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine is approved. Harmful mine tailings, pollution to or our air, water and land, increased traffic, loss of potable water, a threat to our way of life & our community. I have family members that live in close proximity to the mine on Greenhorn Rd., they cannot tolerate the negative impact of the reopening, this has been their home for 40 years. Union Hill school, the oldest school in Grass Valley, is very near this proposed reopening as well. There are over 700 students in attendance at that school, my daughter is one of them. I am also a teacher there. A working mine is not a safe or acceptable operation to have near a school, near a city full of businesses, near thousands of homes. You risk our safety, our livelihood. This would be a huge mistake, look at the damage done 100 years ago from mining, there are still negative impacts from that, we cannot repeat mistakes of the past. There is a vibrant community surrounding your proposed reopening, that must outweigh and be the governing fact of the matter.
Thanks for your time.
Michelle Bacon

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Michael Bader
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: I live off 174 near the Brunswick /Cedar Ridge junction
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

and I've just learned of the plan to do gold mining a idaho-maryland?
I think it's outrageous, actually. Hundreds of trucks entering and exiting at all hours? Potential threats to the water table? Noise 24 hrs./day.
Are you kidding me, Mr. Kelly? My wife and I have been here for 18 years and love our community.
This proposed mine will spoil the environment. We object. We want you to turn down the proposal.
Thanks for listening.
Sincerely
Michael Bader
13059 Lower Colfax Rd, Grass Valley
(415)385-9845

From: Cindy Bailey <sindeebee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland, Rise Mine Proposal-AGAINST

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,
Please add another against vote to the Rise Mine Proposal. Keep our community protected from this noise pollution. Please make sure to not let a corporation come into our community that the community does not want here.
Thank you.

Cynthia Bailey
137 Boulder St. Apt F
Nevada City, Ca 95959
530.559.3369

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From:	Jasmine Bailey
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:42:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jasmine Bailey
Auburn, CA 95603
jasminebaileymusic@gmail.com
5303684976

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a resident in Placer and Nevada County for most of my life. Like many others in the area, I am filled with deep appreciation for the natural resources and beauty that the area offers.

The proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine is alarming for many reasons. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

- Thorough scientific research of the long term human health impacts (80-year permit period) of **water quality** if local well water is polluted or compromised by operations and the cost.
- A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action and local remediation.
- Address the full cost and environmental impacts of nitrate/gas oil contamination of ground or surface water or eutrophication to local watersheds.
- Address local quality of living being reduced due to increased traffic congestion, transport noise, light and dust pollution during 24/7 operations.
- What materials/chemical compounds are being used to create "2.2 million tons of **engineered fill"** and what are their health impacts when exposed to humans, wildlife and soil?
- Address the decrease in value of surrounding commercial and residential property that will have constant view and exposure to operations.
- Health risks and environmental impacts of using explosives including ammonia nitrate fuel oil.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Bailey

Date: August 17, 2020

Subject: Rise Gold Mine Notice of Preparation & Project Description Draft[i]

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

From: James Bair
12810 Woodpecker Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Based on my review of the documentation referenced above and expert opinion, I conclude that the impact of the Project in all categories of CEQA, inconsistency with the County General Plan and protection of property rights are not addressed well enough to proceed.

While I have expertise in these areas based on serving as a Planning Commissioner for Grass Valley and Menlo Park, CA, and serving as Vice President of the Banner Mountain Homeowners Assoc. for several years, there is not enough lead time for me to prepare a detailed analysis of the Notice of Preparation or the Draft Project Description. So, I'll attempt to help the scoping process for the Draft EIR.

"Probable Environmental Effects" categories to be addressed in the EIR:

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Diesel Exhaust and Dust

There needs to be a quantification of the exhaust from 20 to 40-ton open hauler trucks making 100 round-trips per day to the Centennial tailings dump site on Idaho-Maryland Rd. (1,000 tons per day 16/7). Spacing of the trucks on hilly 2 lane roads, especially intersections with turning and stopping big-rigs, may be too close for other vehicles to safely use the same roads—what will the spacing of trucks be? Will traffic be stopped when they pull out onto local roads?

How degraded will the air be in the Grass Valley basin, especially downtown, as the heavy diesel exhaust settles into lower areas in the Centennial tailings dump vicinity? How large will the pollution plume be in static and windy air conditions and how far will it range with various winds?

Is the exhaust from the machinery for moving over 1,500 tons of rock from deep tunnels being including in pollution predictions?

Mine tailings are usually elevated in lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic and other metals—what amounts of toxins will be in the dust from hauling and dumping?

- **Hydrology / Water Quality**

A number of geological studies in the area have been done not only in response to previous mine proposals but also to the dewatering of NID canals. One dewatering proposal, the Cascade Canal, was stopped by a law suit. The Save Our Historic Canals 501c3 won and a reasonable flow will be maintained. The dewatering impact on wells was one factor that also relates to the mine. Geologists testified that rock layers form vast conduits for water in the foothills because they are tilted.

Very briefly, they noted that tilted rock strata cause underground water flow from higher areas like Banner Mt. to lower areas like the Idaho Maryland Mine. Dewatering along these strata draws down the water levels at higher altitudes, miles away. Are independent geologists part of the Rise Mine investigation and can they attest to well impact on Banner Mt. and the Greenhorn area? Can the previous law suits be reviewed for the technical information?

With proposed discharge rates of about 2,500 gallons per minute, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for Wolf creek, what will be the level during the rainy season? Won't the combined flow greatly exceed flood stage? Even after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send about 850 gallons per minute into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from refilling with water. Over time, will there be significant erosion with silt moving downstream as was the case with historical hydraulic mining (which was stopped by huge law suits)?

- **Land Use / Planning**

All the surrounding zoning areas are residential. It is almost certain that residents chose that environment for the pastoral, quiet country living it provides. The value of that real estate depends upon maintaining the qualities that motivated the building. While eminent domain is not pertinent because the loss is caused by a private company, doesn't the approval of the loss of qualities that motivated living there equal a "taking" [in the legal sense] of property? How will area residents be compensated for losses when they cannot tolerate a heavy industry operation 24/7 that is inherently noisy and have to move?

Since the area including the Rise Gold Inc. mining property is zoned roughly 70% residential (c.f. Project Description Fig. 3-6 p. 9)**,** isn't the "Brunswick [Light] Industrial Site" a conflict with the over-arching land use? What does the County General Plan say about land use in this otherwise bucolic region? Doesn't this violate the planning principle of in-fill where the property should have zoning consistent with the zoning of the general area?[ii]

Have the nearby but non-adjacent General Plan regions, Grass Valley Community Region and Cedar Ridge Community Region, been included in impact measurements for noise, pollution and traffic?

How does using the Centennial Industrial Site as an open tailings dump impact (i.e. diesel exhaust, dust and noise) the incorporated areas of Grass Valley some of which are zoned commercial and currently used for retail (note Idaho Maryland Rd.)?

- **Noise**

As history has it, the owners of the Empire Mine lived mostly in San Francisco because the 24/7 noise from the stamp mills at the great Empire Mine mansion was intolerable. Noise numbers based on preliminary measurements are speculative at best, especially since there's nothing to measure. What rigorous noise model can be developed to extrapolate from operating hard-rock mines and trucking operations, even allowing for data from open-pit operations (like Kennecott Mine in Utah)?

Noise does travel through the earth, especially to houses sitting above tunnels. What sound will conduct from drill and blast regime beneath residences that are above the mining rights area which extends far beyond the boundaries of the Brunswick property?

- **Transportation & Traffic**

Transporting thousands of tons of tailings has enormous impacts on roads especially because of the magnitude: 1 million cubic yards of mining tailings would be hauled to the 44-acre Centennial Industrial Site bordered by Idaho Maryland Road, according to the permit application. Is road maintenance to be increased commensurate with huge increases in heavy-weight traffic?

Tailing dumping at the Centennial site is not the only source of traffic impact. Rise Inc. plans to sell mine tailings as engineered fill, utilizing highways 20 and 49 to transport the rock to potential customers – how many additional vehicle trips will be generated by this hauling though developed areas?

There's also a need for concrete for the shaft fill slurry – will hauling the components necessary to make concrete be added to truck traffic numbers?

The industrial site will use heavy diesel machinery as well as need to keep its trucks fueled – how much will that add to the traffic, especially since much of the fuel (and concrete) will come through Colfax?

Has Placer County been advised of the increase in truck traffic through the town of Colfax?

The proposed route to the second dump site (Centennial) is via Brunswick Rd. with a left turn onto Whispering Pines Rd. How will the left turn be negotiated across two uphill lanes, on a steep hill notorious for ice and snow, with significant traffic to the airport area and all the way to I80? If the mitigation is to be another traffic light necessary for safety, how will one tandem rig every 5 min. make that turn quickly enough? Data is needed on the haulers speed, maneuverability and ability to turn off of Brunswick Rd.

In order to manage truck spacing, what traffic designs and controls (e.g., signalization, turn lanes) are needed to address the volume of heavy truck traffic over the 80-year life of the proposed project? How does that take into account uses of the roadways by other vehicles (including bicycles) on all project affected roadways (Bennett, Idaho-Maryland, Brunswick, Whispering Pines, SR174)? How will changes in transportation technology or use (e.g., bicycles) be accommodated during the 80-year span of operations? What other projects contribute to the

cumulative impacts of this project regarding traffic and safety on the roadways? Is there a plan for monitoring, enforcement and mitigation?

Will the County be required to de-ice and plow roads more often to accommodate Rise haulers on Brunswick Rd.?

Who bears the costs of maintenance and repair on the roads traversed by 20 to 40-ton haulers? If it's the County, what additional revenue or fees from the mining operation will cover the additional costs?

• Economic Study

It is likely that the County will have reduced tax revenue because of a loss of property values. With thousands of homes potentially devalued, what will be the revenue loss? It will be prudent to develop models that will quantify percentage losses under different scenarios and economic conditions—is this being planned?

The Week (August 7, 2020), a national business periodical, reports that the current high value of gold is at unique risk because the **market** for gold, mostly jewelry, is decreasing at an accelerating rate. To quote the *Wall Street Journal*, "Lockdowns have curtailed jewelry purchases, particularly in India and China, and if investor demand wanes, 'prices could fall without physical consumption to act as a cushion'". What is the gold value per once necessary for Rise Gold Inc. to sustain operations? Abandoning the operation would leave enormous waste and useless construction.

There are numerous standards of operation that will need to be regulated such as noise, air pollution, water pollution, etc. How will the monitoring required for regulation and policing be staffed and funded? Existing County resources are already stretched thin. Are there fees sufficient to fund the regulation, e.g., river water monitoring, sound monitoring, air testing, etc.? Are we to believe that this company, with the managements' track record[iii], will adhere to regulatory requirements without enforcement?

Approximately 312 jobs are proposed for the mine, but only 70 of those jobs can be filled locally because they require specialized training and experience (e.g., mining engineers and mining equipment operators). What are the specific jobs with titles and skills proposed by Rise Gold? (Project Description pp. 26-27 does not specify qualifications.)

Conclusion

The State of California is clear about protecting the environment as stated in CEQA.[iv] Other civil statutes govern economic impacts such as "taking" value from property owners. I strongly recommend you address both in preparation for public review, having been informed hereby of likely economic damages.

The documents submitted by the applicant, Rise Gold Inc., do not offer potential mitigation measures; in my opinion, none are viable.

I am aware of many other questions that are within the scope of CEQA and should be accurately addressed in the DEIR, but there has been insufficient advance notice to address them all. I'm confident that many other deeply concerned residents will ask them.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bair

---

[i] (refs.: www.mynevadacounty.com/3054/Environmental-Impact-Report and references including https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/35181/Notice-of-Preparation-of-and-Environmental-Impact-Report-and-Public-Scoping-Meeting, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/35241/Idaho-Maryland-Mine-Project-Description-Draft)

[ii] We realize that rezoning from light industrial to residential would require toxic waste cleanup which is in process.

[iii] https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/bankrupt-mining-company-now-faces-35-charges-for-banks-island-mess/ "**Bankrupt mining company now faces 35 charges for Banks Island mess,"** ex-president Benjamin Mossman [president of Rise Gold Inc.]

[iv] Regarding the environment, the State says:

- *No projects which would cause significant environmental effects should be approved as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or mitigation measures that would lessen those effects.*
- *Environmental impact reports (EIRs) shall be used to provide full public disclosure of the environmental impacts of a proposed project.*
- *EIRs shall include identification of all significant effects, alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.* [iv]

From:	Jim Bair
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	James Bair
Subject:	Letter re: Rise Gold Mine Notice of Preparation & Project Description Draft [due today]
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 7:11:17 AM
Attachments:	Letter to County Planner Matt Kelley 2.2.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Also attached as a PDF for your convenience.

Date: August 17, 2020

Subject: Rise Gold Mine Notice of Preparation & Project Description Draft[i]

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

From: James Bair
12810 Woodpecker Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Based on my review of the documentation referenced above and expert opinion, I conclude that the impact of the Project in all categories of CEQA, inconsistency with the County General Plan and protection of property rights are not addressed well enough to proceed.

While I have expertise in these areas based on serving as a Planning Commissioner for Grass Valley and Menlo Park, CA, and serving as Vice President of the Banner Mountain Homeowners Assoc. for several years, there is not enough lead time for me to prepare a detailed analysis of the Notice of Preparation or the Draft Project Description. So, I'll attempt to help the scoping process for the Draft EIR.

"Probable Environmental Effects" categories to be addressed in the EIR:

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Diesel Exhaust and Dust

There needs to be a quantification of the exhaust from 20 to 40-ton open hauler trucks making 100 round-trips per day to the Centennial tailings dump site on Idaho-Maryland Rd. (1,000 tons per day 16/7). Spacing of the trucks on hilly 2 lane roads, especially intersections with turning and stopping big-rigs, may be too close for other vehicles to safely use the same roads —what will the spacing of trucks be? Will traffic be stopped when they pull out onto local roads?

How degraded will the air be in the Grass Valley basin, especially downtown, as the heavy diesel exhaust settles into lower areas in the Centennial tailings dump vicinity? How large will the pollution plume be in static and windy air conditions and how far will it range with various winds?

Is the exhaust from the machinery for moving over 1,500 tons of rock from deep tunnels being including in pollution predictions?

Mine tailings are usually elevated in lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic and other metals—what amounts of toxins will be in the dust from hauling and dumping?

- **Hydrology / Water Quality**

A number of geological studies in the area have been done not only in response to previous mine proposals but also to the dewatering of NID canals. One dewatering proposal, the Cascade Canal, was stopped by a law suit. The Save Our Historic Canals 501c3 won and a reasonable flow will be maintained. The dewatering impact on wells was one factor that also relates to the mine. Geologists testified that rock layers form vast conduits for water in the foothills because they are tilted.

Very briefly, they noted that tilted rock strata cause underground water flow from higher areas like Banner Mt. to lower areas like the Idaho Maryland Mine. Dewatering along these strata draws down the water levels at higher altitudes, miles away. Are independent geologists part of the Rise Mine investigation and can they attest to well impact on Banner Mt. and the Greenhorn area? Can the previous law suits be reviewed for the technical information?

With proposed discharge rates of about 2,500 gallons per minute, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for Wolf creek, what will be the level during the rainy season? Won't the combined flow greatly exceed flood stage? Even after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send about 850 gallons per minute into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from refilling with water. Over time, will there be significant erosion with silt moving downstream as was the case with historical hydraulic mining (which was stopped by huge law suits)?

- **Land Use / Planning**

All the surrounding zoning areas are residential. It is almost certain that residents chose that environment for the pastoral, quiet country living it provides. The value of that real estate depends upon maintaining the qualities that motivated the building. While eminent domain is not pertinent because the loss is caused by a private company, doesn't the approval of the loss of qualities that motivated living there equal a "taking" [in the legal sense] of property? How will area residents be compensated for losses when they cannot tolerate a heavy industry operation 24/7 that is inherently noisy and have to move?

Since the area including the Rise Gold Inc. mining property is zoned roughly 70% residential (c.f. Project Description Fig. 3-6 p. 9)**,** isn't the "Brunswick [Light] Industrial Site" a conflict with the over-arching land use? What does the County General Plan say about land use in this otherwise bucolic region? Doesn't this violate the planning principle of in-fill where the property should have zoning consistent with the zoning of the general area?[ii]

Have the nearby but non-adjacent General Plan regions, Grass Valley Community Region and Cedar Ridge Community Region, been included in impact measurements for noise, pollution and traffic?

How does using the Centennial Industrial Site as an open tailings dump impact (i.e. diesel exhaust, dust and noise) the incorporated areas of Grass Valley some of which are zoned commercial and currently used for retail (note Idaho Maryland Rd.)?

- **Noise**

As history has it, the owners of the Empire Mine lived mostly in San Francisco because the 24/7 noise from the stamp mills at the great Empire Mine mansion was intolerable. Noise numbers based on preliminary measurements are speculative at best, especially since there's nothing to measure. What rigorous noise model can be developed to extrapolate from operating hard-rock mines and trucking operations, even allowing for data from open-pit operations (like Kennecott Mine in Utah)?

Noise does travel through the earth, especially to houses sitting above tunnels. What sound will conduct from drill and blast regime beneath residences that are above the mining rights area which extends far beyond the boundaries of the Brunswick property?

- **Transportation & Traffic**

Transporting thousands of tons of tailings has enormous impacts on roads especially because of the magnitude: 1 million cubic yards of mining tailings would be hauled to the 44-acre Centennial Industrial Site bordered by Idaho Maryland Road, according to the permit application. Is road maintenance to be increased commensurate with huge increases in heavy-weight traffic?

Tailing dumping at the Centennial site is not the only source of traffic impact. Rise Inc. plans to sell mine tailings as engineered fill, utilizing highways 20 and 49 to transport the rock to potential customers – how many additional vehicle trips will be generated by this hauling though developed areas?

There's also a need for concrete for the shaft fill slurry – will hauling the components necessary to make concrete be added to truck traffic numbers?

The industrial site will use heavy diesel machinery as well as need to keep its trucks fueled – how much will that add to the traffic, especially since much of the fuel (and concrete) will come through Colfax?

Has Placer County been advised of the increase in truck traffic through the town of Colfax?

The proposed route to the second dump site (Centennial) is via Brunswick Rd. with a left turn onto Whispering Pines Rd. How will the left turn be negotiated across two uphill lanes, on a steep hill notorious for ice and snow, with significant traffic to the airport area and all the way to I80? If the mitigation is to be another traffic light necessary for safety, how will one tandem rig every 5 min. make that turn quickly enough? Data is needed on the haulers speed, maneuverability and ability to turn off of Brunswick Rd.

In order to manage truck spacing, what traffic designs and controls (e.g., signalization, turn lanes) are needed to address the volume of heavy truck traffic over the 80-year life of the proposed project? How does that take into account uses of the roadways by other vehicles

(including bicycles) on all project affected roadways (Bennett, Idaho-Maryland, Brunswick, Whispering Pines, SR174)? How will changes in transportation technology or use (e.g., bicycles) be accommodated during the 80-year span of operations? What other projects contribute to the cumulative impacts of this project regarding traffic and safety on the roadways? Is there a plan for monitoring, enforcement and mitigation?

Will the County be required to de-ice and plow roads more often to accommodate Rise haulers on Brunswick Rd.?

Who bears the costs of maintenance and repair on the roads traversed by 20 to 40-ton haulers? If it's the County, what additional revenue or fees from the mining operation will cover the additional costs?

• Economic Study

It is likely that the County will have reduced tax revenue because of a loss of property values. With thousands of homes potentially devalued, what will be the revenue loss? It will be prudent to develop models that will quantify percentage losses under different scenarios and economic conditions—is this being planned?

The Week (August 7, 2020), a national business periodical, reports that the current high value of gold is at unique risk because the **market** for gold, mostly jewelry, is decreasing at an accelerating rate. To quote the *Wall Street Journal*, "Lockdowns have curtailed jewelry purchases, particularly in India and China, and if investor demand wanes, 'prices could fall without physical consumption to act as a cushion'". What is the gold value per once necessary for Rise Gold Inc. to sustain operations? Abandoning the operation would leave enormous waste and useless construction.

There are numerous standards of operation that will need to be regulated such as noise, air pollution, water pollution, etc. How will the monitoring required for regulation and policing be staffed and funded? Existing County resources are already stretched thin. Are there fees sufficient to fund the regulation, e.g., river water monitoring, sound monitoring, air testing, etc.? Are we to believe that this company, with the managements' track record[iii], will adhere to regulatory requirements without enforcement?

Approximately 312 jobs are proposed for the mine, but only 70 of those jobs can be filled locally because they require specialized training and experience (e.g., mining engineers and mining equipment operators). What are the specific jobs with titles and skills proposed by Rise Gold? (Project Description pp. 26-27 does not specify qualifications.)

Conclusion

The State of California is clear about protecting the environment as stated in CEQA.[iv] Other civil statutes govern economic impacts such as "taking" value from property owners. I strongly recommend you address both in preparation for public review, having been informed hereby of likely economic damages.

The documents submitted by the applicant, Rise Gold Inc., do not offer potential mitigation measures; in my opinion, none are viable.

I am aware of many other questions that are within the scope of CEQA and should be accurately addressed in the DEIR, but there has been insufficient advance notice to address them all. I'm confident that many other deeply concerned residents will ask them.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bair

510.910.2300

---

[i] (refs.: www.mynevadacounty.com/3054/Environmental-Impact-Report and references including https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/35181/Notice-of-Preparation-of-and-Environmental-Impact-Report-and-Public-Scoping-Meeting, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/35241/Idaho-Maryland-Mine-Project-Description-Draft)

[ii] We realize that rezoning from light industrial to residential would require toxic waste cleanup which is in process.

[iii] https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/bankrupt-mining-company-now-faces-35-charges-for-banks-island-mess/ "**Bankrupt mining company now faces 35 charges for Banks Island mess,"** ex-president Benjamin Mossman [president of Rise Gold Inc.]

[iv] Regarding the environment, the State says:

> - *No projects which would cause significant environmental effects should be approved as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or mitigation measures that would lessen those effects.*
> - *Environmental impact reports (EIRs) shall be used to provide full public disclosure of the environmental impacts of a proposed project.*
> - *EIRs shall include identification of all significant effects, alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.* ***[iv]***

From: GRACE BAKER <gbaker24@g.ucla.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:20 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Urgent

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley,

My name is Grace Baker and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on

the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Grace Baker
Resident of Nevada County
gbaker24@g.ucla.edu
LinkedIn

August 14, 2020

Nevada County Planning Department
Attention: Matt Kelley
Cc: Ed Scofield, Supervisor 2nd District

Via e-mail: Matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us, planning@co.nevada.ca.us

Regarding: Scoping Comments for Idaho Maryland Mine EIR

Mr. Kelley

The following comments are relating to the scoping portion of the EIR being prepared for the Idaho Maryland Mine project. He project appears to have the potential of creating significant environmental impacts which would have direct effect on residents near the proposed mine as well as residents in the county which are near Wolf Creek. This mine has been closed for 64 years and Nevada County has allowed multiple homes and businesses to be built on the surface lands which are located directly above the areas proposed to be mined, which is clearly a direct conflict for those landowners. Additionally, the project proposes to discharge “treated” water directly into Wolf Creek which is already an impacted creek and subject to a special agreement with the California Water Board. The volume of water being proposed for discharge during the dewatering phase of the proposed operation is equivalent to the waste water discharge of more than 40,000 people (see calculations below).

It is difficult to imagine a scenario where the residents of Nevada County can benefit from reopening this mine. The 300 jobs being created does not justify the significant environmental impacts, the disruption of people’s lives because of noise, dust, truck traffic, possible exposure to hazardous materials and well as the visual impact of a 165’ high tower proposed at the site.

While a landowner has a right to file an application for a project, prepare plans and pay fees and prepare an Environmental Impact Report that does not mean that the project being applied for will be approved. There appears to be little for the community to be gained by approving this mining project and the potential environmental concerns which

cannot be mitigated would be a blemish on Nevada County and negatively impact the quality of life for the residents of western Nevada County.

Scoping Comments:

1. Wolf Creek is already an impacted waterway and subject to a special agreement with the State Water Board and did not include wastewater being discharged in the watercourse from a mining operation. What steps would be taken to comply with the current agreement?

2. Wolf Creek is not a storm drain and water from this mine should not be discharged into this waterway and parts of Wolf Creek are fish bearing waters. How is discharge from a mining operation consistent with the natural cycles of a creek?

3. Wells along Wolf Creek have already been compromised from prior activity in the watershed and adding additional commercial waste water could further comprise the watercourse. How would the project impact the 100 year flood plain adjacent to Wolf Creek?

4. Water wells of private property owners should not be compromised as a result of any project and property owners should not have to truck in water as a result of this project. What steps are proposed to protect surface water and groundwater as a result of this project?

5. In opening this mine is a precedent being set which would allow for other abandoned mines to reopen which would be a growth inducing impact leading to cumulative impacts?

6. Alternatives should be examined for the disposal of waste water from the mine. Some may include trucking or piping the water to an offsite disposal or treatment facility where the water is not discharged into county creeks or waterways. Piping the water to agricultural or grazing lands for use and eventual ground water recharge or sending the water to evaporation ponds. Another alternative would be to use the recycled water for park, golf course or landscaping irrigation. Please provide a detailed analysis of discharging the water from the mine other than a discharge to Wolf Creek.

7. The 10 zones within the Sanitation District in Nevada County treat 1,245,000 gallons per day supporting a population of 14,000 people, which is approximately 88.9 gallons per person per day. The initial dewatering phase of the project, proposes to treat and discharge 3.6 million gallons a day into Wolf Creek. This discharge would be equivalent to an additional population of 40,495 people discharging treated waste water into Wolf Creek. Once dewatered the discharge is estimated at 1,200,000 gallons per day, roughly

the same as the total Sanitation District in the County discharges now. This is a major impact to Wolf Creek. The 10 zones in the current Sanitation District disburse the output into various waterways in the county and do not concentrate the loads into a single stream. What are the impacts from the project by reducing the flows from the mine during both the dewatering period and long term discharge? What type on caps can be established on waste water discharge from the site?

8. Water treatment is a specialty operation and can be costly especially relating to toxic chemicals used in past mining operations. Additionally, if operated privately what assurances are planned to oversee and monitor the water discharge program for water quality and to maintain an adequate operation budget for operating the facility even if the price of gold declines.

9. This is project is designated a Superfund Site which during the cleanup operation the public could be exposed to any number of toxic wastes in addition to the water being discharged. How will the dust, debris, public safety from trucking materials from the site be performed and monitored?

10. Noise created from mining operations is very loud when conveyors, ore crushers and grinders are used to process the material. The Nevada County sound ordinance is very restrictive even during daylight operations and far more restrictive at night. How will noise be measured, mitigated and monitored?

11. Many of the jobs being supplied would likely be filled with out of town residents which will impact local services, roads and current infrastructure. What is the financial benefit of this project for the residents of the county? Providing local jobs for mining workers is not much of a benefit to residents who would be impacted from this operation. There are no goods and services being provided for the local community as a result of this industrial operation.

12. This is a mining operation located in the middle of a town. While historically mines have a long history of operation in Nevada County, this site has been surrounded by residential and commercial development since it was closed in 1956. This operation is inconsistent with current land uses and poses a significant threat to the environment. Reopening a mine for a commercial enterprise provides very little benefit to the residents of the county and potentially carries a high risk to health and the quality of life to both the surrounding community as well as the Wolf Creek watershed. The project as outlined should be rejected, at least at the scale being proposed. The only economic benefit of the project is for the mine owners which would come at the expense of the county residents and the Wolf Creek ecosystem. For the planned 80 years of operation of the facility, which will only operate when the price of gold is high enough to be profitable, the

county and the taxpayers may have to assume many the risks of the project if the operator becomes insolvent. With an operation that is tied to the price of a fluctuating commodity, there is no certainty that promises made for any mitigation efforts can be fulfilled. What is the backup plan if the mine suddenly closes or changes hands to another foreign investor who does not comply with environmental or operational agreements?

13. How are the visual impacts of a 165 foot high headframe building proposed to be mitigated? What alternatives have been proposed to reduce the height of this structure? What is the impact to air operations at the local airport for a structure this high? The tallest buildings in Nevada County are about 3 stories and this structure is more than 16 stories high which would have a visual impact for a great distance.

14. The power use proposed for the project is estimated at 42,747,000 Kilowatt hours per year, about the amount used in 5,000 homes. How will the project be supplied power and what is the impact on the power grid? Assuming the 24 hours a day operation on the site how will power be provided during the blackout periods which have been common with PG&E which have lasted for days? How will the power disruptions which would impact the dewatering and water treatment be mitigated?

15. What recourse does the public have to repair environmental damage to the Wolf Creek watershed in the event of treatment failure, abandonment of operations or poor design and improper analysis of impacts to the watershed from operations of this project?

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary M. Baker

12373 Creek View Drive
Grass Valley, Calif. 95949

From:	Gary Baker
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Ed Scofield
Subject:	Scoping comments for Idaho Maryland mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:09:21 PM
Attachments:	Letter to County Scoping Session 8-14-2020.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley

Attached are my comments on the scoping portion of the EIR being prepared for the Idaho Maryland mine project.

Gary Baker
Plan-aire
530 268-3500

From: Miles Baker
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine scope question
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:05:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Miles Baker, resident of Nevada County. This is me submitting a question for the public hearing on the Idaho Maryland mine.

How much total earth will be mined a week in order to upkeep the proposed mine and is this amount subject to change based on the success of finding or not finding gold ?

three dozen dangerous chemicals including:

- arsenic
- lead
- mercury
- petroleum byproducts
- acids
- cyanide

Mining companies around the world routinely dump toxic waste into rivers, lakes, streams and oceans – our research has shown 180 million tonnes of such waste annually. But even if they do not, such toxins often contaminate waterways when infrastructure such as tailings dams, which holds mine waste, fail.

According to the UNEP there have been over 221 major tailings dam failures. These have killed hundreds of people around the world, displaced thousands and contaminated the drinking water of millions.

From: Mr Bren <mrbrenesl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:34 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Hi. Thank you for accepting this comment on the proposed gold mine in Nevada County

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Mr Bren** <mrbrenesl@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2020, 9:31 PM
Subject: Hi. Thank you for accepting this comment on the proposed gold mine in Nevada County
To: <matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us>

Dear Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner,

I am against the Idaho Maryland mine reopening due to water contamination and other environmental impacts.
Modern gold mining produces cyanide, and as discussed in the image and link the tailings dams can fail.
Please do a thorough Environmental assessment and please block this mine. I do not want the possibility of water contamination and other environmental problems.
Thank you,
Bren Banister
Nevada City resident

https://earthworks.org/campaigns/no-dirty-gold/impacts/water/

From: ojbarba
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: RISE GOLD EIR
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I live on Jones Ridge Road, uphill from Brunswick/Bennett/Greenhorn Road.
I have the same concerns with regard to water wells in the area today as I had when the previous mining company was in the permitting process.
Mine shafts from all previous mines in the area are likely geologically interconnected.
There is no data to say they are not.
Rise Gold should not be granted any approval of their EIR until they will ensure that
they will bear the cost of connecting NID water to ALL residents whose well production
decreases once the mine dewatering is in process.
I vehemently oppose any approval of Rise Gold project unless I am guaranteed by them that
my current well is protected or will be replaced by connection to NID with all connection and continuing
costs to be incurred incurred by Rise Gold.

O. J. Barba
17790 Jones Ridge Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Gabe Barber
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,
I live on Banner Mountain, of Idaho-Maryland. I have several major concerns about the proposed reopening of the mine.

1. How this will impact our well.
2. Increased traffic on Brunswick, East Bennett, and Whispering Pines.
3. Noise pollution in our quiet community.

Thank you,
Gabe Barber

From: Jamie Barber
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:28:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jamie Barber
167 S. Auburn Street
Grass Valley, CA,95945
Jamie@jamiebarber.com
530-559-8536

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada County resident for over 27 years. I was raised here as of age 10 and now married, live here with my family and we are raising children of our own. We love this community and both my wife and I work here professionally. I am in real estate and she is in the medical field.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine and the impact the mine will have to private wells, Real Estate Values in the area surrounding the mine, Commercial Real Estate and businesses in the area, noise, traffic and the general wellbeing of our community. I would urge you to request a study on the above items so that the general public can be well informed about what might happen if this mine opens. Also can you please tell me how these items are being addressed and researched by the County and by the Mining Company?

I know historically our towns were built because of mining but now in a heavily populated area that has become a wonderful destination for retirement, tourism and the ability to live in the foothills, it is my opinion personally and professionally that this mine opening will have a negative impact or our community.

Feel free to give me a call or send me an email should you have any questions regarding my request to study the above mentioned items and learn more about the proposed impacts this mine will have locally.

Sincerely,

Jamie Barber - REALTOR®

Network Real Estate
167 South Auburn Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
CALBRE#:01495486
C: 530.559.8536 | O: 530.271.3848 | F: 530-272-8703
www.JamieBarber.com | Search Properties Here! | Testimonials Here!
A Network Real Estate Top Producer

Master's Club Member & Past Board of Directors for NCAOR

From: Lisa Barker
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: RE: Idaho Maryland Mine to Re-Open
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:03 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Lisa Barker
12436 Beaver Drive
Grass Valley, CA, 95945
lisaloveskai@gmail.com
530-575-8588

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 11 years and counting. My family and I are transplanted from the Bay Area. We are drawn to this area because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and the quality of education for our children. I believe our town will be able to find innovative ways to thrive, amidst Coronavirus threats, and we will all be stronger, including smarter decisions of the management of our natural resources unique to our foothill environment.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation

Sincerely,

Lisa Barker

-----Original Message-----
From: Carmen Roxy Barrios <rox1love@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am extremely opposed to this mine you want to start. My parents have lived on Greenhorn road for 55 years. I grew up there and now I recently purchased a home on Greenhorn road. I wouldn't have purchased this home if I knew there was going to be a mine coming in. It will ruin our water. It will cause too much truck traffic and it will lower our home value. Please tell me and my family that you

will not let this mine go through.
Thank you ,
Carmen Barrios.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alison Barrow <alison.barrow@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Environmental Impact of Rise Gold project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alison Barrow <alison.barrow@gmail.com>
Date: August 17, 2020 at 5:01:44 PM PDT
To: bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us
Subject: Environmental Impact of Rise Gold project

Dear Mr Kelley and The Nevada County Board of Supervisors

My name is Alison Barrow and I live in Idaho Maryland Road with my three and five-year-old daughters along with my

husband. We are both emergency physicians well at the heart of the current pandemic. I am gravely concerned about the environmental impacts the same poses to my family. I fear that it will adversely affect our current well water be a continual round the clock noise pollution and the traffic that this mine could induce may very well drive my husband and I to leave the area.

Below are some of the questions about environmental Impact that I have:

Explosives:

• Please describe all explosives that will be used in the project by type, with the projected weights or volumes anticipated to be used per month and per year. This must include a time weighted projection for the first 10 years of operations

• What are the maximum volumes or weights that will be stored for each type (total volume or weights on site) at any one time, including blasting caps and materials (detonators, primacord, etc.) used for detonation.

• How will the explosives be stored?. Where will they be stored? Include drawings of storage sites and types of containment that will be used and proposed security

measures to alleviate theft, plus required ventilation requirements.

• If the maximum potential onsite explosive material were to explode, describe the blast range and level of damage to the site and the surrounding structures to a distance of 15 miles from the site.. What would be the anticipated cost of repairing damage or recovering the economic impact on the community for such an explosion. Please describe the methodology used in determining damage and provide sample calculations that will define potential dollar amounts. Will you provide a bond to cover all such damage to be used in case of unplanned explosions covering all of the times of operation and 50 years beyond the actual operation of the site.

• How will these materials be transported into Nevada County (trains, trucks, other vehicles) and what routes will be used?

Sound:

• What type of equipment will be used for sound (air blast) monitoring. What limits in peak overpressure readings will you maintain and at what distances from the site.

• How many units will be deployed, and in what

configuration?

• Please provide maps of the expected sound levels using lines of equal decibels and/or peak overpressure units to a distance of 15 miles from the site and from transportation routes.

• What mitigation methods will be deployed if sound levels exceed permissible limits? What is the cost of that mitigation?

Vibration

• What type of equipment will be used for monitoring ground vibration?

• How many units will be deployed, and in what configuration?

• Please provide maps showing the expected vibration levels in units of inches per second at locations to 15 miles from the site, including major and historic structures. Include the locations of major and historic structures or public works that you have studied. In addition, provide a plan for surveying pre-existing damage to said structures and your plan to use this survey to determine damage that may be claimed to be

the result of the work.

• What mitigation methods will be deployed if vibration levels exceed permissible levels or vibration damage is shown to be caused by the work? What is the anticipated cost of mitigation and repairs to damage? Will you hold bonds to guarantee the repair of said structures.

Bankruptcy or Premature Closing

• In the event the project becomes economically infeasible, due to factors such as fines for excessive violations, poor performance of the operation resulting in economic loss, or new environmental standards which cannot be feasibly complied with, and the company decides to declare bankruptcy and walk away, what operations would be required to return the land to a pristine and usable space? (For example closing of the ponds, disposal of hazardous material, mitigation of unwanted changes to the water table, etc.) What is the estimated cost of such activity?

• What new needs for mitigation might arise after closing, such as water table loss, sink holes, etc ? What are the projected mitigation costs for these?

• How would the costs be expected to rise over the next 80

years.

• What is the methodology and expected costs for mitigating all losses of well water in such a case for a one hundred year time frame?

• Will you provide bonds to fully insure the county and it's citizens against all such losses?

Unforeseen Connections to Unknown Shafts

• Since Nevada County is underlain with many mine shafts and tunnels many of which may not be currently located, what are the expected consequences of opening connections to those underground structures and facilities?

• Those structures are known to be currently flooded. If they are subsequently dewatered and drained, this will in all likelihood lower the water table for in that area. Please explain how such an event of this nature will be mitigated, and at what cost? Will the mine operation cover all costs of lost water and of drilling wells to deeper levels to reach the revised water table at existing wells in the area?

• What is the possibility that sink holes will be created in

either the projected, and /or unplanned for areas of the county. How will those be mitigated? What are the estimated costs for such mitigation on all public and private lands and structures outside of and within the site limits?

• Please provide maps of the greatest possible area that could possibly require mitigation in this circumstance..

Oversight

• HIstory has shown our citizens that government entities are often ill equipped to monitor large and complex projects.

• Are the interests of Nevada County best served by hiring an independent engineering firm to continually monitor all aspects of the operation and report all violations of agreements, laws, and regulations to the county, and all other appropriate entities? We expect that all costs of such oversight would be borne by the corporation. The County should choose a firm to perform this work and the firm will report directly to the County, with monthly reports to the Corporation.

Water

• What measures will be taken by the corporation to monitor in advance of any construction or mining on site the existing nature of all water and waterways within a distance of 15 miles of the site to define the clarity, potability, chemical make-up, and the existing contamination of the waters. . This will include groundwater from wells and other sources of water beneath the surface of the area of land up to 15 miles distance from the site. It will also include measurements of depth to the water table, flow characteristics of the groundwater, including direction of travel and relative velocity of the flow. ‘

• Will these measures be monitored during the mining every six months during operations, and for 15 years after the end of active mining. Will any variation in the conditions be cause for more frequent monitoring, perhaps weekly monitoring when conditions require it, as defined by the County’s hired consulting engineering firm

• Will all remedial actions required to return the water quality, quantity, and flow characteristics to conditions that existed prior to the start of mining operations be compensated to the County by the Corporation.

Settling and Retention Ponds

• What are the presently anticipated locations and sizes (acres

and volumes) of settling and retention ponds.

• How will these facilities be expanded or otherwise changed to handle larger amounts of water removed from the excavation as mining continues.

• What are the anticipated volumes of groundwater per day that will be pumped from the mine over the first 10 years of operation. Please submit all calculations used in preparing these figures.

Toxic Environmental Impacts

• Provide a summary of the processes used to extract gold and other minerals or materials from the rock removed from the ground. Please provide maps and calculations of all tailing piles for all muck and other waste products from the mining operation.

• Include all chemicals that will be used in the process, both underground, and for above-ground processing of the gold. Describe the "collectors, promotors, frothers, and flocculants" used during the project. How will process chemicals or solids be removed from the water pumped from the mine before disposal. Define the way the water quality will be monitored and measured prior to disposal. Where will

treated water be disposed of?

• Please provide data and calculations that support the viability of use of clay-lined ponds. Please submit drawings and specifications for construction of all water retaining ponds, basins and structures. Please explain your processes for capturing and disposing of any toxic evaporation (vapors, contaminants, volatile gases and oils from the ponds or tailing piles.

• The retention ponds and basin are said to be designed to accommodate up to a 100-year storm, however in light of global warming, storm systems in the region will, without a doubt, exceed those levels frequently, especially over the projected 80 year life of the project. What calculations demonstrate adequate planning for more adverse weather conditions?

Spoil Disposal

• Assuming the volume of tailings and spoil exceeds local demand for such material, what will be done with it? Where will it go, and by what means? What are the transportation impacts of this?

• What hazardous, or dangerous materials might be contained

in the ore, such as asbestos, silica, other dusts. What do your exploratory borings or historical rock and spoil samples from previous mining periods in the area indicate? What is the potential for this material to leach into the ground, or pass through to the water disposed after treatment to local water courses or into groundwater? .

• What is the potential that a percentage of it becomes airborne? At what levels?. How will this be measured and monitored? How will this be mitigated? In addition, how will airborne contaminants from diesel powered mining equipment, haul trucks, personnel vehicles, motorized air compressors, etc be mitigated?. Who will define the allowable levels of such toxic gases. In short, how can our community trust these findings and be assured that limits on the types and quantities of airborne toxic material, which are often set by the industries as the result of extensive lobbying, will be monitored and be dealt with appropriately?

• In what cases should the country look to establishing its own acceptable levels of potential pollution?

Forest Damage

• Many ponderosa pines in the county have been killed by bark beetles taking advantage of the drought which renders the trees incapable of producing the sap necessary to fight off

the beetles. It appears the cost to me for dealing with these trees in my yard will be between $20,000 and $30,000. Untouched they could easily destroy one of the nearby houses. That's very real to me. Several of my neighbors have been hit even harder. Certainly lowering the water table could put many thousands of trees at additional risk, at a huge cost to local land owners. But this is a complex problem and it is difficult to find a specific fault for any one tree (was it drought, the fault of the mine, or both?)

• How then does the mine propose to mitigate the further non-specific, but very costly damage to our trees.

Impacts on Streets, Roads and other Public Utilities.

• What will be the additional costs of maintaining the local roads with 1,000 tons a day being transported? Decades of 24 hour trucking operations will produce much higher rates of wear and tear on roads used by the Corporation. How much will the Corporation provide for added maintenance. Similar questions arise when considering utilities (water lines, sewers, electricity, telephone and cable communications) buried beneath our streets will also be subject to greater-than-normal wheel loads and resulting movement and displacement over time. The same arguments apply to the impacts of additional employees commuting over these roads 365 days a year?

Exhaust

• What air scrubbers and other filtering do you expect to use?

• Please provide calculations for the results of particulate matter that will be driven by fans out of the mine.

• What are the calculations and mitigation for the exhausted air carrying the smoke and such from blasting.. The smoke usually contains some chemicals from the explosions. What happens to those.

• What type of fans will be used, how will they be situated, and what noise levels are expected?

Property Values

How will the loss of high tech firms, both existing and future, who move to Nevada County for its quality of life, and relative quiet, affect the economic viability of the community?

In the event that property values in the affected neighborhoods suffer a significant loss, will these be mitigated? If so, please describe the process. Who would

administer said program?

Other

• Should the county require all electric vehicles, especially for all truck transport.

• How many Plug-ins for electric cars will be provided?

Thank you for your consideration of these factors, critical to the well being of our Nevada County. I will remember the names of the city planners. Please do not let short term benefit outweigh what appears to be extremely long-term environmental consequences for current residences

Sincerely,

Alison Barrow, M.D

Nevada City, CA

Idaho Maryland Rd

Sent from my iPhone

From: Yvonne
To: Heidi Hall; Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Oppose the Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:12:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Yvonne Bartlett

14210 Raccoon Mountain Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I have been a resident of Grass Valley for over 40 years. When I lived off Idaho-Maryland on 13519 Tranquility Lane in the '80's a nearby resident discovered there was exploratory work going on without a proper permit at the Banner Mountain/Lava Cap Mine within walking distance of my home at the time. There was a committee formed, environmental reports finally done by hydrologists, etc and the **EXACT same issues** as stated in the below concerns arose as for the current Idaho-Maryland mine controversy.

While not the only concern, the biggest was "water" and the mining company refused to put up a bond that would insure $ and repairs if any of the housing in the affected area suffered water loss or quality problems. My late husband was on the "Noise" committee and spoke at the Board of Supervisors of above permitted noise decibel that would result from drilling, trucks, traffic, etc. and how it would affect the surrounding homes.

This issue was the impetus for the creation of Banner Mountain Homeowners' Association. We ended up hiring an attorney from Sacramento specializing in Environmental Law and mining in particular which resulted in a ballot for public vote. The voters won to prohibit the mining venture. I would suggest that you review the documents from the Banner Mountain/Lava Cap report and compare the findings for comparison.

Thanks for your consideration and I'd be grateful for a response that you received this letter of opposition to the mine.

Yvonne Bartlett

Home Phone: 273-8661
Cell: 263-1248

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no

possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area.
There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a

significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

On Aug 11, 2020, at 9:48 AM, mike weaver <jm.mp31@hotmail.com> wrote:

Email is fine. Mark Kelley has always responded to my emails.

Sent from Jan Weaver

On Aug 11, 2020, at 9:46 AM, Yvonne <ybartlett@sbbmail.com> wrote:

Am heading to Shawn's and be back tomorrow……Frank & I were on the community action committee for the Banner Mine in '80's…….exact same issues; ended hiring an environmental attorney from Sac. (last name Ramey).

Am in process of composing letter……..planning to email it; should I snail mail also??

yb

On Aug 10, 2020, at 2:10 PM, mike weaver <jm.mp31@hotmail.com> wrote:

I know you don't live here anymore, but this could impact you selling your house. I'm sure it will need to be disclosed or anyone will see all the signs at the corner of Brunswick and Bennett.

So, if you have a moment, perhaps you can send a letter to Mark Kelley and also Heidi Hall and whoever is your new Board of Supervisor. If this goes through, it could impact all of Grass Valley and not just us up here.

Take care, thanks

jan

From: Starshine Ranch <Linda@StarshineRanch.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:20 PM
To: mike weaver <jm.mp31@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Oppose the Mine

Oh Jan... It definitely WILL be a disaster if it goes thru... especially for those of us who live close to Brunswick.
So glad you and everyone else I talk to is on board... we just have to stop it!

On 8/6/2020 1:40 PM, mike weaver wrote:

> Thanks for sending this out. I sent something similar to my group and know of several people sending letters and emails.
>
> This project could be disastrous to us!
>
> Sent from Jan Weaver
>
> > On Aug 5, 2020, at 3:23 PM, Starshine Ranch <Linda@starshineranch.org> wrote:
> >
> > **Hi Leaders,**
> > **One of my neighbors sent this to me and asked me to distribute to my section.**
> > **I thought you should get it too for yours.**
> > **Linda**
> >
> > **Hi Neighbors,**
> > **David Kraus just received this email and asked me to distribute it. I've already written a letter to a few of the "powers that be" and as a Letter to the Editor and I also distributed some info to you earlier but this email has a lot more info in it so please read and please send a letter.**
> > **Linda**
> >
> > > We're facing a crap load of shite with a proposal to reopen a contaminated mine about a mile from our place. I'm gonna copy my letter to the planning department below. I'm trying to get everyone I know to write a letter, or use mine, to respond during this first period of comment on their NOP (notice of preparation).
> > >
> > > Check out this powerful video documentary of what is likely to happen here if this gets approved. It's about a half hour, but tragically interesting.
> > >
> > > https://vimeo.com/120747168
> > >
> > > Use my letter (copied below), or write your own letter of opposition to the board of supervisors and the senior planner of Nevada County strongly opposing the

Idaho-Maryland mine reopening? And, tell everyone you know to do the same. August 17th deadline to send letters - Email to:
Senior planner Matt Kelley
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us

The reopening will devastate our community. All our wells will run dry during their dewatering pump out of the aquifer at 4 million gallons per day for 6 months. The area proposed is so massive underground, it reaches about a 5 to 10 mile radius from Brunswick & Greenhorn.

Tell everyone you know to oppose this.

This organization is on our side. They have lots of info:
https://www.cea-nc.org/mining/now-is-the-time-make-sure-the-county-is-asking-the-right-questions-about-idaho-maryland-mine/

To use my letter, add an opening statement of personal introduction and explain that my letter represents your views and concerns on the matter, in a more effective manner than you might be able to verbalize. State that the potential impacts are so many and so complex, and an invasive mine so unwanted, it is crucial that our community submit the most thorough list of measures that must be taken to prove this should not be allowed happen.
That will provide the personal touch, which I expect they would prefer to see, rather than just receiving the same letter over and over.

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be

comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your

animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or

handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues. Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan:
https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Tony & Lauren Lauria
13784 Greenhorn Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-913-6106

We live just outside of the eastern boundary, but their dewatering will reach way beyond.
<image0.jpeg>

From: Steve and Carolyn Battaini
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Proposal to reopen Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Our family is opposed to the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine on several levels, all levels that will negatively and severely impact the health of our community, now and for the long term. As you go through your process to review the project please remember you are representing all of us, families and neighbors in Nevada County, with thoughtful government actions. I am certain that when you obtain un-biased, independent, comprehensive tests and analyses with hydrologist reports, that understands the geologic fractures and fissures of our area and the EIR analysis of the impacts to area wells, you'll see in detail the dangerous and toxic effects of this proposed project. Extensive reports will provide you with the facts of these complex issues, and point to why we should not allow this project.

As the County considers risking the water levels of all our nearby wells, the purity of our water (not just here but downstream to other communities), the health of the air we breathe (which is already compromised by air from the Valley), and the stability/safety of our local population and their land and homes, remember… remember we are still dealing with the toxic legacy of past gold mining, which left us polluted watersheds, and Superfund sites.

Extensive de-watering would drain our wells in the Greenhorn area, coupled with water pollution of toxic chemicals into the local rivers and downstream, constant noise and blasting vibrations, toxic dust, truck traffic, damaged roads, and increased air pollution could never be outweighed by the benefits our County may or may not receive from the mine.

We will be better off without the IMMC project. Instead I support efforts to capture the green industry or high tech, with federal funding which is being made available for these projects.

As county government representatives you have the obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of our children, jobs, waters, wildlife, air and forests, now and forever. Thank you for your consideration of your constituent's concerns, as you go through the process.

Sincerely,

Carolyn & Steve Battaini
14027 Liquidambar Ln, Grass Valley, CA 95945
C 650-996-1939

Family residence since 1980

From:	Julie Becker
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Rise Gold Mine Proposal
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 6:46:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner for Nevada County

From: Julie Becker 13345 Evergreen Drive Nevada City

Dear Mr. Kelley,

As a resident of Nevada County, I have deep environmental concerns regarding the proposed Rise Gold Mine -- a venture that leaves me with many worrisome questions:

1) How will our air quality be affected by all the heavy diesel exhaust put out by 20 to 40 ton open hauler trucks transporting mine tailings to the dump site?

2) Since mine tailings typically have elevated levels of lead, arsenic and other metals, what amount of toxins will be in the dust stirred up and scattered from hauling and dumping?

3) How will the enormous hauler trucks safely make a left turn on to Whispering Pines across two lanes of uphill traffic on Brunswick Road?

4) If the heavy-duty trucks make 100 trips a day from the Rise Gold site to the Centennial dumping site, will Rise Gold take responsibility for road maintenance?

5) How will all the truck trips affect the normal flow of traffic on Brunswick Road? And how will this affect the lives of people who live here?

6) Since tilted rock strata in the foothills can draw down water levels from miles away, how will the dewatering of the existing mine shaft affect the water table in the region?

7) As part of the dewatering process, will there be an adequate treatment process ... preventing toxic materials from discharging into Wolf Creek?

8) And considering the proposed discharge rate of 2500 gallons per minute, what will happen to the water level in Wolf Creek ... especially during the rainy season?

9) How do you expect residents to tolerate the extremely high noise levels caused by drills and blasts in the mining area ... bearing in mind that sound travels in the air as well as through vibrations in the earth?

10) How will this dreadful project affect real estate values in the

region? Who would want to live in an area bombarded with noise, traffic and bright lights throughout the night?

I could go on and on and ask more questions, but I think I'll stop at ten. All in all, I have to say ... I'm appalled by the possibility of such a destructive heavy industrial project in Grass Valley. Without a doubt, the project will drastically degrade our natural environment and the well-being of our community.

With concern,

Julie Becker
Nevada City

From: Amber Beckler
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: Planning
Subject: Public Comments on NOP for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:26:18 PM
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

Please accept my comments and acknowledge receipt of this email that is within the COB Aug 17th deadline for public comment.

Having lived in Nevada County from ~2003-2011, and part of that time I lived right along on S. Wolf Creek in Grass Valley near the proposed project site, it is very concerning to hear that mine operations are being evaluated to reopen at the Idaho Maryland Mining site. I understand during these economically challenging times, that local governments are struggling with revenue base and may be eager to reap the perceived benefits of dollars to the County with a project such as this. However, a new mining project could have far reaching implications amounting to a much bigger detriment to the environment, the people living nearby and negative impact economically via lost tourism. The risk of this project needs to be carefully considered.

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report primarily related to sections, "Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources", "Hydrology & Water Quality", "Landuse & Planning", "Cultural (Historical) Resources", 'Public Services Recreation".

The EIR should further analyze:

1) Cultural impacts to the area and economic impacts of lost tourism.

The Grass Valley/Nevada City and surrounding area is a unique treasure in the Sierra Foothills with amazing natural resources and a community of great people and culture. If a major mining operation were to reopen, I along with many other visitors would be less inclined to visit the area. Who wants to get away to an active "mining town"?. Per CEQA, this definitely "has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation" and therefore needs to be considered in the Cultural (Historical) Resources section at minimum. In addition, due to the potential impacts to the recreational value of the area, this should be included in the "Public Services Recreation" section or where appropriate. There should be quantifiable and qualitative impacts measured and documented from the loss of tourism in the broader Grass Valley/Nevada City area based on turning a natural treasure known for dedication to

preservation of those "wild and scenic" places into a DeFacto mining town.

2) Requested zoning change and variances appear to be self-induced and amounting to "special privelage".

The request for a rezone to allow Mining Operations (adding ME to industrial zoning district) and the variances outlined in the Management Plan component to allow for development within the required 100-foot setback from the high water mark of existing Perennial Streams, within the required 100 feet from all Wetlands and Riparian Areas, within the required 50 feet from the high water mark of Intermittent Streams, within the required 100-foot setback of 100-year floodplain (Wolf Creek) and within areas that are greater than 30% slope needs to be based on evidence per the requirements for project variance required by CEQA and per Nevada County's landuse code pertaining to variances.
https://qcode.us/codes/nevadacounty/?view=desktop&topic=3-ii-4-4_3-l__16.

A reasonable person could conclude that the requested variances are not warranted for the project applicant and in fact are self-induced. Evidence should be provided to counter what seems at face value that this is granting "special privilege". "A variance must not constitute the granting of a “special privilege” inconsistent with the limitations on nearby properties. In addition, variances may not be granted to authorize a use or activity that is otherwise not authorized by the zoning regulations."

In addition, further evidence should be detailed to explain how this property's features are unique compared to surrounding properties and therefore puts the project applicant at a disadvantage. When the project applicant/land owner purchased this property (I believe I read in 2017), they would have known the special topographic characteristics such as slope and the proximity to wetlands, riparian areas and within the floodplain. All properties in the vicinity have the same characteristics and therefore this property's features are not unique unique and would have been known prior to purchase. The evidence/findings are required by CEQA. "There should be evidence in the record concerning the size, shape, topography and location of the parcel and any other special circumstances which contribute to the parcel’s uniqueness."

This should be fully detailed and considered in the "Landuse and Planning" section.

3) Inconsistent landuse compared to adjacent properties and in conflict with Grass Valley Sphere of Influence.

My understanding is that a portion of the project site and properties is currently located in the unincorporated portion of Nevada County but also contained in the Grass Valley Sphere of Influence. My understanding is that the landuse designated in the Sphere of Influence is Business Park and Residential, not Industrial use. Furthermore, the surrounding properties are primarily residential. The requested zoning change to allow mining opertaions is inconsistent with adjacent properties and seems to be in conflict with the future intended use of this area as envisioned by the City of Grass Valley. This should be fully detailed and considered in the

"Landuse and Planning" section.

4) Mining operations and the initial dewatering process in particular will have potentially unavoidable negative impacts.

These impacts will pose risk to the biolical resources and the hydrolgic structure of connected waterways and wetlands. Mitigation and monitoring programs likely would not account for the negative imapcts. The initial dewatering even if treated, being dumped into a natrual riparian waterway like S. Wolf Creek could have irreputable damage to the bank structure, habitat for countless plant and animal species, adversely impact wildlife populations due to water temperature differences, pH and dilution of nutrients and turbidity. Therefore, all of these elements should be evaluated for the S. Wolf Creek and connecting waterways, wetlands, etc. This impact analysis is essential as part of the "Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources" and "Hydrology & Water Quality" sections of the EIR or where approrpriate.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have. Thank you for your consideration and integration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Amber Beckler

8970 Benton Acre Rd

Granite Bay, CA 95746

personal email: zagnut@hotmail.com

mobile phone: 530-210-3787

From: Junet Bedayn
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Letter concerning the Idaho Maryland Gold Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:20:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Junet Bedayn** <junetmbedayn@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 4:58 PM
Subject: Letter concerning the Idaho Maryland Gold Mine
To: <matt.kelley@co.nevada.us>

Junet Bedayn
311 Bernice Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
junetmbedayn@gmail.com
530 798 1046

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I am writing concerning the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Gold Mine. I have lived in Grass Valley for 20 years, and I have a deep love for our natural environment. The idea of re-opening the mine is concerning for multiple reasons that I would like to be considered.
The first is the decrease in air quality that would occur with so many rocks being torn up from the soil a day.
The second is how the mine would economically impact our town, as we have few mining engineers, and thus local workers could lose out on job opportunities.
The third is how harmful the dewatering process would be. Having all the sitting water in the mines go into the South Fork Wolf Creek would be incredibly damaging to that ecosystem, as well as many of our local wells.
It also seems that the safety involved in this project is questionable. Explosives such as ANFO are better not stored in Grass Valley.
For these reasons, and many others, I strongly urge you to deny the request to reopen the dam.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Junet Bedayn

From: Tom Behlmer
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold hydrology report vs. Emgold
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:12:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

The Emgold hydrology report indicates four wells are at risk of dewatering. However, the Emgold report indicates 11 wells at high risk and one at moderate, and 30 at low risk of dewatering.

This is from the Emgold report: " Based upon the significance criteria established on page 4.3-4, the risk to all wells within the study area, regardless of risk category, represents a potentially significant impact."

Here is the link to the page from the Emgold hydrology report if you would like to review: https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b9685697-c6c9-423d-b1d3-4c9b97e06f9f#pageNum=1

Emgold was willing to pay for hookups AND water to affected homes whereas Rise is only willing to pay for hookups. Why should homeowners have to subsidize Rise?

I would think the discrepancy between the two hydrology reports is a red flag particularly since the CEO of Rise has had some issues previously.

Tom Behlmer
12448 Old Mine
Grass Valley 95945

From: Daniel Behn <born2xss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise gold mining project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I personally do not this coming destroying our already fragile ecological system. Our water will be contaminated, I have no doubts about this. Also the noise pollution has already raised its ugly head in the past. Don't we have enough problems on our plate what with the virus. And how many police officers are you prepared to hire to deal with protests.

I say NO THANK YOU

From: annas_art@sbcglobal.net
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:05 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Diana M. Behn
12424 Sesame St.
Nevada City, Ca. 95959
(408) 728-0530

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Although I am a resident of Nevada City the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine will have a very negative impact on residents of both Nevada City and Grass Valley. I have lived in Nevada City for six years but I have family ties that date back to the late 1800's. I like to think that our cities have worked hard to be environmentally conscious about how we affect our planet. This is a great direction given our past history that damaged our land/cities so much.
I don't think my ancestors had any idea the repercussions mining would have on cities even today. Superfund sites still continue to be an issue. I have neighbors in my Banner Mountain community who are unable to use their wells due to toxins from prior mining activity. This has a definite impact on property values and homeowners health.

Our waterways are a beautiful and vital part of our communities. Why would we allow any company to use them to get rid of supposedly cleaned wastewater? We are already dealing with contaminates from the homeless and from illegal grows. We really don't need another battle.

I love our little communities and the peacefulness that's found here. Our traffic can get quite heavy in the Brunswick area already. I cannot imagine what it would be like when trucks start hauling loads. This will increase our pollutants and make driving very unsafe for our communities.

Lastly Rise Gold's management has some sketchy history of terrible business practices and leaving messes behind.

Please stop this from happening!

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,
Diana Behn

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nicole Bejsovec
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No way
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

please consider the people and the environment. This mine is a horrible idea. Please don't reopen the mine.

Nickiebeee@yahoo.com
Grass valley, ca

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

















Please take these comments and questions into consideration. Nevada County has a big decision ahead of them and this impacts our entire community.

1. How will Nevada County safeguard the local tributaries and eco system, should Rise Gold begin operations?
2. What is the plan for monitoring the site thru the life span of the mine?
3. What is the cost to the community in order to monitor the site and will there be unscheduled visits to the mine?
4. Is there a mining expert/inspector to be hired thru the County to be reassured requirements are being upheld by Rise Gold?
5. What tests will be conducted on an ongoing basis?
6. What is being done to make certain the filtration pond is engineered and brought up to today's standards? The waste pond on site was built in the 1950s?
7. With increasing storm run off during the Winter season, what steps are being taken to assure the filtration pond never fails. Back up plan? (As our waste water treatment center has in the past had issues and the toxicity levels for mining are much more impactful.)
8. As drilling expands with the mine, how will we know what toxins are coming to the surface and interacting with air and water to create additional toxicity?
9. Does Nevada County have any knowledgeable miners available to work this mine? Or is this workforce coming from the State of Nevada?
10. What does the community of Nevada County get in return for allowing the mine to open? Can that be disclosed? What exactly does our community get out of it?

We need transparency! Rise Gold is planning on using our roads and using our tributaries like Wolf Creek to release mine water. These creeks run through our town, run thru our backyards and are on

our own personal properties. Why should Ben Mossman have a right to use any of our community resources for his personal gain? He has a history of disrespecting rules, permit processes and the value of nature.

Denise Bellas, LEED AP BD&C
Architectural Consultant
C 415.300.6701
DBellas@royalplywood.com

Need Samples?
Order by 4pm, receive them next day!
www.royalplywood.com

Mr. Matt Kelley-Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley,

RE: Idaho Maryland Mine

I oppose the re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine. What a horrible addition to our environment and community.

Here are my reasons for opposing this:

1. The impact on our environment would not be good.
2. The removing of ground water
3. Traffic
4. Noise

DO NOT LET THIS PROJECT MOVE FORWARD

Thank you,

Brett Bennett
212 Richardson Street, Unit A
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: pabby
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Grass Valley
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are strongly opposed to the opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. We have ALREADY been affected environmentally by the exploratory drilling that was done in 2019. We have property off Bennett in a cluster of 4 homes that have had a deeded natural spring for our water supply since the mid 1920's. Our spring went dry last spring and we all had to drill wells and install water softeners at great expense and trouble. Of course, this can't be proven and our pockets are not deep enough to try to get any restitution, but there have been other precedents in Nevada County. In NSJ, 1996 to 2012, people had trouble with their wells. there was fund established to rectify any loss of water, and naturally, the mines money ran out before every one was satisfied.

There are many other reasons not to open the mine, traffic, air quality, noise, and some I haven't thought of.

Vote us OUT ! Patricia Bennett, Paul Bettencourt, and Mary Bettencourt
Nevada county tax payers

From: Brett Bennett <bbrettmb@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley-Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley,

RE: Idaho Maryland Mine

I oppose the re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine. What a horrible addition to our environment and community.

Here are my reasons for opposing this:

1. The impact on our environment would not be good.
2. The removing of ground water
3. Traffic
4. Noise

DO NOT LET THIS PROJECT MOVE FORWARD

Thank you,

Brett Bennett
212 Richardson Street, Unit A
Grass Valley, CA 95945

See attached

From: paulina fluffyco
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:52:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

My location is off of Wintergate Way, up on Banner Mountain in Nevada City, 95959. I am happy to provide my exact address if and when needed.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project. I oppose this project based on concerns that the project will negatively affect natural soil and water resources, that it will cause traffic congestion in the area that could be dangerous in a natural disaster or fire evacuation situation, and that it is furthering a painful history of natural resource extraction without considering or compensating the Nisenan tribe, who is native to the area.

How are the applicants going to ensure that there is no contamination or other negative effects to surface and ground water in the immediate area of Grass Valley and Nevada City? My home is dependent on a well and I am concerned it could affect the water level in my area so i would have to dig deeper to access water at a significant cost.

Also, how can the applicant ensure there will not be any unwanted seismic activity, like the earthquakes from fracking for example, from their operations at this proposed mine?

Are the applicants going to work with the Nisenan tribe to make sure the mines and related setup and operations do not damage sites that are important to their culture? I feel that this is imperative given the area's history of extraction and lack of consideration of native people. This is not the time to repeat painful histories and mistakes.

i look forward to your answers
paulina berczynski
Nevada County resident

From:	Cheryl Berkema
To:	Matt Kelley; Planning
Subject:	Public Comments on Notice of Preparation - Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:51:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

Please accept my comments for public comment on the Notice of Preparation - Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

As a Placer County resident for over 20 years, I frequently travel to the Grass Valley area. Residents across California and especially from the bay area, Sacramento County, and Placer County, travel the scenic route to Tahoe through Grass Valley. The prospect of mine operations reopening the Idaho Maryland Mining site is not only incompatible with the identification of the scenic route, but also impacts wildlife, the natural resources, the quality of life of local residents, local infrastructure and services. It is very concerning to hear that mine operations are being evaluated to reopen the mining site. Reopening the mining project will likely have significant impacts on traffic, air quality, water quality, roads, wildlife, and local resident's enjoyment of their properties.

The EIR should include the following in analysis:

1) Impacts to local businesses that rely on visitors traversing the scenic route. Input from residents and local businesses regarding impact to local economy if the mining site is reopened should be evaluated. Also, revamping of mining sites is expensive. The damage to the land, cleanup of toxic materials, and restoring the waterways, analysis of previous damage is expensive.

2) California has targets for 2030 for Sustainability, this project clearly moves the needle for sustainability in the wrong direction.

- The project should evaluate how it will meet sustainability goals for California. The project should evaluate GHG emissions.
- The project should evaluate use of Solar and other technologies to show that the project is in compliance and improves sustainability.

3) An industrial land use is incompatible with surrounding zoning and land uses. Residents and businesses will suffer loss of the use and enjoyment of their properties with the addition of a heavy usage of large scale and frequent operations. A single land owner is benefiting from an industrial land use.

4) The Mining operations will likely have significant impacts to Health and Safety of residents and wildlife

- Impacts to the waterway should be evaluated.
- Impacts to the wildlife relying upon the waterway with mining operations should be evaluated. The water quality and expected changes to the water levels should be evaluated. Impacts to local wells should be evaluated.
- Impacts to roadways and infrastructure should be evaluated for safety.
- Impacts to residents' health due to the mining operation's noise pollution, mining chemicals/agents, dust, and GHG emissions should be evaluated.

5) Affordable Housing should be evaluated

This project will add the need for additional housing for workers both for onsite workers and truck drivers. California is far behind already in providing affordable housing. The project should address how this will be accomplished.

6) The Mitigation and monitoring for the project should address periodic checks provided by the county

- Regular checks for particulates that could be problematic for health should be performed on the site
- Checks should be performed in the waterway
- Checks should be performed to ensure local wells are not being negatively impacted by the project
- The project should provide sufficient law enforcement for noise complaints along with a mechanism to log complaints
- Traffic should be monitored to ensure detrimental impacts are being managed

Thank you for your consideration of my comments for inclusion in the NOP. Please include my comments as part of the administrative record.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Berkema
8803 Quartzite Circle
Granite Bay, CA 95746
cheryl.berkema@gmail.com

916 202-7957

From: Luke Berliner
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:01:28 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly

I am writing you today to oppose the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. In its current proposed state.

I am concerned about the potential impacts of reopening the mine for the following reason.

From a noise pollution standpoint my grandparents and many residence nearby are already impacted by the airport business park. Further industrial development will only reduce the home value near by and if any of the land is spoiled from the slag storage then redeveloping it for future business parks or residences will be very costly. Not to mention the disruption to the wild life living in the space. There is a greater abundance of while life due to the expansive open space found in the Empire State Park and Loma Rica Ranch.

I am also concerned about the potential impacts to the watershed as many of the homes in the area rely on wells for their water including my family's residence. I do not feel sufficient research or protections have been put into place to safeguard us from the impacts. Has a bond or financial guarantee been put in place incase something goes wrong? More studies and protections need to be done and put into place when removing such toxic water from the mine and transporting it through our natural water ways? This county should be known for the vibrant clean rivers and streams that attract so many swimmers, fishers and hikers. It would be a major disservice to the future of this community to have Nevada County be synonymous with tainted water from mine tailings. When you hear of Flint what do you know them for now? For their horrible water crisis and the whole country and world has that fresh in their minds. Why repeat it.

I am also worried about the potential impact reopening the mine could have to tourism in the town, which I feel is one of the greatest future economic assets we have in our community. Have the impacts of the reopening been evaluated against the loss of tourism in our local community?

Growing up in Nevada County I have always been intrigued by the rich mining history of the town and all the artifacts left behind from the mining days. And while the mining heritage may be why we are here today I don't feel it is the future forward for our community. I am deeply concerned for the impacts this could have to the watershed, the use of our road ways and local infrastructure and its potential impact and risk to the tourism which is one of the main pillars of the local economy.

While I can see how this is an attractive option for short term gain In the long view when you look at the continued growth of outdoor tourism in our community will provide a far broader economic benefit to more local business owners than the short lived reopening to the mine.

Thank you,

Luke Berliner

From: Robert Berman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine EIR
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 6:26:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Robert Berman
12399 Clipper Creek
Nevada City, Ca 95959
I live on Banner Mountain and am very concerned about this proposed mine reopening. I would like to see the following issues addressed in the EIR.
1) what adverse effects to our well water quality and quantity are possible?
2) what mitigation measures will be available if we experience water problems?
3) how much dust and other pollutants will be caused by the refurbishing and operating of the mine?
4) how much noise pollution will be caused be the refurbishing and operating of the mine?
5) what will be the effect on traffic on Brunswick during the refurbishing and operating of the mine?
6) people are part of the environment. The EIR should obtain the opinions on opening the mine of local residents.
7) will there be a ballot measure to allow residents to forbid the reopening of the mine?
Robert Berman
470-0132

Sent from my iPad

From: Erin Berquist
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:30:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Erin Berquist

10548 Boulder St
Nevada City, CA 95959
berquizzle@gmail.com
(530) 913-1388

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am a Registered Nurse, and a Nevada City resident for the last 15 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to local food, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Sincerely,

Erin Berquist

--
Erin Silverman

From:	Defend Granite Bay - A Community Association
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Alliance For Environmental Leadership
Subject:	Comments on NOP for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Projectt
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 1:08:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,
Please accept my comments on the **Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project**

At this time, it seems inappropriate to reopen a mining operation. California is faced with rolling power outages, drought conditions, wildfires and loss of valuable biological resources. As per The World Counts, the gold industry uses 90,000 KJ per gram of gold produced equivalent to one day electricity use of an average household. [1] During the weekend of 8/15-16/2020 PG&E was forced to use rolling blackouts to conserve energy due to high temperatures leaving many households without electricity. A utility intensive industry requiring consistent use of explosives to be transported along routes 174 and 20, in close proximity to Grass Valley which is designated a California High Fire Hazard Area seems irresponsible. At the very least, the operation should pledge to join "The No Dirty Gold campaign" initiative which promotes:

"Eliminate worst practices: Several mining companies continue to use archaic and destructive practices that others have rejected – such as dumping contaminated waste directly into rivers and off coastal waters, or mining in protected natural reserves, or using violent security forces or having unsafe working conditions.

Implement best practices: The extensive impacts from mining – even in cases where companies are meeting legally specified guidelines – indicates that mining companies are simply not doing enough to minimize the negative footprint of their operations. Mining companies must do better – for example, by fully funding closure and clean-up of operations after mining ceases, and retraining workers who lose employment after mine closure.

Transparent, independent verification: It isn't sufficient for companies to claim they are meeting best practices – there needs to be independent, third-party verification that they are indeed complying with standards." [4]

1) "119-acre site could be subject to surface disturbance and/or development for the aboveground facilities and fill placement."

Fill extracted from gold mining has been shown to be unsuitable to sustain growth of any kind. This large extraction area poses a risk of airborne toxins during and after construction procedures. What measures are in place to ensure toxic levels of mercury, etc are not beyond Health and Safety Limits? Will soils be routinely analyzed for metals contents?

2) "12 acres would remain as a private driveway for site access and open space. The open space area will include Wolf Creek, a 100-foot setback for riparian area on Wolf Creek, and an undisturbed zone containing special status plant species." Based on the nature of the mining operation, "20 tons of toxic waste for every 0.333-ounce gold ring. The waste, usually a gray liquid sludge, is laden with deadly cyanide and toxic heavy metals."[2]

Evidence that 100 feet is inadequate is that "Dirty gold mining often leads to a persistent problem known as acid mine drainage. The problem results when underground rock disturbed by mining is newly exposed to air and water. Iron sulfides (often called "fool's gold") in the rock can react with oxygen to form sulfuric acid. Acidic water draining from mine sites can be 20 to 300 times more concentrated than acid rain, and it is toxic to living organisms." [2]

Would it not be more appropriate to have **greater than 100 ft set-back** from waterways of the Americas and will the proposal be vetted by the California Water Board?

3) 104 acres would be disturbed as a result of construction of the facilities proposed to support **dewatering**, mining, and processing.

What measures are in place to ensure that "dewatering" will not be contaminated with previous mining toxins? The NOP cites that soils are highly erodible, does this not imply "seepage" of mining by-products cannot be contained? How impermeable is a "clay retention basin"?

"Environmental pollution from gold mines is associated mainly with the release of harmful elements from the tailings and other mine wastes. The infiltration of water through sulphide- containing tailings piles and ponds, surface and underground workings, waste and development rock leads to leaching of large volumes of metals like

Zn^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Pb^{2+}, AS^{2+}, Cu^{2+} and sulphate ions into stream and river ecosystems [36,37]. This results in acid mine drainage (AMD) with severe detrimental effect on the receiving water bodies. Heavy metal pollution and acid mine drainage is a very important environmental concern where waste materials containing metal-rich sulfides from mining activity have been stored or abandoned [38]. Tailings and rock dumps are associated with the surface impacts which greatly affect surface and ground water quality. The underground impacts are caused by the influx of water into the underground workings and the subsequent dewatering of the aquifer [39] [5]

4) The submersible pump gradually pumps water out of the shaft through a pipeline at a rate of approximately 5.6 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 2,500 gallons per minute (gpm). Approximately 2,500 acre-feet of groundwater would be pumped from the underground workings over an approximately six-month period. The groundwater would be pumped through a new pipeline to an existing clay-lined settling pond for water treatment. **The clay-lined pond has a total capacity of approximately 40 acre-feet.**

Is clay an appropriate medium to prevent seepage of toxins into underlying soil? What calculations have been made that the holding capacity of 40-acre feet can adequately contain the flow rates for sufficient time for treatment?

In the event of heavy rains, what measures are in place to contain "spill-over" of the retention basin?

5**)** 24 hours a day, seven days a week - diamond core drilling

What is the noise level impact to adjacent property owner's quality of life as well as financial impacts on property resale?

6) To provide access to the gold mineralization, an extensive network of tunnels and raises would be constructed throughout the life of the mine. The tunnels would be constructed in the non mineralized rock which, at the mine, is typically meta-andesite volcanic rock. The tunnels would be constructed in 10-foot advances per blast (a "round"). A number of parallel holes would be drilled into the rock face, loaded with explosives, and then detonated to fragment the rock. The broken rock would be moved to the surface, the tunnel would be supported with rock bolts and screen, and then the process would start again to continue advancing the tunnel. A number of tunnels would be under construction throughout the mine area at all times during the life of the mine. Explosives to be used would include ammonia nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) and packaged or bulk
emulsion explosives. Explosives are transported to the site from the manufacturer and then immediately moved and stored underground in secure explosive magazines.

A fault line has been identified, there is no mention of "induced seismic activity" as a result of the consistent use of explosives for 80 years?[6]

7) approximately 500 tons per day (182,500 tons per year) of barren rock. The barren rock would be transported from the tunnel face to the mine shaft (using electric or diesel-powered load/haul/dump vehicles, rail cars, and/or conveyors) to underground rock bins located adjacent to the shaft. The rock would then be loaded into the shaft skips, hoisted to the surface, and dropped into one of the compartments of the concrete silo located on the surface. The barren rock will then be transported by trucks on the surface for use as engineered fill.

Will noise impacts of not only drilling but transport and disposition of mining debris need to be analyzed cumulatively?

8**)** The environmental cleanup work at the Centennial Industrial Site will be completed under the DTSC voluntary cleanup program

What enforcement measures are in place to ensure that "Voluntary" cleanup meets DTSC standards?

9) 100-foot setback from the high-water mark of perennial streams and watercourse is required for projects located near stream corridors and riparian habitat.

Would it not be more appropriate to increase the 100 ft set-back to account for a 100-year flood incident to ensure that the toxic by-products and contaminants are even less at risk of endangering the stream corridors and riparian habitat.

10) The average transport of engineered fill would be 1,000 tons per day or 365,000 tons per year. A maximum transport rate of up to 2,000 tons of engineered fill per day is required to make up for periodic weather or operational delays.

Based on 24/7 operation does the noise level of the transport and operation qualify as "Noise pollution" as defined by the CDC and NIH? [7,8]

Occupational noise exposure because of deployment and operation of these machines and plants is a major health hazard that affects millions of mine workers as well **as the residential areas in and around the mining complexes.** Exposure to noise leads to multiple adverse effects on the physical and mental state of the mining community as a whole. Some of these effects, for example, tinnitus, and noise induced hearing loss (NIHL),

reduced performance, sleeping difficulties, disturbance in conversation, annoyance or stress, etc. are well known.

11) initial dewatering 24 hr a day 7 days a week 6 months.

Have impacts to local wildlife been calculated based on changes to inclusive but not exclusive of water temperature, pH, dilution of nutrients and turbidity? [9]

12) Variance to the Building Height Limits to allow for the construction of several structures up to a height of 165 feet, where 45 feet is required.

How is the granting of this self-induced variance not in violation of CEQA? A Variance is to provide relief not amounting to the granting of special privileges within a zoning district.

13) Management Plan component to **allow for development within the required 100-foot setback from the high water mark of existing Perennial Streams, 100 feet from all Wetlands and Riparian Areas and 50 feet from the high water mark of Intermittent Streams**, pursuant to Nevada County Land Use and Development Code, Section L-II 4.3.17 and to minimize the direct impact to Special-Status Plant Species, pursuant to LUDC, Section L-II 4.3.12.

This appears to be in conflict with the project description since a 100ft set-back is required. Based on the environmentally hazardous nature of the project, how will this not pose additional environmental risk?

14) Management Plan component to allow development within a Seismic Hazard Zone and Earthquake Fault Line, pursuant to LUDC, Section L-II 4.3.8.

As previously stated, has the County taken into consideration the impacts of “induced seismic activities”?

15) Management Plan component to allow development within the required 100-foot setback of a 100-year floodplain (Wolf Creek), pursuant to LUDC Section L-II 4.3.10.

How is this not in conflict with the project description? Again, the hazardous nature of the project poses significant risk to riparian habitat and waterways.

16) Management Plan component to allow potential development within areas of slopes that are in excess of 30% or in areas determined to have highly erodible soils, pursuant to LUDC Section L-II 4.3.13.

If soils are highly erodible, what measures are in place to guarantee that contaminated debris, dewatering and chronic pumping of water does not “leach" or is "airborne” beyond the project boundaries potentially impacting groundwater and wells of adjacent properties as well as air quality of near-by residences?

Thank you for considering my comments
Larissa Berry
President Defend Granite Bay

1) https://www.theworldcounts.com/challenges/planet-earth/mining/environmental-effects-of-gold-mining
2) https://www.brilliantearth.com/gold-mining-environment/#:~:text=Dirty%20gold%20mining%20has%20ravaged,due%20to%20dirty%20gold%20mining.

3) https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/environmental-disaster-gold-industry-180949762/

4) https://earthworks.org/campaigns/no-dirty-gold/better_mining/

5) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5129257/

6) https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/10/human-induced-earthquakes-fracking-mining-video-spd/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20report's%20data,sudden%20collapses%20that%20trigger%20earthquakes.

7) https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/UserFiles/works/pdfs/2010-111.pdf

8) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5187660/

9) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3352552/

From: Gene Berson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine reopening
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:13:26 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm very much against re-opening this mine and hope it doesn't happen. The potential it would have of poisoning wells would be disastrous to me and many other people. The mercury from previous mining is still a major concern. I live just off 174 and am therefore vulnerable to its effects. The justification that such a reopening would provide local jobs is short-sighted. It would negatively affect property values, likely cause environmental damage, furthering the rapacious mining of the nineteenth century and create unpredictable destabilizing of the land. The sound pollution from explosions necessary for hard rock mining would affect the peace and quiet many people have moved here to enjoy. Nevada County has become a tourist site, offering excellent restaurants, world class art events, mountain biking, hiking and fishing. This mine would jeopardize that and certainly not replace it. Thank you. Gene Berson, 14385 Dalmatian Drive, Grass Valley, CA, 95945.

-----Original Message-----
From: Micki <mebesancon@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:19 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This mine is an environmental nightmare!
We are in a drought, the amount of water and toxic chemicals used in mining will dry out residential wells and pollute ground water. The non stop noise of drilling and hauling the tailings away, the

traffic of 100 to 200+ trucks a day is ridiculous. The short term boost to the local economy is not worth the long term destruction to our local environment so some corporation in Canada can make a profit!
Please don't approve this project!

Sincerely,
Micki Besancon

Sent from my iPhone

From:	John Bianchi
To:	Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Fwd: Idaho-Maryland (Rise) Mine studies
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:13:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
In regards to the potential reopening of the Idaho-Maryland (Rise Corp.) mine, please add my voice to the many concerned about the effects on our environment, our community and our lives, all of which may be diminished so that others may be financially enriched.

The studies that will inform the decision to allow or deny the reopening of the mind should include, but not be limited to:

*** Initial and ongoing de-watering of the mine.**
The initial dewatering will empty into the Wolf Creek 2,500 gallons per minute. That's the rate of 10 2.5 inch fire hoses, non-stop.The effects on this creek should be studied for the many miles that the erosion and sediment will effect.
The ongoing dewatering is estimated at 1.9 cubic feet per second. That is 14.2 gallons per second, or 1,224,000 gallons per day. The estimated need for water per person is 80-100 gallons per day. That means that, everyday, enough water to supply all of Grass Valley's 13,000 residents will seep into the mine and then be pumped out to run downstream.
Our water table must be protected.

Related study on water:
If a water-bearing fracture is severed, as happened in the San Juan Ridge area in the 90s, many resident's wells could run dry. How does Rise intend to prevent this from happening?

*** Light Pollution**
I have seen one estimate that the mine's operations will include over 100,000 lumens of outdoor lighting. The studies should include estimates of the light pollution and the reduction in the ability of residents ability to look up at night and see the stars.

*** Traffic and roadways**
Studies should include traffic volumes and delays, increased air pollution, pedestrian and cyclist safety, noise, roadway wear-and-tear and maintenance.

***Property values**
Studies should include effects on property values for all homes and land that will be affected by water issues, light, noise and air pollution, and the blight of industrial structure and mountains of fill dirt.

Dangerous contaminants
What materials will be unearthed and exposed? Any and all contaminants, including asbestos and mercury. should be identified.

Please ensure that every possible impact on the residents of our community are identified and

evaluated. There is no justification for forcing us to endure pollution, financial hardship, health risks and reduction in quality of life so that other people can simply become wealthy.

Sincerely,
John Bianchi
Owner - 14366 Eastview Place, Grass Valley
916-505-0971

From: Frederick Bianchi
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 8:47:20 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Kelley:

The nature of this correspondence concerns the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine. As a researcher with years of experience in environmentally-based issues, I'm concerned for the immediate and long term impact of the proposal. While the adverse effects of reopening the mine have surely been well-articulated by others with expertise in the environmental impacts, I will not repeat that detail here. My more immediate concern regards my plan to retire next year and relocate to Grass Valley. The beauty of this area and the environmental resources of Nevada County would provide me the opportunity to continue my post-academic writing and research activities. However, if the mine reopening proposal is passed, I would certainly reconsider my intent to relocate to the area.

In closing, I have read the literature regarding the proposal and have studied both sides of the argument. My hope is that you will act in the best interest of the environment and for the people living in the area.

Sincerely,
Dr. Frederick Bianchi
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Massachusetts

bianchi@wpi.edu

From: Morgan Bierschenk
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine - Public Comment
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:18:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

If this mine opening were to be voted on by the public, who would support it? Very few people, because nobody benefits from a gold mine, other than the mine owner. Gold is used primarily for jewelry and coins. It's not creating a service for our community. Mine owners will be extracting value from the Earth and all the residents of Nevada County, while benefiting only themselves.

If there are a few jobs created by this mine, they are not going to be jobs that give people a sense of purpose and community. We don't need more extractive jobs.

Please do not allow the mine to open....at least not without a vote.

Morgan Bierschenk

From: Daniel Bingham
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mining, Brunswick and others
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Unless they will be held responsible to running treated NID water all the way to every house on, or off of Greenhorn road, I Don't want to have this mine operating in any way. As # of residences increase we have had a hard time with wells going dry and having to pay a high cost to truck water in. My well is extremely deep. Peters drilling rarely sees one as deep in my area. We have seen our well go from 15 GPM, to 11GPM, now to less than 6 and will need the expense of a tank.

Our neighbors, the Pressler's was the last engineer of the Empire mine and collected info and books from the mines in the area. He had over 60 years of local mining knowledge. He said that if that mine starts up, that all the area's mines are geologically interconnected and it will destroy our access to well water.

Also, Greenhorn road is already poorly maintained and increase in local traffic to our county's road won't be worth the jobs it creats unless there is some kind of insurance and Bond process that holds them accountable fiscally to repair or indemnify all peoples affected in the slightest bit by this project. We pay too much money already on our wells. I have averaged over $2000 per year for the last 20 years to supply good clean water to our property.

Also, I am concerned about environmental contamination and greenhouse impact.

With Concern,

The Binghams

From: Kim Blue Falvey
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kimberly Blue Falvey
13029 Robin Rd
Nevada City, CA 95959
530.913-8318

Dear Mr. Kelly,
I have lived in western Nevada County for 24 years. I was originally drawn to this wonderful community for the natural beauty, relaxed life-style, four seasons and access to nature. I have raised my children here.

I have concerns about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are a few issues I would like to see carefully analyzed in the EIR.

1. The impact to private wells; including the number of private wells that could be potentially impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.
2. The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become contaminated and unusable to families, including connecting neighborhoods and individuals to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.
3. The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the ongoing increased cost of water.
4. A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owners remediation.

Also, I would like to be represented by my local government, as a home-owner, tax payer, business owner and contributor to this community. I would like the citizens of Western Nevada County to be prioritized over business interests. I fully understand the economic benefits of business and the devastating costs of environmental pollution that have been burdening communities like ours in and around the western part of the United States for decades.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Blue-Falvey

From: Marina Bokelman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:00:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
Thank you for your response. I am a disabled elder and not able to attend public meetings and hearings. So writing to you about my grave environmental concerns is the only way I can give input. There have already been cases around the country where the EIR has been accepted by a community or a state, only to find out later that the environmental controls and protections have been violated or were insufficient. I believe the revival of gold mining in this community would be a terrible mistake.
Sincerely,

On 8/13/2020 6:35 PM, Matt Kelley wrote:

> Good Afternoon Ms. Bokelman:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner

Planning Department
County of Nevada
Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Marina Bokelman <marinabear@fsaccess.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I am writing to oppose opening up the Idaho-Maryland Mine for gold mining. This county has a romantic view of mining as our tourism is built on being Gold Rush Country. But the reality is that gold mining devastated this county once. Please do not let it happen again. The danger of water pollution is very real. Plus the negative impacts on traffic and noise pollution.

I am especially concerned about the wells and holding tanks or ponds for the toxic effluent. We have seen in this country the eventual failure of all systems to contain toxic waste or toxic materials of any kind--from oil spills to nuclear waste. The water table of this county is still poisoned from the gold mining that took place here 150 years ago.

Please don't let it happen again.

Sincerely,

From: Marina Bokelman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 11:33:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I am writing to oppose opening up the Idaho-Maryland Mine for gold mining. This county has a romantic view of mining as our tourism is built on being Gold Rush Country. But the reality is that gold mining devastated this county once. Please do not let it happen again. The danger of water pollution is very real. Plus the negative impacts on traffic and noise pollution.

I am especially concerned about the wells and holding tanks or ponds for the toxic effluent. We have seen in this country the eventual failure of all systems to contain toxic waste or toxic materials of any kind--from oil spills to nuclear waste. The water table of this county is still poisoned from the gold mining that took place here 150 years ago.

Please don't let it happen again.

Sincerely,

From: Marina Bokelman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re-opening Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
Please do not allow the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. Mining has a tremendously negative effect on the environment, and there is grave danger of water pollution, no matter what mitigation the mine owners propose. No levels of water contaminants are acceptable. Mining already poisoned our water table once, during the Gold Rush. Please do not let it happen again. As we have seen, in the cases of all polluting industries I am aware of, accidents happen, mitigations are insufficient, holding containers fail (even those built to hold nuclear waste) and disaster is visited on the peoples and environment of the local community, and on the world. We are learning, to our grief, these polluting industries have an effect on the environment as a whole.

Please consider the health of the people of this community and the various kinds of pollution (including noise) associated with mining. Please consider the health of this planet, this world.

Sincerely,
Marina Bokelman
Grass Valley

From: Anne Bomberg <anne.bomberg@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed reopening of Idaho-Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I'm addressing my comments to help steer the direction of the draft report which is the purpose of this comment period, as stated in yesterday's article in the Union newspaper.

I recommend that the draft report evaluate chronic environmental effects that this proposed mining project would have on residents and property in oNevada County county including the following:

1. Property values
2. Effect on private wells, and what are the plans for monitoring them for water levels and low-levels of mining-related toxins?
3. The impact of massive discharge of water to Wolf Creek, watersheds, adjacent roads and land
4. Traffic studies—current traffic patterns in the area and with the Loma Rica development. The first phase proposes 250 residences which will include 1-3 additional cars, and phases 2 and 3, which will increase the level to 3 times that number. It is expected that the mine will generate
   round trips 50-100 times / day.
5. Benefits and detriments to the local economy—How many, and what kinds of jobs will it provide? How will it affect ecotourism, farming and cultural venues?
6. What are the attitudes and values of the community toward reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine? What local advocacy groups are they working with to address these issues, and how do they propose research and collaboration with these groups to encourage effective information

   exchange on these issues to help inform decision-making?

I hope the City will take into consideration citizens' concerns for quality of life, the attraction of this area to tourists, outdoor enthusiasts and future residents, and the toxic legacy from mining that this community has had to pay for.

Sincerely,
Anne Bomberg

Grass Valley, Calif.

From: Lisa Hioki
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I am opposed to reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine for a number of reasons. I am concerned about the harmful, contaminated water. The notice in the Union Newspaper stated, "Environmental site investigations from 2006 to the present indicate high levels of arsenic and lead present in some of the soil due to past mining activities." Current taxpayers and citizens are the ones who are paying for the environmental and public health costs and impact. The run off into Wolf Creek is also deeply concerning. Will this water be tested and monitored to ensure contaminants are removed from the water? How will this water be released safely when flooding already occurs in the winter on the lower end of Mill Street? It is clear that arsenic, lead, and other contaminants have a devastating and oftentimes irreversible impact on one's health. Will these residents have to be relocated? Who will be held accountable for the safety and health of our residents exposed to toxins?
I am concerned about the noise level, air pollutants, and around the clock mining schedule that has been set forth. Where will these workers come from? Is there a plan to hire locally? As you know, there is a housing shortage in Nevada County. Will employees be paid a livable wage? What does that look like during a pandemic?
Lastly, how will this mine benefit the community? Nevada County needs small businesses that fit into our community that will help us thrive. Assets to our community include limited environmental impact, positive community benefits, and reasonable business profits. How will this mine fit into our community and meet our needs to sustain our economy and infrastructure?

Please reconsider reopening and developing the Idaho Maryland Mine

Respectfully,
Lisa Borkenhagen Hioki
Nevada County resident

From: Amy Bouck
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comment Letter OPPOSING the planned reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:27:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to request that you oppose the planned reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The operation of this mine would cause a negative impact to birds and areas with sensitive flora species affected. The Yellow-Breasted Chat, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher are all species of special concern or endangered and have been detected or captured at the Bennett Street Grasslands which is part of the Empire Mine State Historic Park.

Thank you for your very careful consideration of our environment.

Sincerely,
Amy Bouck
10644 Murchie Mine Rd.
Nevada City, CA

From: BRUCE E. BOYD
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine project
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:01:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

Please insure the EIR includes a geologic study of the faults in the area of the mine. The hydrological study will not be complete without this critical information.

The mine in the Columbia East pit withheld information on faults and claimed that the pit was a bathtub. Turned out the company geologists were secretly mapping faults. And of course they hit a fault and flooded the mine and lots of folks lost their water.

Thank you,

Bruce E. Boyd
Local architect and neighbor
17894 Tyler Foote rd.
Nevada City CA
530-265-5280

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cathy Boyle-Dowd
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:00 AM
Attachments: icon.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Mail Delivery Subsystem** <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
Date: Sun, Aug 16, 2020 at 9:51 PM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: <nieshadog@gmail.com>



Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to **matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us** because the address couldn't be found, or is unable to receive mail.

The response from the remote server was:

```
550 No such user (matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us)
```

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Cathy Boyle-Dowd <nieshadog@gmail.com>
To: matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Sun, 16 Aug 2020 21:50:54 -0700
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

Catherine Boyle-Dowd
14521 Dalmatian Drive

Grass Valley, Ca 95945

Dear Matt,

Here it is Sunday night and it has just been brought to my attention that tomorrow is the deadline for letters in regards to the Idaho Maryland Mine. I really don't feel like doing this right now, but this proposal is something that is really important for me. I want to know in detail how having a mine reopened in Nevada County is going to be a positive project for my family: grand kids, my kids, my husband, my dog and myself? Who is going to profit and at what expense to our community? What will happen to the wells and water in general, to the forest, the animals, the air quality, the building trade, our business community, traffic and the overall quality of life for all the folks that call this home. Somehow big money rings in my ear, and the hard working regular people get left with the forever damage. Please prove me wrong!

Meanwhile, please make sure that every aspect of this proposal is carefully dissected, studied by a wide range of experts and put to the people to vote on what we want, if after all your studies it moves forward. As of now, I strongly oppose this idea of reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine. Just take a walk through Empire Mine State Park and look at how much pollution is still sitting there. We do not need more in any way shape or form.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Catherine Boyle-Dowd

From: Cynthia Bradford
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: gold mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:19:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

ABSOLUTELY NO TO THE GOLD MINE—IT'S TOO LATE FOR THEM TO DO MINING AS USUAL. Even if the mine agrees to back off, clean-up, not pollute anything, take slowly, quietly, only at certain agreed upon hours AND be respectful neighbors; the community still has to watch them. Why would they stick to the rules when no-one is holding them accountable? Who is going to do that?

From: CJ Brady
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Environmental Impacts of reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine NOP comment
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 11:16:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We would like to request that any environmental impact study of the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine include a thorough investigation of the mine operation's potential impact on our county's groundwater.

As many Nevada County residents rely upon residential wells for our primary home water source, the quality of our groundwater is important for maintaining both our health and our property values. Re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine may pose a contamination threat to our groundwater. Residential well owners request that the EIR address this issue in detail.

Thank you for your attention to our concern.

Sincerely,
Carol and William Brady
20191 Wolf Creek Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949
(530) 346-6252

Robust public engagement is vital to truly assess the environmental impacts to our community and our precious waterways. To learn more about the project, visit the Community Environmental Advocates Foundation **website**, **Frequently Asked Questions** and check out SYRCL's work to address legacy mining issues **here**.

DEADLINE: Comment letters are due to Nevada County by **August 17, 2020.**

How to Engage:

1. Review the Mine Proposal
    a. Read the Notice of Preparation **here**.
    b. Listen to the Video of the County Scoping Meeting **here**.

Map of mining site locations. Click map to view larger format.

2. Formulate your questions about the mine's impacts and organize them into a letter. If you have questions, contact the County or email the Community Environmental Advocates (CEA) Foundation at mineconcerns@cea-nc.org.

3. Call or send a letter to Nevada County Department of Planning with your comments – **no later than August 17, 2020.**

Comment Letter Tips:

-
  -

    - Focus your study requests on the environmental process, what you want analyzed, and what environmental impacts you want considered.
    - Make sure that your specific requests are clear and concise.
    - Include your name and contact information in case the County needs to contact you to clarify a point.
    - For more detailed tips and a sample letter, check out the CEA Foundation **website**.
    - NOP comments are divided into various categories. Reviewing these categories may help spark your thinking and organize your comments. The impact categories are:

Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Material

- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services Recreation
- Transportation & Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Economic Study

From: George Brake
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed mine in Grass Valley
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We live just up the road from the proposed mine site. Have read information, both pro and con, about this project.
We are opposed to this as it seems to have so many possible environmental consequences.

Thanks for listening.
G Brake

From: jim bratt
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:16:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: James and Susan Bratt
To: Mr. Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Dear Sir
I'm writing regarding our concern as property owners and as a long time Nevada County resident, I learned to walk and talk at 14242 Lost Lake Road in the early 1950's, Grass Valley.

Mining and the de-watering, and water quality related to the mining:
History of the practice has shown time and time again the damages cannot be mitigated. Additionally our area has no infrastructure in place to supply replacement water to the many people and properties that would likely be affected by the proposed mining operations de-watering. Just refer to the "Super Fund" site at Banner Lava Cap Mine and Lost Lake, and "Siskon and San Juan Ridge Mines, Twin Ridges Grizzly Hill School" etc. to name a couple of fairly recent damaging examples.
During the Siskon operation, I successfully appealed the property tax values and received a reduction on the property tax for my property located on the San Juan Ridge. (If everyone who is affected by the proposed mining, appeals values, that may be a significant loss to county revenue). The Hydraulic Engineers, Mining Engineers, etc seem to always come up with a good computer model and plan for the application process, EIR, and opening up a mine, but cannot actually know what will happen until it's too late. Please do not allow any further damages to the ground water quality, and ground water quantity, and or the watershed. I urge you and other officials in charge and responsible to not allow the proposed de-watering.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
James and Susan Bratt

Sent from my iPhone

From: Susan Bratt
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comments and Concerns of proposed mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:43:07 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: James and Susan Bratt
To: Mr. Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Dear Sir
I'm writing regarding our concern as property owners and as a long time Nevada County resident, I learned to walk and talk at 14242 Lost Lake Road in the early 1950's, Grass Valley.

Mining and the de-watering, and water quality related to the mining:
History of the practice has shown time and time again the damages cannot be mitigated. Additionally our area has no infrastructure in place to supply replacement water to the many people and properties that would likely be affected by the proposed mining operations de-watering. Just refer to the "Super Fund" site at Banner Lava Cap Mine and Lost Lake, and "Siskon and San Juan Ridge Mines, Twin Ridges Grizzly Hill School" etc. to name a couple of fairly recent damaging examples.
During the Siskon operation, I successfully appealed the property tax values and received a reduction on the property tax for my property located on the San Juan Ridge. (If everyone who is affected by the proposed mining, appeals values, that may be a significant loss to county revenue). The Hydraulic Engineers, Mining Engineers, etc seem to always come up with a good computer model and plan for the application process, EIR, and opening up a mine, but cannot actually know what will happen until it's too late. Please do not allow any further damages to the ground water quality, and ground water quantity, and or the watershed. I urge you and other officials in charge and responsible to not allow the proposed de-watering.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
James and Susan Bratt

Sent from my iPhone

From: jahwow
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re re-opening Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:31:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Along with many local and county residents, I strongly echo the points as made below by several of my friends and neighbors
and have grave concerns that I'm terrified will be overshadowed in favor of this company's ability to woo the County for it's own bottom line.

All of this is profoundly disturbing, yet what disturbs me most about the proposed mine operations is what,
without deliberate and thorough inquiry, serves to undermine many overall aspects of local resident's quality of life and services,
not least of which is the tremendous and unknown impact of local aquifers and wells.

This has the very real potential to be irreversible, making many current residences legally uninhabitable without a safe, consistent potable water source.

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering

and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in

terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to

review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the

proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every prospective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

Please, please consider all this in the spirit it's offered.

Many thanks in advance for giving this project the thought, research and time it deserves,

John Brentlinger
14076 Glenn Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA
95945

From: Dan Brereton <brereton23@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine EIR concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

There are a number of serious environmental concerns surrounding the plan to open the Idaho Maryland Mine which should be part of any impact study.

The EIR should take into account and list the total number of private wells at risk within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.

The EIR should further analyze:

- full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
- full cost of connecting each home to that system.
- full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water
- full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.
- Consideration of property values adversely affected by any or all of these potential impacts.

Regards,
Dan Brereton

From:	Barbara Brooks
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Dan Miller; danielafornevadacity@fmail.com; duanestrawser@gmail.com; Ed Scofield; Env.Health; erin4nevadacity@gmail.com; fleming.douglass@gmail.com; healthofficer@co.nevada.ca.us; Heidi Hall; Richard Anderson; Sue Hoek
Subject:	NO MINE!!
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley,
Please know that I am vehemently opposed to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine, the Canadian mining company, RISE Gold, proposes to reopen a long-closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley.

The health impacts and environmental impacts associated with reopening this mine far outweigh any possible benefit.

In a Nutshell:

- Home Values will Plummet!
- Water Contamination will abound!
- Mining will take place 24 hours a day!
- Noise, traffic and dust will be unbearable!
- Large Trucks hauling rock will take place from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm!
- Sure 242 Jobs but they'll go to people OUTSIDE our area!
- Air Quality will degrade!
- Increased Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons!
- Drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality. South Wolf Creek should not be treated like a storm drain!
- Inflict incessant blasting on the surrounding community, which will likely force homeowners (if they could even sell) and high-tech companies to relocate!
- Create real potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, and others.

One would think that with all of the valid negative impacts stated above a NO VOTE would be imminent!

It is simply unacceptable to approve this project a mining project that would further increase air pollution in our community. We are all also deeply concerned about the noise, traffic, and dust generated by the mine; the de-watering that could drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact their water quality; the blasting vibrations that could force local high-tech companies to leave our area; the significant increase in Green House Gas emissions and the potential of contamination from the toxic materials used in the mine, which include cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid!

Our community is currently suffering from the toxic legacy of past gold mining in the area, including polluted watersheds, Superfund cleanup sites, and contaminated water

from the Magenta Drain in Grass Valley, and at Grizzly Hill School in North San Juan. We do not want to add additional mining-related impacts to our community for years into the future. Much of the Centennial site, near Spring Hill and Idaho Maryland drives, is either too unstable to build on or contaminated with arsenic from past mine tailings.

I am certain that Nevada County will be far better off in both the short term and the long term without the Rise project so I ask the Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the IMM site, the project plan and any and all other applications for this purpose.

This mine project will ruin Nevada County now and for years to come.

PLEASE vote NO on this toxic project!

Best Regards,

Barbara Brooks

Nevada County resident of 52 years

From: Carl Peterson <brookspeterson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 6:46 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I know believe re-opening the mine would be bad for those whole live near the site and bad for western Nevada county.
I believe it would increase vehicle traffic and associated emissions.
It would increase ambient noise levels in the area.
It would increase the need for county services from schools to police and housing for the employees.
It would NOT benefit the county with more local employment as most of the jobs would go to

outside skilled labor, with the exception of truck drivers.
I hope the local governance will reject the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland mine project.

Carl Brooks Peterson
16666 Rolpholm rd.
Grass Valley, Ca.
95945

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Brooks
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:05 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

TO: Matt Kelley - Senior Planner

FROM: Wayne Brooks, Nevada City

SUBJECT: Opening of Idaho-Maryland Mine

Matt, I grew up in Grass Valley & Nevada City, as well as Sierra County (Alleghany) I attended both elementary schools and high school in both counties. After retiring from teaching & coaching high school for 36 years I retired back home in Nevada City and have owned my home here for 25 years.

My brother Rich & I's father Dick Brooks worked in the Idaho-Maryland Mine as well as several mines in Sierra County. In retirement he was the resident Deputy Sheriff of Alleghany for 15 years.

Nevada County's history is built around gold mining and logging/lumber. Yes, time moves on and things change. Sometimes not always for the best. It is my wish to see hard working men & women who worked in the mining and lumber trades return. When the mines and sawmills were working in Nevada County there were family's of hard working men & women spending money, paying taxes, sending their children to our schools and helping our area become a better place to live.

If the leadership of the proposed mine can keep all there ducks in order and pass the rigorous local & state regulations in order to open, LET THEM OPEN. One of the opponents concerns is the de-watering of the shafts. Yes, I agree with the home owners in the area. Loosing ones well water would be tragic. BUT, if Rise Gold can guarantee water to those who do loose their wells (such as NID water) + a fair $ compensation, I think the mine would benefit Nevada County.

Nevada County is a nice place for retired flat lander's. But a lot of the whining on "so called inconveniences" is just that, "whining".

When I get behind a logging truck going anywhere in Nevada County my only complaint is that the truck is not going to a Saw Mill in Nevada County. When living in Alleghany as a youth the air compressor at the 16 to 1 mine ran constantly pumping air underground. It could be heard almost all the way up town. No body complained as it was a by product of our parents way of making a living. The noon whistle at the mine was always a reminder it was lunch time. Sure, there may be more traffic but there also will be more children in our schools, more teachers to teach them, more houses for real estate agents to sell or property management to rent, products to buy, etc.

As a youth I worked in both the logging, lumber & mining professions. It was hard work & convinced me to finish my college education. Think of the benefits of both industries for Nevada County. Our forests are overgrown. Thin them out and process them in Nevada County instead of down in Lincoln. Open the mine and watch the visitors come from out of the area, stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, shop our stores & raise the tax dollars for Nevada County.

Regards,

Wayne Brooks

(530) 478-1161

Gerard P. Brown.
146 Martin Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
jerrybrownmail@gmail.com
(831) 331-8003

August 17, 2020

Mr. Kelley,

As a resident of Nevada County who lives near the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project, I have numerous grave concerns regarding the impacts that the proposed mine would pose to the surrounding area. I ask that the questions outlined below be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report. My concerns include :

HEALTH :

- How will the noise and vibration of underground blasting, conveyer and head frame operation, mine compressor, processing plant, generator, hoist, all operating 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week, adversely effect the physical and mental health of nearby residents, especially those with compromised health, including those, like my wife, with seizure disorders? What measures will be taken to minimize these effects?

- What will be the adverse health effects of the noise and vibration of outdoor truck loading and hauling of rock 16 hours a day/ 7 days a week? What measures will be taken to minimize these health risks?

- What might be the adverse health effects of the light pollution created by the 24 hr/ day operations of the facilities on nearby residents? Will it impact the ability of residents to get 8 hours of sleep every night? What measures will be taken to minimize these risks?

- What may be the adverse health effects on local residents of air pollution caused by increased levels of potentially toxic dust and vehicle emissions from the hauling truck operations, which are estimated to be 100 round trips a day between the two operation sites, hauling hundreds of tons of rock for 16 hours a day? What measures will be taken to minimize these risks?

- What may be the adverse health effects on local residents of air pollution caused by the 24 hour a day ventilation of the air from the underground mine operations, which may include many toxic elements from the minerals being unearthed, as well as the toxic explosive compounds, including bulk emulsion explosives and Ammonia Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO), being stored and used to blast through rock and earth to extract soil, rock and minerals? What measures will be taken to minimize these effects?

- What might be the adverse health effects on residents of air pollution resulting from the dewatering process, which involves removing 2,500 gallons of water per minute from new and existing mine tunnels and pumping it to an above-ground, outdoor settling pond as part of the waste water treatment process. This waste water contains toxic elements from former and current mining operations. How much toxic gas might be released into our local air as the water sits in this outdoor settling pond? What measures will be taken to minimize these risks?

- What may be the adverse health effects to residents caused by extraction of toxic minerals and storage of same on a site one mile from downtown Grass Valley? How might tailings piles, which can contain: Arsenic; Cobalt; Barium; Mercury; Thallium; Chromium; Copper; Lead; Zinc; Cyanide; Vanadium and Nickel, present health dangers to residents? What measures will be taken to mitigate these dangers?

SAFETY :

- What may be the threats to public safety of the ongoing transportation, storage and use of bulk emulsion explosives and Ammonia Nitrate Fuel Oil explosive for purposes of underground excavation within a Seismic Hazard Zone? What are the potential risks to the public of uncontrolled or accidental explosions and/or earthquakes caused by mining operations? What measures will be taken to minimize these threats?

- What may be the negative effects on public safety of the enormous increase in large truck traffic, carrying hundreds of tons daily of potentially toxic 'engineered fill', in the areas adjacent to and near the sites? What measures will be taken to minimize these potentially dangerous effects?

- What dangers are presented by the ongoing transportation on our local roads of toxic and highly explosive compounds to the mining site? What measures will be taken to minimize these dangers?

- What safety hazards will the increase in heavy truck traffic pose to resident motorists on our local roads, especially in conditions of inclement weather? What measures will be taken to minimize these hazards?

ENVIRONMENT and OTHER :

- What might be the negative effects to the local environment from underground tunneling and potentially opening up old tunnels which might create sinkholes? What danger would these create and what measures will be taken to minimize this risk?

- What potential increase in fire risk to the area may be caused by the enormous amount of electric power consumed by the operations and what measures will be taken to minimize this risk?

- What is the potential water pollution danger involved with the discharge of treated waste water into Wolf Creek? How will the amount of toxins in the waste water be monitored?

- How can the mine operators be sure that the capacity of the outdoor 'settling' pond will not be exceeded by the amount of waste water pumped out of the mine during the dewatering process? What procedures will be in place to mitigate the damage caused by such an incident?

- What damage may be inflicted on local underground hydrology by the unearthing of toxic minerals during the dewatering process and what measures will be taken to prevent this damage?

- What may be the negative effects on local wildlife of the constant noise, vibrations, toxic

fumes and 24 hour light incursion into their environment? What measures will be taken to address these potential negative effects?

- What potential environmental effects will have a negative impact on the tourism industry that is so important to the livelihoods of so many of our local residents? Will the effects of water, air and noise pollution, as well as the unsightliness of the mine sites, and the increase of industrial traffic lead to a decrease in tourism to our area? What steps will be taken to minimize these risks?

These are probably only a few of the important issues that should be addressed by the Environmental Impact Report. I am not an environmental engineer, but merely a deeply concerned local citizen and I have done my best to express my concerns in the language that I have available to me. I implore you to see that these concerns are addressed in the EIR and I thank you for your attention and dedication to preserving the vitality and beauty of our beloved Nevada County.

Thank you,

Gerard P. Brown

From: Janis Brown <htangel33@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Mining Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Is this what the city thinks is a good idea. Making big business richer at the expense of the the beauty air quality traffic and noise. Why? A few jobs (less than one third will be available to the people who live here if that)and some some taxes. We live here for the quality of life and you are not working in the best interest of the community. Why do you think that this a benefit to the community.
Janis Brown

On Mon, Aug 10, 2020, 5:04 PM Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

> Good Afternoon Janis:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project:
> https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.
>
> Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the

public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner

Planning Department
County of Nevada
Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

office 530.265-1423
https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Janis Brown <htangel33@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mining Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,
I oppose the project. We as residents do not need any more pollution in the earth or noise

pollution in the air. This is about the money.
I am for making Nevada county a more natural and healthy place to live and not enriching a company's bottom line. What is the financial
gain for Nevada City? What is that in dollars and cents? I would like you to send me the amount. I will expect a reply.

--
Janis Brown
Resident

From: Janis Brown <htangel33@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mining Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,
I oppose the project. We as residents do not need any more pollution in the earth or noise pollution in the air. This is about the money.
I am for making Nevada county a more natural and healthy place to live and not enriching a company's bottom line. What is the financial

gain for Nevada City? What is that in dollars and cents? I would like you to send me the amount. I will expect a reply.

--
Janis Brown
Resident

From: kirstin brown
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: NO to Rise Gold
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:28 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I hope you and your family are staying safe during these uncertain times. I've just moved to this beautiful community and I'm sad to hear that Rise Gold wants to rebuild and newly build mines. I don't want to see this community be polluted by what a mine will do. I'm concerned about the water and the general safety of everything that will be affected by building a mine. Please consider not building these mines and keeping the beauty intact of this amazing and enchanting area.

Thanks,
A concerned citizen - Kirstin Brown

From:	R B
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Ray Bryars; Heidi Hall; Brian Foss
Subject:	Rise Gold, Idaho-Maryland Mine Notice of Preparation - Request for more time
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 2:28:50 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Rise Gold, Idaho-Maryland Mine Notice of Preparation - Request for more time

ATT: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Date: 8/9/2020

Matt
I'm writing this to request that the public be given more time to review and provide input for the direction of the Draft Environmental Report. The 8/5/2020 article in The Union was the first well publicized notification to the public and with a due date of 8/17/2020 there is not adequate time to digest the scope and impact of this huge, potentially disastrous project that could make life changing changes to the lives of residents and the health of the community.

I urge you to provide guidance to the Planning Department and request that they extend the deadline by at least 30 days.

Many thanks for your attention

Ray Bryars

530-477-8725

From: Jennifer Buck-Diaz
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:39:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
I thought I would send this letter again now that the comment period is open for this mining project. I never received any response acknowledging the receipt of my message below but hopefully it can be considered as the project moves forward.
Thanks,
Jennifer Buck-Diaz

On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 9:25 PM Jennifer Buck-Diaz <jenderbucket@gmail.com> wrote:

> I'm writing with a deep concern about the potential re-opening of the Idaho Maryland mine at Bennett and Brunswick in Grass Valley. The impacts of previous mining are still felt keenly here in our community with our creeks fenced off (such as near Memorial Park) and high levels of arsenic and mercury in our soils.
>
> We need to have full disclosure and some kind of public comments about the plans for this property. An active industrial mine will negatively impact our community.
>
> We live in Nevada City and have two kids at Deer Creek school. I'm deeply concerned about the impacts of poor air and water quality on my family due to this potential project and the legacy of mining in our towns, which we are still trying to remediate.
>
> Thanks, Jennifer Buck-Diaz
> 505 Long St, Nevada City, Ca 95959.

Rachel Budde
220 Nevada St, Nevada City (Home)
111 Margaret Ln, Grass Valley (Business)
646.33.2228

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have lived in Nevada City since 2015, and have been running a business in Grass Valley since 2016.

I am extremely alarmed and concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. The impact on our community in terms of noise, pollution, and quality of life would be unacceptable. The destruction of the landscape and community would destroy the beauty of this place and its effects would be long term.

The proposed mine would be a step backwards. Have we not learned from environmental devastation of mines in the past? Our small town could be economically progressive by prioritizing our environment. We could be on the cutting edge of micro industry, empowering our local businesses rather than corporate entities who have no investment in the community.

The last point I will make, which I believe is the most dire and important is the issue of water, our most precious resource. That a mine, which would further stress drinking water, is even being considered in this town is astonishing and deeply disturbing.

To this point, below I've listed requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Please reach out if you'd like to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Rachel Budde

From:	Fat and the Moon
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Concerns pertaining to the proposed Idaho Maryland mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 5:37:19 AM
Attachments:	Mine letter.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rachel Budde
220 Nevada St, Nevada City (Home)
111 Margaret Ln, Grass Valley (Business)
646.338.2228

Hello Mr. Kelly,

I have lived in Nevada City since 2015, and have been running a business in Grass Valley since 2016.

I am extremely alarmed and concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. The impact on our community in terms of noise, pollution, and quality of life would be unacceptable. The destruction of the landscape and community would destroy the beauty of this place and its effects would be long term.

The proposed mine would be a step backwards. Have we not learned from environmental devastation of mines in the past? Our small town could be economically progressive by prioritizing our environment. We could be on the cutting edge of micro industry, empowering our local businesses rather than corporate entities who have no investment in the community.

The last point I will make, which I believe is the most dire and important is the issue of water, our most precious resource. That a mine, which would further stress drinking water, is even being considered in this town is astonishing and deeply disturbing.

To this point, below I've listed requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Please reach out if you’d like to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Rachel Budde

RACHELBUDDE.COM
@zlatabababababa

FATANDTHEMOON.COM
@moonfat

From: Debra Buddie
To: bdofsupervisors; Matt Kelley
Subject: re: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to you today to address my concerns on reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.
I believe this business venture is not what we need in Nevada County.
It is not good for the environmental impact it will cause. Such as, noise pollution, traffic, destruction to the natural landscape, air pollution, and water/well damage to neighboring communities.
I am not against development in our county. But this kind of business is destructive.
This mine is not something you want to have as your legacy,
You will want to be known as leaders who protected our environment while promoting new and good businesses that create jobs and do not destroy our environment.
A legacy you will be proud to tell your children and family about.

Thank you for your concern,

Debra Buddie L.Ac.

From: Peggy Burks
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: NO on Idaho Maryland Mine proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:47:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The issues of community concern (water, air, noise, pollution, habitat destruction) foretell a reduction in the quality of life for Nevada County residents. Any promises of economic benefits are more than offset by the well-documented negative impacts of mining in general, and in particular on this location. We can't let this happen to Grass Valley, so beautiful yet so fragile. Our local government has a singular opportunity to stand fast to protect all that we, the people, love about living in this special place. I strongly oppose the permit to reopen the mine.

Margaret Burks
10-year resident

Peggy Burks
10999 Will O Wisp Ct.
Nevada City, CA 95959
530 277-0181

From: Macie Burnett <macie.burnett@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed mining in Nevada County

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to you to register my opposition to any proposed mining in Nevada County. I have been a resident of Nevada City for over 10 years and have three children who are in school in Nevada County.

I am deeply concerned about monetizing and stripping natural resources in Nevada County. Our wildlife and environment must be protected for our children. Mining in Nevada County would be shortsighted, irresponsible and greedy. Please protect our children's water supplies, wildlife habitats and our tourism industry here in Nevada County by opposing all mining interests in Nevada County.

I am a member of a large group of mothers in Nevada County. We have over 1700 members in our group. We have already mobilized a large group of Nevada County families that will not hesitate to protest these actions if they gain traction here. The community is watching and we urge you to reject any actions to allow mining in Nevada County.

Thank You,
Ms. M.L. Burnett
Nevada City, CA

Dr. Jennifer Burt
13921 Loma Rica Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Email: jenniferwburt@gmail.com

August 17, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Dear Mr. Kelly:

I am a Nevada County resident that lives within the immediate vicinity of the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine project. We purchased our home and moved to this area with our young children many years ago because we were drawn to the natural beauty, open space, and ecology of the region, in addition to the local neighborhood-draw of pristine well water, the ability to farm on our land, and the quiet ambiance of our neighborhood. Additionally, I am an ecologist by training and career, and have over 20 years of environmental consulting experience and hold M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in ecology.

I am very concerned about the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project for a multitude of reasons. Based on preliminary review of project documentation I expect that many environmental impacts of this large-scale gold mining project will be significant and unavoidable (with or without potential mitigation measures incorporated), with little corollary local economic or environmental benefit.

This is a project with complicated and wide-ranging potential impacts. I would like Nevada County to ensure that all potential environmental impacts are analyzed in detail and peer-reviewed by topic-experts for the Project EIR. In particular, I request the following:

1. In-stream and Groundwater Hydrology:
    a. Comprehensive and detailed study of potential direct and indirect project effects to local groundwater aquifers and private wells within a 5-mile radius of the underground project area boundary (or larger radius, if any areas 5 miles out are found to have potential impacts). This analysis should include analyses of baseline, project, and post-project groundwater depths in all types of water years including critically dry and extended drought periods when local wells most likely to be affected.
    b. Note that piping NID water to properties currently served by private wells does not mitigate entirely for loss of well water quality or quantity, due to both NID fees and baseline water quality (uncontaminated well water is higher quality for both drinking and agricultural uses than chlorinated NID water).
    c. Comprehensive long-term economic analysis of potential impacts to in-stream and groundwater water resources, including costs of proposed mitigation, as well as potential additional costs incurred by property owners in the affected region, and losses

in property values. This analysis should include an analysis of the total number of private wells that could be potentially impacted with and beyond the boundaries of the mineral rights area.

   d. Comprehensive spatial analysis of the effects on potential groundwater and in-stream hydrology impacts to riparian and groundwater dependent ecosystems including groundwater dependent vegetation and wildlife.

2. In-stream and Groundwater Water Quality:
   a. Comprehensive analysis of short- and long-term potential impacts to water quality, for both in-stream waters and groundwater aquifers.
   b. Analysis of potential direct (pollution and sedimentation) and indirect (associated with water table reductions) groundwater water quality impacts during all types of water years for the region as defined above.
3. Agriculture:
   a. This project is likely to affect areas zoned for General Agricultural and Residential Agricultural use. An analysis of how impacts to in-stream and groundwater resources, landowner water costs, and water quality and availability to all for-profit agricultural uses in the affected region, as well as to all residential agricultural uses, should be conducted.
4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions:
   a. Analyze the climate change effects of GHG emissions due to project implementation.
5. Traffic, Noise, Air Quality, and Aesthetics:
   a. These are primary local concerns associated with this project that are likely to have significant project impacts and should be addressed in detail.
6. Geology:
   a. Detailed and peer-reviewed analysis of how subsurface mining activities within area may affect potential for increasing local seismic activity and decreasing surface geological stability, as well as potential to affect the structure and function of local groundwater aquifers.
7. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources:
   a. Project may significantly affect terrestrial and aquatic biological resources in the region including wetlands and riparian corridors, and has potential for significant take of a population of the federally endangered Pine hill flannelbush (*Fremontedendron decumbens*) as well as potential impacts to a nearly extirpated species of rush (*Juncus digitatus*).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer W. Burt

Jennifer W. Burt, PhD
Ecologist, Nevada County Resident

From:	Jennifer W. Burt
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Project comment letter
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 6:21:41 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine NOP comment letter_08172020.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please find my attached letter regarding scoping for the
Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR.

Best,

Jennifer Burt

From:	Rich Burton
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine - NOP Comment
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 8:16:58 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr. Kelly,

First let me thank you for your work and efforts to assure that the processes take place in reviewing the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine proposal that will protect current and future generations of the children, women, and men that live, work, and recreate in Nevada County.

I live at 13576 Lower Colfax Rd, Grass Valley, Ca 95945, and have lived here for over 25 years.

This unprecedented proposed major industrial complex requires maximal scrutiny for current and future impacts on our community.

I fully concur with all of your noted potential environmental impacts as noted in the Notice of Preparation and reflected below.

"PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Nevada County, as lead agency under CEQA, has decided that the potential exists for significant environmental effects to occur with implementation of the proposed project and, therefore, will prepare an EIR. The following issue areas will be addressed in the EIR: • Air Quality • Biological Resources • Greenhouse Gas Emissions • Energy • Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources • Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources • Hazards and Hazardous Materials • Hydrology and Water Quality • Land Use and Population and Housing • Noise • Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems • Transportation • Wildfire."

I would also suggest that as the result of the current pandemic and likely continued shifts in how and where people conduct their business, the projected impacts on residences in the surrounding area could be even more severe by degradation of noise, water, transportation, air quality, and other quality of life related issues as more people work from home and children school from home.

Certainly the impacts on property values will be crucial and difficult to accurately project given the 24/7 nature of this project with an 80 year lifespan. For most of us that live in this community, our homes represent the single greatest component of our retirement assets as well as an asset to help our children attend college and eventually provide the resources to care for us as we age rather than becoming a burden on public resources. This mine project and the likely devastating impact on property values projects financial ruin for thousands of Nevada County families for generations and increases the likelihood for greater demand for publicly funded social services.

Lastly, I would like to request that the EIR include an analysis of the likely impact on the mental health and well being of county residents. The nature of this project with all of its

anticipated and unanticipated impacts playing out over 80 years creates an enormous burden for all local residents to integrate into their plans for themselves, their children, grandchildren, and quality of life while we all age. Much of the mental health suffering will likely be silent, as individuals and families deal with the negative impacts of the projects in isolation. If not dealt with in a proactive manner, this project will have a multitude of negative mental health impacts with increased strain on our local healthcare system and increased demand for publicly funded programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Please contact me should you have any questions or would like me to clarify any of my thoughts.

Respectfully,

Rich Burton
530-308-1748

From: Ruth Burton
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed new mining at Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

My husband and I have lived in Nevada County for more than 26 years, raising our there's daughters here and enjoying life in this beautiful community.

It was shocking to hear that there is a proposal to open up the Idaho Maryland mine. I'm very concerned that this mine will impact our well in which we drink from and water our property and gardens.

I'm interested in knowing how our wells will be protected. 80 years seems like a long time that we would have this presence here. After seeing some news articles about what has happened in other communities, I am sad that this is even being considered.

I'm also wondering how the increase of trucking to and fro will impact our access to town.

We've enjoyed this wonderful rural part of the world and I would hate to see the increase of truck traffic and possible housing prices effected let alone the idea of our wells being adversely effected. My two little grandsons live near us and we hope they can enjoy the rural life here too.

I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Ruth Burton
13576 Lower Colfax Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-477-8027

From: Melissa Cade
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Questions for RISE Gold Corp
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

I don't know why it was so difficult to get this to you, or why the person who responded to my email couldn't forward it to you, but hopefully it isn't too late to get this you.

Many blessings,
Melissa Cade

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
> **Date:** August 15, 2020 at 3:20:16 PM PDT
> **To:** cade.melissa@gmail.com
> **Subject: Fwd: Re: Questions for RISE Gold Corp**
>
> Sorry for the late reply. Matt Kelly's email is:
>
> matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
>
> -------- Original Message --------
> Subject: Re: Questions for RISE Gold Corp
> Date: 2020-08-12 19:56
> From: Melissa Cade <cade.melissa@gmail.com>
> To: mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
>
> Online it says to reach out to this email with questions. Can you please give me Matt Kelly's email?
>
> Warmly,
> Melissa
>
> > On Aug 12, 2020, at 5:35 PM, mineconcerns@cea-nc.org wrote:
> >
> > Melissa,
> >
> > We hope you've addressed your concerns to Matt Kelly. If you haven't already, please do so by 8-17.

Thanks!

> On 2020-08-10 23:53, Melissa Cade wrote:
>
> Dear CEA-NC,
>
> Bless you and thank you for such thorough work in creating a valuable
>
> resource for the community regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine
>
> Re-opening project.
>
> I have not had a chance to dive into every document, but your
>
> summaries were detailed enough that I feel confident you are already
>
> prepared to ask the same hard questions I have.
>
> #1). How can new operations start when proper mitigation requirements
>
> have not been completed in the clean up from previous mine operations?
>
> **The residual negative environmental impact to this day is currently
>
> contaminating our water resources. Continuation of mining activities
>
> without proper restoration completed is absurd and should be illegal
>
> (if it isn’t already).
>
> **In addition, there were violations in attempts to address the
>
> mitigation requirements.
>
> 2) How can we trust that RISE Gold Corp is going to be a responsible
>
> company that will abide by laws and regulations when they have already
>
> committed violations in preliminary stages?

Example: Not grading properly and not respecting the 100ft setback has

me VERY concerned about the heath of our water system.

**The mining industry has made significant developments to extract

gold in more environmentally friendly ways.

3) Why is RISE Good Corp resorting to old school methods that are more

toxic and damaging to the environment as well as contributing to a

disruption in our community through noise and traffic?

**Due to the geographic nature of the Brunswick Basin, I am very

concerned about the accumulation of air pollutants and inability to

dissipate at a reasonable rate. In addition, the risk of asbestos

being dispersed through their proposed plan, is unacceptable.

4). What measures will be taken to mitigate the release of asbestos

and other pollutants into the air?

5). What measures will be taken to address the resulting air pollution

and contamination?

6). What measures will be taken to reduce contamination of local

creeks and streams, storm water run off drainage as well as ground

water contamination?

**I am extremely extremely concerned about the water contamination

considerations. Their underground operation methods as well as above

ground operation methods will definitely negatively impact the water

systems (which are already contaminated!!). Nearby families that rely

on their well water will no longer be able to safely use or drink it.

7). Are you prepared to buy bottled water or pay NID to provide water

to neighbors negatively affected by water contamination?

8) Can operation hours be required to be at a reasonable time frame

like 8:00am to 8:00pm? 7:00am to 10:00pm 24/7 seems absolutely

unreasonable! I will not have my child wear ear plugs just to be able

to go to sleep!

9). Instead of recruiting and hiring people outside of our region, why

can't RISE Gold Corp train our community to be qualified to work

there?

**I recognize that some positions are highly skilled and require in

depth schooling and training, but there are a number of jobs, more

than 70, that could be filled from within the community. We are

already struggling with unemployment due to COVID. It is not fair to

bring even more people into our community to take our homes, and our

jobs, and contaminate our precious beautiful landscape.

This is our

home, our community, I feel like a Native American in the Colonial

days trying to save our livelihood from being strong armed, conquered,

driven to submission and eventually wiped out.

I also recognize that Grass Valley is what it is due to the major

attraction of the mining era of 1940's. We have had to recover from

the damage already done, and I would be devastated to see an old scar

re-opened and made worse.

I cannot support the re-opening of Idaho-Maryland Mine under the

current proposed plan. There has got to be a way to make them clean

up before they start again, have proper mitigation requirements that

are upheld and punished properly for violations, and to have an

adequate restoration plan that properly addressed any negative impacts

that will result from mining operations.

And finally, I apologize if some of these questions were already

answered in the DEIR or other documents that were linked on your page.

If anything, it just means you are on the right track in addressing

the concerns and needs of the community.

Thank you for being our resource and voice. It would be my pleasure

to support your efforts in the coming days if an employment

opportunity arises. In the meantime I am happy to be a contributing

community member.

May the force be with you, and always “Believe In Miracles”

Many blessings,

Melissa Cade

B.A. Conservation, and previous office assistant for a small

environmentally conscious mining company that hasn’t started

operations due to funding and permitting. Laid off due to COVID and

lack of investment funds.

From: Tau Malachi
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Preposed Reopening of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:38:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bret C. Cagle
151 Conaway Ave
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
tau_malachi@comcast.net
(530) 205 - 0816

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I was raised at Lake Tahoe and have lived in Nevada County for twenty-two years. Living in downtown Grass Valley I enjoy the experience of a rural foothill community that is relatively quiet and slow paced, with clean air and water, and the beauty of nature. I'm very concerned about the preposed reopening of large scale mining, and specifically the Idaho-Maryland Mine by a non-local company. It seems to me that more than enough long lasting environmental damage has been done to our region from large scale mining in the past.

In the environmental impact analysis study I believe the following should be considered:

1. Effects on ground water and private wells in the surrounding area, as well as creeks and the like.
2. Effects on our air quality and health.
3. Effects on roads from the increased heavy truck traffic, as well as issues of noise and safety.
4. Effects of the power demand to our electrical grid, which is already stressed.

If you would like to speak with me on any of these issues I'd be more than happy to address them further.

Sincerely,

Bret C. Cagle

-----Original Message-----
From: Jane Calbreath <jane.calbreath@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Jane Calbreath <jane.calbreath@gmail.com>
Subject: No thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I want to voice my strong opposition to reopening the Mine. Too close to our small community population. Any impact of noise, traffic, waste production is too much to pay for a Canadian Corporation to make millions.

If that wasn't bad enough - use of our precious water supply (above and below ground) and then tainting our creeks by releasing it back is not acceptable.

Please don't place money over quality of life including protecting nature.

Jane Calbreath
Nevada City

Sent from my iPhone

From: Janet Cameron <jmc3121@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:55 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: STOP THE MINE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We have deep concerns about Rise Gold's plan to open the mine. The acoustic report that indicates there will be no significant increase in noise from the 200 to 400 truck trips per day is highly questionable. Even if there is no increase in decibels, which is doubtful, the din from

traffic will go from occassional to almost constant with a truck entering or leaving the facility every 2-4 minutes seven days a week 14 hours per day. As I write this, I can hear cars traveling on Bennett so for the report to suggest trucks will not be a source of significant increase in noise is absurd. This makes me wonder if the hydrology report was prepared in a way to minimize the stated risk to wells. I understand we would have to buy our water from NID if our well is dewatered. We already face very expensive fire insurance and we are on a fixed income as retirees.

I sincerely hope the county declines the request to open the mine. Putting an industrial project in the middle of a rural residential neighborhood is wrong.

Janet Cameron

-----Original Message-----
From: Sheila Cameron <sheilacameron@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 2:24 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposed to the Rise Gold's proposed gold mining project.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a Nevada City resident opposed to the Rise Gold project. The environmental concerns outweigh potential economic growth on a speculative concept and would do more harm to industries looking to build tourism in the area.

Thank you,
Sheila Cameron
15 Heilmann Ct.
Nevada City

From: Rose Capaccioli <rcapaccioli@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 12:55 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Jorge Velasquez <jorgevelasq@gmail.com>
Subject: Proposed Rise Gold Mining EIR report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelly:

It has come to my attention that the Rise Gold Corp. is applying for a permit to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. My family and I live in Cedar Ridge, at the end of Cedar Ridge Drive. By the way the crow flies, our home is located very close to the proposed Brunswick Industrial mining site.
I have been reading the permit applications submitted by Rise Gold Corp. to the Nevada County planning department. I have some questions.

- Will there be a **mine tailings dump** at the **end of Cedar Ridge Drive** and would trucks drive down our residential street to deposit these tailings?
  - **FINANCIAL BENEFIT?** How will the proposed mine site benefit the citizens of Nevada County? Will the extracted gold (a Nevada County natural resource) be locally taxed, thereby increasing our county's revenues? I am concerned because Rise Corp. is a publicly traded company, who is beholden to their stockholders, not to the people of Nevada County. What types of jobs will be created from the proposed reopening of the mine? Will they be full-time, good-to-excellent paying jobs with benefits? (No near minimum, or part time paying jobs please.) Number of jobs? Will Rise hire locally, and train prospective employees? Or hire outside our county or even from Canada?
  - **INCREASED POLLUTION?** My reading of the application states there will be between 50-100 truckloads of tailings sixteen hours a day, six days a week leaving the mine site. I have concerns about roadway safety and increased air pollution from these large semi trucks. Is there a way this could be mitigated? such as: not using diesel trucks, maybe electric trucks, reduce the number of trips per day, construct a type of Narrow Gauge Railway from the mine site to the dump site? Can these tailings be reused in our county for a locally needed material in construction or road maintenance?
  - **DEWATERING** the existing mine shaft: How will this impact Wolf Creek and the natural habitat surrounding this tributary? When I read a report about dewatering, Rise stated there will be little impact on the waterways. Rise Corp. produced a youtube video stating that an additional 2500 gallons per minute will be discharged into South Fork Wolf Creek and the waterways under the city of Grass Valley. 2500 GALLONS PER MINUTE!! Is this 2500 gallons a minute 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year? That is a lot of water! I am not a hydrologist, but 3.6 million gallons of additional water per day would impact the riparian zone surrounding Wolf Creek.

- Will there be a mine tailings dump at the end of Cedar Ridge Drive and would trucks drive down our residential street to deposit these tailings?

I am not opposed to smart development that has little or mitigative impact on our natural ecosystems and has significant financial benefits to the people of Nevada County.
Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I look forward to your response.
Sincerely,
Rose Capaccioli
11073 Cedar Ridge Drive

From: Rose Capaccioli <rcapaccioli@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley and Board of Supervisors:

How will the people of Nevada County benefit from the multitudes of negative impacts of mining for gold? (dewatering, traffic, the engineered fill, noise, significant environmental

impacts on our waterways and air pollution, just to list a few)

- Will there be a county tax on the value of the gold mined from our soil?
- What type of jobs will be created? Middle to upper income full time jobs with benefits? Job training for the local community members? Please be specific.
- Anything else that is a benefit? Such as... provide money to our schools, parks or recreational facilities or other needs community leaders suggest.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely,
Rose Capaccioli
11073 Cedar Ridge Drive
Cedar Ridge

From: Rose Capaccioli <rcapaccioli@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Dan Miller <Dan.Miller@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>; Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Jorge Velasquez <jorgevelasq@gmail.com>
Subject: NO to mining in Nevada County

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors and M. Kelly:

NO to gold mining in Nevada County.

Minimal financial gain to the people of Nevada County

- Dewatering! Environmental impacts to South Wolf Creek and its tributaries
- Increased semi truck-traffic and subsequent air pollution
- Impacts of mining underground 24/7 for 80 YEARS!
- Negative effect on quality of life and aesthetics due to noise

Thank you for listening to the input of your constituents,
Jorge Velasquez
Rosemarie Capaccioli

From:	Jim Carlson
To:	Matt Kelley; jan fleming
Cc:	Barbara Johnson; Scot Marsters; Dick Law
Subject:	Re: Comments for Draft EIP Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 5:40:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Wow Jan-

Well done. I especially like item #6-Bond-

Hopefully, it just goes away!!

Thanks for all the time it took you to write this up!

Jim

On Friday, August 14, 2020, 4:32:19 PM PDT, jan fleming <juanitanica@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Matt,

Following is an email form of the attached letter.

Sincerely,

Jan Fleming, President
Ironhorse Homeowners Association

Date: August 13, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

From: Board of Directors

Ironhorse Homeowners Association

C/O Paul Law Property Management

1721 E. Main St. #3

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley Comments

We, the Board of Directors of Ironhorse Homeowners Association, are opposed to reopening the mine for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project in unincorporated western Nevada County.

We are submitting the following comments and recommendations in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

1. This is a proposed 24/7 operation with no rest for those impacted by noise (trucks, blasting, etc.) and by vibrations from blasting. We suggest that if mining operations are allowed that they only operate from 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday to limit the impacts.

2. The EIR recommendations need to include details on the impact of noise and vibration studies and include directives to ensure the impact on those close to either site is minimal.

3. The EIR should look at endangered species as well as any potential Native American artifacts and their potential discovery. It should have a detailed plan in place in case any are discovered as part of the mining or grading of the industrial park.

4. The County needs to follow through and make sure the proposed clean-up has been submitted and approved by the California Water Board as they plan to put treated water into Wolf Creek.

5. We have concerns about the clean-up at the industrial park, which will be just over the hill from us. Please require that the contaminated soil be removed and remediated and that only non-contaminated soil be allowed on the industrial park site.

6. The County needs to mandate that all clean-up be done prior to allowing the mine to open

and to require a bond large enough to cover the cost of any additional contamination created by any future work at either site.

7. Please require that all hauling of soil is done during the hours of 7 am to 5pm Monday thru Friday and that the Dirt Haul approved route does not use Bennett Road or East Bennett Road. Require the trucks to use the State Highway rather than local roads. Additionally, please address any requirements by Caltrans if a State highway is used to move soil.

8. Please require that water will be regularly sprayed on any soil that is hauled and dumped, as well as graded, to keep the dust down.

9. Please require that all truck loads are covered. If the mine trucks cause any dirt or contaminants on the roadway, the Mine Operation will be required to expediently remove it. There should be some type of penalty payment schedule in place before the operation is approved.

10. Please require that every truck load of soil is tested for contamination before it is allowed to be moved.

11. Please require that all trucks used on either site have modifications to keep the noise down below acceptable limits.

12. We suggest that 80 years is too long. The operation needs to be re-evaluated every 5 years and improvements with respect to public health, safety and the environment should be made to the process as needed.

Please keep us informed whenever any significant development occurs with regards to this project. We look forward to reading the EIR.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jan Fleming

Jan Fleming, President, Ironhorse Homeowners Association

Email: juanitanica @yahoo.com. Phone: (916) 410-5344

Jim Carlson, Vice President

Barbara Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer

Scot Marsters, Member at Large

Cc: Dick Law, Paul Law Property Management

Email: law@dicklaw.com; (530) 274-7653

From: Steph Carrillo
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Urgent! Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley & the board of supervisors,

As a local resident of this county, I am writing to express my absolute opposition against the Idaho Maryland Mine. Gold mining is one of the most destructive industries in the world. It displaces communities, contaminates drinking water, and destroys pristine environments. Gold mining has been proven time and again to pollute water and land with mercury, cyanide, arsenic, and cadmium, endangering the health of people and ecosystems. Though in truth, the horrors of and irreversible damage caused by gold mining do not end with the examples cited above. That is just the tip of the iceberg. Nevada County should walk carefully into the future considering our atrocious history with mining and the genocide that was called the "Gold Rush".

I urge you to do your own in-depth homework and not leave it to a corrupt, multi-million dollar corporation to lie and tell you that the Idaho-Maryland mine reopening will not cause any "significant environmental impact." From one of hundreds of studies, and similar forms of research, that has been conducted in the last 100+ years, I offer an excerpt from a recent (2019) study that was done to test the levels of heavy metals in individuals who live in gold-mining impacted communities - specifically Nevada County:
"The foothill region of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Northern California is impacted by extensive environmental metal contamination as a result of gold mining activities that began with the 1849 Gold Rush (Figure 1). Following the discovery of gold in California in 1848, over 3634 US tons of gold were extracted from the Sierra Nevada foothills using placer, hydraulic, and hard rock mining techniques [1]. The most productive mines were located in Nevada County [2]. As a toxic byproduct of this mining activity, metals such as arsenic (As) and cadmium (Cd), which naturally occur in gold deposits, as well as imported mercury (Hg), used as an amalgam, were released into the environment and are persistent contaminants of soil, surface water, and groundwater in the region. Residents are concerned about potential exposure to these and other heavy metals around abandoned mine sites in their community and near their homes."

Let me also remind you that we are in the midst of a housing crisis. We are in a severe need of affordable, low income, long term housing in this county as we watch housing prices soar. The promise of being able to live in our hometown forever has become a dream. Many of us wonder where we will go when we are no longer able to live here. If approximately 200 acres will be developed, it should be for housing. We do not need a mine. Especially in one of the last central places of the Brunswick Basin area that remains undeveloped and has any sense of environmental preservation.

This mine has the potential to destroy our water quality, poison our water sources, not to mention the violation of FILLING the mine shafts with CEMENT. Mine waste has multiplied exponentially as the mechanics progress, allowing workers to process more rock than ever. What is the carbon footprint of this? What is the environmental impact of not only MINING but also having a PROCESSING PLANT in our small town? Working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on a permit for 80 years! What will the traffic impact be? How long until we

need to redo all of our roads? Are you willfully ignoring hundreds of years worth of information on the disastrous working conditions of underground mining? The gold mining companies who are currently being prosecuted for violating the Clean Water Act? Do you really want to risk our town being involved with a stain of that size on our reputation? Metal mining was the number one toxic polluter in the United States in 2012, responsible for 40% of all reported toxic releases, also representing 8% of workplace deaths in our country.

Might I also remind you of the current environment we find ourselves in. Gold mining companies consume an excessive amount of water. The average gold mine uses enough water to provide the basic water needs for a population equivalent to that of a large U.S. city for a year. We currently and permanently live on the brink of a drought in this state, as our summers get hotter, and our winters get drier. How much water will be used by this 24 hour, 80 YEARS-long operating project? How many ecosystems will suffer?

All you have to do is drive through the diggings on the San Juan Ridge to see the embarrassing and shameful proof of our town desecrating our landscapes for the thirst and greed of gold. We have forever changed these landscapes, they will never come back. We have taken what can not be given back. How far will we slip into an identity that can be marketed, bought, sold, weighed, and processed? I am disgusted with this. Almost 3000 acres of underground mining?! Because you don't deem the land "prime farming land", so that takes away from it's value to our community or the future of our planet?

I want to conclude by saying that I SEE YOU, I see what you are doing while our community is distracted by our personal health and safety being threatened by this virus. I am one of a large number of local residents that has their eyes on you and what decisions you make. And this will not be the last time you hear from me if this project continues to move forward. I am ashamed that I even have to write this letter to fight against the further violation of our environment, values, impact, and community.

Until next time.
Stephanie Carrillo

From: Julia Carroll-Shea
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: About Rise Gold GV"s Application
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:51:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

A couple of questions have occurred to me regarding Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

First, Rise Gold is basing the application on its descriptions of a multitude of activities it says will occur at the mine. Many of the activities are stated as expected to happen daily. **If the application is approved, how would Rise Gold verify on a daily (or otherwise applicable) basis that it is complying with its descriptions** - e.g., the number of gallons of water being pumped out of the ground and dumped into Wolf Creek; the number of tons of rock being relocated and the number of truck trips taken to haul the detritus; the amounts of blasting materials on site and the safety precautions being employed – e.g. burying, guarding/monitoring – to secure them; the amount of CO2 and other contaminants being exhausted into our air? (This is just a partial list that has occurred to me on Sunday evening, August 16th – the day before people are supposed to have read and digested all the relevant documents and posed their questions and voiced their concerns.)

Secondly, **what consequences (e.g. penalties, shut-down, etc.) would be in place if/when Rise Gold failed to comply with its described activities? How would any consequences be enforced or penalties be guaranteed?**

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Julia Carroll

From: star carroll
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Public Input, Rise Gold EIR
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Re: Public Response to Rise Gold EIR

The proposal does not engender confidence as regards to habitat conservation, air, sound and water pollution, or the impact to traffic and local roadways.

What will be the effects of mine dewatering flow volume on Wolf Creek? Why only “special status plant species” to be considered for an undisturbed zone? This potentially eliminates any other riparian plant species.

.How many jobs will actually become available to local employees during the “dewatering, mining and processing” phases? We are no longer a community of mining engineers and technicians; what numbers are being proposed?

I am against the project, but if it is given a go-ahead by County Supervisors, I request that Rise Gold be required, first to mitigate the Centennial site (thereby showing good faith and intent), then to post a bond in an amount projected to cover any future mitigation expenses, thereby not passing them to the the Nevada County taxpayers.

Sincerely,
Star Carroll
Nevada City, California

From:	Aruba
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:13 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,
Please don't let this happen. There is no way to know how many wells will be impacted by the re-opening of this mine and it seems certain that it can't NOT affect the groundwater, let alone the impact on water, air and noise quality. What *will* happen with the waste water than can contain many heavy metals/chemicals that will be detrimental to our area?
We are a much larger community now than in the 1800's, early 1900's and this will impact MANY people.
Before permitting the progress of the mining operation extremely thorough hydrological and environment plans and studies should be conducted including impact on local residential wells for at least a 10 mile radius.

Thank you
Brad and Colleen Carson
(530) 615-4404

From: Carol Cavanaugh <cavanaugh.carol@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: stop the mine opening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not open the Idaho Maryland Mine!

From: Lynette Cepeda
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: "cepedaelec@gmail.com"
Subject: NO on the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine!
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:14:46 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 12, 2020
Dear Matt Kelley,

I have lived in Grass Valley since 1960 and grew up off Hwy 174 on our family's blueberry farm. My husband and I now live one mile down Greenhorn Road and have lived there for the last 24 years. Both Grass Valley and Nevada City have seen a lot of changes and a lot of growth. What we are extremely concerned about the prospects of the Canadian company Rise Gold re-opening the mine at the corner of East Bennet and Brunswick road and what it could do to our area.

I am very concerned about the environmental impact this mine, if allowed to operate, would have on ALL of GV, not just the immediate area. This would significantly change the landscape of the area, the traffic, noise, pollution and worst of all, the water for thousands of people. After watching the well-produced video of what happened in North San Juan with regard to the wells, quality of drinking water, noise, heavy equipment and the 24 hour/day activity, we are totally against having that happen again in Grass Valley. There is lasting evidence from the mines of 100 to 150 years ago that this area is still dealing with.
Does anyone think that this company would hire any local people since this is a specialize operation? We really doubt that.

No matter what Rise Gold promises, the risk for all kinds of problems and accidents is very high. We urge you to take every step possible to keep this company from coming to our area and destroying the beauty, peace and quiet we love.

Sincerely,

Ed and Lynette Cepeda
13663 Greenhorn Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
cepedaelec@gmail.com

August 3, 2020

TO: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
and staff

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

you have an important opportunity to speak on behalf of the residents of Grass Valley and Nevada City.

Please do not permit a Canadian company to reopen the Idaho Maryland gold mine.

I oppose it mostly for the audio torture and pollution.

But I also suspect somebody somewhere is going to get very rich off of our suffering and it won't be the residents who live around the mine.

Say ↘ No. ↙

Speak up for the people. The children.

We, the people Oppose reopening.

Most Sincerely,
A. Chapman from Grass Valley

Edward Falick
P.O. Box 455
Nevada City, CA 95959

MR. MATT KELLEY

SIR:

AS A 48 YEAR RESIDENT OF NEVADA COUNTY I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE RE-OPENING OF THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE DEVASTATING. CONSTANT NOISE, INCREASED TRAFFIC, POISONED GROUND WATER AND NON-STOP DISCHARGE OF THAT WATER INTO SOUTH WOLF CREEK IS UNACCEPTABLE. OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IS AT RISK IF THE MINE IS ALLOWED TO RE-OPEN. PLEASE PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCES.

Sincerely,
Edward Falick
530-265-2784

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

From: Linda Chappell
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 11:15:53 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We strongly object to this project. We live on Greenhorn Rd and have grave environmental concerns regarding the reopening of this mine, including our well water quality, increased traffic, noise pollution, and the effect on Wolf Creek. This is the 21st century, not the 19th or 20th when the Gold Rush and its toxic effects was in full swing. Most people we know agree that the reopening of this mine is an anachronism that impedes the environmental progress of this century. We want a greener and healthier environmental future for Nevada County....not a return to the toxic past.

Linda and Gary Chappell

From: Jo Ann
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise gold development
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:09:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr.Kelley:
I am opposed to the development and reopening of the mine. Some reasons being:
Dewatering the mine, increased environmental pollution, increased noise and incompatible with other aspects of the community, and the increased impact on the affordable housing market and public services.
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this project.
Sincerely, JoAnn Chatlien
Resident of Nevada County for 47 years

Sent from my iPhone

From: Janet Cinquegrana
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:34:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am a concerned resident of Grass Valley. I am vehemently opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. Everything I have read about this mine reopening is incredibly scary. One of my many concerns is the dewatering of the abandoned mine shafts by pumping the water into the South Fork of Wolf Creek. Wolf Creek flows on my property and I want to keep it from being polluted and harming the natural ecosystem. I am also concerned about the mine impacting air quality. The mining operation would produce exhaust emissions from trucks and heavy equipment, air pollution from all the chemicals associated with mining, and significant greenhouse gas emissions. The mine would produce noise pollution as well and increase traffic of large trucks. I am concerned that reopening the mine would negatively affect my property values and also hurt our economy by reducing our attractiveness as a vacation area. I have read how the reopening of the San Juan Mine in 1995 caused disastrous draining of the local wells. We should not foul this area with this dirty and dangerous enterprise.

Janet Cinquegrana

140 Buckingham Court

Grass Valley, CA 95949

--
Janet

From: Robert Clark <rlclark111@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Environmental Impact Report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am providing my input regarding the planned Environmental Impact Report of the reopening of the mining operation requested by RISE Gold.
Before I go into specific items I would request that additional time be provided for public input. Why is something so important being rushed through? As a community this is not something new. It wasn't a good idea before and isn't now. What has changed? I would maintain that the only thing that has changed is the price of gold has increased and we have a new player. None of the reasons it has not been a good idea for the community before have gone away. This time around there isn't even the fraudulent "promise" of more phantom jobs.

The fact that there has been no public forum to ask questions and get additional information is irresponsible. Yes with the virus such public meetings are ill advised, but that does not remove or reduce their necessity. There is no valid reason why the process can't and shouldn't be delayed until such time as it can be done openly. Yes Rise Gold has spent time and money and is anxious to move ahead. Their financial position may make it difficult or impossible to delay for long, but that is just an indication they may be the wrong partner. That changes nothing. Millions are anxious to get back to work and normal lives, but the virus has not permitted it. It has hurt millions of businesses and Rise should be no different. The mine has been closed for years and waiting a few months to resume consideration is a small price for our community. Moving forward now looks like a railroad job, getting it done without adequate public discussion and disclosure. I and others have many important questions and the answers would most likely create more questions. Unanswered phone calls and emails aren't a substitute. It must be delayed.

As a retired Financial Advisor, Branch Manager for Wachovia Securities in Grass Valley, President of a Registered Investment Advisor who produces and manages nationally distributed mutual funds, and the CEO of a registered Broker/Dealer I have considerable industry experience, extensive knowledge of industry regulations, and concerns that may not be known to our average resident. Hearing of the possibility of the mine reopening and imagining the financial gains that might be available if it did reopen, some investors might think it wise to buy shares in RISE Gold. My advice would be DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. RISE as was the case with Emgold is a "penny stock" company. RISE has been trading for less than $1 per share and this is after a reverse split of 1 share for 10 shares last year. Penny stocks are those trading at less than $5 per share. Historically the failure rate of such companies is almost 100%. Why? First they are generally poorly financed. RISE

certainly meets this criteria. If you were to review their most recent SEC filing as I have you would find that their quarterly losses are millions. With no source of business income the only way they can stay in business even for another quarter would be to borrow or sell more stock (something that would dilute the ownership of existing owners). So what did RISE do? They recently raised another $3.3 million by issuing and selling more stock. They will have to do it again and again. Is this the company we are counting on to spend millions to clean up the mess from the last mining venture before they even start?

Penny stocks like RISE can not trade on exchanges like Nasdaq. Thus they are not regulated the same way. Register Representatives like your financial advisor are not permitted to market or solicit the sale of penny stocks. If they do they are kicked out of the industry! Such companies are not controlled in the information they provide investors in the same way. Information is not even available as it is with other companies. The opportunity for fraud, misrepresentation, price manipulation, and lack of full disclosure is huge. I am sure today potential investors, for example, are being told by salespeople who are not licensed and are not regulated or audited by the industry regulators that RISE is in the final stage of getting the necessary approvals to open the mine. The fact is an EIR hasn't even been done and they are nowhere near approval. The result is that many local residents and others may buy their stock and no doubt lose their money. It will be because of County government's negligence or ignorance! By even permitting the process this far it can be viewed as an endorsement of RISE. Potential investors might say "the County is working with them so they must be OK. Surely the County investigated them in detail." I have requested, but not received a copy of any vetting report done on Rise. My bet is that no formal or adequate study was ever done. It is just that Rise is the only company that has requested the opportunity. That does not make them a good partner. The same fiasco with Emgold cost investors an estimated $50 million. The exposure to the County and individual Supervisors could be huge. If the proposal to reopen is defeated investors will lose everything. Getting the approval is Rise's only business. I can not imagine the motivation to permit or encourage any of this. My advice would be for the County, you and anyone else involved to immediately issue a press release clearly stating that "by even considering working with RISE none of you are endorsing RISE and certainly are not supporting the idea of investing in RISE stock as historically investing in "penny stock" companies (stock trading at less than $5 per share) has statistically proven to be a very risky as the failure rate of such companies is historically almost 100%. The approval for RISE to reopen the mine is in the very early stages and may never be approved". I am dead serious about this recommendation. I understand very well how regulators like the SEC work and trust me when I tell you that you don't want to expose yourself to them. Recognizing now that Rise does not have the financial ability now and stopping the process would be the responsible thing to do. Not even mine proponents could be critical of that for that reason.

With that as a background here are items I think should be included in an EIR.

Everything that was in the EIR the last time around should be included. Hopefully the "answers" would be different. First a study should not only be required on the environmental impact, but on the economic impact as well. It was not considered last time around as well. Don't tell me that the study is limited to only "environmental" issues. The economic impact is a huge part of our "environment".

My wife and I live on East Bennett Road right around the corner of the silo at Brunswick/Bennett and have for the last 20 years. As is the case for most of our neighbors, our home sets back from the road on a beautiful tree covered lot. My wife says it is like camping out full time as we can sit on our deck, hear the tranquility of nature, watch wildlife from deer to bears pass through and be at peace. Having moved many times we understand that the three most important factors in real estate are location, location, and location. We did not pick this location to live next to a dirty mine whose lights obliterate the night sky, replace the

tranquility with the sounds of huge 8 axle diesel ore trucks, run off all wildlife, and contaminate the air, water, and environment. It would even drain our well. The value of our property and that of our neighbors would be devastated. Collectively it would be millions and individually could be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Are we supposed to simply shrug and say it is what it is? How much will the County be required to be held in escrow for if/when it happens? Trust me when I say acceptance will not be our response. We would each spend thousands to recoup our losses from those who caused them or worse didn't even consider it. Take a drive on East Bennett Road from downtown to Brunswick. You'll see it is one of the most beautiful and tranquil drives in the area. Then try to imagine owning one of the homes nearby. If you could then maybe you would realize how damaging and irresponsible reopening would be. I am confident you would be as enraged as my neighbors and I are that it is even being considered.

Any study must include the financial impact of reopening on real estate values. It doesn't stop there.

While reopening may not impact the real estate value of the homes of the folks who live on the other side of town in the same way as mine they will have to help pay for many other things that would result. Does anyone think Brunswick was built to withstand thousands of trips by huge trucks carrying tons of rock? Where is the study identifying costs like that? For what benefit? What is the gain to the City and County?

I have read as much as I can find about the potential reopening and areas that might be considered in an EIR. For example, I read the noise and vibration report. Conclusion: no real problem. You must be kidding us. Hundreds of daily trips by 8 axle diesel trucks carrying tons of rocks, rock crushers, top loaders, graders, etc. will be enormous. When the rock pile gets 90 feet high my trees nor anything else will block the sound. Do you have any idea how big an 8 axle truck is? Any idea what noise several of them would make?

The noise and vibration report paid for by Rise says over and over that various issues are not significant. What else could it say? Like in a trial, no "expert witness" would ever be permitted to take the stand if what they would say hurt the side that paid them.

Please identify the County Supervisor or member of the planning commission who has an audio engineering degree and expertise in this area that I and others might visit with about this complicated subject and who can intelligently evaluate the report and all of its assumptions. Yes, that was a smart A question because we all know that person doesn't exist just like they don't exist on a wide range of subjects. Relying on "independent third parties" for advice is stupid, particularly when I know they were all recommended by Rise. Again I can't understand why the County has put itself and us in this position particularly given the potential damages.

How about the County pay or force RISE to create a recording duplicating of all of the simultaneous sounds the operation would produce. Then let's put it on a loudspeaker truck and park it in front of each Supervisor's home and play it 24/7. They would call the cops and shut it down immediately and we all know it. What do we do when the actual noise is far greater than expected or projected? For the planned 18 months of construction it is my understanding there would be no limit on sound. Do we just have to accept it? Maybe by the end of it we'll all be deaf and we won't be able to even hear the normal operation sounds. An EIR has to disclose this. What happens if the sound ends up greatly understated? Would you close it down or require they use horse drawn wagons to transport the rock to make the noise acceptable? Few if any of us will be able to evaluate such items, but we sure could decide how acceptable the sound would be if we heard it. Don't they want us to know?

The report raises a million questions. They say they place sensors in 30 locations to determine current sound levels. In their table they only show 14. The readings are not current as they indicated some are at least 2 years old.

Per their data, the current sound level from 12 of the 14 sensors indicate that the current noise level exceeds the County limit! Really! We had always thought our neighborhood was one of the most quiet in the area. Interestingly, by the time they massaged and transferred the data to another table all of the readings were lower, even after adding the predicted additional noise from the normal mine operation. Are they saying it will be quieter with the mine than without it? (Another example of why this should all be delayed until the public can have an open discussion.). The Bollard report concludes that the impact of the mine would add less than 5 dBa to the noise level for local residents. Given that the same report puts the sound of a pin dropping at 15 dBa and rustling leaves at 30 dBa they must (and the County must) think we are all brain dead. Has anyone with the County actually read the report? Will monitoring continue during construction and operation? If not, why not? What would the County do when we find the levels of noise exceed their "prediction". Shut it all down and say you spent millions for nothing?

The report says that the Brunswick entrance will be the primary entrance and exit for heavy trucks. It also says that the East Bennett entrance will also be used but shows no data for volume. This omission is significant. Report says that Brunswick will be the route to the Centennial site. Will the use of a Bennett Road be prohibited? Would they use it in bad weather or for any reason? Bennett wasn't made to withstand any 8 diesel truck traffic and the noise we would experience sure wouldn't be less than the sound of a pin dropping.

The potential exists that the wells of residents near the mine might be drained. No problem it can be mitigated by installing a new water line. Done. No not quite. First it's not a potential, it's a certainty. None of us want water from another source. When my children visit they bring huge containers to take home water because it is far better than their water. What would be my lifetime cost of being on water from another source? Today it is only the electricity to run the well pump. What study tells us that? Who pays it? At what cost? What part of my property would be torn up to install it and hook it up? This can not be another it is what it is. Last time around they said they would pay for piped- in water for a couple years. Hey I plan on living a bit longer! How about they pay for lifetime? Better add that amount to funds held in escrow. These kinds of impacts must be included in detail. The report says we would be given the opportunity to connect to NID. What would be the choice? No water? What would be the cost of actually hooking up to my house? Would Rise be required to pay everything. Would they pay the entire cost? Would they repair my yard? My driveway? When would it be done? Would it be done before my pump pumped mud? Is everyone all magically hooked up at the same time. The total cost to hook up to NID for each home would be thousands. Add this to funds held in escrow. This is not a "no significant impact" if you live near the mine. Has the drilling and explosions that RISE has already done already polluted our wells? Don't give us some "expert" opinion. It is our health and our lives in the balance. My neighbors and I demand that RISE pay to have each of our individual wells tested now and then frequently if they do anymore work. Telling me that the wells of some of my neighbors tested OK is not adequate. I don't drink their water. I want my well tested!

What will residents near the mine be compensated? No one can say it won't cost us. What is the compensation for having to drink chemically treated water instead of or pure well water, of never seeing wildlife on our properties, of huge declines in the market value of our homes, etc.? I can assure you that I and my neighbors will each spend thousands to recoup it from the County and those involved. We will tie it up in the courts and just wait for Rise to bleed out. That part probably wouldn't take long. We will recall any Supervisor who votes for approval. In the same position you know you would too.

I have refrained from identifying all of the items that I feel strongly about that should be in environmental and economic impact reports. The ability to ask questions in a Public forum might answer some and create some. I am assuming that all typical items will be included. I

hope I'm not wrong. I am sure you would hear if it doesn't.
I want and expect an explanation and rationale as to not including all items requested. I fear that this is going to end up very poorly. It should all be stopped now.
I know this would be disastrous for me and our neighbors financially. Will you not even study or consider that just because you don't live on our street? What would be the cost to the community in roads, etc. What would be the benefits? Would the mining company be required to guarantee any of the jobs would go to locals? How many and at what pay? Would a far less destructive alternative to mining be better? It's a shame the County wouldn't spend the same time and money to find it.
I apologize if any of my comments would suggest that the County is operating with ignorance, incompetence, and total disregard for the best interest of residents. The best guard against it would be to stop doing it.

Bob Clark
12176 East Bennett Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Rlclark@gmail.com
530/477-1292

From: Robert Clark
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Our phone con
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:50:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

First let me thank you for your time and courtesy when I called. I do have a couple additional questions that I haven't found answers to in reviewing available documentation.
The noise and vibration report indicates that the entrance/exit to the Brunswick site would be used for a variety of traffic. Is the entrance across from the Old Mine Road? The report showed haul truck traffic, but did not show how many entrances and exits the trucks might make using this path. Could you supply this data? I ask because the additional sound this would create would not be less than the sound of a pin drop and I can see it from my property.
Would there be anything in the agreement that would prohibit trucks from simply proceeding on down Bennett to the Centennial site regardless of reason (poor weather, etc.).?
The last time around with Emgold I was told the lighting from the Brunswick site would obliterate view of the night sky in the area. The report on aesthetics simply says the light would have hoods that pointed downward and concluded as with everything that this was satisfactory. What is the direct response to this issue?
Thanks for your time and information.
Regards,
Bob Clark
530/477-1292

From: Robert Clark
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Additional EIR requirements
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:51:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Reports paid for by Rise indicate that when our wells run dry we will be "given the opportunity" to connect to NID water. NID says that the minimum water bill at current rates would be about $50 per month for a family of two and depending on family size could be $100 or more. Hooking up to the line would cost from "$1000 to tens of thousands of dollars depending on the property location". What an "opportunity"!! Rise would say this would satisfactorily mitigate the situation.
Giving up our pure water for chemically treated water, having our properties torn up, and a guarantee of thousands of dollars of expense over our lives is far from satisfactory. Will Rise be required to pay for everything including lifetime water bills including unquestionable future rate increases? What will be the mitigation for the much lower quality water? Will they also be required to pay for bottled drinking water forever? I wouldn't put the NID water in my fish tank.
Bob Clark
Grass Valley

From: Mira Clark
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 11:54:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada County and Grass Valley resident for 30 years, I was born and have lived here for most of my life. Like many others in the area, I am very opposed and concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
- The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.
- Impact on soil do to pollution of the area by mine.
- Impact on nearby streams and other running water sources.
- Impact on nearby wildlife, such as, the federally endangered populations of a special Fremontodendron decumbens.

Sincerely,

Mira Clark
11264 Newtown Rd
Nevada City CA, 95959
530-559-6115 | existinspired@gmail.com

From: Nolan Clark
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:03:28 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 10th, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Nolan Clark and I am a citizen of Grass Valley, CA. I graduated from Nevada Union High School in 2017, and currently study geology at Pomona College in Claremont, CA. Because of my studies and my upbringing in Nevada County, the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project by Rise Gold Corp. begets my concern. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, the Final Project Description from November 2019 by Benchmark Resources, and various other Project Application Materials available on the County of Nevada website, I have compiled my chief concerns and comments here to be shared with the Senior Planner, Matt Kelley.

To begin my comments, I hope to make it very clear: I, as a citizen of Grass Valley, desire that this project's progress be halted immediately. The environmental impacts are too many, the economic benefits are too few, and the effects on local quality of life are too adverse.

My environmental concerns focus on the construction and reclamation of the mine and related facilities, the transport/hauling of engineered fill and gold concentrate, the gold mineralization processing, water usage, and discharge into the South Fork of Wolf Creek. Of the total acreage for the site, it is estimated that 104 acres will be disturbed, including the grading of multiple tens of acres. The head shaft for the mine at the Brunswick site will be 165 feet tall (not to mention a number of other large buildings planned), will be abrasive to the eye, and will encroach on otherwise undisturbed land. The site will truly be a visible sore on the beauty of Nevada County. The exploration of the mine will include expanding tunnels through blasting —in an area with a known fault. These blasts harbor safety concerns. The hauling of mining tailings and gold concentrate will occur seven days a week for more than twelve hours a day. The trucks used in this process will release incredible amounts of greenhouse gases, as well as disturb nearby residents and increase traffic in the area. Although this project promises not to use cyanide or mercury to process the gold mineralization, it mentions unnamed reagents used as collectors, promotors, frothers, and flocculants. The reagents planned for use should be made publicly known. Many modern mining reagents, such as xanthates, are toxic, can bioaccumulate in flora and fauna, and have potentially negative impacts on stream health and the health of residents. I am skeptical that this project will use caution in its selection of reagents. This project will also use millions of gallons of water—a commodity we are already slowly losing in the state of California. Finally, wastewater from this project will be dumped into the South Fork of Wolf Creek. Though the assessment claims the water quality will equal or surpass that of Wolf Creek, one mistake or miscalculation in treatment could seriously harm or even kill Wolf Creek and its parent streams.

The approximated employment for the Idaho-Maryland Mine is 312 "educated and skilled

workers”. My questions are: who will these workers be? Will Rise Gold make a concerted effort to employ local members of our community? In a similar vein, will this project inject funds into our local economy, or will profits be sent back up to Canada, where Rise Gold is based? At the writing of this letter, Rise Gold Corp. stock is dropping. Will this be a sustainable investment for our community?

Construction for this project, the ongoing mining operations, and transport of extracted materials will cause noise pollution, increase traffic, and lower air quality in Nevada County. Mining is a dirty business, driven by dirty money, that has dirty outcomes. Nevada County is a beautiful Sierra-foothill community, why actively degrade it?

As a young person growing up in Nevada County, I was taught that the Gold Rush happened many generations ago. It felt archaic and old-fashioned. It seemed unlike the Grass Valley I know now. The Idaho-Maryland Mine shut down in 1956 and it should remain closed. The impacts on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. Please consider these comments in your decision-making for this project.

Sincerely,

Nolan Clark
Citizen of Grass Valley
ndca2017@mymail.pomona.edu

From: Robert Clark
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Environmental Impact Report
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for your responsiveness and availability.

On Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 12:14 PM Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

> Good Afternoon Mr. Clark:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.
>
> Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of

the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Robert Clark <rlclark111@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Environmental Impact Report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am providing my input regarding the planned Environmental Impact Report of the reopening of the mining operation requested by RISE Gold.

Before I go into specific items I would request that additional time be provided for public input. Why is something so important being rushed through? As a community this is not something new. It wasn't a good idea before and isn't now. What has changed? I would maintain that the only thing that has changed is the price of gold has increased and we have a new player. None of the reasons it has not been a good idea for the community before have

gone away. This time around there isn't even the fraudulent "promise" of more phantom jobs.

The fact that there has been no public forum to ask questions and get additional information is irresponsible. Yes with the virus such public meetings are ill advised, but that does not remove or reduce their necessity. There is no valid reason why the process can't and shouldn't be delayed until such time as it can be done openly. Yes Rise Gold has spent time and money and is anxious to move ahead. Their financial position may make it difficult or impossible to delay for long, but that is just an indication they may be the wrong partner. That changes nothing. Millions are anxious to get back to work and normal lives, but the virus has not permitted it. It has hurt millions of businesses and Rise should be no different. The mine has been closed for years and waiting a few months to resume consideration is a small price for our community. Moving forward now looks like a railroad job, getting it done without adequate public discussion and disclosure. I and others have many important questions and the answers would most likely create more questions. Unanswered phone calls and emails aren't a substitute. It must be delayed.

As a retired Financial Advisor, Branch Manager for Wachovia Securities in Grass Valley, President of a Registered Investment Advisor who produces and manages nationally distributed mutual funds, and the CEO of a registered Broker/Dealer I have considerable industry experience, extensive knowledge of industry regulations, and concerns that may not be known to our average resident. Hearing of the possibility of the mine reopening and imagining the financial gains that might be available if it did reopen, some investors might think it wise to buy shares in RISE Gold. My advice would be DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. RISE as was the case with Emgold is a "penny stock" company. RISE has been trading for less than $1 per share and this is after a reverse split of 1 share for 10 shares last year. Penny stocks are those trading at less than $5 per share. Historically the failure rate of such companies is almost 100%. Why? First they are generally poorly financed. RISE certainly meets this criteria. If you were to review their most recent SEC filing as I have you would find that their quarterly losses are millions. With no source of business income the only way they can stay in business even for another quarter would be to borrow or sell more stock (something that would dilute the ownership of existing owners). So what did RISE do? They recently raised another $3.3 million by issuing and selling more stock. They will have to do it again and again. Is this the company we are counting on to spend millions to clean up the mess from the last mining venture before they even start?

Penny stocks like RISE can not trade on exchanges like Nasdaq. Thus they are not regulated the same way. Register Representatives like your financial advisor are not permitted to market or solicit the sale of penny stocks. If they do they are kicked out of the industry! Such companies are not controlled in the information they provide investors in the same way. Information is not even available as it is with other companies. The opportunity for fraud, misrepresentation, price manipulation, and lack of full disclosure is huge. I am sure today potential investors, for example, are being told by salespeople who are not licensed and are not regulated or audited by the industry regulators that RISE is in the final stage of getting the necessary approvals to open the mine. The fact is an EIR hasn't even been done and they are nowhere near approval. The result is that many local residents and others may buy their stock and no doubt lose their money. It will be because of County government's

negligence or ignorance! By even permitting the process this far it can be viewed as an endorsement of RISE. Potential investors might say "the County is working with them so they must be OK. Surely the County investigated them in detail." I have requested, but not received a copy of any vetting report done on Rise. My bet is that no formal or adequate study was ever done. It is just that Rise is the only company that has requested the opportunity. That does not make them a good partner. The same fiasco with Emgold cost investors an estimated $50 million. The exposure to the County and individual Supervisors could be huge. If the proposal to reopen is defeated investors will lose everything. Getting the approval is Rise's only business. I can not imagine the motivation to permit or encourage any of this. My advice would be for the County, you and anyone else involved to immediately issue a press release clearly stating that "by even considering working with RISE none of you are endorsing RISE and certainly are not supporting the idea of investing in RISE stock as historically investing in "penny stock" companies (stock trading at less than $5 per share) has statistically proven to be a very risky as the failure rate of such companies is historically almost 100%. The approval for RISE to reopen the mine is in the very early stages and may never be approved". I am dead serious about this recommendation. I understand very well how regulators like the SEC work and trust me when I tell you that you don't want to expose yourself to them. Recognizing now that Rise does not have the financial ability now and stopping the process would be the responsible thing to do. Not even mine proponents could be critical of that for that reason.

With that as a background here are items I think should be included in an EIR.

Everything that was in the EIR the last time around should be included. Hopefully the "answers" would be different. First a study should not only be required on the environmental impact, but on the economic impact as well. It was not considered last time around as well. Don't tell me that the study is limited to only "environmental" issues. The economic impact is a huge part of our "environment".

My wife and I live on East Bennett Road right around the corner of the silo at Brunswick/Bennett and have for the last 20 years. As is the case for most of our neighbors, our home sets back from the road on a beautiful tree covered lot. My wife says it is like camping out full time as we can sit on our deck, hear the tranquility of nature, watch wildlife from deer to bears pass through and be at peace. Having moved many times we understand that the three most important factors in real estate are location, location, and location. We did not pick this location to live next to a dirty mine whose lights obliterate the night sky, replace the tranquility with the sounds of huge 8 axle diesel ore trucks, run off all wildlife, and contaminate the air, water, and environment. It would even drain our well. The value of our property and that of our neighbors would be devastated. Collectively it would be millions and individually could be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Are we supposed to simply shrug and say it is what it is? How much will the County be required to be held in escrow for if/when it happens? Trust me when I say acceptance will not be our response. We would each spend thousands to recoup our losses from those who caused them or worse didn't even consider it. Take a drive on East Bennett Road from downtown to Brunswick. You'll see it is one of the most beautiful and tranquil drives in the area. Then try to imagine owning one of the homes nearby. If you could then maybe you would realize how damaging and irresponsible reopening would be. I am confident you would be as enraged as my neighbors and I are that it is even being considered.

Any study must include the financial impact of reopening on real estate values. It doesn't stop there.

While reopening may not impact the real estate value of the homes of the folks who live on the other side of town in the same way as mine they will have to help pay for many other things that would result. Does anyone think Brunswick was built to withstand thousands of trips by huge trucks carrying tons of rock? Where is the study identifying costs like that? For what benefit? What is the gain to the City and County?

I have read as much as I can find about the potential reopening and areas that might be considered in an EIR. For example, I read the noise and vibration report. Conclusion: no real problem. You must be kidding us. Hundreds of daily trips by 8 axle diesel trucks carrying tons of rocks, rock crushers, top loaders, graders, etc. will be enormous. When the rock pile gets 90 feet high my trees nor anything else will block the sound. Do you have any idea how big an 8 axle truck is? Any idea what noise several of them would make?

The noise and vibration report paid for by Rise says over and over that various issues are not significant. What else could it say? Like in a trial, no “expert witness” would ever be permitted to take the stand if what they would say hurt the side that paid them.

Please identify the County Supervisor or member of the planning commission who has an audio engineering degree and expertise in this area that I and others might visit with about this complicated subject and who can intelligently evaluate the report and all of its assumptions. Yes, that was a smart A question because we all know that person doesn’t exist just like they don’t exist on a wide range of subjects. Relying on "independent third parties" for advice is stupid, particularly when I know they were all recommended by Rise. Again I can’t understand why the County has put itself and us in this position particularly given the potential damages.

How about the County pay or force RISE to create a recording duplicating of all of the simultaneous sounds the operation would produce. Then let’s put it on a loudspeaker truck and park it in front of each Supervisor’s home and play it 24/7. They would call the cops and shut it down immediately and we all know it. What do we do when the actual noise is far greater than expected or projected? For the planned 18 months of construction it is my understanding there would be no limit on sound. Do we just have to accept it? Maybe by the end of it we’ll all be deaf and we won’t be able to even hear the normal operation sounds. An EIR has to disclose this. What happens if the sound ends up greatly understated? Would you close it down or require they use horse drawn wagons to transport the rock to make the noise acceptable? Few if any of us will be able to evaluate such items, but we sure could decide how acceptable the sound would be if we heard it. Don’t they want us to know?

The report raises a million questions. They say they place sensors in 30 locations to determine current sound levels. In their table they only show 14. The readings are not current as they indicated some are at least 2 years old.

Per their data, the current sound level from 12 of the 14 sensors indicate that the current noise level exceeds the County limit! Really! We had always thought our neighborhood was one of the most quiet in the area. Interestingly, by the time they massaged and transferred the data to another table all of the readings were lower, even after adding the predicted additional noise from the normal mine operation. Are they saying it will be quieter with the mine than without it? (Another example of why this should all be delayed until the public can have an open discussion.). The Bollard report concludes that the impact of the mine

would add less than 5 dBa to the noise level for local residents. Given that the same report puts the sound of a pin dropping at 15 dBa and rustling leaves at 30 dBa they must (and the County must) think we are all brain dead. Has anyone with the County actually read the report? Will monitoring continue during construction and operation? If not, why not? What would the County do when we find the levels of noise exceed their "prediction". Shut it all down and say you spent millions for nothing?

The report says that the Brunswick entrance will be the primary entrance and exit for heavy trucks. It also says that the East Bennett entrance will also be used but shows no data for volume. This omission is significant. Report says that Brunswick will be the route to the Centennial site. Will the use of a Bennett Road be prohibited? Would they use it in bad weather or for any reason? Bennett wasn't made to withstand any 8 diesel truck traffic and the noise we would experience sure wouldn't be less than the sound of a pin dropping.

The potential exists that the wells of residents near the mine might be drained. No problem it can be mitigated by installing a new water line. Done. No not quite. First it's not a potential, it's a certainty. None of us want water from another source. When my children visit they bring huge containers to take home water because it is far better than their water. What would be my lifetime cost of being on water from another source? Today it is only the electricity to run the well pump. What study tells us that? Who pays it? At what cost? What part of my property would be torn up to install it and hook it up? This can not be another it is what it is. Last time around they said they would pay for piped- in water for a couple years. Hey I plan on living a bit longer! How about they pay for lifetime? Better add that amount to funds held in escrow. These kinds of impacts must be included in detail. The report says we would be given the opportunity to connect to NID. What would be the choice? No water? What would be the cost of actually hooking up to my house? Would Rise be required to pay everything. Would they pay the entire cost? Would they repair my yard? My driveway? When would it be done? Would it be done before my pump pumped mud? Is everyone all magically hooked up at the same time. The total cost to hook up to NID for each home would be thousands. Add this to funds held in escrow. This is not a "no significant impact" if you live near the mine.

Has the drilling and explosions that RISE has already done already polluted our wells? Don't give us some "expert" opinion. It is our health and our lives in the balance. My neighbors and I demand that RISE pay to have each of our individual wells tested now and then frequently if they do anymore work. Telling me that the wells of some of my neighbors tested OK is not adequate. I don't drink their water. I want my well tested!

What will residents near the mine be compensated? No one can say it won't cost us. What is the compensation for having to drink chemically treated water instead of or pure well water, of never seeing wildlife on our properties, of huge declines in the market value of our homes, etc.? I can assure you that I and my neighbors will each spend thousands to recoup it from the County and those involved. We will tie it up in the courts and just wait for Rise to bleed out. That part probably wouldn't take long. We will recall any Supervisor who votes for approval. In the same position you know you would too.

I have refrained from identifying all of the items that I feel strongly about that should be in environmental and economic impact reports. The ability to ask questions in a Public forum might answer some and create some. I am assuming that all typical items will be included. I hope I'm not wrong. I am sure you would hear if it doesn't.

I want and expect an explanation and rationale as to not including all items requested. I fear that this is going to end up very poorly. It should all be stopped now.

I know this would be disastrous for me and our neighbors financially. Will you not even study or consider that just because you don't live on our street? What would be the cost to the community in roads, etc. What would be the benefits? Would the mining company be required to guarantee any of the jobs would go to locals? How many and at what pay? Would a far less destructive alternative to mining be better? It's a shame the County wouldn't spend the same time and money to find it.

I apologize if any of my comments would suggest that the County is operating with ignorance, incompetence, and total disregard for the best interest of residents. The best guard against it would be to stop doing it.

Bob Clark

12176 East Bennett Road

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Rlclark@gmail.com

530/477-1292

George Scarmon & Jeanne Clark Scarmon
PO Box 7
Nevada City, CA 95959
530/470-0384

August 10, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

From: George & Jeanne Scarmon, NC Residents
levendi@att.net

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal -- RISE GOLD Grass Valley

As residents of Nevada County, we have a number of questions about Rise Gold's Idaho Maryland Mine proposal. At this juncture in the process are concerned about a number of environmental and economic issues that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

Water Quality:
1. Are there adequate measures in place to address the quality of treated water conveyed to the proposed discharge point?
3. What are the arsenic or other contaminant levels in the ground water? Who performed the tests? Have they been replicated? Has an independent party verified the results?
4. How will arsenic or other contaminants be tested and removed?
5. Does the overall dewatering plan adequately protect the environment? There are likely people on wells in the area. How will dewatering affect water quality and reliability of flow for people relying on wells?
6. If Rise Gold is making assurances on the above questions, have you considered requiring an assessment/review by an uninterested third party?

Environmental Cleanup:
1. This is an 80 year project. Can the problems related to environmental cleanup be addressed on an incremental basis and not saved until late in the project?
2. Or can the EIR require that Rise deposit funds in on a timely basis expressly for cleanup to assure adequate funds are available?
3. Have you studied the impacts from similar county, state or federal permitted mining operations to find best practices regarding environmental cleanup?
4. What plans has the county made should Rise Gold fail to perform necessary environmental cleanup? Does the county have a special fund set aside for this purpose?

Impact to Businesses
1. Mining operations can cause vibrations and other disturbances to sensitive equipment. Has Rise Gold done a study of all businesses in the sphere of impact that might experience a deleterious affect on computer operations or other sensitive equipment? If yes, has mitigation been included?

Traffic Impacts:
1. What are the impacts to local residents regarding heavy duty haul trucks and material deliveries on this 7 day-a-week operation? People in this area are used to a quiet, peaceful life. How will Rise Gold's plan identify and mitigate possible changes in noise levels, traffic flow and related issues?
2. Has road wear, maintenance and potential dangers from heavy duty trucks been factored into the EIR process?

Biological Resources:
1. Has a complete assessment been performed to determine the range of species in the area ecosystems? Are there Threatened or Endangered Species? If yes, what safeguards are being taken to protect or mitigate impacts?
2. Have "neighbors" been contacted to assess their concerns about changes to the flora and fauna in the environs of their homes due to this project that may materially change their quality of life and their enjoyment of their property?

Economic Impacts to Community:
1. Has an independent third party advised the County on the economic impacts of this project? Has a cost benefits analysis produced replicatable results?
2. Has an independent study been done to determine the impacts on home values by this project?
3. This is an 80 year project. What actions is the county taking that can be included in the EIR process that can assure future generations that you have done your "due diligence" in allowing a project of this magnitude to move forward as a benefit to the community?
4. Will the company be asked to give employment opportunities to county residents first?
5. What obligations are you requiring that Rise Gold meet to assure financial benefit to the community? Have you placed safeguards within the EIR, such as performance bonds or some other monetary deposit system, to assure that the county is protected should ownership change or anticipated earnings do not materialize?

We are a community of concerned citizens who appreciate being part of the discussion process. Will you plan to hold multiple public hearings and address all issues brought forward so the public has an opportunity to hear and assess? We are impacted by COVID which now put people without good internet at a disadvantage in ability to attend zoom meetings. Will you provide public meetings when safe and do mailings to assure those with interest are able to remain informed?

Sincerely,

George Scarmon

Jeanne Clark

From:	Jeanne and George Scarmon
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Letter regarding Rise Gold Idaho Maryland Miine Proposal
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 4:59:25 PM
Attachments:	081120 Matt Kelley Idaho Maryland Mine.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley
Attached please find a letter expressing questions that we have regarding the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine Project by Rise Gold. Please add us to your email list.

Thank you,
George Scarmon
Jeanne Clark

Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner August 14. 2020

Subject: Comments and Concerns for the DEIR for Rise Gold's Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Mr. Kelly –

I would like to offer my suggestions for certain conditions to be addressed in the proposed DEIR you mentioned in the 8/5/20 edition of the Union newspaper.

Before I offer suggestions, let me say I viewed the Rise Gold website where I read a news item dated March 17, 2020. The news item stated … *"All technical reports required for the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") are now either complete or in final draft."…"The technical reports conclude that the Idaho-Maryland Project ("IM Project") has no significant environmental impacts after mitigation has been incorporated*." …"*based on the results of the technical studies, the Company believes the DEIR will arrive at a similar conclusion with no significant environmental impacts after mitigation is incorporated."*

Mr. Kelly, it seems Rise Gold has already generated all the information required for the DEIR. So I'm not sure what more there is to offer. But I'll proceed with my suggestions.

The DEIR must identify the full scope of Rise Gold's mining and extraction operations, with a time-phased detailed schedule of the main construction events and state the number of years of expected operation. If an end date of operations cannot be determined at this time, then the Company must establish a time period that may be extended by Nevada County, as appropriate. Such periods could be 10years, with extensions.

The DEIR must establish that a remedial bond is required by the Company BEFORE any construction or operation may begin. Otherwise Nevada County will be left holding the bag when or if the Company pulls up stakes and leaves.

The DEIR must discsuss the viability of a sub-surface mining and extraction operation within the boundaries of an established urban city, such as Grass Valley. The DEIR must indicate where in the United States such an activity has been undertaken within an urban environment, and to what extent the activity was in harmony with the urban environment.

The DEIR should mention that the Rise Gold operation of the IM Project is expected to process some 1,000 tons of Gold bearing ore per day and with a projected yield of 0.46 oz per ton, that 460 oz of Gold per day will be produced. This amounts to about $920,000 per day of Gold profit ($2000 per once of Gold). Not one penny goes to Nevada County since California does not have a severance tax for mining operations. Rise Gold gets the profit and our County gets next to nothing.

Let me now list the areas of concern that the Rise Gold news item above refers to. I list them in order and I have suggestions on some, and the list covers much of what your article speaks to.

* **Aesthetics** – Main concern is that the DEIR treat the mining and extraction activity in detail. This should cover how the Rise Gold operation will co-exist with the urban environment of Nevada County and Grass Valley.

* **Air Quality** – The DEIR should discuss the impact on air quality due to Ground Ozone, smoke, dust, exhaust plumes, diesel engine particulates (PM10 and PM2). Nevada County has one ground Ozone monitoring station in Grass Valley and the suggestion was made to EM Gold years ago to fund the construction of one additional Ozone monitoring station to measure any contribution from their operation. Rise Gold should fund the additional monitoring station.

* **Biological Resources** – Nothing additional to suggest.

* **Wetlands** – Nothing additional to suggest.

* **Cultural Resources** – Nothing additional to suggest.

* **Geology and Soils** – The DEIR must specifically discuss the Company's plan to compress the mine tailings and spread them around the Centennial site. To what extent will these tailings contain hazardous or toxic materials? And does mitigation even make sense in this context?

* **Hydrology and Soils** – See Ground Water Drawdown below.

* **Surface Water Quality** – The DEIR must discuss the impacts of subsurface dewatering of the existing tunnels in terms of both impacting surrounding residential wells and the transfer of the water into Wolfe Creek. As for dewatering the tunnels, one mitigation option is to supply NID water to the effected residential properties whose wells have been destroyed. But the mitigation should go further and require Rise Gold to pay for the NID extensions and cover the cost of NID supplied water for the foreseeable future. As for treating the tunnel water before dumping it in Wolfe Creek, The DEIR should discuss the treatment process, the construction of the water pool, any concrete berms to prevent collapse of the pool, and the latest "best practices" used to treat the water. The DEIR should also discuss the impacts on Grass Valley's water treatment facility to handle an additional large volume of water through the system.

* **Ground Water Drawdown** – See Water Quality above.

* **Storms and Flooding**– Nothing additional to add.

* **Land Use and Planning** – The DEIR should discuss the impact of the 45 foot (6 stories?) building to house the hoist/elevator for the mine shaft. The structure will be visible to at least three housing developments (being constructed or in advanced planning stages).

* **Noise and Vibration** – The DEIR should discuss the impacts to residential and businesses due to the 24 hour a day, 7 days per week of mining, blasting, ore crushing, and mine tailing compaction. Subsurface geology can and does transmit vibrations throughout the IM Project zone. Two business owners commented at a public hearing when EM Gold was performing initial core drilling. The businesses produced highly accurate instruments for commercial purposes and the drilling vibrations were causing havoc with the instrument calibrations. The owners stated they would have to leave Nevada County if these operations continued. I know of no mitigations that can alleviate this situation.

* **Transportation and Traffic** – The DEIR should discuss in detail the traffic plans that Rise Gold envisions. This would include the truck traffic, the roadways, the improvements to existing roadways or the construction of new roadways to serve the IM Project. For example, Brunswick Road will be used for access to hiways 49 and 20. No reason is given for this statement. Brunswick road is already a heavily travelled way and is not suitable for heavy truck traffic all day, 7 days a week. The size of the trucks is a concern as is the number of trips per day.

Finally, Mr. Kelly, I realize the name of the game with EIR's is to identify problems and then to offer mitigations to minimize or eliminate the problems. A Company's response to a problem is "we'll just mitigate it". This means the problem won't go away, but the people must decide to live with the mitigation or not.

Some problems cannot or should not be fixed by mitigation. Nevada County must be vigilant in taking a hard look at proposed mitigations that Rise Gold offers.

Regards,

William Clark, 324 Vistamont Dr., Grass Valley, Ca. 530-272-4667.

From: Nick Pappani
To: Jessica Chuidian-Ingersoll
Subject: FW: Suggestions for Rise Gold"s EIR
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:48:59 PM
Attachments: DEIR-Rise Gold.docx

Save to server and mark for "Noise and vibration - effects on vibration sensitive equipment).

Nick Pappani
Vice President

Phone. (916) 372-6100
1501 Sports Drive, Suite A Sacramento, CA 95834
Mobile. (916) 267-1397
www.raneymanagement.com

-----Original Message-----
From: clark william <gv8billy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Suggestions for Rise Gold's EIR

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley-

I'm sending some suggestions for the Rise Gold EIR. I've attached a word doc with my comments.

Please indicate if you have recieved my email in time to meet your deadline.

Regards,
William Clark
324 Vistamont Dr.
Grass Valley, Ca.

From: Robert Clark <rlclark111@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Due diligence on RISE Gold

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have read most of the documents available online regarding the reopening of the mine in Grass Valley. Perhaps I've missed it and you can reference me to it, but I am interested in seeing what was done by way of vetting on RISE Gold. Could you provide me with that documentation? If not, could you describe what investigation was done (particularly financial) and who participated?
Matt you know better than anyone the time and effort that has and will be spent on this project (wouldn't want to be you on this). Last time around Grass Valley realized that the company they were dealing with didn't have the financial resources to make it to the first watering station let alone the finish line. Unfortunately it didn't happen until a lot of time and money were spent and a lot of community division. I hope you have reviewed RISE's SEC filings (please tell me you have). If you have, you have seen that RISE is only an unsuccessful stock offering or significant expense away from ceasing to exist and it won't be the last time they have to come up with cash as they have no business income. The actual implementation will cost millions. I realize as I'm sure you do that RISE has no intention of ever actually being involved in the reopening. They will sell the permits to someone who actually has opened and run mines and RISE will leave town with their cash and leave their claims, projections, etc. in the dust and let the County and someone else deal with it. That of course creates endless questions and concerns as to why we aren't dealing with a company who actually has reopened and run a mine. They would be way more knowledgeable as to what might lie ahead.
If RISE can afford to go through the process, can meet all of the necessary expenses and it can be proven then fine. If they can't the sooner that is understood the better. Lack of financial strength would be an unquestionable reason to stop the project. Even those who support the reopening would find it difficult to object. If the County presses on spending time and money creating community discord in the process and RISE can't cut it everyone involved won't just be embarrassed they will be labeled as incompetent, a label that may be deserved.
I look forward to whatever information you can provide. I hope it doesn't add too much to what I am sure is a huge workload.
I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe.
Regards,
Bob Clark
Grass Valley

From: sd.claydon@protonmail.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Brunswick Mine reopening
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Christopher Claydon, M.D. **Susan Claydon, N.P.**
12353 Beaver Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Having lived and run a medical practice in Nevada County since 1981, we are very much pro-responsible business. We realize the need for more tax base in the county. We treasure the gold mining history of our foothill community. Until recently, we were in favor of the mine re-opening. We have done extensive investigation into the possible effects on our property and that of our neighbors and the surrounding environment and are now very much AGAINST the project for the following reasons:

1. **Mine dewatering.** Currently we have pristine spring water from our well which is 500 feet deep. This well is very likely to be adversely impacted by the removal of millions of gallons of water daily from the mine property bordering our neighborhood.

2. **Noise and air pollution**. We cherish the quietness of our neighborhood and surroundings. The noise generated by operations would adversely affect the quality of our neighborhood. As Nevada County already is affected by high ozone levels, the increased dust and possible contaminants from the mine could add to the poor air quality.

3. **Property devaluation.** For the reasons listed above, and others, property values will most likely decline**.** One of our neighbors recently had a sale fall through when the buyers learned of the proposed mine re-opening.

Just as hydraulic mining caused environmental damage which was lasting, this project could also leave a negative impact for generations.

We are pro growth and pro business. We are also cognizant that this project may be the right one at the wrong time in history.

If there was a way to remove the gold without negatively affecting those who moved into the

area after the closure of the mines, we would be for it. As the project stands, we very much oppose it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christopher and Susan Claydon

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

-----Original Message-----
From: Ellen Clephane <ellenlight8@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I live on Greenhorn Road and I am horrified at the current renewed attempt to open the gold mine in two nearby locations. This project was previously turned down for good reasons. There would be a huge negative impact to the physical environment, the beauty of the area, the quality of life and the property values.

What would happen to our ground water, to our wells, if a million gallons of water a day was pumped from under our homes?
What would happen to our peace and quiet, tranquility and minimal traffic with up to 100 truck trips per day on Brunswick?
What would happen to the beauty of nature when the land is dug up and ugly buildings, pipelines, parking lots, driveways and mining equipment are installed?
What would be the noise level with this operation going 24 hours, 7 days a week ~ potentially lasting for 80 years?!!!
How would the air quality be affected with all the trucks and equipment putting pollution into the air?
What would be the affect on sensitive seismic equipment in the area with the work going on underground?
What would happen to home values in our area? Many people would never buy a home near the mine, if developed as proposed. I certainly wouldn't.

I cannot express strongly enough my absolute opposition to this project.
I hope and pray that the leaders and planners of Nevada County have enough heart, consciousness and caring for our community and the residents to say NO to the interests of financial profit alone.

Thank you for receiving this.
Sincerely,
Ellen Clephane

13951 Greenhorn Rd, Grass Valley

August 17, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: Nevada Irrigation District Comments for the Notice of Preparation for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project.

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for providing a copy of the July 17, 2020 Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. The Nevada Irrigation District (District) has reviewed the documents and developed the following comments and concerns:

Water Quality

The District utilizes Wolf Creek as a conveyance and diversion facility for the beneficial use of its customers. As such, the District is sensitive to water quality issues that may arise from activities in and around the creek. The District requests that forthcoming CEQA analysis take the appropriate review of the actions necessary to meet all water quality regulations including but not limited to:

- CA Clean Water Act
- CA Anti-degradation
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

Water Flows in Wolf Creek and its Tributaries

The District utilizes multiple natural waterways that transect the Brunswick Industrial Site as spill channels that flow into Wolf Creek. The channels are utilized for conveyance in the summer months, and become storm water spill channels during the winter. It is critical the District maintain the ability to utilize Wolf Creek for conveyance, and the requests that the following topics be part of the review:

- Natural tributaries through the Brunswick site will continue to be utilized as spill channels by the District, therefore need to remain free flowing and operable

- Dewatering flows from the mine should not reach levels that would limit the District's capacity in the Wolf Creek
- The District's diversion from Wolf Creek is downstream of the proposed mine discharge location and is sensitive to fluctuating flows. The District has requested an automated measuring station in the creek as part of the project. The CEQA document needs to cover the work required for the installation of the measuring station

Installation of Treated Water Line on E. Bennet

The NOP proposes the installation of a treated water line on E. Bennet as potential mitigation to local ground water table changes. The District is supportive of the installation and had the following concerns and comments:

- The NOP describes the pipeline as an eight–inch waterline; however, the size has not been vetted by the District. District staff will work with the developer to determine the appropriate size waterline for project need as well as future District capacity. Regardless, the trenching mentioned in the NOP seems appropriate, and is sufficiently sized to accommodate a larger pipe if necessary

NID Treated Water Connections

The NOP includes a description of connections to the District's treated water system at the Brunswick and Centennial Industrial sites. An analysis of water use for these connections is appropriate and should include:

- Peak day demand analysis for each metered connection
- Fire flow requirements

Again, thank you for providing a copy of the Notice of Preparation for the Idaho Maryland Mine. The District looks forward to working collaboratively with the County and Rise Grass Valley. If you have any questions or would like additional information, Please contact me at 530-271-6882.

Respectfully submitted,



Water Operations Manager
Nevada Irrigation District
1036 West Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Close@nidwater.com

From: Chip Close <close@nidwater.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Doug Roderick <roderick@nidwater.com>; Greg Jones <jonesg@nidwater.com>; Shannon Wood <Wood@nidwater.com>
Subject: NID Idaho Maryland Mine NOP Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Matt,

Please find the attached Nevada Irrigation District comments regarding the Notice of Preparation for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project.

Thanks

Armon "Chip" Close
Water Operations Manager
Nevada Irrigation District
1036 W. Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Office: 530.271.6882
Email:close@nidwater.com

From: Kimberly Clouse
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine off Brunswick
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 12:51:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to oppose reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The environmental impact will be devastating to our community.
Please do not approve the application by the Canadian mining company.

Kimberly Clouse
10335 Mercury Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(GV Homeowner and teacher)

From: Annya Marie
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: proposed re-opening of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 6:49:04 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Matt Kelley,

My name is Annya Cohen and I have been a local resident and home owner for the past 10 years. I am writing to express my disbelief and strong opposition to the possible reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I've read that there can be blasting 24 hours a day/7 days a week- What is the proposal to counter inevitable decrease in real estate values? For many people it will be intolerable. Along with the noise and vibrations of the blasting will be the impact to our air quality from fumes of increased truck traffic and crushing of rock. 9,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide per year is projected to be emitted from the mine. Do we not agree that global warming is a thing?? Why are we trying to go backwards? I also wonder if it is possible to guarantee with 100% certainty that like with the San Juan Ridge Mine in 1995- that local wells will not go dry or decrease in production, or that waste from the mine will not negatively impact Wolf Creek? The minimal jobs that may be created are not worth these steep and long lasting prices.

Thank you for being open to hearing opposition to this proposal. Please advocate for our community now and for future generations- consider that your decision will have an impact which goes beyond a monetary value.

Sincerely
Annya Cohen
10762 Pine Hill Dr Grass Valley

From:	jesse cohen
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	opposition to min
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 10:08:22 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Kelly,

My name is Jesse cohen and have lived off idaho-maryland for 10 yrs now. I want to note my strong opposition to the mine and proposed plan. my issues are the following

- 24/7 blasting potential
- noise and particulates
- increased traffic of large vehicles and air quality from that
- CO2 emmisions from mines
- potential ground water and well issues that have come up in the past (San Juan ridge mine)

ths development is literally in the residential area of town, air quality, property values and potential pollution of the groundwater and earth are at stake, please think long term about this proposition as the dangers to many seem to far outweigh the benefits of a few

thank you for your time,

Jesse Cohen
11183 icon way, nevada city 95959

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

.Riki Colby
139 Glenwood Ave
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

Aug 14,2020

My Name is Riki Colby my husband Allan and I have lived on the San Juan Ridge since the early 70's. I have worked on the forest fires as a cook for the firer fighters, worked in the stores on the ridge. My husband worked for a local contractor and we raised our two beautiful daughters here. We bought property and built a home and had hoped to live out our old age here.

I must stress that I had a perfectly good well on my property prior to Labor Day, 1995. We had no problems what so ever relating to the quality or quantity of our water in our well. That changed when Siskon Gold Corps mineworkers intercepted the F6 fault. Labor Day weekend we heard what sounded like an explosion, it rocked our trailer like an earthquake. A short time after this Siskon deepened Grizzly Hill Schools well. The day they started testing that well, (they pumped it dry to see how fast it recover) we started having trouble. Our water became cloudy with a lot of sediment.

September 14th we got orange sediment from our well we let it run until we got cloudy water with sand in it. We were in the middle of construction, moving our old trailer out so we were not running water, until my daughter's horse needed water. That was September 16th we drew bad murky, then rusty thick water. We let it rest over night; on September 17 a. m. water was not drinkable. By afternoon ran it again we had water for a minute and then it was gone…

My husband went to the well head and could hear air so he lit a lighter and held it to the small hole in well head it sucked the flame downward. Our contractor came that morning to prepare things for our new Modular Home. He told us if we did not have water in our well we would not have a loan and he left, saying call me when you have water… I have to tell you we were crushed… Ten years of working to achieve a real home and this happens.

We called Crammer Engineering on Monday they advised us to call Siskon, who gave us Kurt Lorenz number. Well was measured on Sept 18 1995. The level dropped 45' water level was 105. One Wednesday September 20th our neighbor Jim Schloucers well went dry. Peters Well drilling and Mr. Tease from Siskon Gold came to my place, re-measured water level they got 110 but thought their probe was broken.

Friday we pulled our pump we measured how far from the bottom it was. It was 115 ft. deep and clogged real bad with sediment. Our well was 120', 40 gals a minute per minute, dug in 1977.

The new well dug Sept 27th 1995 by Peters Well drilling.
200 feet. 45 gallons a minute, Static 80 feet put our pump from other well in.

The new well had severe water quality problems. The water smelled like petroleum and tasted bad. It had a condition they called iron bacteria. It was taking the finish off from the brand new fixtures in my sinks. Stained my clothes, hard on our skin and hair. My houseplants were struggling to live. Right before the well failed we got an oil slick on top of water. They tried to blame the new pipes in my house not the water. We had added cost of buying water and hauling it home.

Oct. 29th 1995 the new well failed. We had only had water to the pump for 10 days because of construction. Had used very little water. I called Kurt Lorenz again, Bob Pease came measured water level at 140 feet the probe was not wet decided probe was broken. He tested it in a bucket of water and found it did work. Original pump replaced Oct 30, 1995 set at 190ft with a 1' pipe. Old pump would not pull that deep. We had to install three different types of water filtration systems, the cost to operate and repair was significant over 15 years.

What can I say other than I feel completely ripped off by the County Supervisors and Siskon Gold Corp. There was very little honest compassion shown to me by either of them. I did not have what I had before Mr. Callaway opened his mine and blew a hole in the aquifer. My family suffered for something that was preventable and to no fault of our own.

We sold our property 3 years ago and moved to Brunswick basin, and now here we are again, facing a new gold mine. My PTSD is waking up to the perceived threat that will befall our home once again.

This is our story plus what we feel needs to be address in the Environmental Impact Report.

1) How will the Noise factor be muffled, The Siskon mine was almost 2 miles from my home and the noise at times day or night was immense.
2) How will Explosions that shatter the nerves be mitigated? Will there be explosions all night. Will the mine operation hours be 9 to 5?
3) I live behind Save Mart Grocery; it some times takes me 15 minutes to get to Rite Aid on the other side of freeway. The infrastructure of our roadways is not adequate for the rapid growth we are now experiencing let alone heavy loads on big trucks added to the mix. Traffic will slow even more and pollution will increase. Have you ever driven behind a truck full of dirty road. The dust that flies off of those rocks is a lot not to mention what it contains with in the dust, like asbestos. How are you going to prevent that?
4) Dewatering a place where many people live is wrong in so many ways, the quantity and quality of our water determines weather we can exist here. The San Juan Ridge Mine did not care about that. They did not care about what happened to me beyond what it cost them… I can say this because I am

experience with how mine owners operate. If something happens or the price of gold goes down they will tell anyone effected that they are broke and they are very sorry but the money left will not cover all the cost.

5) We are an area that has drought years sometimes many in a row. With the fire danger how are you going to make sure there is enough water to keep our community safe?
6) How are you going to keep my family safe from all the harmful things that will happen to use if this mine is allowed to operate? I have asthma the air quality is very important to my health, who will pay my added cost to run my air purifier 24/7? My Nebulizer cost and medication? How will my needs as a long time resident of this county be covered by a out of the country foreign?

Please please do not allow The Idaho Maryland Mine to operate in our lovely community.

Thank you
Riki Colby

PS Please watch this video about what happened to residents on the San Juan Ridge. http://player.vimeo.com/video/111603225

From:	Riki Colby
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	EIR for Idaho Maryland Mine-Rise Grass Valley
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 12:30:27 PM
Attachments:	New mine GV.docx New mine GV.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mat Kelley
This a letter addressing the experience my family have had with a gold mine in our neighborhood in 1995 and Questions I would like address about how your planning to fix these problems.

Thank you
Riki Colby

From:	Linda Boswell
To:	Matt Kelley; Dan Miller
Subject:	Opposition to Re-Opening Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:13 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

For Matt Kelley and Dan Miller,

We are home owners about a mile away from the Mine.
We strongly oppose Rise Gold's re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

1) Years of construction NOISE (1-2 years) 7 days a week, noise of diesel trucks loading rock, grinding it,
removing rock in diesel trucks making possibly 100 trips a day....graders and bull dozers compacting the 2900ft. mound of fill from drilling .....above and below ground mining for 80years.....
Noise travels on an otherwise quiet night.
If you read the history of mining in this area, there was alot of noise generated.

3) Bright LIGHTS 24/7, 20 ft. off the ground.

2) TOXIC air and dust from rock grinding, perhaps contaminated rock dust with asbestos from below ground, daily use of ammonium nitrate fuel oil to blast thru rock.....air from mine exhausted thru mine's headframe fan 24hrs./day....(noise)
Concern of distance toxins travel if it's windy.

3) OUR WELLS. May run dry and/or become polluted. Highly likely.
Perhaps well corruption in a 10 mile radius.

4) FIRE HAZARD
Cutting 18 acres of trees, (including many that probably could have stayed and not been cut) then no water for the other trees. Fire Hazard waiting to happen.

5) PROPERTY VALUES. I wonder if Rise will compensate us in any way if our property values deflate.
Worth of new homes in the Getty property supposed to be constructed.
Traffic and semi diesel trucks going by 24/7.
Business will probably be impacted along Idaho Maryland. Senior Housing and Care Homes along Sutton impacted too,
Wonder if noise and pollution will effect people living there,
or anywhere in the vicinity of this mine.

6) QUALITY OF LIFE disrupted. Toxic waste, toxic air, noise pollution. Bad business

for the ENVIRONMENT..

7) TRAFFIC. 300 employees in double shifts every day coming up Brunswick, East Bennett, from Hwy. 174.
Trucks and cars constantly up and down parts of Brunswick, Idaho Maryland, perhaps East Bennett Rd.

8) AESTHETICS. How this huge mine will look in the middle of a residential area.

9) BENEFITS. How many local jobs for how long.
Benefits for Grass Valley, or the County, to re-open this mine.
I wonder how we will all benefit from this mine re-opening.

Seems like a fiasco to us.
Maybe it's about money for a few.

Please don't destroy our beautiful town and folks' Quality of Life.
It's not worth it.

Do the right thing.
Don't fall for this crazy idea.
You know there will be unforeseen problems along the way for years to come.

Wonder if you live in the vicinity that will be impacted.

Sincerely,

William Cole
Linda Boswell

From: Mary Ann <maryann1015@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>; Dan Miller <Dan.Miller@co.nevada.ca.us>; Sue Hoek <Sue.Hoek@co.nevada.ca.us>; Ed Scofield <Ed.Scofield@co.nevada.ca.us>; Richard Anderson <Richard.Anderson@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: EIR Comments concerning Rise Reopening Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 7, 2020
Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County, CA

RISE Mine Reopening Concerns:

There are many areas that I think the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine should address with additional data, more depth and covering a much larger region than the immediate surface area of the mine. The studies that have been conducted to date do not address many of the issues raised below, and I hope that the EIR process will sufficiently address all of these issues.

I hope that the selected firm is searching and collecting much more data about past, current and future effects of mining. New consultants hopefully will search out and collect more sources beyond old maps, references to faults mentioned in other reports, and sources supplied by RISE and their consultants. The study area should be much greater than the Brunswick and Centennial ground sites and limited areas nearby such as Bennett. Currently the consultant reports I reviewed mainly focused on the Brunswick and Centennial site with an occasional mention of the mineral rights area. The underground area that the mining process could affect extends almost to Safeway, borders the Empire mine and Cedar Ridge, stretches to the 174 “Y” and includes part of the airport and Greenhorn. This area needs intensive collection of current conditions related to hydrology, environment/habitat, geology, fire risk, traffic, air quality, noise, well levels and water quality, water flow to and from Wolf Creek as well as the riparian and habitat that it flows through. Once these are complete, then they can be compared with any past data about mining. Sampling for the same kind of data will need to occur regionally in even a bigger area as the mine operation has the potential to influence. If

the mine is reopened, these areas of study and monitoring will need to continue to immediately detect and document any changes that are then shared with the community and evaluated. I think the issues need a complete and thorough study in these areas as well as sampling beyond these properties. I want a fair and unbiased report not reliant on Rise consultants and Rise developed data and models.

Hydro-geologic data

- More in-depth study of the interface of gravels, granitic rock, metamorphic rock and changes that have created folds, fissures, faults that allow water to flow through the rocks, the recharge area of the water entering the various layers, how it flows through the watershed and how blasting may cause new breaks draining away surface and ground waters.

- Ground waters in wells is supported by the water tables below but with predicted drawdown and unexpected damage; what will happen to the wells and water table height drop is significant. I didn't find anywhere in the project that water loss and water quality degradation would be addressed except for a few houses on Bennett. What is the plan for monitoring water levels and water quality (as identified in the "Ground Water Model" recommendations)? What is the criteria for stopping the mining should damage be detected early? How will the homeowners and other entities be compensated for damage that can't be "undone"?

- Should the worst happen, similar to the North San Juan well water damage, where will new water be piped from? Who will pay for laying pipes and hook ups on the homeowners' property? What about the on-going cost of piped water?

- Further study of change in ground water due to de-watering and pumping during mining. Chart 4-7 in the Groundwater model document indicates data from 1920, 1940, 1960 and then again beginning after 2000. The conclusions are based on "simulated" scenarios using incomplete data. Is there a 3rd party consultant that uses different unbiased models and data not supplied by RISE to reach objective conclusions?

- Further study on ground vegetation and habitat if the water table is lowered as projected?

Hydrology/ water quality/ Environment

- Are tests going to be systematically done on water currently flowing in Wolf Creek and then on the water leaving the mine for known pollutants and base line minerals and compounds?

- With over 1 million gallons a day being dumped into Wolf Creek, what effect will that huge increase in water have on the immediate surrounding area as well as impact on the water sheds further out (stream structure, vegetation and wild life)?

- Identify and test (before, during and after) more wells, creeks and water sources. Tables in the Groundwater Model document showed only a select few wells, nearly all very close to the Brunswick/Centennial sites which are new wells or used 2007 data). Few to no wells were randomly identified further out in mineral rights areas and beyond.
Wolf Creek Flow was measured 2 times in April and August 2019 according to the chart; which seems insufficient to draw any conclusions on.

- How will enclosing portions of Wolf Creek in large pipes affect surrounding vegetation that depend on the water seeping from creek banks? How will this affect animals that depend on the water? The pipes transport the water from one area to another but it creates a "desert" for areas that have had creek water running through it supporting the habitat.

- Has an in-depth biological survey been completed for <u>each season</u> that has identified rare and at risk plants and animals? How will these be protected so that they continue to thrive and not just be fenced off and left without supporting water, flora and soil? Who, (not a consultant of RISE), will confirm the biological inventory and monitor the operation in regard to environmental degradation?

Traffic / Noise / Pollution

- What are the current traffic patterns, noise and air quality data next to the sites as well as further out in the area?

- How will the increased truck traffic carrying waste rock impact access on and off of Brunswick and Bennett for locals? How will the roadway be affected and maintained? Who will pay for the increased maintenance? Taxpayers? Rise?

- What is the effect of mine employees coming and going to work? How much will this increase traffic congestion, noise, air pollution, and wear and tear along Bennett, Brunswick, and 174? What will be done to make it safer? Will the roadway be widened? Is this a good fit with the residential setting?

- How will significant increase in traffic related pollutants affect vegetation and wildlife?

- What is the risk of an accident occurring with the regular shipment of explosives to the mine? How will that be planned for and prevented? What roads will be used for

this dangerous transport?

Environmental Stewardship Concerns

- Rise has a history of not following California regulations (Bennett site March 2018)

- Rise owner Mossman in 2015 did extensive environmental damage on Hecate Island in Canada. The government wasn't properly monitoring the mining operations and the waste tailings damaged the woods, the wetland and the water in and around the island. Do we have enough skilled non-Rise people to monitor the operation in all ways and phases as well as the budget to support this intensive pre, post and long term monitoring?

- Mossman was fined $15,000 by the Canadian government for environmental damage on Banks Island and was ordered to shut down. https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications/mining-company-former-president-fined-violating-environmental-legislation.html. If similar damage was found here, would $15,000 be enough to mediate damage in our community?

- 35 additional charges were made against Mossman's bankrupt mine in Canada and the government spent over $400,000 from the Mine's reclamation security deposit. This was not enough to fully address the issues. https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/bankrupt-mining-company-now-faces-35-charges-for-banks-island-mess/

- Do we want an owner opening a mine in our area that already has multiple prior environmental damage citations locally and in Canada?

- What kind of fund is fully endowed by the owner that would mitigate possible damages in the near and long term?

Fire Risk

- We live in a high-risk area for wildfire. Many people have stepped up to harden their homes to help protect them from fire. Huge amounts of green waste were collected and disposed of this spring to help reduce the fire risk. Although more needs to be done, why would we risk removing over 1 million gallons a day from the ground and lower the water table. Water is critical to keeping vegetation healthy to withstand fire, to fill the ponds that CalFire fills their tankers from, and not increase the risk of drought. How will fire risk be affected by the predicted drop of the water table and continued removal of water and its release from the watershed?

- Often in late summer residents are asked to limit water use as the area continues to dry out. How is a daily loss of over 1,000,000 gallons of water dumped in Wolf Creek like a storm drain balanced against important water saving practices?

Economics

- How will home sales be affected as potential buyers don't want the noise, pollution, traffic, blasting in their future "backyard"? How will the loss of home value be compensated for those attempting to sell what is now much less desirable property?

- Given the increase in traffic, noise, air pollution, risk of water quality decreasing as well as less environmental water available, area residents will have their property values drop. How will financial loss be compensated due environmental damage and economic loss and a loss of esthetic value? Will it just be available to those in the underground mineral area or will it extend beyond the current mine area?

- For the residents who have invested their life savings to purchase and maintain a home that was to carry them into retirement, how will the loss of quiet, less polluted, less congested area be prevented?

- The mine will bring jobs but most will go to technically skilled workers brought into the community and the majority of money will leave with them. While some lower level jobs might go to the locals, these jobs will likely be short term jobs and not for building community and families. The mine is not a sustainable economy addition. At best, it seems that most of the money will eventually go to experts who are monitoring environmental factors, safety of the mine, road repair, and those trying to mitigate any future damages. These would be at the tax-payers' expense.

Zoning concerns

- The mine area is now zoned as light industrial and RISE wants it rezoned to include: ME – mineral extraction. Nothing in the project description of the resulting blasting, traffic, noise, pollution, change in water tables and possible lower water quality that re-opening the mine causes fits the light industry designation. *A variance would allow a use that would adversely affect the public health, safety, or welfare; the integrity and character of the district; and the utility and value of surrounding property.*

The EIR process will be of utmost importance to the mine's future, and if the mine should re-open, it will be a decision that will affect our community for the rest of our lives. The thought of having the mine re-open is a disturbing prospect to me and many of my neighbors, especially if all issues are not completely reviewed. Please do not allow anything but a 100% thorough EIR process.

Respectfully,
Mary Ann Coleman
14063 Greenhorn
GV 95945

From: Karen Colwell
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold"s Mine Application
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:32:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine because:

- Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week**
- Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **Daily**
- Trucks w/rock tailings **16 hrs./day/7 days/week**
- Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY**
- Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Karen Colwell
13295 Woodstock Drive
Nevada City, CA 95959

From: tim conner
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mining
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I just want to show my support for opening of the mine and providing jobs to the areas residents.
I worked in an underground mine for a few years and have seen the benefits brought into a community by having stable income directly related to mining.
Please help change the economy of our foothill community.

Thank you

From: Pat Cooper
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: RE: Rise Gold development of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:50:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am opposed to the development and reopening of the mine.

Reasons:

1. The water in the mine is contaminated. There is no way to safely treat this water and move it to another area which would also become contaminated. We must protect our ground water and our local wells.

2. Environmental site investigations from 2006 to the present indicate high levels of arsenic and lead which is a detriment to the health of our children.

3. Increased noise and heavier traffic will not be favorable to our rural community. Most of us have moved here from the cities to escape the noise and pollution found in those areas.

We need small businesses that are an asset to our community with limited environment impact, positive benefits and reasonable business profits not a large corporation that will take away from our local citizens.

4. Where will the workers needed come from? We have had minimal Covid cases because few people are coming from outside our area. Would the workers be able to pay for housing and health care and contribute to our

economy?

I have loved living in Nevada Co since the mid 1980's. Our quality of life would be greatly impacted with the development of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Please consider this project carefully.

Sincerely, Patricia Cooper

11680 Alta Vista Ave

Grass Valley, Ca 95945

From: John Cosenza <jandk@wildblue.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I write this email, on behalf of my family, in opposition of the proposed Rise Mine Project under consideration at this time. My 5.5 acre properties are both within a mile of the Greenhorn /Bennet/Brunswick location. After reading the proposal, it is clear that the underground mining

operation will disrupt and severely damage my families quality of life. Unknown and dangerous activities in the underground mine shafts, such as the use of explosives and rock crushers along with the increase in truck traffic, noise, dust and air quality cannot be tolerated or approved by the county. Nevada County has primarily been a recreational and retirement community with light industrial and commercial economies providing income and tax revenues. Moving to a heavy industrial operation seems counterproductive to the goals for the majority of residences surrounding this proposed new business. Please take every effort possible to disallow the permit and keep Nevada County safe for all our neighbors and residents.

John Cosenza
12975 Leaf Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945
jandk@wildblue.net
530.210.9080 cell



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: John Cosenza <jandk@wildblue.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:48 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine project proposal.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

I write this email, on behalf of my family, in opposition of the proposed Rise Mine Project under consideration at this time. My 5.5 acre properties are both within a mile of the Greenhorn /Bennet/Brunswick location. After reading the proposal, it is clear that the underground mining operation will disrupt and severely damage my families quality of life. Unknown and dangerous activities in the underground mine shafts, such as the use of explosives and rock crushers along with the increase in truck traffic, noise, dust and air quality cannot be tolerated or approved by the county. Nevada County has primarily been a recreational and retirement community with light industrial and commercial economies providing income and tax revenues. Moving to a heavy industrial operation seems counterproductive to the goals for the majority of residences surrounding this proposed new business. Please take every effort possible to disallow the permit and keep Nevada County safe for all our neighbors and residents.

John Cosenza
jandk@wildblue.net
530.210.9080 cell

Virus-free. www.avg.com

From:	Nathan Cotten
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine EIR
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:42:08 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Nathan Cotten
12020 Dogwood Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Mr. Kelley,

I grew up in Cedar Ridge in the 70s and 80s. This is my home town and where I hope to spend the rest of my life. I am very concerned that reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine will be devastating to many of us who live in it's vicinity.

The most significant item I feel must be addressed in the EIR is the immediate and long term impact of the dewatering plan.

- Is it even possible to determine with any accuracy whether or not area wells will go dry or otherwise be adversely affected?
- In an area continually struggling with drought, what impact will the daily removal of millions of gallons of water have on the environment?

The second item that must be addressed is the noise impact of a heavy industrial facility operating 24 hours a day in close proximity to local residents. Peace and quiet are qualities that most who live here value highly.

- What level of noise is deemed acceptable, and who determines what is acceptable?
- How is it possible for any human being to think that operating heavy equipment throughout the night will not be too loud, regardless of decibel level?

The third item that must be addressed is the financial impact. The price of gold fluctuates dramatically, but the negative impact on surrounding properties must be both inevitable and cumulative.

- Is the expected revenue essential or even necessary for the county?
- What is the expected and potential impact of a widespread decrease in residential property values on tax revenue?
- What are the predicted scope and costs of the inevitable lawsuits that will arise should this project go forward?
- What level of attrition and suffering is considered acceptable when justifying this project, and how is this determined?
- Are there any relevant examples of towns or communities that have had a mine or

similar industry opened in their midst? If so, what was the human cost versus economic impact?

As a community, we hope that our elected officials have our interests at heart when they make decisions. Any project of this nature must benefit the people who are here now, not devastate and displace us in favor of some imagined theoretical beneficiaries of the future. Based on the information in Rise Gold's own proposal, I am confused and troubled that we have even reached this stage of the process. Should you wish to contact me directly, I would be happy to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
Nathan Cotten

Sent from my iPhone

From: Caroline Courtright
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine proposal
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:41:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Caroline Courtright,
12025 Larkspur Lane
Grass Valley, Ca 95949
ccdunrite@gmail.com
9/10/2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I have been a resident of Grass Valley for 19 years. The incredible natural beauty of this community makes it a stunning part of the foothills and our two towns, Grass Valley and Nevada City supply the ambiance of a country setting and back it up with art and music and cultural events.

I am very concerned about the proposal to open the Idaho Maryland mine. A primary concern is for the hydrology and water quality. The mine is basically in residential neighborhoods and has a high risk of affecting many nearby resident's private wells. Please assure us that the EIR will analyze and demand answers regarding that wells in the area will not be adversely affected. It has been discussed in the previous proposal just a few years ago that was denied, that wells within a 5-10 radius have the potential to go dry. Or they might be affected by harmful toxins. This can occur in the dewatering stage or the drilling stage. Mitigation for such a disaster would need to supply full compensation and supplying water is only one part of the compensation, I think that real estate value of a home with a dry well will plummet, is the mine prepared to compensate for that?

Noise, air quality and traffic is another huge concern. Double skip loaders leaving the mine and going through the Idaho Maryland round about ever 10 minutes for 16 hours a day seven days a week is not at all compatible with our roads in our community. It is not only not compatible but also reckless and unsafe. Please have the EIR address this also.

What is the mine planning on doing with all the toxins, the hazards and hazardous material that will come out of the mine or are used in the mining treatment stages. Can you guarantee that these toxins will not leech into our water table for our larger community or that it will not adversely affect Wolf Creek? Have the EIR address this also.

There are many more issues of concern. Noise, aesthetics, greenhouse gas emissions, utility use, how can we be assured that the industrial needs of the mine will not grab these basics from our residences. How can you justify putting such a high use industrial project so near to our residences. Have the EIR address this also please.

Please be vigilant and careful on all these issues and many others. This is not a compatible project so close to town and in our residential neighborhoods. Thank you.

Caroline Courtright

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine Proposal

08-06-20

PLEASE, Mr. Kelly, do not allow a repeat of what does not work and has dire, far reaching, long-term consequences for generations of residents of Nevada City and Grass Valley and the beauty of our county and Earth!

No amount of gold is worth the devastation of our water, wells, air, and peace of heart and mind. Why would you allow a repeat of a proven disastrous history? For what?

Is it really worth it to give a handful of people a temporary job and a few others to get rich at the cost of creating a wasteland? Is it worth destroying hundreds of resident's investment in their homes whose priority it is to live a quiet, balanced, healthy and sustainable livelihood?

Could you really live with yourself in 5 years from now, seeing that you were part of creating horrible consequences for generations, contributing to a toxic environment and negatively affecting the health of so many people?

Do you care about people? Do you care about Earth? Do you care about toxicity, noise pollution, water pollution & devaluing homes and devaluing an entire community? Would you do this if your home, your family, your livelihood backed to Bennet Street?

When will we get our lessons that pillaging the Earth from greed NEVER pay. In fact, the long term consequences give little hope for future generations.

Will you and Rise Gold please watch this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168.

Please, if you have a heart, drop this proposal now. No one in their right mind wants gold and money in exchange for destroying lives ~ human, animal and plant. The entire delicate balance of Earth and all upon Her beyond just this area would be gravely impacted. Do you really want to allow that?

Before you make your final decision, I beg you to read every letter sent to you from top to bottom and really, really, listen. Really take it in. FEEL what people are saying, FEEL what is in the documentary attached. Be human.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider, from your heart, what everyone is saying to you ~ and where it is coming from. Is it from greed & fear and selfish motives or from love & care with a selfless intent to protect wildlife, water and sustainable living? Which side do you want to be on? Please, really do some soul searching around this.

In deep concern and care,

Kirsten Cousins

From: Kirsten <christlight@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:00 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Proposal - Letter

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine Proposal

08-06-20

PLEASE, Mr. Kelly, do not allow a repeat of what does not work and has dire, far reaching, long-term consequences for generations of residents of Nevada City and Grass Valley and the beauty of our county

and Earth!

No amount of gold is worth the devastation of our water, wells, air, and peace of heart and mind. Why would you allow a repeat of a proven disastrous history? For what?

Is it really worth it to give a handful of people a temporary job and a few others to get rich at the cost of creating a wasteland? Is it worth destroying hundreds of resident's investment in their homes whose priority it is to live a quiet, balanced, healthy and sustainable livelihood?

Could you really live with yourself in 5 years from now, seeing that you were part of creating horrible consequences for generations, contributing to a toxic environment and negatively affecting the health of so many people?

Do you care about people? Do you care about Earth? Do you care about toxicity, noise pollution, water pollution & devaluing homes and devaluing an entire community? Would you do this if your home, your family, your livelihood backed to Bennet Street?

When will we get our lessons that pillaging the Earth from greed NEVER pay. In fact, the long term consequences give little hope for future generations.

Will you and Rise Gold please watch this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168.

Please, if you have a heart, drop this proposal now. No one in their right mind wants gold and money in exchange for destroying lives ~ human, animal and plant. The entire delicate balance of Earth and all upon Her beyond just this area would be gravely impacted. Do you really want to allow that?

Before you make your final decision, I beg you to read every letter sent to you from top to bottom and really, really, listen. Really take it in. FEEL what people are saying, FEEL what is in the documentary attached. Be human.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider, from your heart, what everyone is saying to you ~ and where it is coming from. Is it

from greed & fear and selfish motives or from love & care with a selfless intent to protect wildlife, water and sustainable living? Which side do you want to be on? Please, really do some soul searching around this.

In deep concern and care,

Kirsten Cousins

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 3
703 B STREET
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901
PHONE (530) 741-4286
FAX (530) 741-4245
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/dist3

Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

May 19, 2020

GTS# 03-NEV-2020-00156
03-NEV-174 PM 6.802
SCH #2007092017

Matt Kelley
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Idaho Maryland Mine, Rise Grass Valley

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Initial Consultation review process for the project referenced above. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

The project is a combined application for a Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan to re-initiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing of the Idaho-Maryland Mine within unincorporated Western Nevada County. The proposed project would be located on two properties owned by Rise Grass Valley, which are referred to as the Brunswick Industrial Site (APN's: 009-630-037 - 21.8 Acres, 009-630-039 – 15.07 Acres, 006-441-003 – 15.19 Acres, 006-441-004 –0.85 Acres, 006-441-005 – 50.01 Acres, 006-441-034 – 16.01 Acres) and the Centennial Industrial Site (APN's: 009-550-032 – 0.48 Acres, 009-550-037 – 4.47 Acres, 009-550-038 – 40.1 Acres, 009-550-039 – 0.98 Acres, 009-550-040 – 0.13 Acres, 009-560-036 – 10.25 Acres). Traffic Operations has reviewed the newly added Traffic Impact Analysis; please see findings below:

Traffic Operations- Highway

We have one concern with the Traffic Impact Analysis. The SR 174/Brunswick Road intersection was one of the intersections studied. It currently operates at LOS F in the PM peak hour. We are pleased to see that the work shifts have been set to minimize impacts to the traditional AM and PM peak hours.
We are also pleased to see that the trucks are not expected to use that intersection on a regular basis.

However, the SR 174/Brunswick Road intersection is already impacted and will further degrade in operational efficiency due to growth in traffic volumes. There is currently no funding for improvements at the intersection, and no specific project concept has been developed to address the issues. We would like to meet with Nevada County to determine what options are available that will improve operations at the intersection.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Fallon Cox, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator for Placer County, by phone (530) 741-5180 or via email to Fallon.Cox@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Yount

KEVIN YOUNT, Branch Chief
Office of Transportation Planning
Regional Planning Branch—East

bcc: Fallon Cox, D3 Planning
Kevin Yount, D3 Planning
Marty Earles, D3 Highway Operations

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 3
703 B STREET
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901
PHONE (530) 741-4286
FAX (530) 741-4245
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/dist3

Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

March 23, 2020

GTS# 03-NEV-2020-00156
03-NEV-174 PM 6.802
SCH #2007092017

Matt Kelley
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Idaho Maryland Mine, Rise Grass Valley

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Initial Consultation review process for the project referenced above. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

The project is a combined application for a Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan to re-initiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing of the Idaho-Maryland Mine within unincorporated Western Nevada County. The proposed project would be located on two properties owned by Rise Grass Valley, which are referred to as the Brunswick Industrial Site (APN's: 009-630-037 - 21.8 Acres, 009-630-039 – 15.07 Acres, 006-441-003 – 15.19 Acres, 006-441-004 –0.85 Acres, 006-441-005 – 50.01 Acres, 006-441-034 – 16.01 Acres) and the Centennial Industrial Site (APN's: 009-550-032 – 0.48 Acres, 009-550-037 – 4.47 Acres, 009-550-038 – 40.1 Acres, 009-550-039 – 0.98 Acres, 009-550-040 – 0.13 Acres, 009-560-036 – 10.25 Acres). Modeling and Forecasting, Hydraulics and Traffic Operations has reviewed the newly added documents included in this Initial Study; please see findings below:

Modeling and Forecasting
This project will generate a lot of trips in the area. For your Traffic Analysis Report, we would like to see trip generation, trip distribution, VMT analysis, construction year and horizon year traffic volumes within the area.

Hydraulics
Please refer to comments submitted on February 5th, 2020.

Traffic Operations- Highway
Please refer to comments submitted on February 5th, 2020. Traffic Operations looks forward to reviewing the Traffic Analysis when complete.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Fallon Cox, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator for Placer County, by phone (530) 741-5180 or via email to Fallon.Cox@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Yount

KEVIN YOUNT, Branch Chief
Office of Transportation Planning
Regional Planning Branch—East

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 3
703 B STREET
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901
PHONE (530) 741-4233
FAX (530) 741-4245
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/dist3

Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

February 5, 2020

GTS# 03-NEV-2020-00146
03-NEV-174 PM 6.802

Matt Kelley
Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Idaho Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley

Dear Mr. Matt Kelley:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Initial Distribution / Project Description review process for the project referenced above. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

The project is a combined application for a Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan to re-initiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing of the Idaho-Maryland Mine within unincorporated Western Nevada County. The proposed project would be located on two properties owned by Rise Grass Valley, which are referred to as the Brunswick Industrial Site (APN's: 009-630-037 - 21.8 Acres, 009-630-039 – 15.07 Acres, 006-441-003 – 15.19 Acres, 006-441-004 –0.85 Acres, 006-441-005 – 50.01 Acres, 006-441-034 – 16.01 Acres) and the Centennial Industrial Site (APN's: 009-550-032 – 0.48 Acres, 009-550-037 – 4.47 Acres, 009-550-038 – 40.1 Acres, 009-550-039 – 0.98 Acres, 009-550-040 – 0.13 Acres, 009-560-036 – 10.25 Acres).

Traffic Operations – Highway

In the Initial Distribution / Project Description provided it states that a Traffic Analysis is in progress. In that analysis please include the following intersections: Route 20(AKA Route 49)/Idaho-Maryland Road interchange, Route 20(AKA Route 49)/Brunswick Road interchange, Route 174/Brunswick Road intersection.

Please also discuss methods of minimizing impacts to existing traffic patterns by varying work shift start and end times, and by spreading truck deliveries throughout the day.

Hydraulics

The proposed project should have little to no adverse Hydrology/Hydraulic effects on the State Highway System (SHS) as long as the proposed Centennial Industrial Site land improvements do not increase the runoff to the existing Wolf Creek. If there is Increased runoff to Wolf Creek from the Centennial Industrial Site, it can have the potential to impact to the State Highway System Southwest of the creek, where Wolf creek crosses Highway 20.

In addition, we have the following remarks/standard language for informational purposes per Caltrans Standard Plans, Specifications, and Specials:

- No net increase to 100-year storm event peak discharge may be realized within the State's highway right of way and/or Caltrans drainage facilities because of the project. Further, the developer must maintain, or improve existing drainage patterns and/or facilities affected by the proposed project to the satisfaction of the State and Caltrans. This may be accomplished through the implementation of stormwater management Best Management Practices (BMPs) (i.e., detention/retention ponds or basins, sub-surface galleries, on-site storage and/or infiltration ditches, etc.) as applicable. Once installed, the property owner must properly maintain these systems. The proponent/developer may be held liable for future damages due to impacts for which adequate mitigation was not undertaken or sustained.

- Runoff from the proposed project that will enter the State's highway right of way and/or Caltrans drainage facilities must meet all Regional Water Quality Control Board water quality standards prior to entering the State's highway right of way or Caltrans drainage facilities. Appropriate stormwater quality BMPs (i.e., oil/water separators, clarifiers, infiltration systems, etc.) may be applied to ensure that runoff from the site meets these standards (i.e., is free of oils, greases, metals, sands, sediment, etc.). Once installed, the property owner must properly maintain these systems.

- No detailed drainage plans, drawings or calculations, hydrologic/hydraulic study or report, or plans showing the "pre-construction" and "post-construction" coverage quantities for buildings, streets, parking, etc. were received with the application package. To adequately evaluate the project impacts upon the State's right of way and Caltrans drainage facilities, we recommend that you request these documents from the project proponent and send them to Caltrans District 3 Office 703 B St. Marysville, Ca 95901 for review prior to final project approval.

- Any work performed within the State’s highway R/W must meet all Caltrans design and construction standards and will require a Caltrans’ Encroachment Permit.

Please provide our office with copies of any further actions regarding this project or future development of the property. We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any changes related to this development.

If you have any question regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Amber Moran, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator for Nevada County, by phone (530) 634-7624 or via email to amber.moran@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

KEVIN YOUNT, Branch Chief
Office of Transportation Planning
Regional Planning Branch—East

bcc: Kevin Yount, D3 Planning
Marty Earles, D3 Traffic Highway Operations
Jason McOmber D3 Hydraulics
James Hoong D3 Stystem Planning

From:	Cox, Fallon@DOT
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	YOUNT, KEVIN J@DOT
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine NOP
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 3:53:41 PM
Attachments:	Comment Letter-Idaho Maryland Mine 5-19-20.pdf Comment Letter-Idaho Maryland Mine - Signed.pdf Comments Letter.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon Matt,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Initial Consultation review process for the project referenced above. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Our functional units have no new comments at this time but I have provided copies of previous comments to consider through this process.

Thank you and have a great day.

Fallon Cox
Planning Liaison for Placer and Nevada Counties
Transportation Planning- East
Division of Planning, Local Assistance & Sustainability
Office: (530) 741-5180
Email: fallon.cox@dot.ca.gov
www.dot.ca.gov/d3/

From: April Cretzman <acretzman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley,

As a resident on Banner Mountain, I am writing to express my concern about the application for a proposed Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan for the Idaho Maryland Mine, owned by Rise Grass Valley, a private company.

I believe that, if approved, the operation of this mine would have a huge negative impact to the environment and health of the water in our area. This land that we are living on has already undergone unimaginable abuse over the last couple hundred years. It is time that our community steps away from industrial mining and stripping the land for material gain.

We need to come to reality and think of the lives we are passing down to our children. As a community we need to show respect for the land that we live on, and help it heal from the desecration it has already survived from previous careless mining practices.

Furthermore, the benefits of employment that the community may receive will be outweighed by stress put on the rising housing market with mining employees that are not local looking for housing.

There will also be increased environmental and noise pollution, wear on our country roads, and displacement of wildlife.

Please consider not approving the operation of the mine.
Thank you for your time and service,

April Cretzman
Resident of Banner Mountain in Nevada city

From: Connie Crockett <connielorretta@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:00 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in total agreement with Tony Lauria's excellent detailed letter outlining extensive concerns over re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine. This should no longer even be an issue, especially after allowing all of the development in and around this area over the last 30+ years. Devastating a community, and the likely draining of many wells and poisoning of water, people and the land, in order to produce gold, should not even be a subject of discussion. Until there is a method of extracting gold without disrupting and destroying everything and everyone around the community, please don't consider this assinine plan, regardless of how valuable gold may be or become. How much does a human life cost, or have we now become worth our weight in gold?

Connie Crockett

From: Kent Crockett
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: The mine...
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:55:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley... We may sit and hear the learned accountants, and engineers, and moneylenders, as they offer proofs, and figures ranged in columns, and charts, and diagrams, but in truth we are tired and sickened physically and emotionally, by the prospect of the increased air, noise, and water pollution that citizens of our town and our county will suffer if the mine is reopened. You may be swayed by the arguments, but I encourage you to weigh the costs of reopening, and observe the currently prevailing peace of the neighborhoods that reopening would turn into noisy truck routes, and I encourage you to breathe deeply of our still relatively clear air, and look upward, at the beauty of the stars. We are all distressed right now, and to allow reopening of the mine would be to encourage division; this conflict (the people vs the learned promoters), would cause conflict, and demonstration, and protest, at a time when we need unity, common goals, quiet streets, and clear air as we look up to the stars. Please decide in favor of the people. Sincerely, Kent Crockett

12500 Chattanooga
N.C. 95959

From:	Linda Culbertson
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Linda Culbertson
Subject:	Rise Gold mining project
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:51 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is William Culbertson, 39 year resident of Nevada County, 14553 Echo Ridge Drive, Nevada City, Ca. 95959

I am writing in regards to the proposed Rise Gold mining project. After reading all of the articles and letters written about this project in the Union newspaper and other sources; and going out and driving around the secondary roads surrounding this project: I find that having a 24/7 fully operational mine right in the middle between Nevada City and Grass Valley City and the direct impact on the multi mix neighborhoods of single residential homes, apartment complexes, commercial and light industrial properties, which are located on the mineral rights land and around the mining site will create a massive number of problems that no amount of mitigation will solve.
For example, There are too many times that the word toxic comes up in technical reports. Toxic soil at the Centennial site. Solution is to cover it up with 100 truck trips or 1000 tons of engineered rock per day, 24/7, for how many years? All this rock dumped at the centennial site as a mitigation,really! Toxic rocks, toxic dust? Toxic water will be pumped out of the mines, 1200 gallons of water per minute, pumped into a pond, some filtration, using EPA Federal degraded testing standards, then the water is pumped into the Wolf Creek drainage system, potentially still toxic. A creek turned into a drainage canal, really! Where does all that potentially toxic water go? Who does the full secturum water testing? Hopefully not the company itself!!!

So, we have a 24/7 mining proposal that creates noise, dust, massive rock displacement, land vibration from internal mine blasting, traffic problems, and toxic water, plus other toxic everythings. This makes this project a very bad business idea for our county and a long term environmental disaster. We are still cleaning up environmental disasters in our county and state created by past mining proposals.

Let's not start down this very bad road again! Please include me in any mailings or notices about this project.

Sincerely,
William Culbertson

From:	Marion Culhane
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Please respond to my concerns regarding the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 3:57:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

I live in this community and am concerned about the increased traffic, noise, air pollution and how opening the mine will impact people's wells. It feels like a very outdated technology for these times, when we should be concerned with creating the most up to date clean energy supplies possible.

Let's think about our children and upcoming generations. This feels like a huge leap backwards.

Please respond and tell me how the mine plans to address the above concerns. Let's put our neighbors and the well being of our environment and community above profits for a Canadian mining company.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Marion Culhane

--

Marion Culhane, BS, RN - Trainer, Coach and Social Entrepreneur
530 432-8484 (home office)
530 205-5737 (mobile phone)
Helping people to become the best version of themselves

"Awareness is the greatest agent for change." Eckhart Tolle

"Abandon what is unskillful. Cultivate the good." The Buddha

August 15, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

My name is Carrie Cummins; I live at 12545 Beaver Drive, Grass Valley. I am writing this letter to oppose the opening of the former Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corp.

I am sure by this time you have received many letters from Nevada County residents opposing the opening of the mine. I have lived on Beaver Drive for almost 26 years and went through this same process when the now defunct Idaho-Maryland Mining Corporation attempted to open the mine.

One of my main concerns is the whole dewatering process and the effect on wells. When the Idaho-Maryland Mining Corp. was considering opening the mine, they at least had the foresight to know that dewatering could potentially run dry 100-150 wells surrounding the mining site. From 1995-2013, IMMC employed a local company to monitor these wells on a monthly basis. Homeowners were sent reports on the current water levels so that, in the event IMMC ever did dewater, we would have proof that our wells functioned normally even during drought years. IMMC also had Cranmer Labs test the water quality in August of 1995. I still have my reports from IMMC.

I am deeply concerned that Rise Gold Corp. has publicly stated that only a "handful" of wells could possibly be affected by dewatering. What changed with the wells from IMMC's time to Rise Gold's attempt? The answer is: nothing! Rise Gold Corp., as far as I know, has not explained this huge discrepancy of the number of wells potentially affected.

In October 2007, a Draft Breakdown of Costs was written showing the estimated cost of running NID treated water to my neighborhood. At that time, the Total Modified Project Cost was $269,184.00. The cost of this project would have to be shouldered by the 16 parcels in my neighborhood (there are a total of 17 but one is already on NID treated water). We were also told that it would take a minimum of 18-24 months to even get the water system installed. The cost and timeline were prohibitive. I can only assume the cost is much greater today and I do not know how long it would take to get this project on NID's current work schedule.

In addition to the water issue, there is the pollution, noise at the site, truck traffic and noise, road damage, water contamination into the creek, and property devaluation. ALL of these problems must be addressed in the Draft Environment Impact Report.

I understand the glamour in revisiting what once was a vital part of Nevada County's past – that of gold mining. But Nevada County is NOT the same as it once was. We have changed; what worked 70 years ago just does not work for Nevada County now. The Nevada County I know focuses on high tech firms, the medical industry, service industry, construction, education, and tourism. If Nevada County wants to bring in more businesses, I can see the potential for many other options of growth that are clean and welcome.

In conclusion, please make sure that the issues in this letter are addressed thoroughly in the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Carrie Cummins
12545 Beaver Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-273-1263

From: Carrie Cummins
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Corp. Draft Environmental Impact Report
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:50:59 AM
Attachments: Nev County letter re Rise Gold.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Attached is my letter opposing the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Please include this letter with the others you have received as the DEIR is written.

Sincerely,
Carrie Cummins

From: Nina Allen
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: IM Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:12:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr Kelly,
I have lived and worked in Nevada County for 22 yrs. My office in on South Auburn St.
I am extremely concerned about a Canadian Company opening the Idaho Maryline Mine.
I want to know REALISTICALLY:

How many LOCAL employees will be hired.
How many gallons of WATER the mine will use and pollute per day/year
Traffic statistics ie how many and what kind of vehicles will come through
my neighborhood.
AIR QUALITY effects.
Amount of CO2 produced per day/year for mine and mine traffic.
Effects on local DRINKING WATER.
Environmental CLEAN UP, timeline and who pays.
What happens when the price of gold drops and they haven't finished building the mine.....or cleaning it up.

What are alternative uses of the space like a large scale solar array,
biofuel generator...a factory that makes something useful....

There have got to be better more sustainable ways to get tax revenue than having a highly speculative Canadian gold mine.

Sincerely,
Nina Allen Cunningham
518 South Auburn Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530 273-0098
ninaallenc@sbcglobal.net

From:	Penelope Curtis
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Reopening Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelly Senior Planner Nevada County Planning Dept.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am a Bay Area native who spent numerous summers camping in the Sierra, in Nevada County, as well as many other spots. I learned early about gold mining because my father, Garniss H. Curtis, was a noted professor of geology at UCBerkeley. His bachelor's degree was in mining engineering following 2 generations of mining engineers in his family. After working in a copper mine in Arizona, he was against mining. But, I didn't move to Nevada County in 1990 for gold mining, I was drawn to the arts, culture, environment & heritage of the area, after spending 8 years in the Los Angeles area.

I learned very quickly that gold mining interests still dominated. The property I bought had an attachment that said at the 200 ft level below the surface, the mineral rights were owned by Newmont Mines. I learned later that most properties in Western Nevada County have similar attachments!

My concerns about reopening the Idaho-Maryland, and these are the ones that I have had since the first penny stock Canadian Company tried to reopen many years ago, are:

1. **Environmental impact on the water system.** About a decade ago, Empire Mine was fined by the State for its residual toxic pollutants seeping into Magenta Creek that ran through Memorial Park in Grass Valley. The creek was cordoned off to the public because of this, until the State Park fixed the problem. This occurred about 150 years after the mine started producing and 50 years after it stopped. HOW IS THE CANADIAN MINE GOING TO MITIGATE THE POLLUTION INTO WOLF CREEK? And, how are they going to mitigate polluting the wells of homeowners nearby? Are they going to pay for hook-ups to the NID system which costs about $20K per hook-up?

2. **Noise Pollution 24/7**...how are they going to handle that!!! Most people who have moved here since 1990, came for the peace & quiet!!! They do not want to hear

traffic & pounding noise 24/7 or they would have stayed in their former urban areas. There is a story about the Empire Mine & the wedding of Wm. Bourne's daughter at the Cottage. For her wedding outside, the Stamp Mills were stopped. Everyone was amazed at the quiet, because in the surrounding area, they had all grown up with the noise! We do not want to return to those days!!!

3. **Air Pollution...**Nevada County has one of the worst air quality in the nation! The State has monitors to the east of us on top of Donner Summit that regularly indicate pollutants from China, as well as massive pollutants from the Bay Area because of the Delta Breezes! We do not need to add to the already polluted air by having mining trucks roaring up & down Idaho Maryland & Bennett Roads day & night!!! I already have a number of friends who have moved from the area because of the air pollution. HOW IS THE CANADIAN COMPANY GOING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

In our current era of Climate Change, we DO NOT need more gold mining that increases environmental damage to our area. The company proposing the reopening of the Idaho Maryland is another CANADIAN company that has no ties to the local communities. It is solely here to make money & then leave as soon as they can. It is history repeating itself!!!

Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine is not sustainable & has no long term benefit to Western Nevada County. If you would like to ask me more about my objections, please do!

Sincerely, *Penelope Curtis*

Tiger Lily Productions
19486 Tiger Lily Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945

530.798.5955 (cell)

arts~culture~heritage tourism consulting; video production; project development; workshop & conference production; research, geotourism assets inventorying & mapping

From: Robin Curtis
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Proposal - Opposition and Draft EIR Scope Considerations
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

via email to: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Mr. Kelley:

I write regarding the Rise Gold/Rise Grass Valley proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine. As a preliminary matter, we did not receive a mailing regarding this public comment period, and I also understand a number of community members did not receive such notice either. It is concerning when a project's public comment period begins by not adequately notifying the public directly. I hope that this will be remedied as this investigation proceeds to the next phases to ensure widespread community comment.

I have watched the July 27 scoping meeting presentation, and hope that the county's independent assessment and review of this project will result in what seems like the only responsible choice – denying the application. However, my understanding is that the current comment period is to determine what other impacts to assess in the draft EIR. After watching the July 27 presentation, it was unclear to me whether the following would be addressed.

I. Studies on the impact to our water supply and quality.

The underground area proposed for mining spans a huge geographic area. And it has been stated that dewatering the underground mines would need to occur with pumping out millions of gallons; that water would continue to fill the mines from the surrounding areas and then continue to be pumped out. This seems likely to have a huge impact on anyone within the region of the mine; perhaps the whole Nevada City/Grass Valley area.

1. Please investigate the geographic scope of the water usage impact. How many residents and which regions will be affected? The company proposes some mitigation to a few residents only on E. Bennet through connecting to NID, however, it seems likely that the entire water table will be impacted in the region all around the underground mining perimeter, and probably even further. Won't residents living anywhere above or near the orange boundary (above the mining perimeter) risk problems with their well? How many of these people are even set up to have an alternative water source? Please investigate.
2. Could the water reduction also have an impact on NID's ability to adequately provide water to residents? Could this result in an increased cost to everyone?
3. Will the reduced water table or reduced water accessibility result in decreased hydration to the trees and vegetation? What is the increased fire danger that will result from having inadequate/reduced water supply?
4. In a state that seems to be in a perpetual drought, and which is only expected to get worse, this is an extremely irresponsible use of this natural resource. Please consider how all of the above questions also are impacted especially when in years of drought. There are times when community members cannot even water their lawns, how would the mine operations exacerbate the problem, (and if approved, would mine operations be allowed to continue even during these times)?
5. It appears that downstream water pollution in the Wolf Creek is being investigated, but what about the pollution to any wells or the entire water table? If the company uses its chemicals to blast rock, drill, process and then refill the tunnels with that substance, (and add it to surface sites) it will almost certainly seep back into the underground water and cause pollution and contamination. So even if a well doesn't run dry, how will the

operations affect the chemicals and purity of the water and wells in the region? For example, as noted in EPA documentation, "mines are sometimes pumped to keep them dry; the pumping can cause an upward migration of contaminated ground water, which may be intercepted by a well." https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/mgwc-gwc1.pdf This is extremely concerning. Again, this also needs to be considered not just for wells right under or near the processing sites. How far will this contamination reach?

II. Additional considerations regarding energy usage to consider.

We already have PG&E Power outages due to increased fire risk. In the past these have also been caused by overused power grids. The increased energy consumption will certainly impact the power grid. Will the increased energy usage increase the potential of power shutoffs? During shut off days, community members are left without air conditioning, no power to pump water from the well, and many other detrimental impacts that result from the PSPS days. Please consider this in the investigation.

III. Building community trust by disclosing potential bias of voting members and independent reviewer(s).

This point does not necessarily relate to the scope of the DEIR, but I am hopeful that the county's independent EIR, independent assessment and vote will truly be independent and expose Rise's obviously biased assessment of the impact this project will have to our beautiful community and the environment. To be honest, I cannot imagine how this project could be approved and would like for the public to also be aware of any bias and/or conflict of interest that may come into play. To that end, I have a few additional requests.

1. Will you please disclose how many independent third-party reviewers of the draft and final EIR there will be and who they are?

2. For each voting member, and independent reviewer, will you please disclose any financial or personal connection to Rise or any of its investment companies?

3. Will any of these individuals personally or financially benefit in any way if this project moves forward?

Finally, I'll say that I have seen copies of letters that other members of our community have sent, and in particular, I second the concerns raised by Tony Lauria of Greenhorn Road and hope that the county will adequately investigate such concerns and include them in its DEIR.

For the record, I am strongly opposed to this mine, as I believe most of our community members are as well. I worry about the detrimental impact of the noise, water, air pollution, fire hazards, quality of life, real estate value, impact on tourism and many other things. Whatever potential benefits the company claims could flow to our community cannot possibly outweigh these problems. I hope that ultimately the board will vote to protect its citizens, and not the greedy interests of a foreign company. But, since these comments are to be related to the draft EIR scope, I'll also plan to raise those opposition statements again down the road during other appropriate comment periods.

Regards,

Robin Curtis

From: Robin Curtis <robin.k.curtis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Gold Proposal - Opposition and Draft EIR Scope Considerations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

via email to: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Mr. Kelley:

I write regarding the Rise Gold/Rise Grass Valley proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine. As a preliminary matter, we did not receive a mailing regarding this public comment period, and I also understand a number of community members did not receive such notice either. It is concerning when a project's public comment period begins by not adequately notifying the public directly. I hope that this will be remedied as this investigation proceeds to the next phases to ensure widespread community comment.

I have watched the July 27 scoping meeting presentation, and hope that the county's independent assessment and review of this project will result in what seems like the only responsible choice – denying the application. However, my understanding is that the current comment period is to determine what other impacts to assess in the draft EIR. After watching the July 27 presentation, it was unclear to me whether the following would be addressed.

I. Studies on the impact to our water supply and quality.

The underground area proposed for mining spans a huge geographic area. And it has been stated that dewatering the underground mines would need to occur with pumping out millions of gallons; that water would continue to fill the mines from the surrounding areas and then continue to be pumped out. This seems likely to have a huge impact on anyone within the region of the mine; perhaps the whole Nevada City/Grass Valley area.

1. Please investigate the geographic scope of the water usage impact. How many residents and which regions will be affected? The company proposes some mitigation to a

few residents only on E. Bennet through connecting to NID, however, it seems likely that the entire water table will be impacted in the region all around the underground mining perimeter, and probably even further. Won't residents living anywhere above or near the orange boundary (above the mining perimeter) risk problems with their well? How many of these people are even set up to have an alternative water source? Please investigate.

2. Could the water reduction also have an impact on NID's ability to adequately provide water to residents? Could this result in an increased cost to everyone?

3. Will the reduced water table or reduced water accessibility result in decreased hydration to the trees and vegetation? What is the increased fire danger that will result from having inadequate/reduced water supply?

4. In a state that seems to be in a perpetual drought, and which is only expected to get worse, this is an extremely irresponsible use of this natural resource. Please consider how all of the above questions also are impacted especially when in years of drought. There are times when community members cannot even water their lawns, how would the mine operations exacerbate the problem, (and if approved, would mine operations be allowed to continue even during these times)?

5. It appears that downstream water pollution in the Wolf Creek is being investigated, but what about the pollution to any wells or the entire water table? If the company uses its chemicals to blast rock, drill, process and then refill the tunnels with that substance, (and add it to surface sites) it will almost certainly seep back into the underground water and cause pollution and contamination. So even if a well doesn't run dry, how will the operations affect the chemicals and purity of the water and wells in the region? For example, as noted in EPA documentation, "mines are sometimes pumped to keep them dry; the pumping can cause an upward migration of contaminated ground water, which may be intercepted by a well." https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/mgwc-gwc1.pdf This is extremely concerning. Again, this also needs to be considered not just for wells right under or near the processing sites. How far will this contamination reach?

II. Additional considerations regarding energy usage to consider.

We already have PG&E Power outages due to increased fire risk. In the past these have also been caused by overused power grids. The increased energy consumption will certainly impact the power grid. Will the increased energy usage increase the potential of power shutoffs? During shut off days, community members are left without air conditioning, no power to pump water from the well, and many other detrimental impacts that result from the PSPS days. Please consider this in the investigation.

III. Building community trust by disclosing potential bias of voting members and independent reviewer(s).

This point does not necessarily relate to the scope of the DEIR, but I am hopeful that the county's independent EIR, independent assessment and vote will truly be independent and expose Rise's obviously biased assessment of the impact this project will have to our beautiful community and the environment. To be honest, I cannot imagine how this project could be approved and would like for the public to also be aware of any bias and/or conflict of interest that may come into play. To that end, I have a few additional requests.

1. Will you please disclose how many independent third-party reviewers of the draft and final EIR there will be and who they are?

2. For each voting member, and independent reviewer, will you please disclose any

financial or personal connection to Rise or any of its investment companies?

3. Will any of these individuals personally or financially benefit in any way if this project moves forward?

Finally, I'll say that I have seen copies of letters that other members of our community have sent, and in particular, I second the concerns raised by Tony Lauria of Greenhorn Road and hope that the county will adequately investigate such concerns and include them in its DEIR.

For the record, I am strongly opposed to this mine, as I believe most of our community members are as well. I worry about the detrimental impact of the noise, water, air pollution, fire hazards, quality of life, real estate value, impact on tourism and many other things. Whatever potential benefits the company claims could flow to our community cannot possibly outweigh these problems. I hope that ultimately the board will vote to protect its citizens, and not the greedy interests of a foreign company. But, since these comments are to be related to the draft EIR scope, I'll also plan to raise those opposition statements again down the road during other appropriate comment periods.

Regards,

Robin Curtis

August 16th, 2020

TO: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Georgia Cutter, and I am a citizen of Grass Valley, CA. I was born and raised in Nevada City, and I recently moved back in February. Due to my upbringing in Nevada County, the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project caught my attention and has raised some concerns. After reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition clear.

A primary concern I have is the expansion of mining tunnels in an area with a known fault line. The blasts harbor some safety concerns. The use of ammonium nitrate as an explosive will release nitrogen oxide into the air, which has been linked to respiratory illness. I'm also concerned about the possibilities of future sinkholes, an issue Nevada County experienced a few years ago. Using the South Fork of Wolf Creek to dispose of the wastewater is risky. Although the project promises that the wastewater quality will be equal to Wolf Creek, it will only take one mistake to drastically ruin the water. This project will not use cyanide or mercury to process the gold mineralization, but it mentions unnamed reagents used as collectors, promotors, frothers, and flocculants. The reagents they are going to use should be made public. The transportation of 1,500 tons of rock seven days a week will release a massive amount of greenhouse gases and disrupt the traffic in the area. The Idaho- Maryland Mine will be employing "educated and skilled workers." Will Rise Gold make an effort to hire local members of the community? Rise Gold is based in Canada, will the mine economically benefit our community? The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956, and it should remain that way. I believe the impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Georgia Cutter
Resident of Nevada City
georgiamirae@gmail.com

From: Georgia Cutter
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:09:42 PM
Attachments: Idaho-Maryland Mine.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Matt Kelly,

I have attached a PDF listing my concerns about the opening of Idaho-Maryland Mine. Please let me know if there are any issues viewing the document.
Thank you!
Georgia Cutter

25 August 2020

Matt Kelley
Nevada County
Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT, SCH#2020070378, NEVADA COUNTY

Pursuant to the 's 17 July 2020 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report* for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project , located in Nevada County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of

Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues. For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_201805.pdf

In part it states:

Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.

This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

II. Permitting Requirements

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits[1]

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ. For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements. If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic

[1] Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications. For more information on the Water Quality Certification, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/

Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation. For more information on the Waste Discharges to Surface Water NPDES Program and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/waste_to_surface_water/

Projects involving excavation or fill activities impacting less than 0.2 acre or 400 linear feet of non-jurisdictional waters of the state and projects involving dredging activities impacting less than 50 cubic yards of non-jurisdictional waters of the state may be eligible for coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ (General Order 2004-0004). For more information on the General Order 2004-0004, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Threat General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Threat Waiver) R5-2018-0085. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf

For more information regarding the Low Threat Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0085.pdf

Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order. For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf

NPDES Permit

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of surface waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A complete Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a NPDES Permit. For more information regarding the NPDES Permit and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/permit/

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4709 or Greg.Hendricks@waterboards.ca.gov.

Greg Hendricks
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

From: Hendricks, Greg@Waterboards <Greg.Hendricks@Waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Comment Letter for 2020070378

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Kelley,

Attached is the comment letter for the above project. Please respond to this email confirming receipt, thank you.

Greg Hendricks

Environmental Scientist – 401 Water Quality Certification and Dredging Unit

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Ph: 916-464-4709

Greg.Hendricks@waterboards.ca.gov

From: Maniko
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: NO to opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine!
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:48:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley -

I'm writing to express my view that everything about the proposed mine opening is detrimental to the health & serenity of our community. It will ruin so much and create difficulties in an already difficult & precarious time! It will not benefit our community and risks destroying much:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Material
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Noise
- Population/Housing

Sincerely,

Maniko Dru Dadigan
16486 Cooper Rd, NC CA 95959
530 615-0021

From: ralph daley
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSED MNING BY RISE GOLD CORPORATION
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 2, 2020

FROM: Jeff and Marla Daley- 12933 Elk Lane, Grass Valley, CA

TO: Mr. Matt Kelley- Nevada County Planning Dept.-Senior Planner

Dear Mr. Matt Kelley,

We are writing to you of our opposition of the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine/ Rise Gold Corporation. We have lived, raised our family and were self employed in Nevada County since 1983. We built our dream home adjacent to the historic Idaho Maryland Mine/ Bohemian Mill in the Brunswick Manor subdivision. Our home backs up to the Mill property and the only reason we decided to purchase this land is because we were told by our Realtor that it was safe and the property had been rezoned to M1 with a campus like feel.

Approximately, ten years ago the county tried to allow a wood waste and wood manufacturing facility to operate there under the old zoning of Industrial but our attorney, Mr. Jeff Bordelon established it with the legal argument that because Sierra Pacific closed the Mill, removed the buildings and tore out the foundations at the site and changed the zoning to an M1 with a campus like feel that we, the concerned citizens, businesses, neighbors had a legal prevailing, standing argument and the Sierra Pacific withdrew from proceeding with the rezoning because of ur legal argument established.

We believe that this argument still holds true and has established precedence. Rise-Gold Corp purchased the property with the existing M1 Light Industrial Zoning with a specialty campus like feel design which is not conducive to heavy Industrial use.
This has already been determined and on record.

This extreme type of Industrial use is no longer acceptable in the residential area that has been built up surrounding the Old Mine/Mill.
Homes here are mostly all water well dependent and already has devalued the price

of taxpayers homes and caused cancelling of real estate contracts that were in escrow and hasn't even opened.
This is unfair to the taxpayers and voters of our community to loose equity in our home.

The impact of Mining Companies opening up, stripping the land, and polluting water, draining wells dry such as the San Juan Ridge Siskon Mine when people lost well water within a day. Then these companies file bankruptcy and disappear. This cannot be allowed in our county and the consequences such as toxic dust, unacceptable noise, and unsightly messes.
Not to mention all the heavy loaded trucks on Brunswick Rd. traveling down, 24 hrs a day, turning left onto Whispering Pines on the precarious turn negotiating oncoming traffic traveling at high speeds should not be allowed for the public safety, School buses that travel Brunswick and Bennett roads and the welfare of our citizens.

It is a well known fact the women in our county, as recorded, have a higher Breast Cancer rate due to the historic mining in our community. We have experienced this in our family.
Blood work show that women in Nevada County have higher arsenic and cadmium levels in our systems. Almost every family has been affected by breast cancer. Opening of this mine will only add to toxins in our air quality for generations to come.

Not only will this proposed project impact the scenic vista along Brunswick Rd. but harm and eliminate terrestrial animals that live and move though this corridor such as, Bears, Bob Cats, Deer, Foxes, Coyotes, Skunks etc.

In Closing:
Allowing a massive endeavor like this in such close proximity to the heavily traffic area Brunswick Basin and all the surrounding Schools and residential homes will certainly degrade the harmony and health of our historical, desirable area devastating home values, wildlife, air, water, roads, water wells, health of a vast amount of valuable taxpayers in our community.
Future generations will be forced to live with the negative impact it would have on all of us.
We can only see many more negatives than positives in this consideration.

Sincerely,
Jeff and Marla Daley

From: Jude Daley
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Proposed Rise Mine
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:02:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

Thank you for responding to my email. How will I be notified of the NOA once the Draft EIR is ready for review? I really don't want to miss this or any future opportunity to review and comment on the project.

Regards,

Jude Daley

Thank you!

> On Aug 12, 2020, at 11:47 AM, Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:
>
> Good Morning Judith:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire,

and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
<image001.jpg>
Planning Department
County of Nevada
Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
office 530.265-1423
https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

-----Original Message-----
From: Jude Daley <santacruzjude@live.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:12 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed Rise Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Rise Mine. There are so many reasons why this mine is a horrible idea to re- introduce into our area.

Some water sources STILL have elevated arsenic and other toxins from the mine tailings dam breach years ago.

It would infringe on Quiet enjoyment of any properties in ear shot of the 24/7 mine

activity.

Property values would decline. Our homes are the most expensive investment we make in our lifetimes!

Water wells would be negatively affected or possibly drained completely, causing property owners to seek other sources of potable water.

Etc. etc etc

Please do not allow this or any mine to open here. There has already been a long history of mines in our area which have negatively impacted our community for decades and to the current day. Look at the wells around the Lost Lake region for an example.

Thank you,

Judith Daley

-----Original Message-----
From: Jude Daley <santacruzjude@live.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:12 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed Rise Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Rise Mine. There are so many reasons why this mine is a horrible idea to re- introduce into our area.

Some water sources STILL have elevated arsenic and other toxins from the mine tailings dam breach years ago.

It would infringe on Quiet enjoyment of any properties in ear shot of the 24/7 mine activity.

Property values would decline. Our homes are the most expensive investment we make in our lifetimes!

Water wells would be negatively affected or possibly drained completely, causing property owners to seek other sources of potable water.

Etc. etc etc

Please do not allow this or any mine to open here. There has already been a long history of mines in our area which have negatively impacted our community for decades and to the current day. Look at the wells around the Lost Lake region for an example.

Thank you,

Judith Daley

From: Lauren Dalke
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Concerns and Questions
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:37 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Lauren Dalke
11490 Upper Crescent Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
lauren_dalke@yahoo.com
775-830-9279

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for the past few years. I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would propel action for private well owner remediation.

Not only am I concerned about the impact to private wells, I am also concerned about these topics that the EIR should also analyze:

o How is the water quality of the discharged water that would go into Wolf Creek going to be monitored and what are the water quality standards?

o What will be the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the mine and how much will be emitted daily? How will the mine impact air quality? Will any of the gas emissions try to be mitigated? How does this impact climate change?

o What will be the potential noise impacts and how will the mine mitigate the impacts of the noise and vibration created by the mine?

o How will the mine impact traffic and what will be the mitigation plan for the impact of the heavy trucks on the roads?

o How will the mine impact Grass Valley's property values?

o What are the potential cumulative impacts on the environment?

o How will the mine impact the local economy? If there is a lot of noise, air pollution, and traffic will there be locals and tourists still wanting to visit downtown Grass Valley and the surrounding area?

Sincerely,

Lauren Dalke

From: hilary dart <hilaryd95945@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

July 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Matt Kelley,

I am opposed to the Rise Mine opening. I am very concerned about the following issues and more that I expect to be covered in the environmental impact report.

- Possible water, well, river/creek pollution
- Draining of well water and underground water supply
- Air pollution – what can get released into the air when breaking rocks, using explosives, mining, using energy, burning fossil fuels for mining and transportation, other gases and toxins being released in the air.
- What will be the mining and truck noise?
- How could habitats and nearby land and water biology be affected from possible leaching of toxins, possible mistakes or human error, and discharging of large volumes of treated water into wolf creek which flows to the bear river?
- What are all the toxins and heavy metals that will be released, liberated and produced due to mining project?
- Explain what will happen to the already contaminated and unstable historical mine fill at the Centennial Industrial Site before more fill is added from this project?
- What is the worst case environmental scenario if any disaster or mistake happens? We must responsibly and ethically plan for the worst case, especially for a project that is in the middle of our community.
- What is Rise Gold's history with environmental protection and previous violations?

I cannot imagine that the mine could be approved with the problems that it can create with our water, air, traffic, and wildlife. Please do not approve the Rise Mine operation!

Sincerely, Hilary Dart

14945 Christmas Tree Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: hilary dart <hilaryd95945@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 9:29 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

July 30, 2020

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am opposed to the Rise Mine opening. I am very concerned about the following issues and more that I expect to be covered in the environmental impact report.

- Possible water, well, river/creek pollution
- Draining of well water and underground water supply
- Air pollution – what can get released into the air when breaking rocks, using explosives, mining, using energy, burning fossil fuels for mining and transportation, other gases and toxins being released in the air.
- What will be the mining and truck noise?
- How could habitats and nearby land and water biology be affected from possible leaching of toxins, possible mistakes or human error, and discharging of large volumes of treated water into wolf creek which flows to the bear river?
- What are all the toxins and heavy metals that will be released, liberated and produced due to mining project?
- Explain what will happen to the already contaminated and unstable historical mine fill at the Centennial Industrial Site before more fill is added from this project?
- What is the worst case environmental scenario if any disaster or mistake

happens? We must responsibly and ethically plan for the worst case, especially for a project that is in the middle of our community.

- What is Rise Gold's history with environmental protection and previous violations?

I cannot imagine that the mine could be approved with the problems that it can create with our water, air, traffic, and wildlife. Please do not approve the Rise Mine operation!

Sincerely, Hilary Dart

14945 Christmas Tree Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

and Nevada County Sipervisors an

From: catalina davis
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment for Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening Closing
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:07:08 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

8.17.20

TO: Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Community Environmental Advocates-NC

FR: Catalina D. Davis
11010 Brunswick Dr.
Grass Valley, CA
Mailing: PO Box 582, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

RE: Public Comment on the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

This letter represents my **strong opposition** to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. As someone who has lived within a mile of the mine site for almost 25 years, I can see no benefit to anyone other than the project's investors in this extraction of resources from our community. I refer you to Jonathon Keehn's excellent synopsis of the ways in which Rise Corporation has already broken the community's trust. https://www.theunion.com/opinion/columns/jonathan-keehn-reopening-idaho-maryland-mine-still-a-bad-idea

My specific concerns are as follows:

- Excessive and extreme noise in a predominately residential area 24 hours a day both in operations and transportation
- Probability of polluting the local water supply both underground and into the watershed of Wolf Creek
- Potential release of currently stable toxins from past mining endeavors
- Significant environmental destruction of local flora and fauna habitat in one of the county's primary open space areas for wild animal vagility
- Additional traffic congestion in an already dense traffic area
- Unwarranted decrease in property values
- Passing off of road wear and tear costs to taxpayers
- Predominantly developing a workforce of "experts" from outside of Nevada County

I request that as part of the vetting of this project a complete and thorough investigation be done in the following areas to address my concerns:

- Land Use and Planning study
- Noise impact study
- Traffic flow and road damage impact study
- Environmental impact study
- Watershed impact study
- Local fiscal benefit study
- Property value impact study

This county has already suffered enough from prospectors coming to the area and stripping the environment, culture and economic well-being. I urge you to do whatever it takes to say a resounding “NO” to their plans.

Sincerely, A very concerned neighbor and tax payer,

Catalina D. Davis

-----Original Message-----
From: Wendy Davis <wendylu.davis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Oppose reopening Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a longtime resident of Nevada County, I strongly oppose the proposition to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine for mining for many reasons: the increase in noise pollution from early morning till late at night, the ridiculous increase in traffic (200+ trips daily by trucks hauling tailings), the toxic

chemicals used plus residue left in wastewater - Empire Mine is still cleaning up/containing the waste products from mining there some 75 years ago. Nevada County is known for being a beautiful place to visit, with peaceful rivers, lovely restaurants/shops, art/community theater, with a healthy, earth-minded consciousness … and this project is opposite of all that is Nevada County today.
Wendy Davis
11883 Nancy Lane, Grass Valley, CA. 95945
530-386-8041

From: Mary Anne Davis
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to express my concern about having a working gold mine on the site of the Idaho Maryland mine, as proposed by Gold Rise, Inc.

I have lived in this community for 33 years, and while I am not opposed to growth and change, I believe this to be not in the best interest of our community.

It would be one thing if this was not a heavily populated area with residential properties, but it is. While I live about 3 miles from the location, I have friends who do live within ¼ to ½ mile from the mine, and they are terrified this reopening of the mine will create pollution, loud noise, traffic issues, and ultimately lower their property values. That is a valid concern.

I realize very well that our history is steeped in gold mining, and as I said had this been miles from residential areas it could be different. I am sure you will get a lot of input on this issue, but I felt compelled to add mine as well.

Best regards,

Mary Anne Davis
Marketing & Event Manager
Hospice of the Foothills
Grass Valley, CA

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Rochelle Davisson
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Statement Against the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir,

The proposal by the Rise Company to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine close to my home is appalling. As a landowner residing close to the mine's impact area, I am highly concerned about this proposed reopening.

Four generations of my family have lived in Nevada County, starting back in the 1940s. My grandfather worked underground in one of the gold mines. Additionally, I worked as an environmental analyst for many years. With this background in mind, I am strongly recommending an EIR be performed to assess potential negative impacts due to the reopening of the mine. I am fully aware of the serious and unmitigatable impacts reopening this mine and believe the plan to open ultimately should not be approved.

Here are my most major concerns:

Of greatest concern is that the dewatering plan could jeopardize my home's water supply as well as my ability to protect my home from a potential wildfire. (Relevant EIR sections include: Water Quality/Hydrology/Utilities/Wildlife Suppression)

I'm also concerned that traffic trips generated by the potential reopening will cause additional traffic pollution and congestion, resulting in negative impacts to air quality as well as the potential to affect traffic circulation, putting our local and regional population at risk during fire season. (Relevant EIR sections include: Air Quality/Traffic & Circulation/Water Quality/Emergency Services)

Additionally, noise and light pollution will occur, negatively impacting our rural way of life as well as creating a significant and unavoidable impact to regional wildlife habitat and migration routes. (Relevant EIR sections include: Noise/Light/Biology/Fisheries)

I urge you to take seriously the significant and unavoidable impacts the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine will have on our beautiful Nevada County and to not allow this plan to be approved.

Sincerely,
Rochelle Davisson

From: sharondavisson42
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr.Kelley,
I am writing as a native born, 79 year old Grass
Valley citizen. I am deeply troubled about the Rise Company's plans to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine. Dewatering the present mine will threaten the water supply for a multitude of our citizens and I'm afraid will pollute the waterways.
I am also appalled by the possibility of a multitude of mine vehicles traveling along our rural roads, disturbing our peace.
I URGE you to not approve the Rice Company plans.
Sincerely,
Sharon Davisson
17889 Douglas road
Nevada City, Ca

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Thomas
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland nine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

In the past 50 years that I have resided in Nevada County I have volunteered at public facilities such as the Empire Mine and the NCNGRR in order to preserve this county's historical distinction.
I am therefore appalled at Rise Minings intent to dewater the Idaho Maryland mine as the process has the potential to disrupt water wells, create dust and noise and create unnessary traffic.
The era of gold mining of this capacity in Nevada County has long since past, and the thought of its imposition would be inimical to the best interests of Nevada County citizens.
I strongly oppose Rise's plans to open the Idaho Maryland mine.

Sincerely, Tom Davisson

Sent from my smartph

From: Lenda de Ann
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Proposed Canadian Mine in my neighborhood
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 5:13:35 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We live about a block from the proposed opening te Idaho Maryland Mine. I am totally against it for the following reasons.

We have no public water in this neighborhood, only well. Connecting water to the NID system is not acceptable. The recently raised their price to $800 a month, plus they spray RoundUp once a month to poison the weeds and algae. Not to mention animals and dogs drinking and swimming in it.

I'm concerned that when they drain the mine, they will lower our water table and we will no longer have water.

The trucks going in and out of there, the noise and the pollution concerns me.

Please do not approve the mine.

Thank you,

Lenda deAnn Wooard
11321 Beauview Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Kate De Paepe
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Mine Reopening
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

The news of the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine for gold has come as quite a shock. I could not even imagine that an area that has been so ravaged for resources in the past has not taken a fully realized approach to prevent such history from reoccurring.

Mining operations, and especially those for the purpose of riches, have no place in a community that stands for natural beauty, respect of our earth, and community. How does this operation benefit any of those values? What do we as residents gain?

I am weary of the dramatic changes and affects this will have on every facet of this area as it relates to the quality of life and future development. This will undoubtedly compromise air quality, for which our region at the base of the foothills is already at risk. If there is risk to the wells in the immediate vicinity, doesn't this imply that this operation imposes a large threat to our water quality? Haven't we learned from history's examples of the importance of our water systems?

These are critical questions for the county to consider. Are we community minded or privy to greed and short-sighted ambitions? I believe this area is at the crux of a turning point and it would be a devastation to halt the progress and momentum being built by those that call Nevada County home.

Please do not ignore the obvious threats to the environment and quality of life that reopening this mine imposes.

Sincerely,
Kate de Paepe
503-860-5387
431 Zion St.

From: wilman dea
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No to Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I've been a local my whole life, and I understand its heritage with gold mining. I am also a fan of watching those shows on the discovery channel about mining, I find it really interesting.

That said, I don't agree with the opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine, and for a few reasons. I understand the revenue the county would gain from having this mine, the problem I have is really the contaminants that will be going into Wolf Creek. I was all for having the mine until I read that they would be spilling water into the creek. Not only would there be contaminants, the creek wouldn't be clear anymore. We were lucky enough to get the new creek trail built by Raley's but that would really suck if it were muddy all the time, along with the contaminants. I don't live near the mine but if I lived near there, I bet that there would be a lot of noise. That would annoy the heck out of me. Also I suspect the noise would keep animals away that live in that habitat. Do they need to do a NEPA study for something like this?

All in all I don't think the pro's out way the con's. Please do what you can to prevent this from happening. Again I get the economic impact of having this here, I just don't think it's worth all the things that come with it.

Thanks,

Wilman Dea

From: Cyndi Denicore
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: Cyndi Denicore
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:14:51 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please consider the negative impact on the environment and residential community. I'm unable to understand why something with so many negatives would even be on the table. Roads, noise, traffic, environmental hazards are too high a price to pay for any revenues. If it is done,it cannot be reversed!!!

From:	JDennis
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I oppose the proposed industrial mining operation because of concerns regarding the environmental impacts on the land, water and wildlife, traffic and neighborhood safety.

In addition, of course the EIR should analyze the impacts to area wells before approval.

Regards,
Julie Dennis
Hometown/voter
11693 Bourbon Hill Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959

From:	Monique
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR community comments
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:30:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Monique Derenia
11536 Harvest Hill Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95959

August 4, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing out of concern for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine project. I live less than a mile from the proposed site and strongly oppose the approval of this project. I have many concerns about how this mine would impact my family and the greater community and ecosystem.

I want to be sure the environmental impact report pays careful consideration to the following areas:

- Study how the pumping of the underground water at the mine would affect the surrounding wells and especially those of us with wells higher than the mine site in elevation. We must avoid the recurrence of the grossly negligent situation which happened at the San Juan mine.

- Study the effect to local agricultural and ranching operations of operating a mine 24/7. We raise livestock and farm on our 10 acres and there are other farmstands in the area. We rely on our well so do other farms in the area. Please include in your study the effect this would have on our farming livelihood with respect to stress on wells, animals (noise could stress dairy cows and negatively harm milk production)

and diminished tourism traffic to farm stands where we do our business.

- Study the noise pollution a 24/7 operation would create for local residents and the effect this would have on tourism and property resale in our area.

- Study the impact to downstream waterways and how the town residents and local wildlife may be affected by polluted or diverted waterways.

- I understand the project includes a proposal to build a 6-story building which could be an eyesore to the surrounding residential community, would lower property resale values and impact the community in a negative economic way for the lifetime of the mine. Will airport traffic be affected? Lights be added to the building for air traffic safety? Please consider and study those negative effects not only of the proposed high-rise building but of the mine in general since any heavy industrial use at the site is likely to decrease property values.

- The roadways of our growing town are already facing higher burdens of traffic from an influx of new residents. The increased 24/7 operation of the mine with shift workers arriving and departing at peak traffic times (work rush hours, school dropoff and pickups) would place an even greater burden on the roads, especially at the Hwy 174/Brunswick “Cedar Y” and Brunswick/Bennett intersection. Additionally, the report should study how larger trucks slow down traffic and create more noise and wear and tear on roads. Also, Brunswick and Bennett already has a high incidence of traffic collisions and the steep terrain north of that intersection is incredibly dangerous in icy weather. How would the gravel trucks impact already dangerous roadways?

- Local air quality: Our local air quality in Nevada County is some of the worst in the whole state of California. We experience frequent inversions and smoke drift from across the state made worse by local burning for heat and debris piles. How would the mine impact our already poor air quality especially in the fall/winter months when it tends to worsen from fires?

- Please study how the mine tailings or debris left uncovered which could contain other rocks like pyrite might pose significant health risks when exposed to rain storms. I understand some of the geological refuse of such a mine can produce sulfuric acid or other such hazardous fumes. Please study these possible side effects of the mine.

- Hazardous materials: This mine would be operating at extreme geographical proximity to major residential areas of town. The EIR should include an in-depth examination of how the transportation, removal, storage and use of hazardous

materials may put our community at risk of dealing with clean-up, health hazards and more as well as how long those impacts would persist if a disaster did occur.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Monique Derenia

From: Sarai Devi Dasi
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 8:19:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,
When I heard the proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Damn, I was extremely saddened and disappointed. Though Mining may have been the culture of our county in the past, it has left mass destruction of the waterways and lands in its path, irreversibly damaging the ecosystem. If it were to reopen at this time, it would not only be counteractive to the necessary action of averting the climate crisis, but would hurt the ecosystems in the surrounding area even more than it already has, leading to more difficulties for the people in the area as well. People receive their resources from the land, water, and air, and if any if those are poisoned, so are the people you are supposed to be protecting.
The mine would also bot benefit the community in a economic way either, it would simply prove to widen the economic gap between the classes, leaving a greater divide than before.
The majority of the money would go to very few people, and the benefit of reopening the mine, even less.
I am thoroughly disappointed that in the midst of a highly concerning pandemic which has affected everyone all around the world, when everyone is struggling with a way of life foreign to them, a proposal like this would be put forth. In our weakest moment, actions should be taken to resolve the current situation, not perpetuate an even more drastic one. If the mine is reopened, it would only go to prove that our representatives, who we elected in good faith, are working against our well being, and not for it.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely, Sarai Devi Dasi

Dist 2

RECEIVED

AUG 6 2020

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 3, 2020

Just a reminder – Mining in Grass Valley

Does anyone remember, or looked up, what happens to old, unused mines?

The Banner Lava Cap mine is an example.

An old, rotted-out, settling-pond dam gave way and sent thousands of tons of sludge and contaminants down Clipper Creek to Lost Lake. We were on the Super fund list for a very long time while they did the cleanup—not to mention all the trucks that carried the waste away clogging traffic on Greenhorn Road for months...

Now back to the case in hand:

1. Where will all the ground water go that they plan to pump out? OMG Downhill—Watch out Penn Valley and all points South and East—Wasn't that part of the problem in the 50's?
2. Contamination will also be a problem. Arsenic was used as one of the chemicals when the Empire and Pittsburgh mines were in operation. There was a sign at the Empire that said, "Do not cross here—Arsenic contamination."
3. We are also talking about tons of sludge--not just rock—trucks running day and night, noise pollution.
4. Where is all this waste going to be dumped? Our dump is on a side hill (bad planning to begin with), water seeps downhill so that option is out. Oh, let's see, oh yes, Nevada sounds good—we'll grease some more wheels and contaminate some more of our world.
5. Have we forgotten fire evacuation? Two lane roads: 1) Greenhorn, 2) Brunswick, 3) Highway 174, 4) Highway 20, 5) East Bennett, and most of Highway 49...Really?

Now let's talk about all the many, many miles of old unused mines that already run underneath ground here. We could ask one guy up at Dutch Flat about that: it seems one fine day while sitting in his house a hole opened up, and down he went into a shaft, dead on arrival.

As we all know, Grass Valley, as well as a lot of the surrounding area, is over old mine shafts that are deep and full of water. So let's start pumping out more ground water and screw up hundreds (if not thousands) of wells and creeks and cross our fingers that downtown does not sink out of existence. The small businesses won't have to worry about Covid 19 because they will all be underground. Old Sacramento—Déjà vu.

The cave-in near Raleys is a very recent example of what can happen.

If the mines around here had continued to produce high-enough grade ore to make it feasible to continue, they would still be in operation today.

So now we may be forced to live with horrible noise pollution, emission pollution from thousands of trucks and mining equipment over a long period of time, as well as wells either running dry or ruined with pollution.

Our wonderful wildlife that depends on the creeks for their very existence will suffer. They have had to adapt their lives around all of us already. We do live in their house after all.

Our local government agencies need to stand up and say, "NOT IN OUR BACKYARD!"

PGE—SAY NO

NID—SAY NO

Court judges—SAY NO

Attorneys—SAY NO

Building permits and environmental agencies—SAY NO

Don't we have an existing low limiting building height somewhere on the books? No? Get it done—no exclusions please.

City Council—Please look beyond any money or special favors promised.

If we get to vote on this issue—PLEAE PLEASE VOTE NO.

Let's keep Grass Valley free of outside businesses that do not really care that our city and countryside would be ruined by their operations.

We moved here because it is so special... Let's keep it a wonderful place in which to live.

Very Concerned Citizen,

Marian Devincenzi

(530) 272-5201

From: Nancy Dewey <nancy@deweys.us>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Barney Dewey <barney@deweys.us>
Subject: Opposed to Idaho Maryland Mine and Rise Company Mining

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Kelley,

We have lived in Grass Valley for nearly 20 years. We moved here to enjoy the peaceful beautiful scenery and never would have moved to our home in the Cedars had we known the County would ever consider allowing mining again in the area. We are opposed to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine. The health and environmental impacts associated with reopening this mine will significantly impact the quality

of life for the residents of our area and impact tourism, property values, and destroy or disrupt the creeks, terrain, and the wildlife that are the reasons we all live here.

No local public revenue would come to our municipality from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by people employed by the mine. While mining can be lucrative for those who control the operations, the community has to deal with traffic, noise, environmental, and other quality-of-life impacts. Any discussion of potential jobs for local citizens is misleading and does not offset the harm to the community. Can it truly be appropriate land use to have mining operations in any area that for decades has been home to schools, businesses and residences? Who wants to work, live or recreate next to a mine blasting 24 hours a day seven days a week. Our community is already suffering from the toxic legacy of past gold mining in the area, including polluted watersheds and at Grizzly Hill School in North San Juan. We do not want to add additional mining related impacts to our community for years into the future.
Our community has the capacity, resources, knowledge and wisdom to create permanent, sustainable 21st century jobs and to stimulate the local economy in ways that will not negatively impact the health of our community.

This project will:

- Significantly and unavoidably increase local air pollution;
- Increase noise and vibrations in residential areas;
- The de-watering could drain wells and impact their water quality (did the County learn nothing from the San Juan mine fiasco of the 90's);
- Affect water supply - can our resources supply the mine and maintain supply to business and residential communities;
- Inflict incessant blasting on the community, which will significantly impact the quality of life of residents and our property values;
- Unknown impacts of mining operations in long closed tunnels that are known to contain harmful chemicals.

Additional studies needed:

I am concerned that the Rise Gold company has been paying their consultants to produce reports that the County will rely on in the decision making process. How are these reports not biased? I know the County has Consultants who will be reviewing the data submitted but they will not be redoing the actual data collection and analysis in the report.

The county needs additional studies including:

- **Seismic Implications**. It is our understanding that the mine will be in a seismic hazard zone. Groundwater flow is dominated by these fractures and faults. There must be a new report done other than rely on biased reports already submitted by Rise.

- **Property Values**. Impact on the property values of homes affected by the mine opening - which will be far felt in at least a 10 mile radius.

- **Business Implications.** Impact to businesses affected by the mine opening, will these businesses relocate out of the area, and thereby local jobs will be lost.

- **Land Stability and Erosion.** How will this affect the land stability and erosion due to blasting land over an 80 year period.

- **Old and new mine debris and toxic matter.** Studies and reporting on how Rise plans to safely dispose of debris and refuse left in the land from mining activities in the past that may be disrupted in new mining and debris and toxic material disposition going forward.

We ask the Nevada County Planning department, Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to reject the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the Idaho Maryland Mine site, the project plan and any and all other applications for this purpose.

Respectfully,

Barney and Nancy Dewey
530-272-4500

From: TLC4Teens with Xylem Larla Dey
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine concerns
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:36:58 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, I am writing to express concern about the proposed new mine project at Idaho Maryland. I am in Nevada County resident of 16 years and I am already contaminated by heavy metal residue in my body. It appears that my knee in the past has caused metal toxicity in our local waters and I am concerned about new mining operations- Especially at this level of caliber. I am in environmental educator and I'm well aware of the dangers of contaminated water underground and in streams and rivers, as well as the unforeseen impacts of the amount of explosives they plan to store and use regularly- not to mention the industrial impacts on the area with increased noise and congestion. While I understand the desire to make more jobs, I implore the county to seek ways to do so that support the environment - put people to work doing fire mitigation, restoration work, and redoing the power infrastructure, focused on sustainable futures. Don't send us back into the mining era. Do not allow this industrialization of the county. Future generations will thank you.

Sincerely,
Xylem Larla Dey
Nevada City
--
Thanks so much,

Xylem Larla Dey

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
xylem@teenleadership.org
530-575-7359
IG: teen_leadership_courses

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

From: habiba DiDomenico
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: The Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:28:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: The Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Mr Kelley,

My husband Jack and I are Nevada County residents. We chose to live here in part because of the Yuba river, the lakes, various creeks, and the well water in this area.

We are HIGHLY concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are our various concerns along with our requests for analyses to be included in the EIR.

> How will this impact the aesthetics of our small town? If the mine is right of the Highway and in the middle of Grass Valley proper as well as residential Grass Valley, how can you prove it will not be an eye sore that devastates the beauty and tranquility of our town?

I take pride in living somewhere that you don't see huge parking lots and Wal-Mart's as our representing face. Why would we have a massive mining project in clear view to everyone as our representing face?

> How will this impact our environment? Can you 100% prove that the trees, waterways, air quality, noise quality, greenhouse gas emissions, terrestrial and aquatic biology, geology and soil, and residential well water will not be negatively impacted? Can you prove there will be no significant destruction or irreparable consequences?
>
> If so, are you willing to stand behind proven information, taking full accountability if anything goes awry? Would you

be willing to print that “proven data” as a cover story in The Union prior to opening the mined declaring openly whom, including yourself, will be held accountable if the any destruction and irreparable damages are done to our environment?

How do you plan to manage and integrate the excessive traffic that this will create on all of the roads and highway directly within a 5-10 mile radius of the mine?

How do you plan to protect and serve the residents and small businesses from the intensity of the noise, dust, water impact, and traffic impact?

Who benefits financially from this the most? How does this support our local economy? At what cost does it support our local economy? What businesses or environmental aspects will be sacrificed or devastated due to the mines presence or success? Is it worth it and why?

Who will compensate if any negative, devastating, irreparable, or poisonous problems effecting human or environment occur from the mines existence?

Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine’s mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

-The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
-The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
-The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
-The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80-year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
-A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

From all the devastating effects mining has had in the past, I’m stunned that we would even consider reopening any mines in our area. Not to mention the alarming environmental devastations we as a human race are facing globally. The list is so dizzying that I’m sad we as a county would want to perpetuate that type of destruction so blindly. I want to live in a progressive community

that makes decisions less from a “money and profit now” standpoint, and more in terms of preserving what healthy air, water, food, and land quality we can for the long term future.

Thank you for considering our concerns,
Dianne and Joaquin DIDOMENICO

From: Joaquin DiDomenico
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: The Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:24:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: The Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Mr Kelley,

My husband Jack and I are Nevada County residents. We chose to live here in part because of the Yuba river, the lakes, various creeks, and the well water in this area.

We are HIGHLY concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are our various concerns along with our requests for analyses to be included in the EIR.

> How will this impact the aesthetics of our small town? If the mine is right of the Highway and in the middle of Grass Valley proper as well as residential Grass Valley, how can you prove it will not be an eye sore that devastates the beauty and tranquility of our town?

I take pride in living somewhere that you don't see huge parking lots and Wal-Mart's as our representing face. Why would we have a massive mining project in clear view to everyone as our representing face?

> How will this impact our environment? Can you 100% prove that the trees, waterways, air quality, noise quality, greenhouse gas emissions, terrestrial and aquatic biology, geology and soil, and residential well water will not be negatively impacted? Can you prove there will be no significant destruction or irreparable consequences?
>
> If so, are you willing to stand behind proven information, taking full accountability if anything goes awry? Would you be willing to print that "proven data" as a cover story in The Union prior to opening the mined declaring openly whom, including yourself, will be held accountable if the any destruction and irreparable damages are done to our environment?
>
> How do you plan to manage and integrate the excessive traffic that this will create on all of the roads and highway directly within a 5-10 mile

radius of the mine?

How do you plan to protect and serve the residents and small businesses from the intensity of the noise, dust, water impact, and traffic impact?

Who benefits financially from this the most? How does this support our local economy? At what cost does it support our local economy? What businesses or environmental aspects will be sacrificed or devastated due to the mines presence or success? Is it worth it and why?

Who will compensate if any negative, devastating, irreparable, or poisonous problems effecting human or environment occur from the mines existence?

Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

-The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
-The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
-The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
-The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80-year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
-A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

From all the devastating effects mining has had in the past, I'm stunned that we would even consider reopening any mines in our area. Not to mention the alarming environmental devastations we as a human race are facing globally. The list is so dizzying that I'm sad we as a county would want to perpetuate that type of destruction so blindly. I want to live in a progressive community that makes decisions less from a "money and profit now" standpoint, and more in terms of preserving what healthy air, water, food, and land quality we can for the long term future.

Thank you for considering our concerns,
Dianne and Joaquin DIDOMENICO

From:	Holli Diel
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Sue Hoek; Richard Anderson; Env.Health; Health Officer; duanestrawser@gmail.com; erin4nevadacity@gmail.com; davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com; danielafornevadacity@gmail.com; fleming.douglass@gmail.com
Subject:	Letter in Opposition to the Idaho Maryland Mine project owned by Rise!
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 14, 2020

Good day Senior Planner, Matt Kelley,

Please know that I am vehemently opposed to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine, the Canadian mining
company, RISE Gold, proposes to reopen a long-closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley.

The health impacts and environmental impacts associated with reopening this mine far outweigh any possible benefit.

In a Nutshell:

- Home Values will Plummet!
- Water Contamination will abound!
- Mining will take place 24 hours a day!
- Noise, traffic and dust will be unbearable!
- Large Trucks hauling rock will take place from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm!
- Sure 242 Jobs but they'll go to people OUTSIDE our area!
- Air Quality will degrade!
- Increased Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons!
- Drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality. South Wolf Creek should not be treated like a storm drain!
- Inflict incessant blasting on the surrounding community, which will likely force homeowners (if they could even sell)
  and high-tech companies to relocate!
- Create real potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, and others.

One would think that with all of the valid negative impacts stated above a NO VOTE would be imminent!

It is simply unacceptable to approve this project a mining project that would further increase air pollution in our community.
We are all also deeply concerned about the noise, traffic, and dust generated by the

mine; the de-watering that could drain
wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact their water quality; the blasting vibrations that could force local high-tech
companies to leave our area; the significant increase in Green House Gas emissions and the potential of contamination from
the toxic materials used in the mine, which include cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid!

Our community is currently suffering from the toxic legacy of past gold mining in the area, including polluted watersheds,
Superfund cleanup sites, and contaminated water from the Magenta Drain in Grass Valley, and at Grizzly Hill School in North
San Juan. We do not want to add additional mining-related impacts to our community for years into the future. Much of the
Centennial site, near Spring Hill and Idaho Maryland drives, is either too unstable to build on or contaminated with arsenic
from past mine tailings.

I am certain that Nevada County will be far better off in both the short term and the long term without the Rise project so I
ask the Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to
REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the IMM site, the project plan and any and all other
applications for this purpose.

This mine project will ruin Nevada County now and for years to come.

PLEASE Vote NO on this toxic project!

Best Regards,

Holli Diel, Nevada County resident of 40 plus years

Maciel & Jason DiGuilio

14941 Julia Ranch Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
775-671-0571
dotsonmaciel@gmail.com

August 17, 2020

Nevada County Planning Department
Attention Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Questions and Comments Regarding the Environmental Impact Report- Idaho Maryland Mine- Rise Grass Valley

Good Morning,

My husband and I recently purchased a home on six acres in Grass Valley. We fell in love with the area and are excited to join the community. We specifically chose Grass Valley as our permanent home because being in nature is important to us and we love how environmentally conscious everyone is. Finding out that a mine could potentially reopen close by is very concerning to us. Here is what we would like to see in the Environmental Impact Report

-Impact on Wildlife Habitat

What are the impacts to the local wildlife? How will the noise pollution affect them? What steps will be taken to prevent loss of habitat?

-Noise Pollution

What are the permissible levels of sound allowed? How will the county enforce noise violations?

-Water Table and Water Quality

How will this affect people in the area on wells? How will the mining company assure that the water quality stays the same?

Property Value

What is the projected impact on property values in the area?

Thank you for your time,

Maciel and Jason DiGuilio

From:	Maciel Dotson
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine Environmental Impact Report
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 8:31:18 AM
Attachments:	EIR Letter .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning. Attached is my letter regarding what I would like to see in the Environmental Impact Report regarding the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Please let know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Maciel

From: Patrick Donaghey
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:13:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Will cyanide be used to extract the gold from the crushed rock?
If so, then keeping cyanide out of our water ways is essential.
Using processed crushed rock next to a water way will be harmful to aquatic life.

From: Taylor Donovan
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Oppose Re Opening Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 1:21:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Taylor Donovan

4011 Bluegrass Court

Reno, NV 89509
docdonovan@gmail.com
(775)229-3889

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have visited Grass Valley for over 25 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Taylor Donovan

From: Kathy Doty <kathydoty2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:12 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Re: IDAHO MARYLAND MINE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On Fri, Aug 14, 2020, 1:05 PM Kathy Doty <kathydoty2@gmail.com> wrote:

> DEAR Board Of Supervisors,
> I am a resident of Grass Valley, living directly in the vicinity of the proposed mine. I am asking you All to answer important questions regarding what the impact will be upon our wells! We have seen with the North San Juan mining issue that " they" promised No Wells Would Be Affected when i reality we know that was not the case! All wells were completely and seriously impacted by this mine. Many friends on the Ridge have told us their wells did indeed go dry...as well as the "treated" water that returned back in to those wells were full of toxins which resulted in Many Lawsuits!
> We are all VERY CONCERENED about what toxic chemicals will be used in place of arsenic and mercury to harvest the gold underground. What is being used to get the gold out??? And as a grandparent of a brand new baby and a one year old and 2 nine year olds who live next door to me, what will be their solution for clean well water to drink? I have horses and many farm animals that drink from our wells!!!
> What will happen with these wells? I find it ridiculous to think our wells aren't going to be affected! What does the county and RISE GOLD intend to do as a solution??
> At this current time there are several neighbors who feel vibrations underneath their homes....WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO TO PROVIDE NOISE SOLUTIONS?
> Remember you are all held responsible by this community for your individual votes regarding this important issue! Do you want to keep your jobs as supervisors or be voted out?
> We are concerned about the water that will supposedly be treated and them released into Wolf Creek! How do you propose to keep our wildlife and fish from being impacted????
> We want you to answer these questions before casting your votes.
> Underground blasting and truck traffic dumping waste in our neighborhood is insane! Would you want to hear blasting, drilling,(and yes we do hear this under our homes built on bedrock!) And constant truck traffic 24/7????
> Seriously consider all us us, your neighbors, residents of Nevada County! We see a hugh

impact on our quality of life, life we chose due to the peacefulness and freedom from crowded roads etc.

How can you as residents of our Nevada County allow our lives to be so impacted for the greed of a Canadian company when we suffer ALL THE IMPACT while They reap the money?????

We realize money talks to all of you, but hopefully you will not throw us all under the bus for any small gain you may have.

My grandchildren love it here.....our friends outside the community are considering purchasing homes in Nevada County but Not If This Mine Is allowed!

Respectfully, Kathy Doty.

P.s. we will hold all of you accountable during the next election

From:	Gary and Cathy Dowd
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Fw: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:09:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

please visit our website: www.dowdconstructionanddesign.com Gary Dowd Dowd Construction office: 530-477-7771 cell:530-908-7773

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Gary and Cathy Dowd <nieshadog@yahoo.com>
To: Matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us <matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020, 10:01:31 PM PDT
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

Gary Dowd
14521 Dalmatian Drive
Grass Valley, ca 95945

Dear Matt,

Hello. I have made my home in Nevada County for forty five years, raising my kids here. I think it is a great place to live. I am in the building trade and have seen many up and downs associated with that trade. I would like to see Nevada County continue to grow in a holistic, healthy way. I think the Idaho Maryland Mine is a bad idea and can not support the healthy way of life that makes Nevada County a wonderful place to live and work. The are no amount of jobs that this project will produce that would be worth the environmental impact for everyone. I oppose this project. Thank you for your time.
Regards,

Gary Dowd

please visit our website: www.dowdconstructionanddesign.com Gary Dowd Dowd Construction office: 530-477-7771 cell:530-908-7773

Nicole Dowd
16001 Rattlesnake Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
nicolelynn.dowd@gmail.com
530-955-5440

August 16, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly,

It is times like these that I reflect back on how lucky I am to live in a beautiful place. During this virus life has changed. I have a five year old who will be starting kindergarten on Zoom. With that said, my husband and I have reflected many times how great it is that our life has not changed that much. Our children are able to ride bikes, be outside, and enjoy clean water on our land. Our sky has been exceptionally clear lately and we hear the sweet sounds of nature from our home. Not everyone is as lucky as us.

We moved back to Grass Valley in 2011 after traveling the world. My husband grew up here and we wanted to settle down, buy a home, and have a family in this beautiful place. We were lucky and able to purchase a home in January 2012. We have been in our same home since.

I am very concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I am very concerned about the water impacts. We have a very deep well that is limited in what it produces. There is no wiggle room to lose any water production in the well. I am concerned the Idaho Maryland Mine could drain my well or contaminated it. How is Nevada County going to ensure this does not happen?

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.

The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Nicole Dowd

From:	Nicole Dowd
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:55:28 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day,
Attached you will find my letter.

Thank you,
Nicole Lynn Dowd

Virginia Tech (MA in Education)
University of Oregon (BS)

please visit our website: www.dowdconstructionanddesign.com

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
~Aristotle

August 17, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
RE: Proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

Mr. Kelley,

I am an environmental consultant that assists industrial facilities with environmental compliance and am very familiar with companies like Rise Gold Corp who have no interest in protecting our water and environment while lining their pockets. So far, Rise Gold Corp has had a very hard time complying with some of the most basic Nevada County land use regulations that even a 10 year old could understand and implement so I am not confident in their ability to protect the local environment when the real dirty work begins. From removing a healthy stand of trees without a Timber Harvest Permit to neglecting to follow the simple minimum 100-foot riparian setback requirement for streams in Nevada County, Rise Gold Corp has already proved themselves as poor stewards and bad actors as this environmental catastrophe unfolds.

Despite the difficulty this company had with following the most basic rules in the book, they submitted an application to Nevada County for a use permit and reclamation plan to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine. As stated in your notice letter, "The proposed project would reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration/mining to operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during full operations."

Rise Gold Corp has likely already damaged local aquifers and ground water with their exploratory drilling that had no county or state oversight. Underground aquifers are complicated systems and any damage caused by Rise Gold Corp may result in irreversible harm to local ground water supplies (I studied Hydrogeology, Ground Water, and Seepage while completing my engineering degree at UC Berkeley).

Gold is extracted and goes away as lucrative profit for the mine owners while the local community will have to deal with the traffic, noise pollution, air pollution, water pollution, and serious health effects and other quality-of-life impacts left in the wake of Rise Gold Corps endeavors. Previous attempts to revive the gold mine in the 1950s, 1980s and 2010 have all fallen short due to financial complications AND community pushback. Public benefit from hard rock mining is extremely insignificant while the Public burden is **enormous***.*

My family vehemently opposes the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We moved up here and purchased a home in Cedar Ridge for the peace and quite of this rural community and brought our incomes along with us. My wife and I both are both professionals working remotely and could have set up shop anywhere in California and we decided to spend our hard-earned money in this foothill town that we now call home. There are a lot of new residents in the area that moved here for the same reasons and work remotely as professionals, which is the equivalent of bringing jobs to the community. We support local businesses and pay local taxes and will seriously consider relocating if this project goes through.

The following are a few of the reasons for my concerns and objections to this project:

1) Benn Mossman's (current CEO of Rise Gold and former CEO of Banks Island Gold) history of fines and citations due to as many as 35 violations of Canadian Fisheries, Environmental Management, and Water Acts.
2) Significant noise pollution and ground vibration due to rock grinding, compaction, blasting, tunneling and haul trucks adversely impacting our roads and the tranquility of the surrounding areas.
3) Mine tailings dumped by haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day, at the southern end of the Brunswick Site near and behind homes on Mink Court, Elk Lane, Brunswick Drive, Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver Road; and off Whispering Pines at the Centennial Site off Idaho Maryland Road along the edge of Wolf Creek. Dust from these operations will contain asbestos, lead and arsenic from the massive amounts of tailings, which must first be remediated.
4) Dewatering of the mine, which entails pumping treated (contaminated) water from the old mine, treating the water to remove toxic chemicals then discharging it into little Wolf Creek. Proposed discharge rates are approximately 2500 gallons per minute OR, 3,600,000 gallons per day, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek until the mine is drained. Then, after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send approximately 850 gallons per minute OR, 1,224,000 gallons per day for the life of the project into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from re-filling with water. There is also the potential for negatively impacting local water quality resources and threatening privately owned wells. Contaminants mobilized in tunnels and waterways with increased discharge will impact water quality problems as well.
5) In addition to four industrial-size back-up diesel generators, the exhaust created from the daily use of diesel trucks, bulldozers, graders and compactors will greatly increase greenhouse gases and impact air quality in the area.
6) A seriously damaging drop in property values will occur for both residential and commercial properties surrounding the industrial complex and beyond.
7) The application to reinitiate the Idaho Maryland Mine states 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of these jobs, 242 are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from **outside the area.** This would leave the remaining balance of only 70 jobs available to local residents which poses a question: would there be locals with the specific skills to fill those specific requirements for those jobs?

8) A potential decrease in tourism dollars could also impact our economy. According to a report by Visit California with help from market research firm, Dean Runyan Associates on May 7, 2019, "Tourism has generated millions of dollars for Nevada County. In 2018 alone, the county saw over $361 million in total visitor spending, $114.7 million in the food service industry and 3,770 jobs generated to accommodate for tourism. During that same year, county tourism created $31.6 million in local and state receipts."
9) No local public revenue would come to our community from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by employees of the mine. The State of California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of approximately $1,500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise, Inc. **None of these fees would come to Nevada County to remediate the toxic impacts of this proposed operation**.

Green lighting this project will cause significant, irreversible harm to the environment, our community, and will leave another mess that requires remediation. The fact that reopening this mine is even a consideration is just plain insane. Do not allow Rise Gold to go through with this.

Sincerely,

Jared Dozal
Sidera Environmental, Inc.
PO Box 1562, Cedar Ridge CA 95924
11388 Cedar Ridge Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contact Information
Phone: 530-648-4500
Email: jared.dozal@siderah2o.com

From:	Jared Dozal
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Public Comments: Proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 2:09:02 PM
Attachments:	Public Comment Jared Dozal Idaho Maryland Mine.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I am an environmental consultant that assists industrial facilities with environmental compliance and am very familiar with companies like Rise Gold Corp who have no interest in protecting our water and environment while lining their pockets. So far, Rise Gold Corp has had a very hard time complying with some of the most basic Nevada County land use regulations that even a 10 year old could understand and implement so I am not confident in their ability to protect the local environment when the real dirty work begins. From removing a healthy stand of trees without a Timber Harvest Permit to neglecting to follow the simple minimum 100-foot riparian setback requirement for streams in Nevada County, Rise Gold Corp has already proved themselves as poor stewards and bad actors as this environmental catastrophe unfolds.

Despite the difficulty this company had with following the most basic rules in the book, they submitted an application to Nevada County for a use permit and reclamation plan to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine. As stated in your notice letter, "The proposed project would reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration/mining to operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during full operations."

Rise Gold Corp has likely already damaged local aquifers and ground water with their exploratory drilling that had no county or state oversight. Underground aquifers are complicated systems and any damage caused by Rise Gold Corp may result in irreversible harm to local ground water supplies (I studied Hydrogeology, Ground Water, and Seepage while completing my engineering degree at UC Berkeley).

Gold is extracted and goes away as lucrative profit for the mine owners while the local community will have to deal with the traffic, noise pollution, air pollution, water pollution, and serious health effects and other quality-of-life impacts left in the wake of Rise Gold Corps endeavors. Previous attempts to revive the gold mine in the 1950s, 1980s and 2010 have all fallen short due to financial complications AND community pushback. Public benefit from hard rock mining is extremely insignificant while the Public burden is **enormous**.

My family vehemently opposes the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We moved up here and purchased a home in Cedar Ridge for the peace and quiet of this rural community and brought our incomes along with us. My wife and I are both professionals working remotely and could have set up shop anywhere in California and we decided to spend our hard-earned money in this foothill town that we now call home. There are a lot of new residents in the area that moved here for the same reasons and work remotely as professionals, which is the equivalent of bringing jobs to the community. We support local businesses and pay local taxes and will seriously consider relocating if this project goes through.

The following are a few of the reasons for my concerns and objections to this project:

1) Benn Mossman's (current CEO of Rise Gold and former CEO of Banks Island Gold) history of fines and citations due to as many as 35 violations of Canadian Fisheries, Environmental Management, and Water Acts.
2) Significant noise pollution and ground vibration due to rock grinding, compaction, blasting, tunneling and haul trucks adversely impacting our roads and the tranquility of the surrounding areas.
3) Mine tailings dumped by haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day, at the southern end of the Brunswick Site near and behind homes on Mink Court, Elk Lane, Brunswick Drive, Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver Road; and off Whispering Pines at the Centennial Site off Idaho Maryland Road along the edge of Wolf Creek. Dust from these operations will contain asbestos, lead and arsenic from the massive amounts of tailings, which must first be remediated.
4) Dewatering of the mine, which entails pumping treated (contaminated) water from the old mine, treating the water to remove toxic chemicals then discharging it into little Wolf Creek. Proposed discharge rates are approximately 2500 gallons per minute OR, 3,600,000 gallons per day, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek until the mine is drained. Then, after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send approximately 850 gallons per minute OR, 1,224,000 gallons per day for the life of the project into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from re-filling with water. There is also the potential for negatively impacting local water quality resources and threatening privately owned wells. Contaminants mobilized in tunnels and waterways with increased discharge will impact water quality problems as well.
5) In addition to four industrial-size back-up diesel generators, the exhaust created from the daily use of diesel trucks, bulldozers, graders and compactors will greatly increase greenhouse gases and impact air quality in the area.
6) A seriously damaging drop in property values will occur for both residential and commercial properties surrounding the industrial complex and beyond.
7) The application to reinitiate the Idaho Maryland Mine states 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of these jobs, 242 are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from **outside the area.** This

would leave the remaining balance of only 70 jobs available to local residents which poses a question: would there be locals with the specific skills to fill those specific requirements for those jobs?
8) A potential decrease in tourism dollars could also impact our economy. According to a report by Visit California with help from market research firm, Dean Runyan Associates on May 7, 2019, "Tourism has generated millions of dollars for Nevada County. In 2018 alone, the county saw over $361 million in total visitor spending, $114.7 million in the food service industry and 3,770 jobs generated to accommodate for tourism. During that same year, county tourism created $31.6 million in local and state receipts."
9) No local public revenue would come to our community from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by employees of the mine. The State of California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of approximately $1,500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise, Inc. **None of these fees would come to Nevada County to remediate the toxic impacts of this proposed operation**.

Green lighting this project will cause significant, irreversible harm to the environment, our community, and will leave another mess that requires remediation. The fact that reopening this mine is even a consideration is just plain insane. Do not allow Rise Gold to go through with this.

Sincerely,

Jared Dozal
Sidera Environmental, Inc.
PO Box 1562, Cedar Ridge CA 95924
11388 Cedar Ridge Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contact Information
Phone: 530-648-4500
Email: jared.dozal@siderah2o.com

--
Jared Dozal
Environmental Scientist - Storm Water Compliance Specialist
Sidera Environmental Inc.
(530)-648-4500

From: Jared Dozal
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Public Comments: Proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:38:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please email back to confirm receipt of this letter.

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 2:08 PM Jared Dozal <jared.dozal@siderah2o.com> wrote:

> Mr. Kelley,
>
> I am an environmental consultant that assists industrial facilities with environmental compliance and am very familiar with companies like Rise Gold Corp who have no interest in protecting our water and environment while lining their pockets. So far, Rise Gold Corp has had a very hard time complying with some of the most basic Nevada County land use regulations that even a 10 year old could understand and implement so I am not confident in their ability to protect the local environment when the real dirty work begins. From removing a healthy stand of trees without a Timber Harvest Permit to neglecting to follow the simple minimum 100-foot riparian setback requirement for streams in Nevada County, Rise Gold Corp has already proved themselves as poor stewards and bad actors as this environmental catastrophe unfolds.
>
> Despite the difficulty this company had with following the most basic rules in the book, they submitted an application to Nevada County for a use permit and reclamation plan to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine. As stated in your notice letter, "The proposed project would reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration/mining to operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during full operations."
>
> Rise Gold Corp has likely already damaged local aquifers and ground water with their exploratory drilling that had no county or state oversight. Underground aquifers are complicated systems and any damage caused by Rise Gold Corp may result in irreversible harm to local ground water supplies (I studied Hydrogeology, Ground Water, and Seepage while completing my engineering degree at UC Berkeley).
>
> Gold is extracted and goes away as lucrative profit for the mine owners while the local community will have to deal with the traffic, noise pollution, air pollution, water pollution, and serious health effects and other quality-of-life impacts left in the wake of Rise Gold Corps endeavors. Previous attempts to revive the gold mine in the 1950s, 1980s and 2010 have all fallen short due to financial complications AND community

pushback. Public benefit from hard rock mining is extremely insignificant while the Public burden is **enormous**.

My family vehemently opposes the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We moved up here and purchased a home in Cedar Ridge for the peace and quiet of this rural community and brought our incomes along with us. My wife and I are both professionals working remotely and could have set up shop anywhere in California and we decided to spend our hard-earned money in this foothill town that we now call home. There are a lot of new residents in the area that moved here for the same reasons and work remotely as professionals, which is the equivalent of bringing jobs to the community. We support local businesses and pay local taxes and will seriously consider relocating if this project goes through.

The following are a few of the reasons for my concerns and objections to this project:

1) Benn Mossman's (current CEO of Rise Gold and former CEO of Banks Island Gold) history of fines and citations due to as many as 35 violations of Canadian Fisheries, Environmental Management, and Water Acts.
2) Significant noise pollution and ground vibration due to rock grinding, compaction, blasting, tunneling and haul trucks adversely impacting our roads and the tranquility of the surrounding areas.
3) Mine tailings dumped by haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day, at the southern end of the Brunswick Site near and behind homes on Mink Court, Elk Lane, Brunswick Drive, Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver Road; and off Whispering Pines at the Centennial Site off Idaho Maryland Road along the edge of Wolf Creek. Dust from these operations will contain asbestos, lead and arsenic from the massive amounts of tailings, which must first be remediated.
4) Dewatering of the mine, which entails pumping treated (contaminated) water from the old mine, treating the water to remove toxic chemicals then discharging it into little Wolf Creek. Proposed discharge rates are approximately 2500 gallons per minute OR, 3,600,000 gallons per day, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek until the mine is drained. Then, after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send approximately 850 gallons per minute OR, 1,224,000 gallons per day for the life of the project into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from re-filling with water. There is also the potential for negatively impacting local water quality resources and threatening privately owned wells. Contaminants mobilized in tunnels and waterways with increased discharge will impact water quality problems as well.
5) In addition to four industrial-size back-up diesel generators, the exhaust created from the daily use of diesel trucks, bulldozers, graders and compactors will greatly increase greenhouse gases and impact air quality in the area.
6) A seriously damaging drop in property values will occur for both residential and commercial properties surrounding the industrial complex and beyond.

7) The application to reinitiate the Idaho Maryland Mine states 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of these jobs, 242 are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from **outside the area.** This would leave the remaining balance of only 70 jobs available to local residents which poses a question: would there be locals with the specific skills to fill those specific requirements for those jobs?
8) A potential decrease in tourism dollars could also impact our economy. According to a report by Visit California with help from market research firm, Dean Runyan Associates on May 7, 2019, "Tourism has generated millions of dollars for Nevada County. In 2018 alone, the county saw over $361 million in total visitor spending, $114.7 million in the food service industry and 3,770 jobs generated to accommodate for tourism. During that same year, county tourism created $31.6 million in local and state receipts."
9) No local public revenue would come to our community from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by employees of the mine. The State of California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of approximately $1,500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise, Inc. **None of these fees would come to Nevada County to remediate the toxic impacts of this proposed operation**.

Green lighting this project will cause significant, irreversible harm to the environment, our community, and will leave another mess that requires remediation. The fact that reopening this mine is even a consideration is just plain insane. Do not allow Rise Gold to go through with this.

Sincerely,

Jared Dozal
Sidera Environmental, Inc.
PO Box 1562, Cedar Ridge CA 95924
11388 Cedar Ridge Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contact Information
Phone: 530-648-4500
Email: jared.dozal@siderah2o.com

--
Jared Dozal
Environmental Scientist - Storm Water Compliance Specialist
Sidera Environmental Inc.
(530)-648-4500

--
Jared Dozal
Environmental Scientist - Storm Water Compliance Specialist
Sidera Environmental Inc.
(530)-648-4500

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

PLEASE REQUIRE THAT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN REGARD TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT

Item #1: Water Evaluation must go beyond proponent's proposed mitigations for water quality and impact on affected residences. Evaluation should consider consequences of malfunction, breakdown, and natural disaster that would create very significant adverse consequences if mitigations fail to perform as promised. Consequences could be so dire that no mitigations could be adequate to prevent water contamination, dewatering of ground water, pollution of Wolf Creek, and/or impact on residential wells.

Item #2: Noise and vibration The proposal offers no evident way of mitigating intolerable noise and vibration from 20 ton trucks running through residential and business areas to dispose of tailings. It is inexcusable to allow 24-hour operation that will deny hundreds of residents peaceful enjoyment of their properties, and will lower property values drastically. Residential development at the corner of Brunswick and Bennett will be made unlivable.

Item #3: Zoning Compliance Industrial zoning does allow major industrial use, but that is not adequate reason to approve such overbearing operations such as the proposed mine. Mining on such a scale and with such dire negative impacts was unlikely considered or foretold when land use designation was first applied to these parcels.

Item #4: "Taking" Proponent will no doubt claim a "taking" if application is denied, asserting that proposed operations are compliant with existing land use designation and that its property value would be significantly diminished. However, if project is approved, the living conditions for affected residents would be so untenable that residents' property values would be drastically diminished. It is likely many residents would sell and move away, creating a sell-off that would cause a very large decline in sales prices. Such a consequence would itself be a far more substantial and more unjust "taking" that the proponent's decline in property value.

Item #5: 80 year term Forecasting changes in commercial and cultural conditions over such a long term is impossible. To presume that such an intrusive operation will not cause irreparable environmental degradation over such a long term is fatuous. Given the high frequency of oil spills, river and ocean contamination, and the adverse health and environmental effects for nearby residents of such operations, the likelihood of catastrophic events is very high. The entire residential area affected by the mines operation is likely to attain a reputation as undesirable.

Item #6: Historical tradition Advocates for this proposal often cite this area's mining history. Yet that history is itself replete with environmental degradation. Significant to this history is that the first major environmental regulation – the banning of hydraulic mining – is part of this area's heritage.

Richard Drace
14130 Liquidambar Lane, Grass Valley

From: Lauren Drutz
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine proposed re-opening
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:46:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

I have lived in the Grass Valley area for 41 years. I am very concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine and its impacts on all aspects of our community.

Following are some of the problems I believe need to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Report.

- Property value collapse. How will the 350+ nearby property owners be compensated for their property values being decimated due to the constant noise, dust, traffic, water problems and aesthetic degradation associated with this project?

- Well and waterway destruction. How will property owners be compensated for loss of their water sources when de-watering occurs? What is the plan when the water in their wells becomes contaminated from the mining operations? Will the mining company be paying their water bills forever into the future, or just for 80 years, or ?

- Road wear and tear. How much money will the county be reimbursed for the wear and tear of our roads as heavy equipment transports millions of tons of fill and tailings across town?

- Traffic nightmares. What is the plan to alleviate the traffic of hauling fill and gold concentrate 7 days a week for 80 years?

- Toxic substances left from previous mining operations. Why is this project being considered when contaminated soils from the previous mining project have not yet been dealt with? Why would one imagine a mining company cleaning up another mining company's previous mess when there is no contingency to do so?

- Voluntary environmental cleanup work at the Centennial Industrial Site. Why would a voluntary cleanup program be instituted? This ought to be mandatory and monitored for compliance.

- Noise pollution. How will the mining company mitigate the nerve-racking booming and rattling emanating from explosives, gravel and rock hauling, and ever present 24/7 mining noise for 80 years? What are the medical payment reimbursements the mining company will be making to landowners for the degradation of their mental health?

- Insufficient setback from Wolf Creek. Residential homes are required to have 100' setback from a creek. This project is incredibly larger and more impactful than a single-family residence. Due to the immense amount of fill of unknown quality and proposed soil disturbance adjacent to the creek, the setback from Wolf Creek ought to be increased to much more than 100'.

- Explosives handling and storage. How will explosives be safely stored? What are the risks of transporting explosives through residential neighborhoods and busy streets?

- Destruction of habitat. What are the mitigating costs the mining company must pay for destroying fish

and wildlife habitat along Wolf Creek and adjacent environs?

Please include these serious issues in the EIR.

Thank you.

Lauren Drutz

Grass Valley, CA

-----Original Message-----
From: Elenita Duelo <elecardue@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I have just finished reading all about the possibility of opening up the Mine. To be honest with you after reading about the noise level, the water usage, the traffic etc. I can't believe that this is even in consideration.

Adding to the above issues the mine won't even add to local public revenue. It appears to me that this is only beneficial to the Mine owners and extremely detrimental to all the residents and tourist of Nevada County.

Please vote against this horrific idea.

Peace,
Elenita Duelo

From: Eric Dunn
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Public Comment: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr.Kelley,

I am a resident and homeowner in District 1 of Nevada County. I also work in Nevada County for a local nonprofit organization focussed on our environment. My wife too works in Nevada County as a social worker. We both work tirelessly to improve our community and the quality of life within it. The proposal by Rise Gold stands in direct opposition to the work we have committed our lives to. We stand in strong opposition to this proposal and feel strongly that such an impactful facility has absolutely no place in modern Nevada County.

Just about every element of this project, from the foreign mining company to the potential impacts to our waterways, are red flags. We are concerned about the non-stop discharge of large amounts of water from the mine into the creek. South Wolf Creek should not be treated like a storm drain.Much of the Centennial site, near Spring Hill and Idaho Maryland drives, is either too unstable to build on or contaminated with arsenic from past mine tailings. Do we really want to set the stage for more of this!? Please stand with us in saying no to this overreaching and extremely impactful proposal.

Sincerely,

Eric Dunn
District 1

Eric Dunn
(530) 913-3164
ebdunn@gmail.com
www.edunnphoto.com

From: Jennifer Durrett <jendurrett@att.net>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine impact

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Jennifer and I live at 12645 Beaver Dr., adjacent to the area where the mine will be crushing and filling. I am a homeowner, My home (my largest asset) will be directly impacted by this mine reopening.

My Concerns are:

1. My neighbor has been trying to sell her house for a year and every potential buyer asked her if the mine was really happening. She finally sold at a much lower price. So my concern has all ready happened: HOME VALUES DECREASING because the mine will be a LOUD, SMELLY, DUSTY, Nuisance.

2. Added traffic to the area. Noise and diesel smell from big rigs going back and forth.

3. We rely on well water. What will happen to our wells when you start pumping out the mine water? How can you guarantee nothing will change? The exact scenario happened at the 16 to 1 mine in 1995.The company went bankrupt and left the residents high and dry! It's just not a good idea.

4. Dust and mining noise. We live in such a tranquil area and the mine will change this area for the worst.

Please go away,
Jennifer Durrett

From: Margot Duxler
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine - What Could Possible Go Wrong?
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 10:30:46 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 14th, 2020

Margot Duxler
PO Box 1120
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
415-771-7567

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I'm writing because I'm concerned about the possibility of the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

My husband and I moved to Grass Valley (our physical address is 13059 Lower Colfax Road) in 2002 because we loved the natural beauty of the area as well as the thriving music and arts communities.

We're very worried about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine and how it will impact our well water, the air, the area traffic, and our overall quality of life. Even when the greatest precautions are taken to prevent environmental destruction, accidents do happen, and can greatly deteriorate our lives and livelihoods.

We feel that the Environmental Impact Report must include an analysis of the full cost of providing water to homes whose wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply, as well as what the cost would be to connect those impacted to the new system, and also an analysis of the increased air pollution that large diesel truck would contribute.

We also need to know the full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water; a definition of what constitutes compromised water quality and also the full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

Sincerely,

Margot Duxler

August 12, 2020

Earth Justice Ministries
PO Box 783
Nevada City, CA 95959
www.earth-justice.org

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Dear Matt Kelley,

Earth Justice Ministries is a local interfaith nonprofit dedicated to the work of peace, justice, and the restoration of the community of life. Our work is primarily local, but we think globally and address today's interrelated issues from a spiritual perspective. We have two primary questions that we would like you to address regarding the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine (IMM):

1) Would the reopening of the IMM primarily help or harm the interconnected community of human and other-than-human life in our region and beyond?

From what we have read of Rise Gold's plan, the answer is "harm." If that is the case, we will stand strongly against the proposal. If Rise demonstrates that all potential harm will be mitigated and that the mine will have overall benefit to the community of life, and if the plan is approved, the second question is this:

2) Will the County require a sufficient bond to be paid in advance to guarantee the conditions under which the permit was granted into the future?

The list of categories of concerns in the NOP does not take into consideration that these concerns are all interrelated. Ancient wisdom and scientific evidence affirm that humans are part of the interdependent community of life. When people write about the quality of air, water, soil, and the health of plants and wildlife in our area, it should be understood that a degraded bioregion will impact humans along with other life forms. When people write of concerns about the tremendous increase in energy use resulting in a much greater regional carbon footprint, it should be understood that the mine will accelerate climate change, which disproportionately harms those who are most vulnerable and will create immense hardship for future generations. Many people and organizations in our community are working hard to preserve the gifts of creation in this place and to transition to a world of climate justice. When people write about the (not just potential but stated) impacts of noise from drilling and heavy machinery running night and day,

damage to roads caused by trucks carrying tons of toxic tailing (even through town), the release of asbestos from the tons of rock being crushed every day, wells running dry because of the massive dewatering operations, it is important to look at all these problems as pointing to a project that will not help, but will harm individuals who live near the mine, our dear Nevada County community, and the interrelated community of life of which we are a part. Even the issue of aesthetics should be seen in this larger context of overall quality of life, as many people find spiritual comfort in the beauty of this place, even while it nurtures biodiversity.

The gold extracted from this mine will not stay here but will be exported to Canada. The impacts will be with us for generations, as we know from the lasting impacts of legacy mining. To us, this is a spiritual and moral issue. Corporate profits should not supersede the well-being of individuals, communities, the larger world, or future generations.

Thank you for considering our questions and we look forward to your answer.

Earth Justice Ministries

bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us
Also send a copy of your finished letter to mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

From: sharondelgado@earth-justice.org <sharondelgado@earth-justice.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:50 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Also Attached

August 16, 2020

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors,

Earth Justice Ministries is a local interfaith nonprofit dedicated to the work of peace, justice, and the restoration of the community of life. Our work is primarily local, but we think globally and address today's interrelated issues from a spiritual perspective. We have two primary questions that we would like you to address regarding the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine (IMM):

1. Would the cumulative impacts of reopening the IMM primarily help or harm the interconnected community of human and other-than-human life in our region and beyond?

From what we have read of Rise Gold's plan, the answer is "harm." If that is the case, we will stand strongly against the proposal. If Rise demonstrates that all potential harm will be mitigated and that the mine will have overall benefit to the community of life, and if the plan is approved, the second question is this:

2. Will the County require a sufficient bond to be paid in advance to guarantee the conditions under which the permit was granted into the future?

The list of categories of concerns in the NOP does not take into consideration that these concerns are all interrelated. Ancient wisdom and scientific evidence affirm that humans are part of the interdependent community of life. When people write about the quality of air, water, soil, and the health of plants and wildlife in our area, it should be understood that a

degraded bioregion will impact humans along with other life forms. When people write of concerns about the tremendous increase in energy use resulting in a much greater regional carbon footprint, it should be understood that the mine will accelerate climate change, which disproportionately harms those who are most vulnerable and will create immense hardship for future generations. Many people and organizations in our community are working hard to preserve the gifts of creation in this place and to transition to a world of climate justice. When people write about the (not just potential but stated) impacts of noise from drilling and heavy machinery running night and day, damage to roads caused by trucks carrying tons of toxic tailing (even through town), the release of asbestos from the tons of rock being crushed every day, wells running dry because of the massive dewatering operations, it is important to look at all these problems as pointing to a project that will not help, but will harm individuals who live near the mine, our dear Nevada County community, and the interrelated community of life of which we are a part. Even the issue of aesthetics should be seen in this larger context of overall quality of life, as many people find spiritual comfort in the beauty of this place, even while it nurtures biodiversity.

The gold extracted from this mine will not stay here but will be exported to Canada. The impacts will be with us for generations, as we know from the lasting impacts of legacy mining. To us, this is a spiritual and moral issue. Temporary jobs and corporate profits should not supersede the well-being of individuals, communities, the larger world, or future generations.

Thank you for considering our questions and we look forward to your answer.

Board of Directors of Earth Justice Ministries

Guarionex Delgado
Tracy Pepper
Brian Fry
Ruby Chow
The Rev. Sharon Delgado

From:	Karen Eldar
To:	Matt Kelley; Dan Miller
Subject:	concerns about the proposed opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 4:27:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley and Mr. Miller,

I'm writing to you because I am very concerned about the possible opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I am a resident of Grass Valley and live just a few miles from the mine's location. My family decided to move here because of the natural beauty, peace and quiet. and the relaxed nature of small town living. I am very concerned that if this mine is allowed to open that it would cause terrible noise pollution, air pollution, water contamination, water table issues, and traffic issues. My understanding is that it would be open 24/7 and would drastically change the peaceful life of the residents in this neighborhood. I also understand that most of the jobs generated would come from outside of the community, so even though there would be some local job growth, it's not much, and definitely doesn't outweigh all the harm done to so many. In addition, we use well water, as do many of the houses around here. I am very concerned that the mine could impact our wells and make them unusable. I understand that businesses have their work to do, however this mine is right in the middle of a residential neighborhood, and the needs of the majority should be given priority, especially since many of the potential benefits of the mine (jobs and profits) mostly won't even support our town. Many of the people here are retired or now spend a lot of time at home due to the pandemic, and therefore would be exposed to the noise pollution, air pollution, and increased traffic constantly. Please support our neighborhood and community over a Canadian company that will harm our way of life while offering very little to our hometown. I would also like to request that the Environmental Impact Report analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area as well as the full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Karen Eldar
Grass Valley, CA

From: Linda R. Elston, MAI
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposed to new mine in Nevada County
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:37 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

I sent this last week from another email, but not sure you received. So sending again.

I live within five miles of this proposed mine. I am writing to express my concerns about the environmental impact that this mine will have on the lands, water, and wildlife. Plus this mine will impact on the greater community concerning more air pollution, heavy traffic impact, water quality, and overall neighborhood safety. This is not the direction our city/county needs to go now to enhance our community and neighborhood values. Here are some of my specific concerns:

- Given the extent of the underground tunnels, the mine may directly affect homes within 5-10 miles and many wells are expected to run dry from a million plus gallons of water pumped out each day.
- Toxicity is likely to pollute the ground water, streams and the land, as previous mining operations have done in Nevada County and elsewhere.
- Air and noise pollution will skyrocket. Traffic will include up to 100 truck trips per day from the mine site to the dumping site off Idaho-Maryland. Greenhouse gas emission from trucks and machinery, along with particles from blasting, drilling & loading toxic materials, will pollute our air.
- Property values in the area will drop and tech businesses will move elsewhere.
- Essentially we will have a large industrial wasteland in the Grass Valley/ Nevada City community.

As stated above, I am strongly in opposition of this proposed Idaho Maryland mining project now.

Sincerely,

Linda Elston, 12406 Gayle Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959
--
Linda Elston, MAI
Pacific Real Estate Appraisal
12406 Gayle Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959
Office: (530) 265-6450
Mobile: (530) 305-7055

From: Linda Elston <linda@hoem.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposed to the Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

I live within five miles of this proposed mine. I am writing to express my concerns about the environmental impact that this mine will have on the lands, water, and wildlife. Plus this mine will impact on the greater community concerning more air pollution, heavy traffic impact, water quality, and overall neighborhood safety. This is not the direction our city/county needs

to go now to enhance our community and neighborhood values. Here are some of my specific concerns:

- Given the extent of the underground tunnels, the mine may directly affect homes within 5-10 miles and many wells are expected to run dry from a million plus gallons of water pumped out each day.

- Toxicity is likely to pollute the ground water, streams and the land, as previous mining operations have done in Nevada County and elsewhere.
- Air and noise pollution will skyrocket. Traffic will include up to 100 truck trips per day from the mine site to the dumping site off Idaho-Maryland. Greenhouse gas emission from trucks and machinery, along with particles from blasting, drilling & loading toxic materials, will pollute our air.
- Property values in the area will drop and tech businesses will move elsewhere.
- Essentially we will have a large industrial wasteland in the Grass Valley/ Nevada City community.

As stated above, I am strongly in opposition of this proposed Idaho Maryland mining project now.

Sincerely,

Linda Elston, 12406 Gayle Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959

From:	GEORGE ENGEL
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	G. Larry Engel
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine/Possible Restart Concerns For Study
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:04 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I write you to express some concerns as a retired resident of Nevada City who lives between Banner Lava Cap Road and this mine. I also urge you to consider that I practiced bankruptcy law for more than four decades in the San Francisco office at one of the nation's leading national and international law firms. In that time I had substantial experience with mining and related company problems, including in the context of foreign owned mining companies operating US mines. Among those many projects was my experience as lead counsel for the liquidator of Industrial Indemnity, once a major surety bond provider for mining and pollution bonds, and as one of the lead counsel for US companies in the Lloyds of London insolvency restructuring on account of overwhelming environmental and asbestos losses and risks. Those and many other cases resulted in my selection as the Chair of an American Bar Association Business Law Section Task Force on Insurance Insolvency, where I considered the experiences of many others in a law reform project to improve victim recoveries. (The industry killed our suggested reforms, making the project just another casualty in the search for better practices, allowing the flaws to persist.) Those experiences demonstrate the following repeating pattern. Historically, such a doomed mining company obtained permits with big promises of jobs and local benefits, with what later proves to have been a woefully insufficient insurance and surety bonds to cover mine closing remediation and other risks that were downplayed in the unrealistically over-optimistic, environmental reports. When such local mine was no longer economic for any reason, including environmental problems, and after upstreaming vast profits to its foreign parent company (where they are hard or worse to recover), the company filed bankruptcy and left everyone else with the mess and losses. Chasing such foreign parent companies with such "mine and run," "transfer the money out of the US and bury the problems in bankruptcy" strategies was one of my more frustrating past experiences. The end result was almost always worse than disappointing for the local victims. Even when there was sufficient surety/insurance coverage (a rare circumstance), the insurers resisted paying on all kind of meritless excuses and legal defenses, often including that they too were defrauded by the mining company.

My appeal to you is that you do everything possible to prevent this sad story from being repeated here. I am not accusing this foreign owned mining company of being like all those others. I do not know this company and the real story here. What I do know is that the sad and worse patterns and practices historically common in this mining industry merit serious investigation and due diligence by the local regulators. Among my many suggestions is based on this history in many other cases: whatever level of risk the local regulators tolerated, they should have priced that risk more carefully with independent experts and then multiplied by 10 to set the required insurance and surety bond amounts, since those amounts were too often set against "best case" situations, but the local victims, who will still be there, when the mine closes and its money has fled across the border, needed much more protection when they faced the "worst case" reality. Also, since many quality US insurers do not themselves accept such risks, you need not only to beware of the insufficient amount of the insurance, but also the risk of the offshore insurers (or unworthy US insurers) and their reinsurers stalling with meritless litigation to delay and exhaust the victims and then entering foreign insolvency proceedings to avoid payment when they can no longer stall. So, history proves that the quality and financial creditworthiness of the insurer/surety is also critical. As an experienced insurance insolvency lawyer, I have enjoyed my work in Bermuda, the Caymans, and other homes of these foreign insurers, but I have yet to see any US victims receive what recovery they need and deserve, (By the way, if anyone tries to persuade you to accept a policy from non-admitted insurers from The Turks & Caicos Islands, you should ask me to brief you of the experiences we had there trying to get justice for the victims in a California State Bar/ Rebuild LA sponsored pro bono recovery effort there.)

Thus, when you are considering the opinions of the mining company experts, consider that the risk is not so much in their qualifications, as it is in what victim lawyers politely call their "optimistic professional orientation;" ie, the belief (sometimes honest, but unrealistic in the extreme, and always essential to their selection by their mining

company clients) that things are always less dangerous and risky than they might seem to those neighbors most at risk. In every such mining bankruptcy case there is an over-optimistic (or worse) expert report. What I urge you to do in comparing the experts, is to focus on the insurance/surety side of the back-up for that risk. What you may find is that the quality US insurers either decline this kind of risk entirely. The less quality (or worse) US insurers (often with large foreign reinsurance back up) will the limit their exposure amount below what is needed and will then change a huge premium so as to cover their own perception of the risk plus the cost of the litigation stalling tactics to wear down the victims and coerce a poor settlement. When that recovery is insufficient, and the foreign insurers step into the vacuum/gap, that is your signal to become especially careful. My point is that the real experts here are the quality US insurers who declined themselves to accept such risks (or who price coverage so high for so little that it is not economic) that the miners are asking our locals to accept. If I were you I would ask who has more credibilty: the sophisticated insurer who declines to accept the risk with their own money at stake, or the mining company expert, whose career depends on staying sufficiently “optimistic” that he or she will continue to find work for such clients. Again, reasonable people can disagree about many things, but the real question is who suffers when such mining companies and their experts are wrong? History shows that the victims are usually the locals when the problems arise, or, more commonly, when they are discovered too late, after the company and its profits have retreated across the border. Think of it this way; the locals are the insurers of last resort, because whatever bad things happen in excess of reliable insurance, the locals will be the ones left with the losses.

Thank you for considering my views.

From:	Cindy England
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mines
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:53:58 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We moved to Grass Valley a few years ago because we were drawn to its incredible natural beauty, and culture.

We are concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

We are very concerned about the risks and damage this could do to our community.

Sincerely,

Cindy & Dennis England

-----Original Message-----
From: Julie Enzor-Wilson <jenzorwilson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a resident of Greenhorn Rd, Grass Valley.

I am deeply opposed to the Idaho Maryland Mine. The traffic, noise, lights and environmental concerns are a serious violation of our community values.

Thank you,

Julie Enzor-Wilson

Sent from my iPad

From: Joan Esclamado
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Senior Planner Matt Kelley,

I am writing this regarding the Rise Gold plan to begin construction of a gold mine at Idaho Maryland Rd. We have enough serious problems with the environment due to everything that has been going on in our country for decades. Most people are finally becoming aware of what is happening to our land, water and air. A gold mine will continue to take us in the same direction. The amount of 500 - 1200 gallons/minute of water into South Wolf Creek is hard to imagine.
It is hard these days to have complete trust in the EPA as it has made changes that are not compatible with the scientific truth. The erosion and nearby faults make the Centennial site either too unstable to build on or contaminated with arsenic from past mine tillings.

Our community does not need a mine started that is clearly in the interest of greed more than the health and security of the residents.

Thank you
Joan Esclamado
95945

530 575-5857

From: R E
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:50 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I Richard Esquibel am adamantly opposed to reopening the mine. This is my home! Our community needs to put its energy and resources towards fire prevention/ land management and soil regeneration.

I'd like to suggest a deeper investigation into both long and short term environmental impacts of human and non-human habitat.This study must include the perspective of local and non local indigenous people, elderly local people and Children.

Our most important 'resource ' is the land we walk on, the mine will not make the lives of our community better. PLEASE lets think about the bigger picture.

Richard Esquibel
(530)575-0715
Nevada County resident since '06

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Amanda Mae
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIS public comment
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:24 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a Nevada County citizen with strong concerns regarding the potential RISE Gold Mine operation at the Idaho Maryland Mine. Our community demands answers to the following questions in regards to the environmental impacts of this project:

- Possible water, well, river/creek pollution
- Draining of well water and underground water supply
- Air pollution – what can get released into the air when breaking rocks, using explosives, mining, using energy, burning fossil fuels for mining and transportation, other gases and toxins being released in the air.
- What will be the mining and truck noise?
- How could habitats and nearby land and water biology be affected from possible leaching of toxins, possible mistakes or human error, and discharging of large volumes of treated water into wolf creek which flows to the bear river?
- What are all the toxins and heavy metals that will be released, liberated and produced due to mining project?
- Explain what will happen to the already contaminated and unstable historical mine fill at the Centennial Industrial Site before more fill is added from this project?
- What is the worst case environmental scenario if any disaster or mistake happens? We must responsibly and ethically plan for the worst case, especially for a project that is in the middle of our community.
- What is Rise Gold's history with environmental protection and previous violations?
- What has happened to other mining projects in our region in terms of environmental impact?

Thank you for practicing due diligence with this situation that directly impacts our community.

Best,

Amanda Evans

From: Evans, Brian - SNMH
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine opening
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 11:12:13 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I'm just now hearing about the Idaho Maryland mine reopening project and I am extremely concerned. As a physician, long-time resident, and the CEO of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, I see significant problems coming from this project that will affect the health and welfare of our residents, and the economic vitality of our community. I'm specifically concerned and would like to have a clear understanding of the impacts related to:

- Water quality/safety (and availability)
- Air quality/safety
- Noise pollution and ground vibration
- Road congestion/trucking
- Environmental impact on creeks/wildlife
- Economic damage due to reduced quality of life for residents

I'm trying to understand all the implications of this proposed project, but I don't see it benefitting our community, and the risk to our quality of life is enormous. I would be happy to discuss my concerns in more detail at any time.

Warm regards,

Brian Evans, MD | President/CEO | **Dignity Health Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital – An exceptional hospital *from* the community, and *for* the community** | Brian.D.Evans@DignityHealth.org | Office: 530-274-6700 |

compassion, inclusion, integrity, excellence, collaboration

CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE: This e-mail may contain confidential information that is legally privileged. Do not read this e-mail if you are not the intended recipient. This e-mail transmission, and any documents, files or previous e-mail messages attached to it may contain confidential information that is legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of any of the information contained in or attached to this transmission is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify me by reply e-mail and destroy the original transmission and its attachments without reading or saving in any manner.

From:	Dweeb
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:52 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My name is Meredith Evans. My family has lived in Nevada County since 1990. There is a beauty to this county that we are all striving to keep. Deep in your heart you know that reopening the mine is not a necessity and it would negatively impact our community.

I do have some questions and I would like to know the answers to.

The noise levels that occurred just while they were obtaining core samples were disturbing.

What studies have been done on the long term effects constant noise from the mine on pregnant women?

What studies have been done on the disruption of sleep from increased noise levels from the mine for nightshift workers that sleep during the day?

What are the reagents that are going to be used on the gold and what impact are they going to have on the environment?

What studies have been done regarding the impact on increased traffic and the pollutants that are released into the air from the gravel trucks along.

Please do not allow this to happen.

Sincerely,

Meredith Evans

dweeb@att.net

From: Gwen Eymann
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:53:05 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelly,

I am writing with concerns about the possible opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I understand there is an environmental impact report to be completed before any decisions are made. I have read the proposal from The Canadian Mining Company and I have so many questions and concerns about the negative impact for our community. The short term concerns are about the effect on the local neighborhoods around the site, the noise, the traffic, the road damage from the hauling of mining materials, the local wells, and so much more. Then there are the bigger environmental concerns about the infusion of such large volumes and potentially contaminated water into Wolfe Creek. It is a fragile watershed and I believe this will lead to environmental degradation of this precious resource.

I believe there are better, safer and more environmentally friendly ways to support our local economy, and I strongly oppose the re-opening of this mine.

Respectfully,
Gwen Eymann
512 Butler St.
Grass Valley, CA

From: Shirley Fenile
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Gold mine, possible reopening
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:03 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

The environmental impact report should be part of this discussion now. How can the public steer the draft without it?

Empire mine is a heartbreaking example of gold mining on the negative impacts on land, water, and wildlife.

The Canadian Co has no problem ruining the land for its profit. They will return to their country. They probably won't hire locals. We'll be stuck with water pollution and noise. Our property values will be hurt by a running gold mine.

Please do not approve this.

Sincerely,

Shirley Fenile,
Grass Valley

From: Courtney Ferguson <courtneycopy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:27 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine objection

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please add my name to the numerous others who object to the proposed plans.

The environmental problems surely outweigh any perceived benefits.

Thank you.

Courtney Ferguson
523 Scadden Dr.
Grass Valley 94945


Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Sandra Ferreira-Miller
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine opening
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 1:23:58 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would not like to see any mines reopened. Please do not do this.

Sandra

From: craigfiels
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Public Comments re EIR for Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:52:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Following are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Craig Fiels
601 Long Street Nevada City CA 95959

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

From: Monica Filimonov
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: DO NOT RE-OPEN MINES
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are lifelong Nevada County residents and are *extremely* apposed to the mining industry starting up here again!! STOP. We Object. Please choose to protect our town.

Monica Filimonov
11364 Polaris Drive
Grass Valley CA
95949

From:	Carrie Finlay
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Nevada County Planning Dept.
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:29 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

I am writing regarding environmental scoping of the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Nevada County. The proposed re-operation of a mine in the area poses concerning questions for the environment and residents. (1) How would it benefit the community? (2) What are the impacts to the area? (3) What existing conditions must be addressed in order to allow re-operation of a mine less than two miles from downtown Grass Valley?
There are many unnecessary disturbances to the watersheds, air quality, and earth. Please advise on the following plans for these categories:

"**Environmental Impacts of Idaho-Maryland Mine**

Water. Hundreds of miles of tunnels were built during prior mining operations at the Idaho-Maryland Mine site. When the mine was abandoned these tunnels filled up with naturally occurring water. To re-operate the mine, the area would need to be dewatered. This process entails pumping water from the old mine, treating the water to remove any toxic materials, and then discharging it into Wolf Creek. Proposed discharge rates are about 2,500 gallons per minute, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek, until the mine is drained. After the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send about 850 gallons per minute into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from refilling with water. The geology of this region that holds and transports underground water can respond unpredictably to dewatering and mine operations, potentially affecting local water resources. Mobilizing legacy contaminants in tunnels and in waterways with increased discharge can cause water quality problems.

Earth. Extracting gold produces tailings and waste rock, the byproduct of mine works. The scale of production is immense because gold yield is typically grams for every ton of ore rock excavated from a mine. The permit application describes a drill and blast regime beneath and beyond the boundaries of the property on Brunswick Road that would remove 1,500 tons

of rock per day, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the life of the project. The permit states that half of the mined rock would be deposited at two sites on and near the mine. Haul trucks would deposit 1.4 million cubic yards of mining tailings on 31 acres of the Brunswick property where the mine is located up to their boundary near Mink Court and Elk Lane. One million cubic yards of mining tailings would be deposited on the 44-acre Centennial Industrial Site bordered by Idaho Maryland Road, Centennial Drive, and the DeMartini RV site. The permit application does not indicate how many years the disposal sites can receive mine tailings and what happens with the debris once these fill sites are full. Rise Inc. plans to sell mine tailings as engineered fill, utilizing highways 20 and 49 to transport the rock to potential customers. Mine tailings can be elevated in lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic and other metals, posing a potential exposure risk.

Energy. Mining is a resource-intensive industry that requires large inputs of power. The permit application estimates power needs of 10 megawatts to run the mine with additional diesel back-up power generation capacity of 6 megawatts. One megawatt of power supplies 650-1000 homes with electricity. The proposed mine operation would re-inject 500 tons of processed mine debris as paste backfill each day into the blasted sections of the mine works to stabilize it. The backfill paste will use approximately 25 tons of cement daily, adding another 3 megawatts of power used to make the cement [1][2]. Although this power wouldn't come directly from the local power grid, cement production, a resource-intensive industry, is responsible for 5-7 % of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. The mine would contribute about 25 metric tons of CO2 daily solely from producing the cement required to backfill the proposed mine [3]. Mine operations would use up to 12,000 gallons of fuel per day, releasing another 120 metric tons of CO2 into the earth's atmosphere daily. Mining for gold uses large amounts of energy to excavate and process vast quantities of rock in order to extract small amounts of precious metal."

Thank you for your prompt response.
Be well~

-----Original Message-----
From: Linda Fischer <l1nda91sch3r@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Build it! Our people need jobs. Make men out of all the guys laying around on the streets.
Sent from my iPhone

From:	Robert Fish
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Nevada County Planning Department

Attn: Matt Kelley

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine

From: Robert and Margarita Fish

17222 Sky Oaks Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Senior Planner Kelley

I am writing to you today to comment on the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine, which has recently come to my attention. I will spare you the ranting, and raving that you are likely getting too much of regarding this proposed project however; I would like to – calmly – speak my mind, and raise some concerns that I know many of our neighbors are also worried about.

Dewatering of wells:

Our home has a well that produces only 3.5 GPM and sits due East of the mine. Very little change in the water table (aquafer) could render our home to be worthless. No water, no value, and NID is nowhere near us, nor do we wish to lose our well and replace it with piped water. We like being self-sufficient, i.e., not dependent on the City or County for water, sewer or (propane) fuel.

Rise Gold cannot guarantee that they will not encounter water bearing fractures, or water bearing faults, nor can they predict what impact said encounters would have on local wells. We know from experience what can, and often does happen to local communities when mining takes place in their midst. We need look no farther than the Siskon Mine on the San Juan Ridge.

Wells dewatered, wells polluted, aluminum poisoning, old legacy mercury disturbed and introduced into the aquafers and the air via crushed tailings.

Air Pollution:

A mine that runs 24/7 and exhausts the bad air from blasted rock within the mine, air that could be toxic depending on the explosives used, and the rock/mineral content encountered, will be a non-stop air polluter, including the release of vast amounts of CO2.

Will there be cyanide, asbestos, lead, arsenic, hydrochloric acid, aluminum, or other toxins that will ultimately leach into our soil? Moreover, will the filtration be adequate, and properly maintained? Moreover, how does one filter the dust from truckloads of crushed tailings? I am sure our Canadian friends will swear that all will be good, and that they will mitigate any issues that arise, but once this project has been approved individual homeowners will be fighting attorneys who are on retainer to the mine, and being financially drained when trying to gain restitution and reclaim their health, and quality of life.

Water Pollution:

How effective will the settling ponds be, especially during heavy rains? How much contaminated water will be sent down Wolf Creek, water that could include the toxins listed in the above paragraph? Moreover, during heavy rains, will the water leaving the settling ponds added to the heavy rain create erosion, or worse? Our creeks, lakes and rivers, and the wildlife depending on them are very sensitive to pollutants.

Transport of Explosives:

This one is self-explanatory; a mine that operates 24/7 will be using large amounts of explosives. Those explosives have to travel on our roads, streets and freeways. Will we have to worry for the next 80 years if the truck traveling next to us might have a faulty load of explosives that could explode, especially in the event of a traffic accident?

Highway Damage:

Speaking of roads, streets, and highways, how will the moving of 1,000 tons of crushed rock a day impact our streets? How will the corresponding truck traffic affect traffic patterns on our local streets? I understand that there will be a certain amount of tax revenue generated from the mine, but will it be enough to compensate for the destruction of our roads? I seriously doubt it. Having worked in the construction industry for over 45 years, I can say without any doubt that the damage caused by 40 to 50 ton non-stop loads will wreak havoc on our streets.

Noise Pollution:

What peace will the neighboring homes have with a mine operating near them 24/7? I have no problem with mines and see them as necessary however; starting up a mine in the middle of a city seems to me to be a horrible idea. Constant blasting, loading crushed rock on trucks, truck traffic; the surrounding homes will become worthless.

Property values:

Let us look at this from a financial perspective, a perspective from City, County and individual homeowners. Not only will the opening of this mine destroy the value of homes in the immediate vicinity, but due to all of the concerns listed above, it will lower the value of many homes in our area.

Even if the dewatering does not destroy wells, and I believe strongly that it will, this area will lose much of its appeal, especially to those looking for an area to retire, or for families with small children not wanting to risk the air pollution generated by the mine.

Lower property values equals' lower property tax revenue. Simply stated, this project will be a net financial loser for our City and County. Moreover, how will the lost revenue be made up? Well of course, our taxes will be raised to compensate.

In conclusion:

Mr. Kelley I can only see this as a win-win for the Canadian company (Rise Gold) that wants to open the mine, but a lose-lose for the citizens of Nevada County. In the best of outcomes, I do not see a benefit for the good people of Grass Valley, Nevada City, but I can see far too many potentially devastating outcomes, and once approved, then how do we put the genie back in the bottle? How do we put the lid back on Pandora's Box? We do not!

Nevada County has a rich history of mining, but also has many scars and numerous unresolved environmental issues left behind due to mining. While we can romanticize about the days of the 49er's, there is nothing romantic about destroying the lives of hundreds, or even thousands of citizens of this community who have invested much, perhaps all of their life savings to purchase retirement homes or homes where they are raising their children.

The days of large-scale mining in Grass Valley and Nevada City are well behind us. Let us keep it that way.

Best Regards,

Robert and Margarita Fish

17222 Sky Oaks Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

bobnrita22@att.net

530-205-7512

From:	Brian Flaherty
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 12:38:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date: August 17, 2020 Subject: Rise Gold Mine Notice of Preparation & Project Description Draft To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner 950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 Nevada City, CA 95959 matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us From:
Brian and Denise Flaherty Nevada City, CA 95959 Dear Mr. Kelley,In regards to the potential reopening of the Idaho-Maryland (Rise Corp.) mine, please add my voice to the many concerned about the effects on our environment, our community and our lives, all of which may be diminished so that others may be financially enriched. The studies that will inform the decision to allow or deny the reopening of the mind should include, but not be limited to: * Initial and ongoing de-watering of the mine.The initial dewatering will empty into the Wolf Creek 2,500 gallons per minute. That's the rate of 10 2.5 inch fire hoses, non-stop.The effects on this creek should be studied for the many miles that the erosion and sediment will effect.The ongoing dewatering is estimated at 1.9 cubic feet per second. That is 14.2 gallons per second, or 1,224,000 gallons per day. The estimated need for water per person is 80-100 gallons per day. That means that, everyday, enough water to supply all of Grass Valley's 13,000 residents will seep into the mine and then be pumped out to run downstream. Our water table must be protected. Related study on water: If a water-bearing fracture is severed, as happened in the San Juan Ridge area in the 90s, many resident's wells could run dry. How does Rise intend to prevent this from happening? * Light Pollution I have seen one estimate that the mine's operations will include over 100,000 lumens of outdoor lighting. The studies should include estimates of the light pollution and the reduction in the ability of residents ability to look up at night and see the stars. * Traffic and roadways Studies should include traffic volumes and delays, increased air pollution, pedestrian and cyclist safety, noise, roadway wear-and-tear and maintenance. *Property values Studies should include effects on property values for all homes and land that will be affected by water issues, light, noise and air pollution, and the blight of industrial structure and mountains of fill dirt. *Dangerous contaminants What materials will be unearthed and exposed? Any and all contaminants, including asbestos and mercury. should be identified. Please ensure that every possible impact on the residents of our community are identified and evaluated. There is no justification for forcing us to endure pollution, financial hardship, health risks and reduction in quality of life so that other people can simply become wealthy.
Sincerely,
Signature: Brian Flaherty
Denise Flaherty

Date: August 13, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

From: Board of Directors
Ironhorse Homeowners Association
C/O Paul Law Property Management
1721 E. Main St. #3
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley Comments

We, the Board of Directors of Ironhorse Homeowners Association, are opposed to reopening the mine for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project in unincorporated western Nevada County.

We are submitting the following comments and recommendations in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

1. This is a proposed 24/7 operation with no rest for those impacted by noise (trucks, blasting, etc.) and by vibrations from blasting. We suggest that if mining operations are allowed that they only operate from 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday to limit the impacts.

2. The EIR recommendations need to include details on the impact of noise and vibration studies and include directives to ensure the impact on those close to either site is minimal.

3. The EIR should look at endangered species as well as any potential Native American artifacts and their potential discovery. It should have a detailed plan in place in case any are discovered as part of the mining or grading of the industrial park.

4. The County needs to follow through and make sure the proposed clean-up has been submitted and approved by the California Water Board as they plan to put treated water into Wolf Creek.

5. We have concerns about the clean-up at the industrial park, which will be just over the hill from us. Please require that the contaminated soil be removed and remediated and that only non-contaminated soil be allowed on the industrial park site.

6. The County needs to mandate that all clean-up be done prior to allowing the mine to open and to require a bond large enough to cover the cost of any additional contamination created by any future work at either site.

7. Please require that all hauling of soil is done during the hours of 7 am to 5pm Monday thru Friday and that the Dirt Haul approved route does not use Bennett Road or East Bennett Road. Require the trucks to use the State Highway rather than local roads. Additionally, please address any requirements by Caltrans if a State highway is used to move soil.

8. Please require that water will be regularly sprayed on any soil that is hauled and dumped, as well as graded, to keep the dust down.

9. Please require that all truck loads are covered. If the mine trucks cause any dirt or contaminants on the roadway, the Mine Operation will be required to expediently remove it. There should be some type of penalty payment schedule in place before the operation is approved.

10. Please require that every truck load of soil is tested for contamination before it is allowed to be moved.

11. Please require that all trucks used on either site have modifications to keep the noise down below acceptable limits.

12. We suggest that 80 years is too long. The operation needs to be re-evaluated every 5 years and improvements with respect to public health, safety and the environment should be made to the process as needed.

Please keep us informed whenever any significant development occurs with regards to this project. We look forward to reading the EIR.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jan Fleming

Jan Fleming, President, Ironhorse Homeowners Association
Email: juanitanica @yahoo.com. Phone: (916) 410-5344
Jim Carlson, Vice President
Barbara Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer
Scot Marsters, Member at Large

Cc: Dick Law, Paul Law Property Management
Email: law@dicklaw.com; (530) 274-7653

From:	jan fleming
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Jan Fleming; Jim Carlson; Barbara Johnson; Scot Marsters; Dick Law
Subject:	Comments for Draft EIP Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 4:32:26 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine.8.13.2020.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

Following is an email form of the attached letter.

Sincerely,

Jan Fleming, President
Ironhorse Homeowners Association

Date: August 13, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

From: Board of Directors

Ironhorse Homeowners Association

C/O Paul Law Property Management

1721 E. Main St. #3

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley Comments

We, the Board of Directors of Ironhorse Homeowners Association, are opposed to reopening the mine for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project in unincorporated western Nevada County.

We are submitting the following comments and recommendations in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

1. This is a proposed 24/7 operation with no rest for those impacted by noise (trucks, blasting, etc.) and by vibrations from blasting. We suggest that if mining operations are allowed that they only operate from 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday to limit the impacts.

2. The EIR recommendations need to include details on the impact of noise and vibration studies and include directives to ensure the impact on those close to either site is minimal.

3. The EIR should look at endangered species as well as any potential Native American artifacts and their potential discovery. It should have a detailed plan in place in case any are discovered as part of the mining or grading of the industrial park.

4. The County needs to follow through and make sure the proposed clean-up has been submitted and approved by the California Water Board as they plan to put treated water into Wolf Creek.

5. We have concerns about the clean-up at the industrial park, which will be just over the hill from us. Please require that the contaminated soil be removed and remediated and that only non-contaminated soil be allowed on the industrial park site.

6. The County needs to mandate that all clean-up be done prior to allowing the mine to open and to require a bond large enough to cover the cost of any additional contamination created by any future work at either site.

7. Please require that all hauling of soil is done during the hours of 7 am to 5pm Monday thru Friday and that the Dirt Haul approved route does not use Bennett Road or East Bennett Road. Require the trucks to use the State Highway rather than local roads. Additionally, please address any requirements by Caltrans if a State highway is used to move soil.

8. Please require that water will be regularly sprayed on any soil that is hauled and dumped, as well as graded, to keep the dust down.

9. Please require that all truck loads are covered. If the mine trucks cause any dirt or contaminants on the roadway, the Mine Operation will be required to expediently remove it. There should be some type of penalty payment schedule in place before the operation is approved.

10. Please require that every truck load of soil is tested for contamination before it is allowed to be moved.

11. Please require that all trucks used on either site have modifications to keep the noise down below acceptable limits.

12. We suggest that 80 years is too long. The operation needs to be re-evaluated every 5 years and improvements with respect to public health, safety and the environment should be made to the process as needed.

Please keep us informed whenever any significant development occurs with regards to this project. We look forward to reading the EIR.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jan Fleming

Jan Fleming, President, Ironhorse Homeowners Association

Email: juanitanica @yahoo.com. Phone: (916) 410-5344

Jim Carlson, Vice President

Barbara Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer

Scot Marsters, Member at Large

Cc: Dick Law, Paul Law Property Management

Email: law@dicklaw.com; (530) 274-7653

From:	Sharlyn Fletcher
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	RISE Company opening mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:06:50 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

As a 26 year resident living off of Greenhorn Road, we are extremely concerned about possibility of the Rise Company re-opening the mine in the Brunswick-Greenhorn area.
We are sure you have heard the many concerns of residents in the area.
Theses include:
*how this will affect our water table
*upstream and downstream impacts of water release
*failure of water treatment systems and consequences
*Impact on wells in area and limited areas to be compensated
*noise pollution
*mining 24/7
*dirt and dust - air quality
*impact on peace and tranquility of our community
*jobs-local hires vs out of area, impact vs benefit to community
*housing
*impact on roads from truck hauls of waste- responsibilities for maintenance
*heavy metals pollution of soil- already a problem here
*fire-wise community evacuation routes
*collapse of roads, etc. from water removal

We are concerned with the quality of life in our wonderful community. Many of us has improved our residents for friend and family enjoyment and to supplement our food supplies by having home gardens. The mental and emotional health of our citizens and the financial affects of changes in water supply especially on the elderly and those on fixed incomes must be a major consideration.

Our current community is not the one that thrived when the mine was open previously. We are a new entity with many more residents who will be negatively effected by the reopening of this mine.
And as seen in other communities, the mine owners cannot be trusted to do as they promise. It would cost too much to shut down if the purification systems fails. So, why not just pay the fine, keep operating and wait to repeat this scenario when they get caught again?

So sir, we are emphatically against the opening of the mine. Please be encouraged to stop any forward movement of this initiative as a result of the EIR.

Thank you for your time,
Scott and Sharlyn Fletcher

Sent from my iPad

From: Forsman Jean <jeanforsman315@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: catzforsman@gmail.com
Subject: Opposition to Rise Mine proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly

My husband and I are writing in opposition to the Rise Mine proposal. My husband was born and raised in Nevada City and we have recently retired to our family home. The traffic

increase and rent hikes that we experienced in the Bay Area were a direct result of the influx of people from outside of the area into a crowded housing and jobs market and have driven friends and neighbors from their neighborhoods. We are extremely concerned regarding the inevitable drainage of the water table as well as the noise and pollution exacerbated by additional trucks added to the traffic flow

--
Thank you kindly,
Jean and Catz Forsman

-----Original Message-----
From: Kathleen Fraga <fragakathleen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello- I'm a registered voter & I too think the mine should NOT be reopened.
Thank you
Kathleen

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Marina Francis
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	bdofsupervisors
Subject:	Re: Proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:46:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

Along with many local and county residents, I strongly echo the points as made below by several of my friends and neighbors
and have grave concerns that I'm terrified will be overshadowed in favor of this company's ability to woo the County for it's own bottom line.

All of this is profoundly disturbing, yet what disturbs me most about the proposed mine operations is what,
without deliberate and thorough inquiry, serves to undermine many overall aspects of local resident's quality of life and services,
not least of which is the tremendous and unknown impact of local aquifers and wells.

This has the very real potential to be irreversible, making many current residences legally uninhabitable without a safe, consistent potable water source.

> The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.
>
> The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.
>
> **It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.**
>
> **Analysis and Reports necessary:**
>
> **1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground**

flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be

presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives. Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it’s a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as

numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even

more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every prospective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians,

hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

Please, please consider all this in the spirit it’s offered.

Many thanks in advance for giving this project the thought, research and time it deserves,

M. Francis
14076 Glenn Pines Rd.
Grass valley CA 95945

From:	Marina Francis
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Re: Objection Letter, Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:58 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr Kelley,

Much of this content of this letter will no doubt be familiar to you at this point;
along with many local and county residents, I strongly echo the points as made below by several of my friends and neighbors.

All of this is profoundly disturbing, yet what disturbs me most about the proposed mine operations is what,
without deliberate and thorough inquiry, serves to undermine many overall aspects of local resident's quality of life and services,
not least of which is the tremendous and unknown impact of local aquifers and wells.

This also speaks to resident's basic rights and responsibilities to respect and endeavor to protect infrastructure and basic services for the good of all,
which all of us in good faith should bear, including for-profit businesses such as this proposed mine.

I implore you to take the further investigation, research and time a project of this magnitude begs for.

PLEASE REQUIRE THAT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN REGARD TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT

Item #1: Water Evaluation must go beyond proponent's proposed mitigations for water quality and impact on affected residences. Evaluation should consider consequences of malfunction, breakdown, and natural disaster that would create very significant adverse consequences if mitigations fail to perform as promised. Consequences could be so dire that no mitigations could be adequate to prevent water contamination, dewatering of ground water, pollution of Wolf Creek, and/or impact on residential wells.

Item #2: Noise and vibration The proposal offers no evident way of mitigating intolerable noise and vibration from 20 ton trucks running through residential and business areas to dispose of tailings. It is inexcusable to allow 24-hour operation that will deny hundreds of residents peaceful enjoyment of their properties, and will lower property values drastically. Residential development at the corner of Brunswick and Bennett will be made unlivable.

Item #3: Zoning Compliance Industrial zoning does allow major industrial use, but that is not adequate reason to approve such overbearing operations such as the proposed mine. Mining on such a scale and

with such dire negative impacts was unlikely considered or foretold when land use designation was first applied to these parcels.

Item #4: "Taking" Proponent will no doubt claim a "taking" if application is denied, asserting that proposed operations are compliant with existing land use designation and that its property value would be significantly diminished. However, if project is approved, the living conditions for affected residents would be so untenable that residents' property values would be drastically diminished. It is likely many residents would sell and move away, creating a sell-off that would cause a very large decline in sales prices. Such a consequence would itself be a far more substantial and more unjust "taking" that the proponent's decline in property value.

Item #5: 80 year term Forecasting changes in commercial and cultural conditions over such a long term is impossible. To presume that such an intrusive operation will not cause irreparable environmental degradation over such a long term is fatuous. Given the high frequency of oil spills, river and ocean contamination, and the adverse health and environmental effects for nearby residents of such operations, the likelihood of catastrophic events is very high. The entire residential area affected by the mines operation is likely to attain a reputation as undesirable.

Item #6: Historical tradition Advocates for this proposal often cite this area's mining history. Yet that history is itself replete with environmental degradation. Significant to this history is that the first major environmental regulation – the banning of hydraulic mining – is part of this area's heritage.

Best Regards,
Marina Francis
14076 Glenn Pines Rd
Grass Valley CA 95945

From: Shirley Freriks <sfreriks@mcn.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: NO on Rise Mine - People and health before profits

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to this mine development:

-The water they need to pump out is likely toxic and should not be released into our waterways or ground. Health concern.

— traffic going out to highway would be very disruptive to this small community in that

highly used area.

-I believe there will be more environmental hazards than can meet the eye as they would go on with the mining activities than the Environmental Impact Report would show now. In addition to the other disruptive things like noise and air pollution.

NO VOTE ON THE MINE.

Thanks for listening.

Shirley Freriks
May Peace and LOVE Prevail on Earth-
May the WELLBEING of our Earth Prevail!

It is time for a new story in order to revitalize our Earth's environment.

From: Cyndy Frey
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Oppose Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:29:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

Please add both my husband and my name to the list of people that oppose this project. I am sure you have many emails with the list of reasons.

Rather than waste both of our time I will list my major issues without explanation: water issues, noise and vibration, and zoning. I have lived here long enough to remember when the Empire Mine was open. I have personal experience.

We simply oppose,

Mark and Cyndy Frey
14107 Liquidambar Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Mailing:
12050 Charles Drive, #20
Grass Valley, CA 9594

From:	Susan Frisbie
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Sue Hoek; Richard Anderson; Env.Health; Health Officer; duanestrawser@gmail.com; erin4nevadacity@gmail.com; davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com; danielafornevadacity@gmail.com; fleming.douglass@gmail.com
Subject:	REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, rezoning of the IMM site, & everything that goes along with these
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner, Matt Kelley,

I am vehemently opposed to re-opening the long closed Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine in the middle of Grass Valley, the Canadian mining company, RISE Gold, proposes to reopen.

The health and environment impacts associated with the reopening of this mine far outweigh any possible benefit.

In a Nutshell:

- Home Values will Plummet!
- Water Contamination will abound!
- Mining will take place 24 hours a day!
- Noise, traffic and dust will be unbearable!
- Large Trucks hauling rock will take place from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm!
- Sure 242 Jobs will be created, but they'll go to people OUTSIDE our area!
- Air Quality will degrade!
- Increased Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons!

- Drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality. South Wolf Creek should not be treated like a storm drain!
- Inflict incessant blasting on the surrounding community, which will likely force home owners (if they could even sell) and high-tech companies to relocate!

- Create real potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, and others.

One would think that with all of the valid negative impacts stated above a NO VOTE would be eminent!

It is simply unacceptable to approve this mining project that would further increase air pollution in our community. We are all also deeply concerned about the noise, traffic and dust generated by the mine; the de-watering that could drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact their water quality; the blasting vibrations that could force local high-tech

companies to leave our area; the significant increase in Green House Gas emissions and the potential of contamination from the toxic materials used in the mine, which include cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid!

Our community is currently suffering from the toxic legacy of past gold mining in the area, including polluted watersheds, Superfund cleanup sites, and contaminated water from the Magenta Drain in Grass Valley and at Grizzly Hill School in North San Juan. We do not want to add additional mining related impacts to our community for years into the future. Much of the Centennial site near Spring Hill and Idaho Maryland Drives is either too unstable to build on or contaminated with arsenic from past mine tailings.

I am certain that Nevada County will be far better off in both the short term and the long term without the Rise project, so I ask the Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the IMM site, the project plan, and any and all other applications for this purpose.

This mine project will ruin Nevada County now and for years to come.

PLEASE vote NO on this toxic project!

Best Regards,

Susan Frisbie, Nevada County resident of 8 plus years

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." - John Adams

Dan Frisella Jr.

12951 Mink Court - Grass Valley, CA 95945 - (530) 613-4734 - dfrisella@gmail.com

August 15, 2020

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave.
Suite 170
Nevada City CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing in regards to the reopening of the Brunswick mine site. **My property borders the mine property** from the end of Mink Court so this operation is of obvious interest to me and my family. To be clear, we are opposed to the reopening of the mine.

I recognize the clear financial benefits to the county, and our approximately 100,000 residents; however, I also recognize that the real fiscal gains most largely benefit the foreign Rise Gold Corp, at great cost to our local community.

The potential environmental impacts that have been speculated may be embellished. But the scale of the project certainly lends itself to these speculations. The very real concerns to my family are as follows.

1. **Well Water -** If my well water is in jeopardy of running dry, I am interested in assurance that my house will not go without water *prior* to pumping millions of gallons of stagnant shaft water into Wolf Creek. The only way I see this happening is through connection to NID before the project begins. The ongoing cost impact of paying for treated NID water is also of great concern as I currently pay roughly $60/year in power for my well.

2. **Asbestos and Other Airborne Pollutants -** My three children currently play freely on my 3 acres - riding bikes, running through the woods, building forts, and otherwise behaving like active 6, 10, and 12 year old boys. I understand that the processing and disposing of mine tailings intended to take place at the Brunswick site contain a mix of toxic chemicals and minerals that will most certainly contaminate my residential property (an unbiased Google search on mine tailings raises significant concern). I have low confidence in a water truck managing tailing dust and I am

gravely concerned about the impact of these airborne pollutants on my children's young lungs - especially for my 6 year old with asthma - not to mention my own.

3. **Traffic and Noise** - Of course our community is dynamic, and we can expect the landscape of our county to shift around us. However, 24 hours of operation (pumping, crushing, dumping) will be a significant nuisance to my quality of life.

4. **Property Value -** Stuff happens, and we are always subject to losses on investments. As this one can be avoided, my legal counsel has advised me to seek financial relief as a part of the mitigation process. My neighbor's home sale at the bottom of Beaver Rd already fell out of escrow, due to the possible reopening of the mine.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose the reopening of the mine.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need clarification.



Dan Frisella
dfrisella@gmail.com

From:	Dan Frisella
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Dan Miller; julie frisella
Subject:	Letter Concerning Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 6:51:19 PM
Attachments:	Letter to Matt Kelley.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

Please see the attached letter concerning the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine site. I realize the deadline for submitting such public input is this Monday, August 17th.

If you could kindly reply to let me know that you are in receipt of my public comment I would appreciate it.

Thank you, and thank you for your service to our community.

Dan Frisella
530-613-4734

From: peter fromm <moagi1951@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:25 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Gold Mine Reopening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I know you have received many letters and emails about the reopening of the mine. Here is my summary of the potential devastation:

- Well dewatering
- Heavy industrial zoning (not where I want to live)
- Noise pollution
- Increased traffic
- Exodus of people and companies
- Air quality impact (yuck!)
- Drying out of the forest (HIGH fire danger)
- Creation of a superfund cleanup site
- Release of asbestos into the environment
- Outflow of contaminated water
- Impact to our electrical infrastructure
- Transportation of explosives through our area
- Creation of an industrial wasteland

After all of that, if you approve this project, it will be obvious that you place money above the needs of the community. So I say again: You can't be serious!

Thanks for your consideration,

Peter Fromm

From: PETER FROMM <pevifrmm@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:23 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Please do not approve this project; it will devastate the local environment. Please consider the following:

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)

We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.

The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the

infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning

The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.

This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.

Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It’s stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We’re talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county’s desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis’ must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it’s conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including

“No Project” must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it’s profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San
Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can

guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage?

Thanks for your consideration,

Vickie Fromm

From: Judi Funk <judivintage@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelly,

With the history of glod mining in Nevada County and the devastating impact to the community and environment We strongly oppose going forward with this

project. Judith Funk/Jerry Earwood

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a

massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This

disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

From: Judi Funk <judivintage@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:38 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: RE: Idaho~Maryland Mine Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Board of Supervisors,

Please note we as long time Nevada County Residents and property owneers we strongly oppose this project. The environmental impact and effect of quality of life is too huge. Judith Funk/Jerry Earwood

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a

nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors. This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the

thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic

volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of

climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

From:	Marianne Boccuzzi
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine -Comment Letter
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:19:27 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Marianne Furlong
14229 Star Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
marianneboccuzzi@hotmail.com
(530)559-7071

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing in regards to the many concerns I have about the current plans to reopen mining at the Idaho-Maryland location. I have lived in Nevada County for the last 17 years. My husband, my two young children, and I live on Star Drive in Grass Valley. We love our neighborhood! We take our dog for evening walks around the block. We enjoy gardening, playing soccer, having water fights, roasting marshmallows in our fire pit and stargazing at night in our backyard. We chose this location for its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere.

I'm extremely concerned how this proposal will impact our quality of life. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

- 24 hour Noise pollution around the surrounding neighbors
- Constant Traffic along Brunswick Road creating unsafe driving conditions
- Significant greenhouses gases emitted
- Reduction of property value

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please reach out and I would be happy to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,
Marianne Furlong

From: Michael Gaboury <michaelgaboury@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:44 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us Questions and Comments Regarding the Environmental Impact Report - Idaho Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 17, 2020

Nevada County Planning Department
Attention Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Via email:
Matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us

Questions and Comments Regarding the Environmental Impact Report - Idaho Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley

I'm Michael Gaboury. I moved to Nevada County with my wife and one year old daughter in 1972 to begin working for Sierra College. While a job caused me to leave for a while, this has remained my primary residence. We have owned our current home in Nevada City for over 20 years. I have many questions listed below about the environmental impacts upon our community, but I'd like to first briefly comment on the jobs issue.

It's unfortunate that we are making these decisions in the context of the current economic downturn, where every port in the storm looks inviting; so, it's extremely important to realize that we are making choices that our children and their children will live with for 80 years. Certainly there will be a burst of new construction as the

structures above ground are completed. Then those jobs go away. Most of the mining jobs will go to those high experience miners who “follow the holes” around the country. No doubt one of your new neighbors will be from West Virginia with years of experience, and mining in their blood. But even more significantly, over the next few years most of these jobs are going away as well. New computerized drilling technology and robots work much faster and cost far less. South Africa has already approached fully mechanized mines. Let’s face it, we are not that far away from the trucks that will drive themselves that short trip from the headframe to the processing area. Is this what we mortgage our future for? Rise Gold only cares about the most ore at the lowest price. And they will do whatever that takes. On the other hand, we have to do whatever it takes to nourish our special community. The number of people employed by the project will affect the environment, so the following questions seem germaine.

-
- Please provide job titles,
- wage scales, and descriptions for all projected positions.
-
-
- What training will be provided
- to local citizens to gain the competencies required for these positions?
-
-
- What positions are projected
- for local hires, and at what wage level?
-
-
- Will these be union jobs?
- What kind of health care is provided?
-
-
- Which positions do you project
- to be replaced by automation over the next 10 years? What have you told investors regarding increased labor efficiencies in the coming years?
-
-
- Please provide data from
- previous projects to demonstrate the percent of local hires that actually took place.
-
-
- How will safety measures
- be enforced in the operation. What position will be in charge of all safety, and who is that? What are the qualifications of that individual?
-

Explosives:

-
- Please describe all explosives
- that will be used in the project by type, with the projected weights or volumes anticipated to be used per month and per year. This must include a time weighted projection for the first 10 years of operations
-
-
- What are the maximum volumes
- or weights that will be stored for each type (total volume or weights on site) at any one time, including blasting caps and materials (detonators, primacord, etc.) used for detonation.
-
-
- How will the explosives
- be stored?. Where will they be stored? Include drawings of storage sites and types of containment that will be used and proposed security measures to alleviate theft, plus required ventilation requirements.
-
-
- If the maximum potential
- onsite explosive material were to explode, describe the blast range and level of damage to the site and the surrounding structures to a distance of 15 miles from the site.. What would be the anticipated cost of repairing damage or recovering the economic
- impact on the community for such an explosion. Please describe the methodology used in determining damage and provide sample calculations that will define potential dollar amounts. Will you provide a bond to cover all such damage to be used in case of unplanned
- explosions covering all of the times of operation and 50 years beyond the actual operation of the site.
-
-
- How will these materials
- be transported into Nevada County (trains, trucks, other vehicles) and what routes will be used?
-

Sound:

-
- What type of equipment will
- be used for sound (air blast) monitoring. What limits in peak overpressure

readings will you maintain and at what distances from the site.

-
-
- How many units will be deployed,
- and in what configuration?
-
-
- Please provide maps of the
- expected sound levels using lines of equal decibels and/or peak overpressure units to a distance of 15 miles from the site and from transportation routes.
-
-
- What mitigation methods
- will be deployed if sound levels exceed permissible limits? What is the cost of that mitigation?
-

Vibration

-
- What type of equipment will
- be used for monitoring ground vibration?
-
-
- How many units will be deployed,
- and in what configuration?
-
-
- Please provide maps showing
- the expected vibration levels in units of inches per second at locations to 15 miles from the site, including major and historic structures. Include the locations of major and historic structures or public works that you have studied. In addition, provide
- a plan for surveying pre-existing damage to said structures and your plan to use this survey to determine damage that may be claimed to be the result of the work.
-
-
- What mitigation methods
- will be deployed if vibration levels exceed permissible levels or vibration damage is shown to be caused by the work? What is the anticipated cost of mitigation and repairs to damage? Will you hold bonds to guarantee the repair of said structures.
-

Bankruptcy or Premature Closing

- In the event the project
- becomes economically infeasible, due to factors such as fines for excessive violations, poor performance of the operation resulting in economic loss, or new environmental standards which cannot be feasibly complied with, and the company decides to declare
- bankruptcy and walk away, what operations would be required to return the land to a pristine and usable space? (For example closing of the ponds, disposal of hazardous material, mitigation of unwanted changes to the water table, etc.) What is the estimated
- cost of such activity?
- What new needs for mitigation
- might arise after closing, such as water table loss, sink holes, etc ? What are the projected mitigation costs for these?
- How would the costs be expected
- to rise over the next 80 years.
- What is the methodology
- and expected costs for mitigating all losses of well water in such a case for a one hundred year time frame?
- Will you provide bonds to
- fully insure the county and it's citizens against all such losses?

Unforeseen Connections to Unknown Shafts

- Since Nevada County is underlain
- with many mine shafts and tunnels many of which may not be currently located, what are the expected consequences of opening connections to those underground structures and facilities?
- Those structures are known
- to be currently flooded. If they are subsequently dewatered and drained, this

will in all likelihood lower the water table for in that area. Please explain how such an event of this nature will be mitigated, and at what cost? Will the mine operation cover

- all costs of lost water and of drilling wells to deeper levels to reach the revised water table at existing wells in the area?
-
-
- What is the possibility
- that sink holes will be created in either the projected, and /or unplanned for areas of the county. How will those be mitigated? What are the estimated costs for such mitigation on all public and private lands and structures outside of and within the site
- limits?
-
-
- Please provide maps of the
- greatest possible area that could possibly require mitigation in this circumstance..
-

Oversight

-
- HIstory has shown our citizens
- that government entities are often ill equipped to monitor large and complex projects.
-
-
- Are the interests of Nevada
- County best served by hiring an independent engineering firm to continually monitor all aspects of the operation and report all violations of agreements, laws, and regulations to the county, and all other appropriate entities? We expect that all costs of
- such oversight would be borne by the corporation. The County should choose a firm to perform this work and the firm will report directly to the County, with monthly reports to the Corporation.
-

Water

-
- What measures will be taken
- by the corporation to monitor in advance of any construction or mining on site the existing nature of all water and waterways within a distance of 15 miles of the site to define the clarity, potability, chemical make-up, and the existing

contamination of the
- waters. . This will include groundwater from wells and other sources of water beneath the surface of the area of land up to 15 miles distance from the site. It will also include measurements of depth to the water table, flow characteristics of the groundwater,
- including direction of travel and relative velocity of the flow. ‘
-
-
- Will these measures be monitored
- during the mining every six months during operations, and for 15 years after the end of active mining. Will any variation in the conditions be cause for more frequent monitoring, perhaps weekly monitoring when conditions require it, as defined by the County’s
- hired consulting engineering firm
-
-
- Will all remedial actions
- required to return the water quality, quantity, and flow characteristics to conditions that existed prior to the start of mining operations be compensated to the County by the Corporation.
-

Settling and Retention Ponds

-
- What are the presently anticipated
- locations and sizes (acres and volumes) of settling and retention ponds.
-
-
- How will these facilities
- be expanded or otherwise changed to handle larger amounts of water removed from the excavation as mining continues.
-
-
- What are the anticipated
- volumes of groundwater per day that will be pumped from the mine over the first 10 years of operation. Please submit all calculations used in preparing these figures.
-

Toxic Environmental Impacts

-
- Provide a summary of the

- processes used to extract gold and other minerals or materials from the rock removed from the ground. Please provide maps and calculations of all tailing piles for all muck and other waste products from the mining operation.
-
-
- Include all chemicals that
- will be used in the process, both underground, and for above-ground processing of the gold. Describe the “collectors, promotors, frothers, and flocculants” used during the project. How will process chemicals or solids be removed from the water pumped from
- the mine before disposal. Define the way the water quality will be monitored and measured prior to disposal. Where will treated water be disposed of?
-
-
- Please provide data and
- calculations that support the viability of use of clay-lined ponds. Please submit drawings and specifications for construction of all water retaining ponds, basins and structures. Please explain your processes for capturing and disposing of any toxic evaporation
- (vapors, contaminants, volatile gases and oils from the ponds or tailing piles.
-
-
- The retention ponds and
- basin are said to be designed to accommodate up to a 100-year storm, however in light of global warming, storm systems in the region will, without a doubt, exceed those levels frequently, especially over the projected 80 year life of the project. What calculations
- demonstrate adequate planning for more adverse weather conditions?
-

Spoil Disposal

-
- Assuming the volume of tailings
- and spoil exceeds local demand for such material, what will be done with it? Where will it go, and by what means? What are the transportation impacts of this?
-
-
- What hazardous, or dangerous
- materials might be contained in the ore, such as asbestos, silica, other dusts. What do your exploratory borings or historical rock and spoil samples from previous mining periods in the area indicate? What is the potential for this

material to leach into
- the ground, or pass through to the water disposed after treatment to local water courses or into groundwater? .
-
-
- What is the potential that
- a percentage of it becomes airborne? At what levels?. How will this be measured and monitored? How will this be mitigated? In addition, how will airborne contaminants from diesel powered mining equipment, haul trucks, personnel vehicles, motorized air compressors,
- etc be mitigated?. Who will define the allowable levels of such toxic gases. In short, how can our community trust these findings and be assured that limits on the types and quantities of airborne toxic material, which are often set by the industries as the
- result of extensive lobbying, will be monitored and be dealt with appropriately?
-
-
- In what cases should the
- country look to establishing its own acceptable levels of potential pollution?
-

Forest Damage

-
- Many ponderosa pines in
- the county have been killed by bark beetles taking advantage of the drought which renders the trees incapable of producing the sap necessary to fight off the beetles. It appears the cost to me for dealing with these trees in my yard will be between $20,000
- and $30,000. Untouched they could easily destroy one of the nearby houses. That's very real to me. Several of my neighbors have been hit even harder. Certainly lowering the water table could put many thousands of trees at additional risk, at a huge cost
- to local land owners. But this is a complex problem and it is difficult to find a specific fault for any one tree (was it drought, the fault of the mine, or both?)
-
-
- How then does the mine propose
- to mitigate the further non-specific, but very costly damage to our trees.
-

Impacts on Streets, Roads and other Public Utilities.

-
- What will be the additional

- costs of maintaining the local roads with 1,000 tons a day being transported? Decades of 24 hour trucking operations will produce much higher rates of wear and tear on roads used by the Corporation. How much will the Corporation provide for added maintenance.
- Similar questions arise when considering utilities (water lines, sewers, electricity, telephone and cable communications) buried beneath our streets will also be subject to greater-than-normal wheel loads and resulting movement and displacement over time.
- The same arguments apply to the impacts of additional employees commuting over these roads 365 days a year?
-

Exhaust

-
- What air scrubbers and other
- filtering do you expect to use?
-
-
- Please provide calculations
- for the results of particulate matter that will be driven by fans out of the mine.
-
-
- What are the calculations
- and mitigation for the exhausted air carrying the smoke and such from blasting.. The smoke usually contains some chemicals from the explosions. What happens to those.
-
-
- What type of fans will be
- used, how will they be situated, and what noise levels are expected?
-

Property Values

How will the loss of high tech firms, both existing and future, who move to Nevada County for its quality of life, and relative quiet, affect the economic viability of the community?
In the event that property values in the affected neighborhoods suffer a significant loss, will these be mitigated? If so, please describe the process. Who would administer said program?

Other

-
- Should the county require
- all electric vehicles, especially for all truck transport.
-
-
- How many Plug-ins for electric
- cars will be provided?
-

Thank you for your consideration of these factors, critical to the well being of our Nevada County.

Sincerely,

Michael Gaboury
Nevada City, CA

Regarding the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

From: Laura and Donald Gagliasso
Email- Lmgagliasso@comcat.net

To Matt Kelley, Senior Planner,

This letter is in regards to the possible reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine and our concerns and objections to said opening.

- Why was the land zoned Light Industrial, and when was that zoning put in place? The proposal states that zoning would have to be changed.
- The local Bay Area and Fresno EPA organizations need to be contacted. Are they aware that extra contaminated tailings and fill might be coming their way? Have they agreed to take it? Who is paying attention to this? We have personal experience working with construction trucking and hauling for over 50 years. We know the process of dealing with contaminated soil.
- Property values will be grossly impacted by this project leaving us with a definite loss.
- Why is there no work schedule with down time? 24/7/365 leaves us with NO relief. We hear the current traffic on Brunswick now.
- WATER…we live on a well. Is NID in someone's back pocket? The project states there will be an OPTION to hook up at whose expense? Unacceptable. We are retired seniors on a fixed income. We do not have money to bring water to the house and irrigation. We expressly object to any expense incurred if our well goes dry due to the dewatering of tunnels beneath our home. Any options MUST be in place BEFORE any dewatering begins at the county's or the mine owners expense. Any expense incurred for this would be a hardship to us. To be purposely made to be without water with the fire danger in this area is completely irresponsible and demands legal repercussions.
- Earthquake Fault runs through the mine property. No one can guarantee what will happen if blasting begins under my home. There are abandoned

airshafts on our property that are continually sinking. We are expressly concerned with blasting efforts under our home creating dangerous sink holes and fissures which have the potential to bring physical harm to us. Who is going to monitor this?

- We understand that in the past our county supervisor received money from a previous attempt to open the mine. Is he recusing himself from any decision voting this time? Has any money changed hands?
- The mine owns the mineral rights under our home below 200 feet. Who is going to monitor any blasting and excavation? Who is going to guarantee all mine business is below the 200-foot mark?
- The reopening of the mine, in general, will be grossly destructive to the environment. It is not a sustainable use of the land or underground systems. It is not healthy as to clean air or water. It is not safe as to sinkholes and blasting new tunnels in and around an earthquake fault beneath our home. It is not safe as to fire evacuation plans with the increase is large truck traffic.

We do not believe this project should move forward. We do not believe this project will be good for Nevada County and certainly it will not be good for us or the surrounding area and homes.

Laura and Donald Gagliasso
14035 Diamond Court
Grass Valley

From:	laura Gagliasso
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	The Idaho Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 11:09:24 AM
Attachments:	Regarding the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt.

Please see our enclosed letter regarding the possible reopening of The Idaho Maryland Mine project.

Laura and Donald Gagliasso

From: Kent Gallagher
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Draft ERI
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:43:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Matt,
We are opposed to the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. The impact and demand on water, air, increased traffic & noise is too great for our community to accommodate. We feel this operation is way too close to the neighborhood in which people live and they deserve a peaceful life style.
We have lived in and operated a business in Nevada County for the past 30 years. We appreciate your thorough review of this situation.
Thank you.
Kent & Mollie Gallagher
530 272 7391

From: Teresa Gaman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:44:04 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We have been Grass Valley residents since May 2007. Like so many others in this area, we were drawn to this community because of its incredible beauty, clean mountain water, clean air, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture. Equally important was how peaceful Grass Valley is with very little traffic.

We are deeply and compassionately concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Historically, it caused great scars and problems over the land, in the air, and down to the valleys for miles. Below are our requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, **within** and **beyond** the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

• The full cost of providing clean water to those homes when wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID System or providing a separate water supply.

• The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

• The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

• The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease when water quality is compromised.

• A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I implore you to think ahead about the horribly invasive and destructive consequences we will experience if this company is allowed to pollute our rivers, our air, our wells, our peace, and our roads due to the intense traffic it will cause. The impact will be devastating to our beautiful Grass Valley and beyond.

Most sincerely,

Teresa & Dudley Gaman
20093 Tanglewood Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
650-207-6670
tagaman@sbcglobal.net

From:	Maisie Ganz
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Environmental impact of Openning Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:44:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Maisie Ganz
PO Box 2066
Nevada City, CA 95959
Farmermaisie@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am a Nevada County resident and organic farmer of 13 years, and raising my daughter in Nevada City. The very first place I visited when I arrived to start a job here in Nevada County was the Yuba River, and I have been an avid fan and protector of the Yuba and all of our watersheds ever since.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine, and most specifically its effect on the surrounding watershed. I'd like to request the following be explored in the Environmental Impact Report:

- The current level of toxins in all forks of Wolf Creek, surrounding downstream waterways, and nearby wells. What are the health of the animal populations within those waterways affected. Are we already working with waterways that are in poor health due to past mining or industrial activities?

- How long will water be held in the settling pond, and what level will water need to be cleaned in order to be released into the creek system? What metric is being used to assess if water is "clean" before release. How far do these toxins travel in the specific waterways in which they'll be released?

- How much volume will be released into the surrounding ecosystem daily, and will this be sustainable for the duration of the "dewatering" time period as well as the 80 years of mining operations?

- How will the noise of the operation, 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, affect local wildlife that rely on the nearby water systems to the mine.

- How will explosives used in exploratory phases be stored underground, and how to ensure no contamination into groundwater.

- How will run-off from trucks, cars, machinery be contained during daily operations.

- A full analysis of how local wells will be affected, including the costs (accounting as well for the inflation of water costs/scarcity in accordance with climate change models) to local residents and residents located downstream.

There are of course many questions to be explored in the Impact Report, this is just but one small set of issues, pertaining to water and water quality.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,
Maisie Ganz

--
there is laughter inside simple, and where there is laughter it is good for everybody.

From: jane garcia
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:07 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I thought the mine was already disapproved. This is most disturbing to see further attempts at opening this disaster of a venture. The opening of this mine will herald the death of our community. From the subsequent health issues, noise pollution, water pollution and diminished wells, reduced tourist appeal,traffic problems,and a danger in these times of economic uncertainty it is obvious that it will benefit the Canadian venture capitalists only, and rob our community.
Please don’t let this mine happen.
Pleadingly,
Jane Garcia

Sent from my iPhone

From: glen garrod
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Corp
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

I strongly oppose the approval for gold mining operations by the rise Gold corporation at the Idaho-Maryland Mine site. The reasons being:
1. The traffic impact of the large trucks as they move in and about Grass Valley and the greater Nevada County.
2. The devastating impact on wells and water supply of residents near the site.
3. The noise pollution from around the clock mining operations affecting nearby residents.
4. The small positive economic impact (a small number of jobs) versus the devastation caused by traffic, noise and water pollution.

Stopping the reopening of the mine again is becoming tedious and ridiculous, the residents of Nevada County do not want the mine reopened.

Sincerely,
Glen Garrod
Box 356
Nevada City, CA
530-478-9710

From: Judy & Jerry
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine proposal
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 3:12:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have lived in the Nevada City/Grass Valley Area for fifty years and participated in mining a number of those years.

My concerns include the following:

A. Traffic congestion. The number of slow moving ore trucks especially during heavy traffic hours

B. Water quality for those living in the proposed mining area

C. Noise. 24/7

D. Property values. If the above concerns can't be rectified then it would obviously affect property values.

Thank you for your time
Jerry Gazzoneo
530-265-2416

Sent from my iPhone

From: Regan Gere
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No need for a polluting mine in our city
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:05:26 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planner Kelley,

My husband, Allan Gere, conservation chair, Gold Country Fly fishers, and I strongly object to opening up the Idaho Maryland mine with the associated pollution to air, water, and noise. He has been working with Sierra Streams to monitor the health of our local creeks and rivers for 15 year. ….taking weekly samples to measure their "health." To have a mine go in and use Wolf Creek as it's sewer is beyond outrageous.
Further our communities rely on tourists for stable economic support. We do not need this revenue input impacted by the noise from trucks, air pollution, and the inevitable creek /river pollution the will come from a mining operation. I know they are saying they monitor the water runoff, but …like the train wreck over Hat Creek, ….accidents due happen.

We vote no on Gold Rise Plan!

Regan Gere
12180 Lowhills Rd
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-478-1010

8.15.20

TO: Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Community Environmental Advocates-NC

FR: Laura Gerhart
11010 Brunswick Dr.
Grass Valley, CA
Mailing: PO Box 1202, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

RE: Public Comment on the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

---

This letter represents my **strong opposition** to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. As someone who has lived within a mile of the mine site for almost 30 years, I can see no benefit to anyone other than the project's investors in this extraction of resources from our community. I refer you to Jonathon Keehn's excellent synopsis of the ways in which Rise Corporation has already broken the community's trust. https://www.theunion.com/opinion/columns/jonathan-keehn-reopening-idaho-maryland-mine-still-a-bad-idea

My specific concerns are as follows:

- Excessive and extreme noise in a predominately residential area 24 hours a day both in operations and transportation
- Probability of polluting the local water supply both underground and into the watershed of Wolf Creek
- Potential release of currently stable toxins from past mining endeavors
- Significant environmental destruction of local flora and fauna habitat in one of the county's primary open space areas for wild animal vagility
- Additional traffic congestion in an already dense traffic area
- Unwarranted decrease in property values
- Passing off of road wear and tear costs to taxpayers
- Predominantly developing a workforce of "experts" from outside of Nevada County

I request that as part of the vetting of this project a complete and thorough investigation be done in the following areas to address my concerns:

- Land Use and Planning study
- Noise impact study
- Traffic flow and road damage impact study
- Environmental impact study
- Watershed impact study
- Local fiscal benefit study
- Property value impact study

This county has already suffered enough from prospectors coming to the area and stripping the environment, culture and economic well-being. I urge you to do whatever it takes to say a resounding "NO" to their plans.

From: Laura Gerhart
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 12:44:17 PM
Attachments: Idaho Maryland Mine Letter.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

8.15.20

TO: Matt Kelly, Nevada County Senior Planner
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Community Environmental Advocates-NC

FR: Laura Gerhart
11010 Brunswick Dr.
Grass Valley, CA
Mailing: PO Box 1202, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

RE: Public Comment on the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

This letter represents my **strong opposition** to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. As someone who has lived within a mile of the mine site for almost 30 years, I can see no benefit to anyone other than the project's investors in this extraction of resources from our community. I refer you to Jonathon Keehn's excellent synopsis of the ways in which Rise Corporation has already broken the community's trust. https://www.theunion.com/opinion/columns/jonathan-keehn-reopening-idaho-maryland-mine-still-a-bad-idea

My specific concerns are as follows:

- Excessive and extreme noise in a predominately residential area 24 hours a day both in operations and transportation
- Probability of polluting the local water supply both underground and into the watershed of Wolf Creek
- Potential release of currently stable toxins from past mining endeavors
- Significant environmental destruction of local flora and fauna habitat in one of the county's primary open space areas for wild animal vagility
- Additional traffic congestion in an already dense traffic area
- Unwarranted decrease in property values
- Passing off of road wear and tear costs to taxpayers
- Predominantly developing a workforce of "experts" from outside of Nevada County

I request that as part of the vetting of this project a complete and thorough investigation be done in the following areas to address my concerns:

- Land Use and Planning study
- Noise impact study
- Traffic flow and road damage impact study
- Environmental impact study
- Watershed impact study
- Local fiscal benefit study
- Property value impact study

This county has already suffered enough from prospectors coming to the area and stripping the environment, culture and economic well-being. I urge you to do whatever it takes to say a resounding “NO” to their plans.

From: Lorraine Gervais
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:39:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Hello Mr. Kelly—

I'm writing to you with a couple of questions & thoughts on the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. I've lived here in Nevada County for 40 years and have serious concerns about safety, environmental impacts and life altering changes for all of our residents.

Issues I would like included in the scope of the EIR:

-Dewatering of the mine and how hundreds of nearby wells will very possibly go dry.

-Levels of manganese, arsenic, lead, chromium, copper, aluminum, and zinc that will be in the water that is discharged. Just looking at iron & manganese does not give any sense of the ongoing serious cleanup of any water discharged back into local waterways.

-What will happen to the "engineered fill" or "mine tailings" generated every day? Apparently the plan is to place the first few million tons of those materials on two sites within Grass Valley in the first few years, and then to truck the rest of it offsite for the life of the mine. So it's either hundreds of tons per day of material leaving GV in trucks, or it's mine tailings impounded on site.

I am not in favor of any of this. I don't know anyone who lives here that is.

Thank you,

Lorraine Gervais
530-470-3319
lorrainegervais215@gmail.com
215 Reward St.
Nevada City, Ca 95959

From: Kathryn Gerwig <kathrynlg@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:16 PM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mr. Matt Kelly, Rise Gold Mining Corporation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms Kathryn Gerwig,

PO

Box 156

Grass Valley, CA

95945

916-877-

0132

kathrynlg@hotmail.com

August 3, 2020

Matt Kelley Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning

Department 950 Maidu

Avenue Nevada

City, CA 95959

530-265-1423

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am writing to you concerning the meeting that had been announced at the Rood Center, in Nevada City. It was to be at 9:30 am, on August 20th. I have not heard of any changes to that meeting, yet I have been advised to write about concerns for a separate hearing. I haven't received anything at all from The Rise Company concerning that

hearing, or a new hearing. Did they think I am not concerned? Do they believe this does not concern me?

I live in Grass Valley, which is a very pleasant small residential town. People live here due to the quiet, and friendly atmosphere.

The Idaho-Maryland Mine has been there for a long time. As a mining company the Rise Company knew about this mine. Another Canadian company came up in the past, with a proposal to open the mine, but backed off. The Rise proposal is to destroy the town of Grass Valley. The noise will be too loud and for too long a time. The trucks moving along the routes they have outlined, will destroy the roads along that route. The residences, where people have invested their money, and lives, would be uninhabitable. The businesses along the road, would be unable to continue due to the trucks, dust, noise, and other traffic problems.

This is a foothill community, and noise travels quite a distance. The entire Grass Valley, and adjacent areas will be impacted by the mining noise, traffic, dirt, and the destruction of our foothills themselves. In the summer, we have a County Fair. The noise from that fair is heard all over town. It is not “too” loud, but can be heard for the short period of time it is held.

The mine is very close to an earthquake fault. I'm told that is not a factor, as they will take it off the map. That does not make it go away.

The hills are full of mining shafts that are in danger of collapsing with the blasting, causing sink holes. The neighbors have already complained about sink holes appearing on their property near the mining property. An example of a Grass Valley sink hole can be found on McKinley Blvd.

If Rise had started the mining prior to the area turning into a residential area. They would not have the problems they are facing at this time. Nevada County is residential, with small businesses. It is not populated with people here for a “job”, but for an extended period of time. The residents are not here for an “investment”, but for a “home”. The influx of workers to work in the Rise Mining Corporation, would need housing, temporary housing. As they would be here for the “job” not for the ambiance of the Foothills area.

As for jobs opening up, Rise Corporation would be bringing in their own people, as they need specially trained professionals. Perhaps they would hire some truck drivers from the area.

Then there's the water problem that was mentioned There is some very good water here. The mine needs to use that water to separate the gold from the rock, and chemicals are used in that process. How does Rise say that water is going to be treated? There's all the water in the tunnels that is planned to be pumped out to a pond. How is that going to help Nevada County's water system? What chemical will be used to separate the gold from the rock, if not arsenic?

Mr. Bob Mossman, was at the Nevada County Democratic Central Committees zoom meeting on July 16th, and he was asked some very important questions. He did attempt to answer those questions, but new questions came up.

I am personally against having a gold mine working in the Nevada County, and Grass Valley. It is not going to benefit our city, county, or state.

Mr. Kelly, you are the Senior Planner of the Nevada County Planning Department, in Nevada City. The Environmental Advocates Foundation, has some very well worded concerns that I have not heard a response to. Their attorney's do make a lot of sense, and they do know what they are talking about.

These are some of my concerns about The Rise Mining Corporation opening the Idaho Maryland Gold Mine in Nevada County.

Please let me know when and where a meeting will be held. I do hope it is on zoom, as the Covid 19 virus is very real, and very contagious.

Sincerely,

Ms Kathryn Gerwig

From: Sal Giacinto
To: Matt Kelley; bdofsupervisors
Subject: Public Scoping Meeting Comments RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:12:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt and members of the Nevada County Planning Department and Commission

Let me start by saying I am opposed to the reopening of the mine for a variety of reasons, mostly environmental but some economic as well. I live within a stones throw of the mine property. I have lived here for a little over four years now, having retired from Orange County, and I dread the thought of thinking my best days here are already behind me. It is a botanical and natural paradise which I can see by the proposed project, has been long forgotten in the pursuit of the narrow focus of huge profits for a few and wages for a few more.

This is a bad trade off of clean water, tranquility, clean environment, safety, air quality, and animal and human health for the financial benefit of a few mostly non residents.

My understanding is that the mine will transport 100 truck trips per day, on our public roads from 6 am to 10 pm 7 days per week. All with the accompanying bulldozers, loaders, graders and compactors. Not only will they be spewing toxic dust in the air all this time, they are about the noisiest, dirtiest, most road damaging equipment ever to burn smelly diesel. This will go on so long that your citizens may as well call it permanent. This just seems impossible, a decision that should not ever have a chance of success.

The operation will store diesel fuel, explosives and mining chemicals on site in huge quantities. It will require massive amounts of concrete to be delivered to treat tailings that will be reintroduced to the mine.

The noise and light pollution and water degradation will far exceed the tolerance of the deer, bears, foxes, coyotes, racoons, and birds in a huge radius of this permanent wound to the community, probably close to a mile in any direction. Has any part of the various studies addressed this? We should be more aware of all of the effects on our ecosystem than we were 60 or 100 years ago when this may have been a viable project.

The project will use electricity that is the equivalent of what 5,300 households would use. Are you kidding me? Greenhouse gas emissions are listed at 9,000 metric tons per year. All this as we are already watching the planet ecosystems capitulating to human greed.

I urge the Planning Commission to summon the courage to realize that this project is inappropriately too large for the subject location; the disturbance to the

community and its citizens and its ecosystem come at too great a cost. We will be fine and plenty prosperous without it.
Sincerely

Sal Giacinto
P O Box 1090
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
Ph 530-274-1938

From: Deborah Gibbs
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Do Not reopen the Idaho - Maryland Mine
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:11:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to oppose the RISE Gold application to open and operate the Idaho-Maryland mine. A mining operation threatens our health, the environment and offers virtually nothing in return. The days of mining are over. Let's find enterprises that build a better community.

Debbie Gibbs
13249 Kentucky Flat Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959

530-272-4994
530-2774891 cell

From: Vince Giese
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,
Let anyone do anything they want with the provision that they secure a bond to cover the worst case scenario of any environmental damage.
Vince Giese

From:	Nancy Gilbert
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on the Proposed Project to Reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 5:36:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
As a resident of Nevada County in the Peardale area for 22 years, I have many grave concerns about this proposed project in terms of its environmental, economic and quality of life impacts. Here are just a few:

1. Will there be year around monitoring of toxic dust that will likely be on site and on the surface, such as arsenic and mercury. Trucks in and out will make this airborne. How will the developer mitigate this so the air we breathe is safe? None of these costs should be born the county or state taxpayers, but by the owner.

2. The carbon footprint and impacts on our groundwater are huge and completely our of synch with the challenges of climate change that we are facing. Many wells in the area of the project may run dry due to the enormous amounts of water being pumped. How on earth can this meet our County standards and CEQA?

3. The increased traffic of large trucks hauling gravel grindings offsite 24/7 along Hwy 174 will have major impacts on this state highway. Who is going to pay for the innumerable highway improvements and repairs that will inevitably be needed. These include the added air pollution, new stoplights and new interchanges, more car accidents, cracked windshields from gravel on the roadways, etc. Probably the developer expects us, the taxpayers to pick up the tab. The owner/developer should bear a good deal of these costs in high impact projects such as this!

4. If this project goes forward, I know I will be thinking of moving out of this area, as I don't want the toxic pollution, ground water depletion, increased traffic and noise and all of the other negative impacts in my life. My bet is a lot of others will feel the same way. Out migration will likely cause property values to drop and with it your tax base.

This is a lose-lose project, IMO.

Thank You.

~Nancy Gilbert
14499 Lower Colfax Rd
Grass Valley, CA.

From: Todd G <ntgtractor@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine reopening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please make this anti mine reopening Opposition letter a permanent public record. The reopening of the mine will be a public health hazard. Noise pollution, Air pollution, Traffic and congestion increase. Water will be wasted in processing. Water depletion of aquifer. Degradation in quality of life to nearby residents. Decrease in home values to nearby communities. The Nevada City & Grass Valley government/councils primary

responsibility is to the Majority of it LOCAL citizens to protect the Health ,Safety & Welfare of the community. This reopening of the mine is a detriment to ALL of the above. Please DO NOT sell the souls of our communities in favor of $$, income for the few Over the detriment of the many EXISTING residents of our community.! Please deny,forbid,and protect our community from the many negative LONG term impacts of this possible reopening. Please acknowledge reciept of my email and request for letter to be part of the public record Thank you Todd Gilson, resident of Grass Valley

From: Todd G <ntgtractor@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine reopening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please make this anti mine reopening Opposition letter a permanent public record. The reopening of the mine will be a public health hazard. Noise pollution, Air pollution, Traffic and congestion increase. Water will be wasted in processing. Water depletion of aquifer. Degradation in quality of life to nearby residents. Decrease in home values to nearby communities. The Nevada City & Grass Valley government/councils primary responsibility is to the Majority of it LOCAL citizens to protect the Health ,Safety & Welfare

of the community. This reopening of the mine is a detriment to ALL of the above. Please DO NOT sell the souls of our communities in favor of $$, income for the few Over the detriment of the many EXISTING residents of our community.! Please deny,forbid,and protect our community from the many negative LONG term impacts of this possible reopening. Please acknowledge reciept of my email and request for letter to be part of the public record Thank you Todd Gilson, resident of Grass Valley

From: Jane Ginsburg
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mining
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:20:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I understand there is consideration to resume 24/7 mining operations at the Idaho-Maryland mine site in Grass Valley. This concerns me greatly.

How is this going to affect traffic, noise pollution, the water table, and air pollution? The thought of blasting going on day and night, the effect of such blasting on the geography of the area, the water table, the noise, the air pollution. What benefit would this bring to the area? I cannot think of anything that would outweigh the damage such a project could do.

The EIR needs to thoroughly and completely address all these factors. I look forward to seeing it.

Thank you.

Jane Ginsburg
12399 Clipper Creek Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

Cell phone: 415-999-8916

From: Annette Glabe <annetteglabe787@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Concerns over reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir:

I have grave concerns over giving permission to open the Idaho Maryland Mine for the following reasons:

- I live just off of Ridge Road & Alta Streets, Grass Valley, and as we all know from the

freeway buffer walls, they only direct the noise upward and outward. 24/7 blasting & drilling in a heavily populated semi rural area (where people have moved for the peace & quiet) is totally unacceptable!

- As when another foreign gold mining concern wished to re-open the Idaho Maryland about 10 years ago, no definite answers were given to exactly how the toxic water waste was going to be adequately treated before discharge into our creeks and rivers. Nor have I been able to find in any proposals where the Mining Companies are guaranteeing full economic responsibility for this water cleanup.

- Also, is there any guarantee that this company will do the proper clean up and restoration of the area after they pull out in a matter of years when gold prices drop below profitable levels (as they have done decade after decade).

Please do not give planning permission to re-open the Idaho Maryland for the above reasons and more!

Thanks you!

Sincerely,
Annette L. Glabe
Homeowner for 17 years
10749 Butte View Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: the karyn
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: seeking EIR/information about Rise mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:13 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,
I found your information on Nextdoor. I am a brand new homeowner on Jones Ridge, just off of Greenhorn, and I've just learned about a potential mine at the end of the street.

I relocated to the area for the peace and natural beauty. I'd like to learn more as this is very close to my new home, and potentially quite disruptive to the environment I've just relocated to.

Best,
Karyn Gladstone

From: Joan Goddard
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Mine heavy industrial project
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:32:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to you with my great concerns about the Rise Gold Mine project. I'm asking you to consider all of the environmental and human impacts that will result with this proposed mine reopening.

Please consider:

* air quality
* water pollution
* noise pollution
* the impact of traffic in Brunswick Basin and on hwy 174
* decrease of land values
* impact on quality of life for nearby residents
* probably much more that I haven't thought about

I love my beautiful community and moved here for a rare quality of life. Projects like Rise Gold threaten that beauty and peace. Please protect that for now and for the future!

Joan Goddard

Sent from my iPad

From: Lance Goddard
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: The Mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:03:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am very concerned about the environmental effects of the proposed Rise Gold project.

The sheer volume of tailings and the truck traffic from the proposed operation will have an immense effect on the community.. The dust, pollution from truck exhaust, and detrimental effect on roadway surfaces must be considered. We are all exposed to noise pollution as a result of many sources in modern day life. The additional noise from the trucks and other operations of the mine will all add to the total. Noise is now recognized as a detriment to human health.

The concern for water table levels does appear to be a major concern. No one knows how it will effect the underground aquifers and the individual wells that rely on underground water for personal use. In addition, the dewatering of the mine will necessitate pumping huge amounts of contaminated water from underground.

We are all aware of the traffic load that has increased over the years here. The idea of adding more, and how it will change the character of the area, has not been discussed to my knowledge.

These are just the tip of the iceberg concerns that must be addressed by any environmental impact report required of the mine owners. I'm sure there are many other areas of concern that must be addressed. This just isn't a sensible business for this area in this time in history. There already exists many hundreds of tons of gold that has already been mined. Let's recycle what we use rather than put additional strain on mother earth.

Thanks for your listening ear.

Sincerely,

Lance Goddard

Dist 1

RECEIVED
AUG 6 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

To: Matt Kelley and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

We are strongly opposed to the re-opening of the mine at the corner of East Bennet and Brunswick. It will cause a major environmental and personal disaster. The loss of our pristine well is not acceptable under any circumstances. This is the outcome of mining operations in Nevada County. Most recently, it happened at the Siskon Gold Mine in N San Juan.

We want new, unbiased studies and reports on all the topics below. This is appalling and should NEVER be considered in a residential area. The mine site is only "light industrial" and should NEVER be rezoned to heavy industrial.

Aesthetics
Agriculture and Forestry
Air Quality
Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
Cultural Resources
Tribal Cultural Resources
Geology / Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Hazards & Hazardous Materials
Hydrology / Water Quality
Land Use / Planning
Mineral Resources
Noise
Population / Housing
Public Services Recreation
Transportation and Traffic
Utilities and Service Systems
Economic Study

Dr. Steven Goldman

Judith Goldman

august 5, 2020

12728 Baccarat Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-272-3120

From: Sadie Gomez
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: BOS Public Comment
Subject: Mine reopening
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:00:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,
I'm writing regarding the planned mine reopening. I'm from out of state and was recently interested in planning a move to Nevada County because my school will be remote for the semester. A Nevada County friend of mine informed me, however, that this mine is planned to reopen. I'd like to bring awareness to this issue and inform you that I no longer wish to move to this county because the effects of this reopening are so undesirable.
Best,
S. Gomez

From: Melanya Gonshorowski
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine please!
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We don’t want this mine in our community. We don’t think it is healthy for ourselves or the animals or the environment. Please don’t allow this. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Janet Goodban <JanetG@aja.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.co.us
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley and the Board of Supervisors,

I have copied below, a great letter that a friend and co-worker sent to you already, but in addition, I wanted to personalize my email to you. The reopening of this mine would devastate this

community, and to what end? So someone can make money usurping our natural resources? Our natural resources are for EVERYONE, not just the greedy and money-hungry few. After watching the video (see below link at the end of this letter), it really hits home as to how detrimental this will be (not might be – it WILL be) to everyone who loves our little piece of paradise here – both locals and visitors alike. Most people who live here, do so because they love the beauty of the land, the wildlife, the peacefulness, the clean air and the clean water. This proposal threatens all of that, and more. I have been coming up to this area for the better part of 45 years, have lived in Alta Sierra for 15 years, and have worked locally for just as long. Even though my own well might not be directly affected by this, I am "downstream" from it and live next to Rattlesnake Creek (it runs across my property). It would be horrific if waste water and other toxins polluted that stream, as well as all the other hundreds of beautiful waterways in our county. Mining is horribly invasive and a threat to the health, safety and welfare of every person who lives here. The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, again and again, the devastating impacts to the community and environment that go hand in hand with this invasive industry. We are still suffering from toxic areas that no one is allowed to use (just one example is Empire Mine), even after over 100 years. The effect that mining has on the environment is devastating and has long-lasting negative effects on not only humans, but the wildlife that we share this beautiful place with. As a wildlife rehabilitator for 14 years, I have personally seen the effects that humans have on wildlife, from shooting, to poisoning, to car strikes, barbed wire, and the list goes on and on. Let's please not add this to the list of preventable sins against the other creatures who inhabit this planet with us.

To fill our beautiful community with the certain noise and air pollution from giant trucks lumbering through the area 24/7 would be unconscionable. They would also wreak havoc on many of the roadways that are already damaged by traffic.

Please still read the below letter, as well, which states it more eloquently and has more detail. And, if you haven't already, please watch the video.

Thank you for listening and I implore you to make the right decision. Do NOT allow this to happen.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)

We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.

The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning

The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.

This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing

impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund cleanup site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still

highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this cleanup is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term effects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds… all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential

impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting its conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making its profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Sincerely,

Janet Goodban
15113 Beeman Ln
Grass Valley CA 95949
530-913-9569

From: Ruth Goodin
To: Matt Kelley; Clerk of Board
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelly, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

We have been a Nevada County resident for 3+ years. We moved to this area because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts and the environment, and compassionate culture.

We are concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are our requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Potential impact of water being contaminated and discharging into Wolf Creek.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The impact of traffic due to tailings being trucked on Highway 20.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Exorbitant use of energy to operate the mine and impact on the area.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Ruth and Darrell Goodin

13958 Hemlock Drive

Penn Valley, CA 95946

Goodin.ruth@gmail.com

From: Dave Gordon
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please don't allow the Idaho Mine project to move forward. I am concerned the mine will diminish the groundwater and nearby wells will run dry. Then the gold mining company will go out of business and homeowners have no access to water.

If that happens will Nevada County government cover the cost of drilling deeper wells and ensuring residents have water?

Gold mining companies have a history or ruining the environment, going out of business, and leaving residents and governments to deal with the damage.

--
Thanks,

Dave Gordon, cell 530-263-4158

This email is created just for you from a customized set of electrons. This arrangement has never existed before and will never exist again. Please consider its uniqueness before deleting it.

From: Sarah Gordon
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Reopening of Idaho Maryland MIne
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:22:41 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly, August 14,2020

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 26 years. My family has lived on Greenhorn Road for 23 years.

Since my neighborhood will be directly affected, I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

The EIR must analyze the full impacts from increased traffic including beyond the immediate area of the mine.

- The impact on noise and vibration resulting from increased truck traffic and 24/7 mining operations
- the impact on air quality from increased emissions from traffic and mining operations

Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
- The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Sarah Gordon
530-575-6350
13847 Toby Trail
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Kelly Gough <kellygough20@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 8:37 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Kelly Gough and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-

Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gough
Resident of Nevada County
Kellygough20@gmail.com

From: Ron Graddy
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: IM Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 4:37:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please vote no on opening up the mine.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jerry Grant
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re Rise Gold mine proposed
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:37 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Kelly, I am writing with great concern for the application and proposed opening of the Idaho Maryland gold mine basically in the middle of a residential section of Grass Valley submitted by Rise GV gold co.
1. This is a shoestring co. trying to generate excitement and appeal to peoples greed with no sense of how it will affect the people in the area and would probably go broke and leave a toxic mess in the middle of our lives here.
2. The constant noise from this project would be heard for miles.
3. All the dewatering will most certainly affect hundreds of wells in the area causing them to dry up.
4. removal of vast amounts of ground water will starve the trees and vegetation exacerbating the already critical fire danger we face in addition to the dry trees rotting from beetle infestation.
5. Trucking all the mine tailings and making a 70 ft high mountain of waste will pollute the air in the entire area.
6. The tax base gained from the mine will more than be offset by the decrease in value of hundreds of homes that would be re- assessed for a lower value.
7. If you lived within 2 miles of the proposed mine site, I couldn't imagine your support for such a venture.
8. I live on Lost Lake, a still toxic area from gold mining nearly100 years ago. Why in the world would we accept a new toxic waste dump in our backyard?
9. The planned building project on Loma Rica would most likly be abandoned further lowering the tax base for GV.
Thank you for consideration in this matter and I look forward to your feedback. Jerry Grant 13105 Alderpoint GV 95945 ph 530-263-8887

Jerry Grant <jerrygrant101@gmail.com>

From:	Bryanna Lamberjack
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Requests to be considered in EIR of Idaho Maryland Mine project
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:31:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 1.5 years. Like many others in the area, My husband and I were drawn to this community because of our love of the foothills and having a rural quiet space to call our own.
I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.
Regarding impact to Water, the EIR should analyze how the areas well systems will be effected and the possibility of the water table being depleted. Also in regards to the de-watering process of the mine shafts, the EIR should assess the possibilities and effects of arsenic, mercury and other byproducts being pumped into our local creeks and waterways.
.The EIR should further analyze:
-How the increase in trailer truck traffic 16 hours per day/7 days per week will not only increase noise in the area but how will it increase air pollution in the area?
-With the planned removal of 1500 tons of waste rock daily, where will all this waste be contained once the proposed areas become full? How will this movement of waste rock effect or environment and the habitats of local wildlife?

Thank you for taking the time to read a few of my concerns, I am hopeful that our county and your team will do their due diligence when it comes to this process. Re-opening the mine will de-value our community and environment and I cannot see any value added attributes to this project.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Bryanna Graydon
14421 Anchor Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	embracelifenow
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on Rise Gold Mine draft EIR
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:29:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley:

I am extremely concerned about Rise Gold's proposal to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine. In the EIR, I'm requesting you have Rise Gold pay for impartial companies that the county hires to report on the following. I read the Rise Gold reports and they are not telling the whole story.

Water: How are you going to address the diminished water table under the meadow at Empire Mine State Park?

How will the pumping of the water diminish our water table and impact our wildlife, natural habitat, our agriculture?

Has Rise proposed getting a water drainage permit? Does a Water Drainage permit need to be issued by the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Control Board? I hear these are hard to obtain, even when there's little impact. In the case of a mine, with such a volume of contaminated water on the outflow, please look into this water drainage permit.

Before the mine can be worked, the water flooding the mine will have to be pumped out. The Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project is inconsistent about how much water they will remove. In one place it says they will pump out 815 million gallons; in another, it says they will remove about 576 million gallons. Either way, that’s a lot of water.

Well Owners: After the mine is dewatered, Rise Gold will pay to have houses along East Bennet Road hooked up to NID if the home owner wishes. But home owners who previously had free well water will have to pay a monthly NID water bill. There are no provisions to provide NID hookups to well owners in other locations whose wells may go dry from the dewatering. Please address this so that this financial and emotionimpact our community is considered in this proposal.

Roads: What about our roads that are not built for this? Have you requested a traffic and public transportation impact study? What about when there is a fire evacuation? How will the mine impact our small town and our traffic flow?

PG& E infrastructure load: How about the PG&E infrastructure? It’s stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. Can the infrastructure handle that? Who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all.

Noise: Have you considered the impact to our community from the Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors?CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and operational noise impacts. The Rise Mine report is biased on this issue.
Construction noise is exempt from Nevada County noise standards, meaning we neighbors will just have to live with whatever noise is generated 24-hours a day for a year-and-a-half.

Endangered Species: What about endangered species?
The Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

Have you asked for a study to be done on the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows.

Air Quality: How are you going to address the decreased air quality/.....or increased air pollution?
The CO2 generated by the mine will affect our air quality. The documents submitted by Rise did not address the air that will be exhausted out of the mine shaft 24/7. We need to get clear impartial reports on the impact on our air.

How are you going to address the air quality issue for the trucks making 100 trips per day

We need to request impartial studies about green house gas emissions as this mine will increase Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons? And the carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

How are you going to address the release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals.

Toxic chemical release: Are you requesting a separate study to be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting?

Hydrogeology and Hydrology: Do you intend to request a new hydro geology and hydrology report to be done? There is no mention of fractures and faults in the geologic description. Groundwater flow is dominated by these fractures, and a good hydro geologist will report this. There must be a new report done for ANY biased reports already submitted by Rise.

Hazards and Fire danger: What about the hazards to our community? Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area.

In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area.

Property Values: What about the property owners who have lived here and owned homes in this area. What consideration are they being given?

Aesthetics of our area: Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported.

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

RISE GOLD'S RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR COMMUNITY

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past.

Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner as the Siskon Gold Mine Disaster in North San Juan Ridge.

Who will pay for that damage?

Sincerely,
Donna Greenberg
po box 1135
Nevada City, CA. 95959

From: embracelifenow <embracelifenow@protonmail.ch>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:36 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Gold proposal to re open the Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors (Dan Miller) :

I am extremely concerned about Rise Gold's proposal to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine. In the EIR, I'm requesting you have Rise Gold pay for impartial companies that the county hires to report on the following. I read the Rise Gold reports and watched their "pitch" to their investors, and they are not telling the whole story.

Water: How are you going to address the diminished water table under the meadow at Empire Mine State Park?

How will the pumping of the water diminish our water table and impact our wildlife, natural habitat, our agriculture?

Has Rise proposed getting a water drainage permit? Does a Water Drainage permit need to be issued by the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Control Board? I hear these are hard to obtain, even when there's little impact. In the case of a mine, with such a volume of contaminated water on the outflow, please look into this water drainage permit.

Before the mine can be worked, the water flooding the mine will have to be pumped out. The Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project is inconsistent about how much water they will remove. In one place it says they will pump out 815 million gallons; in another, it says they will remove about 576 million gallons. Either way, that’s a lot of water.

Well Owners: After the mine is dewatered, Rise Gold will pay to have houses along East Bennet Road hooked up to NID if the home owner wishes. But home owners who previously had free well water will have to pay a monthly NID water bill. There are no provisions to provide NID hookups to well owners in other locations whose wells may go dry from the dewatering. Please address this so

that this financial and emotionimpact our community is considered in this proposal.

Roads: What about our roads that are not built for this? Have you requested a traffic and public transportation impact study? What about when there is a fire evacuation? How will the mine impact our small town and our traffic flow?

----Impact on transportation and Traffic Issues- With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. ----Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied.

----The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

PG& E infrastructure load: How about the PG&E infrastructure? It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. Can the infrastructure handle that? Who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all.

Noise: Have you considered the impact to our community from the Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors?CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and operational noise impacts. The Rise Mine report is biased on this issue.
Construction noise is exempt from Nevada County noise standards, meaning we neighbors will just have to live with whatever noise is generated 24-hours a day for a year-and-a-half.

Endangered Species: What about endangered species?
The Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

Have you asked for a study to be done on the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows.

Air Quality: How are you going to address the decreased air quality/.....or increased air pollution? The CO2 generated by the mine will affect our air quality. The documents submitted by Rise did not address the air that will be exhausted out of the mine shaft 24/7. We need to get clear impartial reports on the impact on our air.

How are you going to address the air quality issue for the trucks making 100 trips per day

We need to request impartial studies about green house gas emissions as this mine will increase Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons? And the carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

How are you going to address the release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals.

Toxic chemical release: Are you requesting a separate study to be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting?

Hydrogeology and Hydrology: Do you intend to request a new hydro geology and hydrology report to be done? There is no mention of fractures and faults in the geologic description. Groundwater flow is dominated by these fractures, and a good hydro geologist will report this. There must be a new report done for ANY biased reports already submitted by Rise.

Hazards and Fire danger: What about the hazards to our community? Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area.

In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area.

Property Values: What about the property owners who have lived here and owned homes in this area. What consideration are they being given?

----severely impact residential property values if they change the zoning from residential/light industrial to "heavy" industrial
----the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes.

----Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue.
----Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

Aesthetics of our area: Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported.

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

RISE GOLD'S RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR COMMUNITY

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past.

Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner as the Siskon Gold Mine Disaster in North San Juan Ridge.

Who will pay for that damage?

Sincerely,

Donna Greenberg
po box 1135
Nevada City, CA. 95959

From: Kira Greene
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 5:08:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

In the four years that I have lived in Grass Valley, I have come to know and love the Yuba river watershed and the ecosystem that depends on it. Having heard of the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine, I find it necessary to inform you of my concerns... the consequences of this mining operation could be devastating (it has been shown, time and time again, what a negative impact mining has on the environment) - not just the immediate surroundings of the mine will be contaminated, but also all the life downstream. I live on Wolf Creek, and read that the treated water would be released into it. It is not just me and my human neighbors that will affected, but all animals and plants that depend on that water for life.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Kira Greene

10911 Wolf Road

Grass Valley, CA 95949

707-396-8636

From:	Linda Greig
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening Project
Date:	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:48:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Linda Greig <lindag6589@icloud.com>
Subject: Comments on
Date: August 12, 2020 at 5:46:38 PM PDT
To: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

17760 Country Circle,
Nevada City, CA 95959
August 12, 2020

Matt Kelley, Sr. Planner
950 Maidu Avenue Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I received a 'Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting' from you, affecting a piece of property that I own that is located at 12628 Crystal Springs Road, Grass Valley. The property is a rental home, currently occupied. It is on a well.

It is inconceivable to me that there is even a chance that the Idaho Maryland Mine might reinstate its operations in the area, as described in the letter. "Thie would be an 80-year permit with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration/mining propsed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during full operations." Up to 100 truckloads a day on the local roads! This sounds like an environmental nightmare, just the kind of thing that was in the grim past of Nevada County.

This ill-conceived project would adversely affect the values of my property and all the adjoining properties within a huge area. The noise impacts, the water fouling, the volume of traffic involved in removing massive quantities of soil, and the disruption of the rural charm which is why I purchased the property.

Without knowing much about the Rise Grass Valley Company, it sounds like they are just hoping that they can sneak this monstrosity by at a time when most of us are just more concerned with keeping our businesses and jobs going, much less trying to avoid contracting the corona virus. The short term profits that this company might realize would be paid for by the devaluation of the local property tax values.

I am not an environmental engineer, I cannot understand all the technical terms in the EIR and I don't think I should have to hire an attorney to protect my property. But I want to go on the

record saying as a property owner, I completely oppose this project. This is California, we have the strongest environmental safeguards in the country, I don't see how this project could even be considered. And yet, here I have to respond to something that threatens the quality and value of my property. I understand that I must submit my comments by August 17th.

Please keep me informed of the progress. I am quite alarmed at the prospect of this awful idea.

Linda Greig

'linda@scanartists.com'

From: griffinbj@mindspring.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comments on pending Idaho-Maryland mind permit
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:57:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a resident whose property is bisected by South Wolf Creek, I write to express my vehement objection to approval of this gold mining operation. Impacts to the creek would be severe due to the extensive dewatering. Riparian habitat, ground water, and wells along this beautiful and currently healthy creek would be immeasurablly harmed in the near term and for generations to come. We are still monitoring Nevada County from the effects of mining operations of the 20th century.

The effect of Coronavirus on the real estate market has been the subject of numerous articles. Residents are fleeing the Bay area and relocating to the foothills. Our county is attracting them because of its beauty, quality of life, recreational opportunities, art and culture, and, most importantly, our clean environment. These qualities would be denigrated by the existence of a mine operation that brings noise, air pollution, water pollution, heavy equipment traffic and use. Greenhouse gas emissions are estimated at 9,000 metric tons per year.

We are wisely spending millions on improving our broadband service, which will attract relocated technology workers and clean businesses to Nevada County. This is where Nevada County's future lies. To allow this mine to be developed and operated is totally antithetical to the success of this endeavor to improve our technological capabilities.

I urge the County to take action to DISALLOW the Idaho-Maryland mine. It threatens to severely and permanently damage South Wolf Creek and, by extension, the entire county. For the sake of those of us who live along this precious resource, South Wolf Creek, and all the residents of our wonderful paradise known as Nevada County, I implore you to stop this atrocity.

B. J. Griffin
16019 Clover Valley Rd
Grass Valley CA 95949
(530) 273-0263
(415) 793-8415 (cell/text)

Delphine Griffith
11010 Gold Hill Dr.
Grass Valley, California, 95945
530-388-6917

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have lived in Grass Valley my whole life and my house is right up the hill from the proposed Idaho Maryland mine project. My home is literally on top of the tunnels of Empire Mine. I have, through many interdisciplinary lenses, studied and looked at the impacts of mining in our ecosystems and community.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I have read and looked through the proposal and outlined below are my questions and analyses of the downfall and negative impacts of the proposed project. I request that these questions be analyzed more fully in the Environmental Impact Report. The EIR should further and more critically analyze:

- The full extent of land degradation and soil erosion due to the excess water extracted from the mine in the dewatering process. Full extent of the environmental impacts of the dewatering storage in the clay-lined pond. Full extent of potential accidents (overflowing/earthquake/forest fire/seepage) that could occur with the clay-lined pond.
- Full water quality and ecosystem assessment of the impact of the dewatering of the mine into the South Fork of Wolf Creek.
- The meadow that is part of the state park and is just below the proposed mine project, is both a Nisenan cultural heritage site and as all Sierra Meadows, a pool of carbon sequestration. How will the potential flooding of the meadow during the dewatering and 80 year operation of the mine impact the carbon and methane sequestration in the meadow? How will you measure that?

- Full investigation and evaluation of the future useability, safety, and toxicology assessment of the impact of the tailings stored at both the Centennial and Brunswick sites.
- How will the tailings in the Centennial site impact the ecosystem and riparian health of the section of Wolf Creek that is within the boundaries of the site?
- How will you measure water quality in terms of the health and presence of macroinvertebrates that are used to indicate water quality and stream health? How will you ensure that the native species (plants, animals, invertebrates, and reptiles) that inhabit both the streams and riparian habitats that pass through both the Centennial and Brunswick sites won't be negatively affected by the mine operations?
- How have the historic tailings dumped at the Centennial site impacted the soil health and groundwater use of the area? And how will adding more tailings increase that impact? What is the plan for future use of that site once the mining operation is completed? Will the community just be left with towers of rock tailings? How will that site be cleaned up for future community use and health during the reclamation process?
- How will the noise created from dumping the tailings impact the businesses and communities around Whispering Pines?
- The report mentions around 300 jobs that will service the mine. How many of these jobs are for the local community? How will you assure that the local community actually gets these jobs? Will you provide training for more technical and skilled work that the local community does not possess? Or if these jobs are for people from out of town, where will they be housed? Will there be housing provided to them? How will this affect the current housing shortage that Nevada County is experiencing? If these out of town workers do not live in the community, how will the creation of a huge commuter population affect the congestion of town traffic? How will that affect the air quality? How will that affect GHG emissions? How will that impact the sense of community in this town?
- How will the proposed project preserve and promote the cultural heritage, economic wealth, and overall health of the Nisenan tribe, given that the meadow and the proposed mine property itself is unceded Nisenan territory?

- How will the proposed mine impact wildfire safety and community resilience?
- How will the hazardous (ammonium nitrate) materials that caused the same and recent explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, be safely stored and ensured that there will be no explosion or leakage?
- Looking at the historical evidence, what assurances will there be that this proposed mining project will not be a repeat of the disasters brought to this community by past mining projects? (Ie. see the tailings below Inglebright dam, the creek in Memorial park closed due to mercury, and the mine shaft in my neighbor's yard that had to be boarded up for safety). How will you ensure that your company will have money at the end of your project to clean up any toxic waste caused by the mining?
- How will you be able to ensure that your mining operation can last 80 years? How will you operate to ensure the health and safety of your workers with restriction and shut downs as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic? How will you deal with the increasing variability and ecosystem stress due to Climate Change that has the potential to disrupt the longevity and prosperity of your mining operation?
- What emissions will be created during the operation of the mine? What emissions will be created during the building of the mine?
- How will you ensure that I will be able to comfortably sleep at night while the operations continue 24/7 round the clock? How far will the noise pollution carry? Will it impact the aesthetics and cultural enjoyability of either Grass Valley or Nevada City downtown areas?
- How will the trucks impact the status and driving ability of the roads in the area?

I would be more than happy to talk with you about my concerns, and I urge you again to hear my strong opposition to this mining project.

Sincerely,
Delphine

From:	Delphine Griffith
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Letter of concern about the Idaho Maryland Mine proposal
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 10:03:14 AM
Attachments:	Letter of concern about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine.pdf

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Attached below is my letter of concern about the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine project. I urge you to listen to your community and understand the destructive impacts of this project.

Best,
Delphine Griffith

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner Nevada County
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us.

Dear sir,

This letter is in response to the recently published Notice of Preparation in regard to the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project submitted by a Canadian mining company through its wholly owned subsidiary, Rise Grass Valley.

I am a resident of Nevada County for some 21 years, having worked as a public school teacher during that time. I have seen previous proposals for mine reopenings and learned firsthand about the significant toxic legacy of mining in this area. So I am concerned about the environmental impacts of an 80 year operation of a gold mine, whose two operational sites would be a mile or less from my home, and whose underground mining operations would be even closer. That being the case, I would like to share specific questions and concerns that would need to be included if the EIR is to address the REAL impacts of such a project and not simply serve the interests of the company making the proposal.

• Impacts to the South Fork of Wolf Creek and the main stem of Wolf Creek need to be fully addressed including

1. The flow of South Fork upstream of the Brunswick site so that the stream is studied in the context of its complete **hydrology** as a creek having its headwaters above the proposed mining operation, instead of one originating out of a culvert.
2. Specific models detailing the **hydrological** impact to the South Fork and the main stem of Wolf Creek both during initial dewatering and ongoing operation. Stream data from Wolf Creek Community Alliance needs to be incorporated as well as data from comparable streams that have been subjected to the level of flooding proposed. Detailed models showing the height and spread of flooding need to be incorporated as well as models showing the interaction of initial or ongoing dewatering with drought and storm events, ranging from the 1 year to the 10 year to the 100 year flood. Such study should also utilize the latest climate projections with its predictions of increased drought and increasingly intense storm events.
3. A detailed inventory of **biological** resources impacted by increased stream flow both in terms of maximum and sustained increases in water flow as well as comparisons with seasonal fluctuations and the connections with such seasonal patterns to affected biota. In other words, to what extent will sustained flooding, or storm plus flooding disrupt the life cycles and viability of impacted species. This should particularly include consideration of benthic macro-invertebrates, insects and fish, but also consider any other impacted species, such as the riparian trees themselves, nesting song birds, and so on.
4. Specific information detailing the **hazards** of potential toxic contaminants that would go into the South Fork and the Wolf Creek watershed and its impacts on **water quality** prior to water treatments both in kind and concentration so that we can understand the impact of such water if proposed treatment is inadequately realized or fails.
5. Detailed analysis of the probable degree of success in the proposed water treatment, including comparisons with similar mining water treatment processes, not just in terms of initial success, but also in terms of operation over time and frequency of toxic release or failure. Our local sewage treatment plant occasionally releases effluent into Wolf Creek in spite of its safety protocols. What would be the likely failure rate and toxic load of the mining water treatment over time?

6. Consideration of the **recreation** and **cultural resource** impacts involved in extensive and long-term alteration of stream flow patterns to the South Fork and the main stem of Wolf Creek. The South Fork flows through two sections of Empire Mine State Historical Park, the first a secluded, forested area with high **biological diversity**, trail access, and significant recreation value, the second a meadow currently being restored as part of a wetlands recovery project as well as being studied through a bird banding project for avian diversity. This meadow section of the park is also open to public visitation, has informal trails, historic value as part of the original 'grass valley' from which the city gained its name, as well as being an historic dairy farm with orchards. There is also ample evidence of visitation and use by indigenous Nisenan people in the form of multiple bedrock mortars. The **cultural resources** of the meadow need to be fully studied (including work by a professional archeologist) and inventoried, considered for their value now and in the future as part of the state park, specifically in terms of the long-term flooding and degradation of the meadow which may result from long-term dewatering. Representatives of the local Nisenan people need also to be consulted to understand the significance of the meadow, the South Fork, and Wolf Creek itself to their people. Area downstream of the South Fork that are on the main stem of Wolf Creek need to also be specifically considered for the impacts of additional, sustained water flow, particularly public and publicly accessible land connected with the Wolf Creek Trail that begins at the North Star Museum.

7. Finally, based on the results of the hydrological impacts studied and the ability to mitigate them limits and thresholds related to volume of water emptied into streams should be proposed along with consequences such as fines or pause in operation, so that there exists a built-in accountability, not simply proposals and promises that the community has no power to address if they are not fulfilled or kept.

- Impacts to **Air Quality** need to be addressed in a comprehensive and wholistic manner.

1. This should start with examination of the potential disruption and release of **hazardous materials** already on the two sites. Models should be prepared that detail the potential impacts of such releases with specific numbers, the practices that would be used to reduce or eliminate such releases, and the thresholds that would be put in place to pause or cease operation until such thresholds are no longer exceeded.

2. Regarding emissions due to mining operations, trucking and placement of tailings, each of these need to be studied specifically for their daily, hourly and long-term impacts, both through models suggesting specific levels and concentrations of release, the extent of their spread through the air shed and the interaction any of these releases would have with existing or projected air quality contaminants such as ozone and particulate matter. In general, mitigation should aim for no net decrease in **air quality**. Any impact to air quality needs to include a full health-impact analysis with regard to health issues such as asthma. Impacts on the food quality of local agriculture need also to be considered. Finally, comparative studies looking at air quality at other mining operations should also be included as well as delineation of the cumulative impact of 80 years of air quality impacts.

3. Reference should also be made to ongoing studies examining why Nevada County has one of the highest **cancer rates** of any county in California and whether the additional hazards created by this proposed mine in air emissions or indeed with toxins transported by other means (water, soil...) might impact negatively that ongoing problem.

- The impact of storing mine tailings on site needs full scrutiny for the presence of **hazardous materials** and consequences to **soil** and future **land use**.

1. Although clearing the sites of existing toxics appears to be proposed in a separate permit, some mechanism should be in place to measure whether those contaminants have been removed before new tailings are deposited.

2. Specifics needs to be detailed explaining how new tailings will be moved and stored in a manner that does not impact the sites anew with bio available toxins. Such procedures should explore ways to periodically test the sites to assure they remain safe and not become a future problem.

3. Study also needs to be made exploring the extent to which toxins in tailing deposits might become **biologically** available through runoff, or through plants or other organisms.

4. The impact of the visibility of large quantity of tailings also needs to be quantified in terms of **aesthetics** and impact on visuals for nearby residences and the greater community.

5. Finally, the impact of future **land use** possibilities need to be defined in terms of reasonable, safe use, and zoning so as to gauge in more detail the long-term impact on the community. Unusable land in danger of becoming a new superfund site (to replace the old one) is a heavy impact on a community. Studies comparing previous examples of mining site reclamation and success rates with both long-term fulfillment of commitments on the part of mining companies and with successful remediation should also be included.

- Use of hazardous materials that are part of the ongoing mining operation need to be clearly delineated with safety protocols that involve the community explicitly outlined.

1. Gold mining involves the use of many toxic or explosive materials. These should be fully accounted for, with quantities of use (per ton of rock? Per day?) included. Safety protocols that include notification and emergency procedures in case of the need of evacuation also need to be discussed and laid out in detail.

- Traffic and Noise impacts need to be fully considered.

1. The proposal as put forward suggests traffic and noise impacts an order of magnitude or two different than current use. Brunswick road already receives a good deal of traffic. Bennett Street currently is much less used. Traffic and noise models need to be developed that clearly show the increases on their own terms, not simply in terms of general projections of community traffic or noise increase over time.

2. Careful traffic models showing frequency of **traffic** and levels of congestion need to be created. These should be compared with standard measures of reasonable or unreasonable traffic with the designation of nearby residential properties in mind. The local community uses these roads to connect with business, friends and necessary travel. The impact of finding them filled with truck traffic needs to be explicitly detailed.

3. The impact of **noise** from mining operation and transport also should not be minimized in any study, but addressed fully in very specific terms, detailing the probable decibel levels at various distances of the operations proposed. Comparative studies of noise levels from other mining sites should be included. Distance and time of day models should be specific as to the varying decibel levels of noise. This should also include consideration of the spikes or patterns of sound, the squeal or pound of devices or vehicles repeatedly resounding. The neighborhood where I live is on a hill where sound is more clearly heard in some senses. Models showing noise impact to residents at differing locations will be essential to understand the impact of operational noise from the proposed mine. Noise impacts should also be addressed in terms of the impact to **recreation** at Empire Mine State Historical Park. Finally, studies need to be referenced and contextualized that take into account the impacts of long-term exposure to higher levels of noise, seeing this as a matter of public health.

4. Related to noise is the impact of **vibration** caused by any or all aspects of the mining operation. Details need to be included that make specific and tangible the level of vibration nearby residents or citizens using nearby roads or public land would experience. From what depths will operations directly or obliquely underground be felt and at what level? How far away will machine vibrations from rock crushing or other procedures be felt and at what level?

- Greenhouse gas emissions also need to considered.

1. Any large, industrial operation will likely be a significant emitter of **greenhouse gases**. In light of state and regional goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions study should clearly quantify the negative impacts of increased greenhouse gas emissions for the proposed mine. How will these impacts be mitigated? And at what economic cost for the county? What legal guidelines will be impacted by these increases? How will the EIR quantify the degree to which this proposal impedes or makes impossible mandated or needed greenhouse gas emission goals?

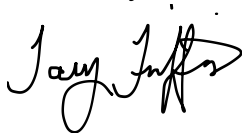
- **Economic and Service Systems** considerations are also important to consider in a wholistic manner.

    1. Any new business opening operation brings the hope of employment and tax revenue. What are the hidden costs of this proposal is the question, though, that needs to be asked. What strain will it place on utilities, roads or energy use? What will be the economic impact for the perceived or real quality of life in our communities? Will the 'image' of Nevada County as an ideal retirement location or a place to raise your family be impacted? By how much? How much will property values go down for those owning property, residential or commercial, nearby? How wide do we expect this circle of depreciation to extend? Over time how will that loss in value or reduction of new residents unfold? What would be the economic loss over time, 10 years, 20 years, 80 years, to individual home owners or to the community? Careful study would indicate a series of scenarios, from the most likely even if all goes well with the mine to the catastrophic if all does not. Mines fail. They are abandoned. Mining companies go bankrupt with no one to fulfill promised obligations. A comprehensive economic study would consider the rates of failure of mining operations as part of a projection of potential economic value or detriment to the community.
    2. Related to this is the question of zoning. Currently, the land owned by this Canadian company is not zoned for mining and they propose changing that zoning. Study included in the EIR should examine the reasons for the current, less-impactful zoning and give weight to its value unless strong argument as to the good of its change for the community can be offered. Master plans and zoning are meant to help create the appropriate mosaic of land use that benefits all and protects those, like myself, who live in residentially zoned areas adjacent to those zones for other, more intensive uses. This study should examine that residential / business / industrial interface as it relates to this proposal to determine the appropriate or inappropriate impacts of changing the zoning of this project to a more intensive use. Comparative study should be employed to see more clearly how other communities have fared when an operation as intensive as this proposed gold mine is situated in such close proximity to residential areas.

This projected mining operation proposes to be here for 80 years. That is a long time and should be accompanied by a very detailed and clear-sighted environmental impact report, one that takes very seriously the potential negative impacts of such a long-lasting project in order to project the community from harm. Cavalier permitting of such proposals based on vague beliefs in the importance of business, tax base or jobs is not enough. Most or all of us living here in Nevada County and calling it home would say it is a special place, rural and quiet enough, vibrant and dynamic enough to be a destination, a place people want to visit or live in. I share these concerns not simply for the good of myself but for the good of the community.

Thank you for giving your heart-felt attention to these concerns and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Gary Griffith
11010 Gold Hill Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	Gary Griffith & Christine Nys
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:33:42 PM
Attachments:	IMM Letter - Issues to Address - ggriffith.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Please find my comments on the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project below, as text in the email and as a pdf attachment.

Thank you,

Gary Griffith

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Dear sir,

This letter is in response to the recently published Notice of Preparation in regard to the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project submitted by a Canadian mining company through its wholly owned subsidiary, Rise Grass Valley.

I am a resident of Nevada County for some 21 years, having worked as a public school teacher during that time. I have seen previous proposals for mine reopenings and learned firsthand about the significant toxic legacy of mining in this area. So I am concerned about the environmental impacts of an 80 year operation of a gold mine, whose two operational sites would be a mile or less from my home, and whose underground mining operations would be even closer. That being the case, I would like to share specific questions and concerns that would need to be included if the EIR is to address the REAL impacts of such a project and not simply serve the interests of the company making the proposal.

• Impacts to the South Fork of Wolf Creek and the main stem of Wolf Creek need to be fully addressed including

1. The flow of South Fork upstream of the Brunswick site so that the stream is studied in the context of its complete **hydrology** as a creek having its headwaters above the proposed mining operation, instead of one originating out of a culvert.
2. Specific models detailing the **hydrological** impact to the South Fork and the main stem of Wolf Creek both during initial dewatering and ongoing operation. Stream data from Wolf Creek Community Alliance needs to be incorporated as well as data from comparable streams that have been subjected to the level of flooding proposed. Detailed models showing the height and spread of flooding need to be incorporated as well as models showing the interaction of initial or ongoing dewatering with drought and storm events, ranging from the 1 year to the 10 year to the 100 year flood. Such study should also utilize the latest climate projections with its predictions of increased drought and increasingly intense storm events.
3. A detailed inventory of **biological** resources impacted by increased stream flow both in terms of maximum and sustained increases in water flow as well as comparisons with seasonal fluctuations and the connections with such seasonal patterns to affected biota. In other words, to what extent will sustained flooding, or storm plus flooding disrupt the life cycles and viability of impacted species. This should particularly include consideration of benthic macro-invertebrates, insects and fish, but also consider any other impacted species, such as the riparian trees themselves, nesting song birds, and so on.
4. Specific information detailing the **hazards** of potential toxic contaminants that would go into the South Fork and the Wolf Creek watershed and its impacts on **water quality** prior to water treatments both in kind and concentration so that we can understand the impact of such water if proposed treatment is inadequately realized or fails.

5. Detailed analysis of the probable degree of success in the proposed water treatment, including comparisons with similar mining water treatment processes, not just in terms of initial success, but also in terms of operation over time and frequency of toxic release or failure. Our local sewage treatment plant occasionally releases effluent into Wolf Creek in spite of its safety protocols. What would be the likely failure rate and toxic load of the mining water treatment over time?
6. Consideration of the **recreation** and **cultural resource** impacts involved in extensive and long-term alteration of stream flow patterns to the South Fork and the main stem of Wolf Creek. The South Fork flows through two sections of Empire Mine State Historical Park, the first a secluded, forested area with high **biological diversity**, trail access, and significant recreation value, the second a meadow currently being restored as part of a wetlands recovery project as well as being studied through a bird banding project for avian diversity. This meadow section of the park is also open to public visitation, has informal trails, historic value as part of the original 'grass valley' from which the city gained its name, as well as being an historic dairy farm with orchards. There is also ample evidence of visitation and use by indigenous Nisenan people in the form of multiple bedrock mortars. The **cultural resources** of the meadow need to be fully studied (including work by a professional archeologist) and inventoried, considered for their value now and in the future as part of the state park, specifically in terms of the long-term flooding and degradation of the meadow which may result from long-term dewatering. Representatives of the local Nisenan people need also to be consulted to understand the significance of the meadow, the South Fork, and Wolf Creek itself to their people. Area downstream of the South Fork that are on the main stem of Wolf Creek need to also be specifically considered for the impacts of additional, sustained water flow, particularly public and publicly accessible land connected with the Wolf Creek Trail that begins at the North Star Museum.
7. Finally, based on the results of the hydrological impacts studied and the ability to mitigate them limits and thresholds related to volume of water emptied into streams should be proposed along with consequences such as fines or pause in operation, so that there exists a built-in accountability, not simply proposals and promises that the community has no power to address if they are not fulfilled or kept.

- Impacts to **Air Quality** need to be addressed in a comprehensive and wholistic manner.

1. This should start with examination of the potential disruption and release of **hazardous materials** already on the two sites. Models should be prepared that detail the potential impacts of such releases with specific numbers, the practices that would be used to reduce or eliminate such releases, and the thresholds that would be put in place to pause or cease operation until such thresholds are no longer exceeded.
2. Regarding emissions due to mining operations, trucking and placement of tailings, each of these need to be studied specifically for their daily, hourly and long-term impacts, both through models suggesting specific levels and concentrations of release, the extent of their spread through the air shed and the interaction any of these releases would have with existing or projected air quality contaminants such as ozone and particulate matter. In general, mitigation should aim for no net decrease in **air quality**. Any impact to air quality needs to include a full health-impact analysis with regard to health issues such as asthma. Impacts on the food quality of local agriculture need also to be considered. Finally, comparative studies looking at air quality at other mining operations should also be included as well as delineation of the cumulative impact of 80 years of air quality impacts.
3. Reference should also be made to ongoing studies examining why Nevada County has one of the highest **cancer rates** of any county in California and whether the additional hazards created by this proposed mine in air emissions or indeed with toxins transported by other means (water, soil...) might impact negatively that ongoing problem.

- The impact of storing mine tailings on site needs full scrutiny for the presence of **hazardous materials** and consequences to **soil** and future **land use**.

1. Although clearing the sites of existing toxics appears to be proposed in a separate permit, some mechanism should be in place to measure whether those contaminants have been removed before new tailings are deposited.
2. Specifics needs to be detailed explaining how new tailings will be moved and stored in a manner that does not impact the sites anew with bio available toxins. Such procedures should explore ways to periodically test the sites to assure they remain safe and not become a future problem.
3. Study also needs to be made exploring the extent to which toxins in tailing deposits might become **biologically** available through runoff, or through plants or other organisms.
4. The impact of the visibility of large quantity of tailings also needs to be quantified in terms of **aesthetics** and impact on visuals for nearby residences and the greater community.
5. Finally, the impact of future **land use** possibilities need to be defined in terms of reasonable, safe use, and zoning so as to gauge in more detail the long-term impact on the community. Unusable land in danger of becoming a new superfund site (to replace the old one) is a heavy impact on a community. Studies comparing previous examples of mining site reclamation and success rates with both long-term fulfillment of commitments on the part of mining companies and with successful remediation should also be included.

- Use of hazardous materials that are part of the ongoing mining operation need to be clearly delineated with safety protocols that involve the community explicitly outlined.

1. Gold mining involves the use of many toxic or explosive materials. These should be fully accounted for, with quantities of use (per ton of rock? Per day?) included. Safety protocols that include notification and emergency procedures in case of the need of evacuation also need to be discussed and laid out in detail.

• Traffic and Noise impacts need to be fully considered.

1. The proposal as put forward suggests traffic and noise impacts an order of magnitude or two different than current use. Brunswick road already receives a good deal of traffic. Bennett Street currently is much less used. Traffic and noise models need to be developed that clearly show the increases on their own terms, not simply in terms of general projections of community traffic or noise increase over time.
2. Careful traffic models showing frequency of **traffic** and levels of congestion need to be created. These should be compared with standard measures of reasonable or unreasonable traffic with the designation of nearby residential properties in mind. The local community uses these roads to connect with business, friends and necessary travel. The impact of finding them filled with truck traffic needs to be explicitly detailed.
3. The impact of **noise** from mining operation and transport also should not be minimized in any study, but addressed fully in very specific terms, detailing the probable decibel levels at various distances of the operations proposed. Comparative studies of noise levels from other mining sites should be included. Distance and time of day models should be specific as to the varying decibel levels of noise. This should also include consideration of the spikes or patterns of sound, the squeal or pound of devices or vehicles repeatedly resounding. The neighborhood where I live is on a hill where sound is more clearly heard in some senses. Models showing noise impact to residents at differing locations will be essential to understand the impact of operational noise from the proposed mine. Noise impacts should also be addressed in terms of the impact to **recreation** at Empire Mine State Historical Park. Finally, studies need to be referenced and contextualized that take into account the impacts of long-term exposure to higher levels of noise, seeing this as a matter of public health.
4. Related to noise is the impact of **vibration** caused by any or all aspects of the mining operation. Details need to be included that make specific and tangible the level of vibration nearby residents or citizens using nearby roads or public land would experience. From what depths will operations directly or obliquely underground be felt and at what level? How far away will machine vibrations from rock crushing or other procedures be felt and at what level?

- Greenhouse gas emissions also need to considered.

1. Any large, industrial operation will likely be a significant emitter of **greenhouse gases**. In light of state and regional goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions study should clearly quantify the negative impacts of increased greenhouse gas emissions for the proposed mine. How will these impacts be mitigated? And at what economic cost for the county? What legal guidelines will be impacted by these increases? How will the EIR quantify the degree to which this proposal impedes or makes impossible mandated or needed greenhouse gas emission goals?

- **Economic and Service Systems** considerations are also important to consider in a wholistic manner.

1. Any new business opening operation brings the hope of employment and tax revenue. What are the hidden costs of this proposal is the question, though, that needs to be asked. What strain will it place on utilities, roads or energy use? What will be the economic impact for the perceived or real quality of life in our communities? Will the ‘image’ of Nevada County as an ideal retirement location or a place to raise your family be impacted? By how much? How much will property values go down for those owning property, residential or commercial, nearby? How wide do we expect this circle of depreciation to extend? Over time how will that loss in value or reduction of new residents unfold? What would be the economic loss over time, 10 years, 20 years, 80 years, to individual home owners or to the community? Careful study would indicate a series of scenarios, from the most likely even if all goes well with the mine to the catastrophic if all does not. Mines fail. They are abandoned. Mining companies go bankrupt with no one to fulfill promised obligations. A comprehensive economic study would consider the rates of failure of mining operations as part of a projection of potential economic value or detriment to the community.
2. Related to this is the question of zoning. Currently, the land owned by this Canadian company is not zoned for mining and they propose changing that zoning. Study included in the EIR should examine the reasons for the current, less-impactful zoning and give weight to its value unless strong argument as to the good of its change for the community can be offered. Master plans and zoning are meant to help create the appropriate mosaic of land use that benefits all and protects those, like myself, who live in residentially zoned areas adjacent to those zones for other, more intensive uses. This study should examine that residential / business / industrial interface as it relates to this proposal to determine the appropriate or inappropriate impacts of changing the zoning of this project to a more intensive use. Comparative study should be employed to see more clearly how other communities have fared when an operation as intensive as this proposed gold mine is situated in such close proximity to residential areas.

This projected mining operation proposes to be here for 80 years. That is a long time and should be accompanied by a very detailed and clear-sighted environmental impact report, one that takes very seriously the potential negative impacts of such a long-lasting project in order to project the community from harm. Cavalier permitting of such proposals based on vague beliefs in the importance of business, tax base or jobs is not enough. Most or all of us living here in Nevada County and calling it home would say it is a special place, rural and quiet enough, vibrant and dynamic enough to be a destination, a place people want to visit or live in. I share these concerns not simply for the good of myself but for the good of the community.

Thank you for giving your heart-felt attention to these concerns and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Gary Griffith
11010 Gold Hill Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Curtis Grout
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Concerns
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 3:29:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have a lot of concerns about the old mine possibly opening back up. The county is already so polluted from the county's mining past, why do we want to bring that back and endanger our families again? I'm also worried about the noise pollution. I live within a mile and a half of the mine and worry that there is going to be so much noise that it will bring my family's quality of life down as well as the property value of my house down.

Why does Grass Valley want or even need this mine to be reopened?

Best Regards,
Curtis Grout

--
CURTIS GROUT
c. 530.277.6099
VIDEO EDITOR
www.hatsoverthewall.com
Narrative & Documentary
Feature Length Films | Television | Branding

To:
Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

The numbered points are my specific areas of concern, which are then followed by the related questions, listed by letter. Feel free to contact me if you should have any clarifying questions.

1. Referring to the dewatering plan and the settling pond. The plan to remove 2,500 acre feet of water in 6 months is much greater than the capacity of the pond (see question 1A). Also, the pond has continued to hold water for years. So given the difference of amount of water coming into the pond and its capacity:
   A) Page 3 states the settling pond has a 40 acre feet capacity and Figure 5 in the NOP states the settling pond has a 30 acre feet capacity. Since even the NOP has contradictory statements, what is the actual capacity?
   B) Is the capacity of the pond sufficient to hold the amount of water from the dewatering process?
   C) At what rate does the settling pond filter water? Does it have the capacity to process the intended amounts of water at the same rate water from the mines will enter the pond?
   D) Figure 5 states it will be used for surge capacity, so how much of the pond needs to be reserved for surge flows at any given time and how will that be ensured?
   E) What happens in the event of overflow from the pond? How is water quality changed in the creek downstream of the pond in the event of overflow or leak?
   F) Does the dewatering process stop when the pond has reached full capacity or a specific threshold?
      -What is the threshold?
      -If dewatering shuts down when the pond is at capacity, what is the mechanism that ensures this?
   G) If dewatering continues in the event the pond is at capacity, how is the remaining effluent treated?

2. The clay-lined settling pond is the main tool for the dewatering process, given the significance and use on the project:
   A) When was the lining last inspected?
   B) The pond has remained full of water for years and consists of large amounts of biotic growth, have these changes (along with time and other disturbances) eroded the pond and its lining and therefore its ability to filter water?
   C) What are the standards for testing water that is first pumped out of old mine?
   D) How is the water exiting the pond tested?

E) What is the baseline for water quality in Wolf Creek that can be used to hold the reopening of Idaho Maryland Mine accountable for large changes? (chemical makeup, temperature, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, presence of materials and chemicals used in mining [i.e. particulates from crushed tailings])
F) How will the water in the pond currently be stored, treated, and/or transported without affecting the watershed during the repair, excavation, and replacement of the pond berm (see Legend note 14, Figure 5)

3. Referring to Legend Note 1, in Figure 5 of the NOP stating, "South Fork Wolf Creek Discharge Point." The existing road to be used for the above ground pipeline is in question:
   A) What is being called an "existing road" is currently a small, rarely used trail. The road may have been a road at some point in time, but does not have the width and compaction needed to be considered a road. Is this suitable to hold a pipeline?
   B) Does the "road" have the capacity to hold a pipeline without having to be re-graded or improved?
   C) If grading or other improvements to the road are required, what materials will be used?
   D) Will heavy equipment be needed to build, install, and maintain the pipeline?
   E) How will this equipment cross the creek and what are the impacts that will have on the creek structure, natural course, water quality, and flora and fauna?
   F) Does the construction of a more suitable road void their current Management Plan for allowance to develop within 100' setback of a Perennial Creek? Or how does it change their Management Plan?

4. Referring to the Storm Water Detention Pond (Note 9 in the Legend of Figure 5, NOP)
   A) How does the capacity of the pond work with the expected runoff during years/seasons of high precipitation?

5. Engineered fill. Since the mine tailings set to be used for the engineered fill are extracted from historic mining site, the fill is likely to have some level of contamination. As evidenced by the contaminated soil already at the Brunswick Industrial Site (page 5, NOP).
   A) How will the engineered fill be tested for contaminants/toxicity levels as it will be stored above Wolf Creek?
   B) What is the procedure if the new tailings test positive for contaminants?
   C) Are there any procedures that guarantee new/higher levels of contaminants are not exposed or will leech into Deer Creek watershed as a result of the new tailings?
   D) Where will contaminated soils/tailings be stored if they are not able to be used for the engineered fill?

6. Paragraph 6 of Sec. L-II 4.3.17 Watercourses, Wetlands and Riparian Areas, states, "A project shall be approved only when it is determined by the Planning Agency that it will not adversely affect any wetlands over one acre, or riparian areas, and that it will result

in no net loss of habitat functions or values of the wetlands or riparian area." And yet the Management Plan calls for building and disturbances within the 100' perennial and 50' intermittent stream high water marks. Given this:

A) Demonstrate how the aboveground pipeline would not interfere or be an obstacle to fauna
B) Demonstrate the construction of the pipeline, pond berm, and other facilities will not flush or disturb animals travel and use of the area.
C) Demonstrate that wildlife is not affected by 24/7 noise and vibration, especially that caused by the operation of heavy equipment.

7. Referring to the Management Plan to allow development within a fault line, or Seismic Hazard Zone.
   A) Is there a guarantee that damage caused by an earthquake will not lead to contaminants, toxins, or other errant materials from the mining facilities and operations to be found in the Wolf Creek?
   B) What are the compounding risk factors of not just building within the previously mentioned riparian setbacks, but also building within a Seismic Hazard Zone?

8. Rise Gold is asking for a Management Plan for six allowances to develop despite setbacks or limitations (Seismic Hazard Zone, slopes in excess of 30% at both sites, setbacks for perennial streams, setbacks for intermittent streams, setbacks for floodplain)
   A) How do these allowances compound to cause a greater risk of disturbing the watershed? For example, should extra precaution be taken when considering development within a 100' setback AND in a Seismic Hazard Zone?

9. Development of tunnels.
   A) How will the wells of neighboring properties be affected?
   B) How will the water table in the surrounding area be affected?
   C) How far from the parcels owned by Rise Gold will vibration and noise be felt or heard from blasting?
   D) Will blasting underground, underneath parcels not owned by Rise Gold jeopardize the stability of structures?
   E) Similar to question 9D above, please include how specific structures of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, Nevada County Air Park, and parts of NID that have critical infrastructure located above the mineral rights boundary for Rise Gold might incidentally or accidentally be affected by blasting, tunneling, etc.?

From: Cody Grout <grout.cody@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Public Comment for Idaho - Maryland Mine proposed by Rise Gold

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I have attached a document with my comments regarding the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold. If for any reason you are unable to open the document, the public comment has also been included in the body of this email, below my signature.

The sentences after each number briefly describe the topic, with the related questions following those, separated by letter. Please confirm you have received my comments when you can. Thank you for your time.

Truly,

Cody Grout

grout.cody@gmail.com

To:
Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

The numbered points are my specific areas of concern, which are then followed by the related questions, listed by letter. Feel free to contact me if you should have any clarifying questions.

1. Referring to the dewatering plan and the settling pond. The plan to remove 2,500 acre feet of water in 6 months is much greater than the capacity of the pond (see question 1A). Also, the pond has continued to hold water for years. So given the difference of amount of water coming into the pond and its capacity:

A) Page 3 states the settling pond has a 40 acre feet capacity and Figure 5 in the NOP states the settling pond has a 30 acre feet capacity. Since even the NOP has contradictory statements, what is the actual capacity?

B) Is the capacity of the pond sufficient to hold the amount of water from the dewatering process?

C) At what rate does the settling pond filter water? Does it have the capacity to process the intended amounts of water at the same rate water from the mines will enter the pond?

D) Figure 5 states it will be used for surge capacity, so how much of the pond needs to be reserved for surge flows at any given time and how will that be ensured?

E) What happens in the event of overflow from the pond? How is water quality changed in the creek downstream of the pond in the event of overflow or leak?

F) Does the dewatering process stop when the pond has reached full capacity or a specific threshold?

-What is the threshold?

-If dewatering shuts down when the pond is at capacity, what is the mechanism that ensures this?

G) If dewatering continues in the event the pond is at capacity, how is the remaining effluent treated?

2. The clay-lined settling pond is the main tool for the dewatering process, given the significance and use on the project:

A) When was the lining last inspected?

B) The pond has remained full of water for years and consists of large amounts of biotic growth, have these changes (along with time and other disturbances) eroded the pond and its lining and therefore its ability to filter water?

C) What are the standards for testing water that is first pumped out of old mine?

D) How is the water exiting the pond tested?

E) What is the baseline for water quality in Wolf Creek that can be used to hold the reopening of Idaho Maryland Mine accountable for large changes? (chemical makeup, temperature, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, presence of materials and chemicals used in mining [i.e. particulates from crushed tailings])

F) How will the water in the pond currently be stored, treated, and/or transported without affecting the watershed during the repair, excavation, and replacement of the pond berm (see Legend note 14, Figure 5)

3. Referring to Legend Note 1, in Figure 5 of the NOP stating, “South Fork Wolf Creek Discharge Point.” The existing road to be used for the above ground pipeline is in question:

A) What is being called an “existing road” is currently a small, rarely used trail. The road may have been a road at some point in time, but does not have the width and compaction needed to be considered a road. Is this suitable to hold a pipeline?

B) Does the “road” have the capacity to hold a pipeline without having to be re-graded or improved?

C) If grading or other improvements to the road are required, what materials will be used?

D) Will heavy equipment be needed to build, install, and maintain the pipeline?

E) How will this equipment cross the creek and what are the impacts that will have on the creek structure, natural course, water quality, and flora and fauna?

F) Does the construction of a more suitable road void their current Management Plan for allowance to develop within 100' setback of a Perennial Creek? Or how does it change their Management Plan?

4. Referring to the Storm Water Detention Pond (Note 9 in the Legend of Figure 5, NOP)

A) How does the capacity of the pond work with the expected runoff during years/seasons of high precipitation?

5. Engineered fill. Since the mine tailings set to be used for the engineered fill are extracted from historic mining site, the fill is likely to have some level of contamination. As evidenced by the contaminated soil already at the Brunswick Industrial Site (page 5, NOP).

A) How will the engineered fill be tested for contaminants/toxicity levels as it will be stored above Wolf Creek?

B) What is the procedure if the new tailings test positive for contaminants?

C) Are there any procedures that guarantee new/higher levels of contaminants are not exposed or will leech into Deer Creek watershed as a result of the new tailings?

D) Where will contaminated soils/tailings be stored if they are not able to be used for the engineered fill?

6. Paragraph 6 of Sec. L-II 4.3.17 Watercourses, Wetlands and Riparian Areas, states, "A project shall be approved only when it is determined by the Planning Agency that it will not adversely affect any wetlands over one acre, or riparian areas, and that it will result in no net loss of habitat functions or values of the wetlands or riparian area." And yet the Management Plan calls for building and disturbances within the 100' perennial and 50' intermittent stream high water marks. Given this:

A) Demonstrate how the aboveground pipeline would not interfere or be an obstacle to fauna

B) Demonstrate the construction of the pipeline, pond berm, and other facilities will not flush or disturb animals travel and use of the area.

C) Demonstrate that wildlife is not affected by 24/7 noise and vibration, especially that caused by the operation of heavy equipment.

7. Referring to the Management Plan to allow development within a fault line, or Seismic Hazard Zone.

A) Is there a guarantee that damage caused by an earthquake will not lead to contaminants, toxins, or other errant materials from the mining facilities and operations to be found in the Wolf Creek?

B) What are the compounding risk factors of not just building within the previously mentioned riparian setbacks, but also building within a Seismic Hazard Zone?

8. Rise Gold is asking for a Management Plan for six allowances to develop despite setbacks or limitations (Seismic Hazard Zone, slopes in excess of 30% at both sites, setbacks for perennial streams, setbacks for intermittent streams, setbacks for floodplain)

A) How do these allowances compound to cause a greater risk of disturbing the watershed? For example, should extra precaution be taken when considering development within a 100' setback AND in a Seismic Hazard Zone?

9. Development of tunnels.

A) How will the wells of neighboring properties be affected?

B) How will the water table in the surrounding area be affected?

C) How far from the parcels owned by Rise Gold will vibration and noise be felt or heard from blasting?

D) Will blasting underground, underneath parcels not owned by Rise Gold jeopardize the stability of structures?

E) Similar to question 9D above, please include how specific structures of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, Nevada County Air Park, and parts of NID that have critical infrastructure located above the mineral rights boundary for Rise Gold might incidentally or accidentally be affected by blasting, tunneling, etc.?

Caroline Groux

421 Stanford Ave

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Em: 421caval@gmail.com

Tel: 831-239-7664

Date: Aug 15th, 2020

Dear Mr Kelly,

I purchased a house near the Union School in Grass Valley, in 2019 in the intent to retire there within 5 years. I did a lot of research in the country before selecting Grass Valley as it offered all the quality of life aspects that I was looking for.

This Idaho- Maryland Mining project is disturbing to me, of course because it is located in the county I purchase a home in and therefore because of the environmental negative implications of such a project but what is even more disturbing to me is that it would impact the quality of life of so many residential residents.

Water- My main concern is specifically about the water report analysis. In 1995, when the San Juan Ridge Mine project was approved, the analysis said it WOULD NOT affect near by wells. 12 of them went dry. So why would it be different right now?

Water treatment plant- What is the current capacity and the implication of the increase of the volume of water needed treatment. The economics of building a larger plant and the impact of costs to residents.

Water- Drinking water availability- Cost of residents from NID to distribute drinking water in the long run.

Fire hazard increase- If sparks can start a fire, the increase of traffic in already high risk fire area would increase the chances. Please include a report that address this issue.

I strongly oppose this project that seems to impact the entire spectrum of Environmental consequences.

Sincerely

Caroline Groux

From:	Caroline Groux
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Letter regarding Idaho- Maryland project
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:14:16 AM
Attachments:	Letter to add to report 20200815.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,

Please see letter attached.
The environmental impact of such a project would be a catastrophe not to mention the impact for the population, that alone should stop the project.
I hope you are on the people side and not on the money side.
Sincerely

--
Caroline Groux
421 Stanford Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Tel: 831-471-5794

DocuSign Envelope ID: 33E5CD72-2575-40CB-9EA2-3B551C888B08

August 11, 2020

Matt Kelley
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Copy sent via email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

SUBJECT: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project; Notice of Preparation; State Clearinghouse No. 2020070378

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for including the Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation (Division) in the environmental review process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project (Proposed Project) Notice of Preparation (NOP). The NOP indicates that Nevada County (County), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed Project.

As described in the NOP, the Proposed Project encompasses two separate project sites, the Brunswick and the Centennial Industrial Sites, totaling approximately 175.34 acres, along with approximately 2,585 subsurface acres to which the applicant and owner (Rise Grass Valley) has the mineral rights. In addition, the Proposed Project would include approximately 0.30 acres of off-site improvements associated with a potable water pipeline easement, which would be located along East Bennett Road in the road right-of-way. The Proposed Project description includes the following elements that have a nexus with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA; Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 2710 et seq.):

- Reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year period proposed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during full operations; operations include:
    - Dewatering of the underground mine workings
    - Exploration and mining of the underground workings once dewatering is complete
    - Construction and operations of aboveground facilities, including processing facilities
    - Development of industrial pad
    - Construction of potable water pipeline
- Evaluate a proposed 80-year Mining Use Permit and Reclamation Plan

DocuSign Envelope ID: 33E5CD72-2575-40CB-9EA2-3B551C888B08

The Division has review responsibilities associated with lead agency implementation of SMARA. SMARA provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy to assure that:

- Adverse environmental effects of surface mining operations are prevented or minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternative land uses.
- Production and conservation of minerals are encouraged, while giving consideration to values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, and aesthetic enjoyment.
- Residual hazards to the public health and safety are eliminated.

The Division's primary focus is on active surface mining operations; however, the Division also addresses issues related to abandoned (pre-1976) legacy mines. Division staff has reviewed the subject NOP pursuant to the CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines and offers the following comments at this time:

- Under the NOP section heading "Project Approvals" please add the requirement under SMARA for the County to submit the Reclamation Plan or the Financial Assurance Cost Estimate (FACE) to the Division for review and comment.
- Division staff will provide comments on the Reclamation Plan for this proposed mining activity once the Division receives the complete Reclamation Plan and any supporting documents along with the statement from the County that certifies the submission as complete and in accordance with PRC Section 2772.1(a)(3)(A-C) .
- Division staff will provide comments on the FACE for the Proposed Project in accordance with PRC Section 2773.4(a-c).

The Division requests to be included on the distribution list for this Proposed Project. Additionally, the Division requests that any subsequent project documents (e.g., the Draft EIR, hearing notices for the Draft and Final EIRs, and any supplemental environmental documents), as well as a copy of the certified Final EIR, be sent to the Division at DMR-Submittals@conservation.ca.gov or the mailing address on the bottom of page 1 of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 323-9198.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Carol E. Atkins
73ECCB6738194DA...

Carol E. Atkins, Manager
Environmental Services Unit

ec: State Clearinghouse, state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Department of Conservation, Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, OLRA@conservation.ca.gov

From: Grove, Carina@DOC <Carina.Grove@conservation.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Atkins, Carol@DOC <Carol.Atkins@conservation.ca.gov>; state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov; OLRA@DOC <OLRA@conservation.ca.gov>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland NOP SCH 2020070378

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Matt,

Please see the attached letter regarding the Department of Conservation - Division of Mine Reclamation's review of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Notice of Preparation SCH No. 2020070378. You may contact me, or Carol Atkins with questions at 916-323-9198.

Carina Grove
Environmental Scientist, Environmental Services Unit
Division of Mine Reclamation

California Department of Conservation
801 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
T: (916) 324-0718
E:Carina.Grove@conservation.ca.gov

From: Ross Guenther
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comments and Concern on the Draft EIR by Rise Gold on the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:56:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I think the presentation by Rise Gold for the draft EIR was done reasonably well. However, I am concerned about potential environmental impacts regarding the stability of the “engineered fill” that includes a substantial amount of mill tailings.

Thanks for your request for comments and concerns,

Ross Guenther

rossguenther@comcast.net

CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
Community Development Department
Thomas Last, Community Development Director

125 East Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Building Division
530-274-4340
Planning Division
530-274-4330
530-274-4399 fax

August 5, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner via email
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: NOP for the CUP and Reclamation Plan for the Rise Grass Valley mining project.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Though the City is perplexed why the NOP has been released when the application is still incomplete, we offer the following comments in response to the NOP. Furthermore, since the application is incomplete and there is a possibility that the project description could change, the City reserves the right to provide additional comments on the scope of the EIR once the application is complete.

1. Since December 2019, the City has provided a consistent request on multiple occasions to the applicant that we expect them submit a conceptual application to the City so we can provide a formal response on the annexation/lead agency question. This approach is supported within the City/County Tax Share Agreement, the City/County MOU on joint land use planning in the sphere of influence, and by County General Plan Policy 1.8.4. To date, the applicant has been unwilling to follow the City's and County's process for review of projects within the City Sphere of Influence.
2. The EIR must address service impacts on the City fire and police services. Due to mutual aid agreements with respective agencies and because of the location of City facilities, this project will have a significant impact on both police and fire services. It is likely that some of the buildings will need to rely on the City's fire apparatus (ladder truck) and the project needs to ensure access to those structures.
3. The EIR must address noise and vibration issues caused by underground blasting and above ground activities that could impact existing high-tech companies in the Whispering Pines area.
4. The EIR must adequately address the treatment of stormwater runoff and mine dewatering that leaves the site and eventually travels into the City limits.
5. Since the project proposes to dewater the mine and place it into the South Fork of Wolf Creek, the EIR must address the flooding and storm drain system issues associated with the increase in water flows into this creek and on the City infrastructure. There are several areas in the City that already experience flooding issues and adding more water into this creek must be addressed.

6. The EIR must address the traffic impacts to City roads. There are multiple intersections and road segments that will be impacted. Additionally, the EIR must address site distance issues and other safety concerns with the proposed haul route.
7. The City's General Plan shows a connecting road between Bennett and Idaho-Maryland Roads. The EIR needs to address this issue re the planning and potential realignment of Centennial Road with Springhill Road.
8. The City has concerns with the proposed truck routes to the Centennial Industrial site and impacts on City roads. The City will require a tonnage fee or other mechanism to be placed on the project to ensure proper long-term maintenance. The transport of material 16 hours a day 7 days a week will conflict with City noise limits for typical construction projects. The residents along Brunswick road could be severely impacted by the constant noise of trucks.
9. The EIR needs to address the decrease in water flows into Wolf Creek from the shaft along Idaho-Maryland Road created by dewatering.

If you have any questions, please call me at 274-4711 or email at toml@cityofgrassvalley.com.

Sincerely,

Thomas Last
Community Development Director

CC: Tim Kiser, City Manager

From: Tom Last <toml@cityofgrassvalley.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 3:43 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Tim Kiser <timk@cityofgrassvalley.com>
Subject: NOP comments for Rise

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,

Attached are the City's comments. Please confirm you have received.

Thanks

Thomas Last | Community Development Director
City of Grass Valley | Community Development Department | 125 E. Main Street | Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (530) 274-4711Email: toml@cityofgrassvalley.com | Web: www.cityofgrassvalley.com

From: Hillary Haas <haas.hillary@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Steve Haas <stephenc.haas@gmail.com>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

8 August 2020

Hillary Haas
Stephen Haas
11877 Incline Shaft Rd.
Nevada City CA 95959

530.913.3947

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We have lived in Nevada City since 1992. Like all of us in the county, we treasure its natural beauty. We are committed to music and the arts and the general compassionate nature of the county.

We are vary concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells sitting and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights. Although the EIR won't be able to analyze diminished housing values in the area, it is a very real and important consideration that the Planning Department carefully think about, as well.

The EIR should also analyze:

—The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.
—The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
—The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
—The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80-year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
—A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well remediation.

The EIR will not take be able to measure the considerable emotional and physical toll on neighboring landowners. This is one of our major concerns. I hope that it is one of yours, as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hillary and Steve Haas

August 10, 2020

Dear Matt,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on DEIR prep for the Idaho Maryland Mine permit application. I did review the scoping "meeting" from July 27, I was very disappointed by the lack of discussion or any opportunity for the public to ask questions and request clarification. I assume this was "legal" as far as CEQA goes, but it seems a little shady on the part of the county not to allow the public to ask informal questions about the process and project.

One question/comment I would have been made after listening to the speakers: I came away with the impression that that Rise Gold's submitted technical reports will be used to evaluate the environment impact. We do not trust them, consultants they hired prepared the documents. Neutral third parties should be used on this project evaluation.

Rise gold has spent zero time trying to engage the community and tells investors that it is a slam dunk with the county decision makers. We hope this is not true. This project will have a negative impact on all of us and the environment. The community hopes that the current COVID issues due not inhibit our right to attends meetings to discuss this matter once the DEIR is published. Any attempts to "fast track" the project will be met with strong opposition. We are highly motivated and organizing to push back.

I have done my best to summarize my concerns that I'd like considered in the DEIR:

Suitability of Company/Competence of CEO:
- Rise Gold is a Junior gold mining company that has been pretty loose with the truth, why should we trust this company with our lives, investments, and environment?
- The last project Ben Mossman (Banks Island) ran incurred $1.6M in clean up costs. The community was left with paying over $1.1M to clean up what he did to that community. Reasonable questions to ask include: What lessons do we learn from Ben Mossman's last company? Is Ben Mossman capable of running this mine?
- Will a Bond be required to ensure that there is enough money for clean up if they damage the environment ?

Suitability of the mine for the community:
- It is impossible to see how this mine will fit into our community without destroying what we currently have. A clear case for the cultural, historical, economic, and environmental benefits needs to be made.

Superfund clean up site:
The Centennial site and any other discovered polluted locations need to be cleaned up before any work starts on the mine. We have no basis to trust Rise or Ben Mossman. In fact, it should be a criteria for even considering approval of the mine reopening. Managing clean up and mine construction will be a conflict, it is best to finish the work before moving on to anything else. In fact, why aren't they doing it right now??

Previous DEIR:
- Will the findings in the DEIR from Emgold's attempt at opening the mine be compared with this new DEIR?

Agriculture and Forestry
- Is forest fire an increased risk during construction and operation and how would it be mitigated?
- The impact on animals from noise of transportation and blasts and water deprivation needs to be studied
- The impact of loss of ground water supply for the surrounding forests needs to be studied.

Biologic resources:
- The impact on habitats downstream from the dewatering needs to be studied. This includes contaminants freed in the streams due to the increased flow, erosion, flooding, etc.. the impact down to the Sacramento Valley should also be evaluated.

Greenhouse gases/Pollution:
- Greenhouse emissions during construction and operation need to be studied closely. This includes any additional emissions due to commuters.
- Grass Valley already has poor air quality. Ozone and particulates keep many people inside on certain days. Truck and machinery exhaust needs to be studied, and need to be based on worst case scenarios when typical pollution and inversion layers are at peak.
- Dust generation (chemicals and particulates) due to tailings dumping and compaction need to be studied, especially where adjacent to residential communities.
- Dust and contaminate release from blasting: The contaminates and their concentrations due to blasting need to be studied.

Utilities and power:
- What is the percentage of renewable energy to be used for this project?
- Since it sounds like the power consumption will be equivalent to 5000 homes, what are the implications to the power transmission systems in the area?
  - Will this limit adding badly needed housing in the area?
  - Will new power lines need to be routed to the mine site?
    - What about a power substation?
    - If so, what path will the power lines take?
    - Who will pay for the upgrades and maintenance? Not us ratepayers, we hope!
- Is the trade off of using so much energy so so little gold that benefits no one in the area a good one????

Lighting:
- We live in the Foothills because of its beauty in day and night. Studies need to be performed on light pollution impact on surrounding homes.

Economic:
- What is the net economic impact to the community?
- The impact on home values needs to be evaluated. Will a bond be provided to compensate those home owners that lose home value?
- Many people will need to move if the mine is approved. Can the community tolerate the economic impact of an outflow of residents due to this mine construction and operation?
- How many **local** jobs of the 320 jobs will be added?
  - Where will the other employees come from? Are they commuters or all they need homes?
  - If they will live here what will the impact on schools and other resources be??
- Are “dirty” industries the direction our community should be taking?
  - Will the mine keep high tech business out of the area due vibration, noise, etc?

Hydro-geology:
- Water is a very important natural resource. It makes no sense to pump it out of the ground and flood our creeks and rivers. How will the trade off between mining a few ounces of gold and ruining our water supply be made?
- Rise's technical report is incomplete and glosses over the potential impact of dewatering the mines. A through study needs to be done to ensure the full scope of dewatering is well understood. The Siskon Gold mine failure in North San Juan is a good lesson to review.
- Will Rise be required to hold a bond to cover anticipated damages such as dewatering 100s of wells.

Hydrology:
- Impact of water flow due to dewatering needs to be studied on Wolf Creek. This includes scenarios where the creek exceeds flood stage due to rain while dewatering is being performed. Also legacy contaminants along streams will be released during the dewatering, the impact of this needs to be examined.
- The tailings dumps will change the terrain and drainage paths. What will the impact of these man made mountains be on the environment?

Aesthetics:
- Bennet and Brunswick is a scenic area, how will the project fit into the setting without being an eyesore?
  - Will we be able to see the tailings dumps from the road?
- Address the compatibility of a heavy industrial operation placed in the middle of quiet residential neighborhoods.
- How will this mine impact tourism in the area?
- Head-frame and other buildings need to have variances for height. 165 ft. is too high and will stick out
- The scar caused by the Cedar Ridge dump site needs to be shown as a before and after so the community can get a sense of the scope of damage.

Zoning:
- Rise proposes to rezone the Brunswick site to heavy industrial. The proper land use for this area needs to be carefully considered given that established residences surround this site. Bottomline: Is heavy industrial correct land use for this mine?

Public Safety
- Are there enough hospital and other medical resources in case of an emergency?
- Are any extra staffing needed in public safety (fire, etc)? if so, how will it be paid for?
- What is the impact on escape routes during a disaster such as forest fires?

Noise:
- What sound and vibration will neighbors located over mine tunnels hear and feel? Stating there are "limits" to the noise level is worthless, when you're used to birds and frogs even muffled blasts will be unacceptable to us.
- Noise from truck and tractor use in our community?
- What about noise from stamp mills? How much and how long?
- Can we see a map of sensor placement used for studying noise in residential areas?
- Measure sound level from the closest points of residential properties to the noise sources.

Tailings Disposal:

- What is the proposed access point to the Cedar Ridge dump site?
- How close will the Cedar Ridge dump site be to residences?
- What is the scope of tree removal and impact on any habitats?
- When the local tailings sites are full, where is the new dump site?
- How much dust will be in the tailings as it is dumped, graded, and compacted? What are the constituents of the dust and will it cause damage to the environment or humans?

Traffic

- Exactly how much construction and truck traffic will be on Highways 174 and 49?
- Traffic signals:
  - Will traffic signals be required at Brunswick/174, Brunswick/Bennett and/or Brunswick/Centennial?
- With much additional truck traffic, what is the road improvement and maintenance plan?
- Will traffic studies be done down in Glenbrook Basin?
- Will this mine limit escape during forest fires?

Hazards:

- Explosives and dangerous chemicals will be transported to the mine site and stored there, Studies on the risk of transporting and storing these materials in the middle of residential neighborhoods need to be performed
- Geological formations are complex and often unstable. How will Rise Gold guarantee that those of us living above the mine will not suffer damage to our surface property and homes?

This project is the last thing our community needs right now. We are all under enough stress. Rise Gold has put no effort into reaching out to the community and has actually shown they can be combative in Mossman's response to complaints about test drilling last year. I have no reason to believe they will be a good neighbor. To consider a project like this in a residential zone, with issues like climate change, water shortages, fires threatening us seems crazy.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Don Haislet
11364 Cedar Ridge Dr
Grass Valley, CA 95945
dhaislet@comcast.net

From: Don Haislet
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine DEIR Scoping
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:42:19 PM
Attachments: Mine DEIR input Haislet- 081020.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt- my input for the scoping questions is attached. Lots of interest in the community, hopefully you're getting some useful input and interesting questions.

Have a good day.

Regards,

Don Haislet
Cedar Ridge

From: Suzanne Hall <3zanadana3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to voice my strong disapproval of reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine. There are so many serious issues that I can't focus in on any one objection, but my concerns include:

- 24/7 underground blasting and tunneling.
- 6am to 10 pm hauling away of mine tailings
- Mine tailings dump at the end of Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver road.

• Extraordinary Noise Pollution - no one in the quiet community will get any sleep.
• Toxic Chemical storage in our back yard
• Wells threatened due to excessive water use and pollution.
• Serious drop in property values surrounding the industrial complex.

• Rise Gold is a company with a sketchy history, who like many out-of-area developers, will benefit greatly and leave Nevada County with their mess. This isn't about bettering Nevada County; it's about making a few people wealthier, none of them residents.

Suzanne Hall

Nevada County Resident, 27 years

All this for an estimated 70 jobs for the local community

PAMELA DISQUE HALL, DC
14981 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
pdhall8@icloud.com
530-477-1829

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley – By Delivery & Email

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I've lived in Nevada County for 35 years, from 1975 to the present, excepting a 10-year stay in the S.F. Bay area. I live on Greenhorn Road, 2.25 miles from the main processing center of the proposed Rise Gold Mine. I've continued to live here because of the abundance of natural beauty, the thriving artistic and literary community and the extensive locally grown and raised organic food.

Out of the vast number of threats Rise Gold portends for our community, and environs, I've chosen to focus my questions on the so-called Tailing Piles.

* Both tailing piles will go up to 70 feet in height, covering a total of 41 acres at the Centennial site and 31 acres extending from the main Brunswick mine area down along Brunswick Road. These would not be mere "piles"; they would be mega-mausoleums, commemorating what once was a vibrant cultural community in one of California's prime gems of nature.

* Would these toxic mausoleums be visible from the hospital, our junior college, business areas, residential areas, and along both Brunswick Road, and Highway 49, two of the four major approaches to our once beautiful community?

* Would this create an ominous architectural signature for our area?

* Would their height, in the event of an earthquake, create an unstable structure that could fall onto surrounding areas, causing devastation and death of people, animals, and vegetative life?

* Would the immense weight of these toxic mausoleums cause catastrophic collapse of the underling mineshafts, causing death and injury of people, animals and destruction of property?

* Could such a collapse, create it's own earthquake, causing further damage and deaths in the surrounding area?

Soil samples of the legacy tailings currently at the Centennial site show contamination from arsenic, cobalt, barium, mercury, thallium, chromium, copper, lead, zinc, cyanide, vanadium and nickel.

* Wouldn't the same toxins be found in the RG mine tailings?

* Would the great height of the tailing mausoleums increase the interaction with the wind blowing around and through them, causing toxins and particulates to create toxic smog and fallout?

* How far could the wind carry these toxins? Would there be a toxic metal dust covering our community?

* Would residents have to purchase air filters and frequently vacuum their interiors in an effort to feel clean and safe from contaminated air?

* Would there be a toxic powdery residue in our near by lakes, rivers, streams and *irrigation ditches*?

* Would the height of the toxic mega-mausoleums increase interaction with rain and snow, causing increased toxic dispersal into ground water, and Wolf Creek?

* Would these toxic residues sicken and kill humans, vegetation, wild animals, pets, horses, and farm animals?

* Would our organic farmers lose their organic certification because of contamination with toxic metals produced by the Rise Gold's toxic mega-mausoleums?

* Would those farmers then go bankrupt, perhaps lose their farms?

* Would people commit suicide because of the ongoing, ever increasing multifaceted devastation caused by the two toxic tailing mausoleums?

* Wouldn't the adverse health effects be greatly increased compared to the previous Idaho-Maryland mine, because of the massive increase in size of the toxic tailing mausoleums?

* Are there any scientific studies or data, of the health effects of the legacy tailings at the Centennial site that could be used to project the increased negative health and environmental devastation of RG's two toxic mega-mausoleums?

* Would the increased toxins in our air and water produced by Rise Gold's tailing mausoleums effect tourists?

* Would tourists choose to avoid our toxic area? Would the loss of tourism devastate our once thriving economy?

Sincerely,

Pamela D. Hall, D.C.

Cc: Ms. Hall, Board of Supervisors

From:	pamela Hall
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Comments in Opposition to Canadian Company"s proposal to Open Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 1:59:17 PM
Attachments:	Opposition to Rise Gold Opening Toxic Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

PAMELA DISQUE HALL, DC

14981 Greenhorn Road

Grass Valley, CA 95945

pdhall8@icloud.com

530-477-1829

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley – By Delivery & Email

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I’ve lived in Nevada County for 35 years, from 1975 to the present, excepting a 10-year stay in the S.F. Bay area. I live on Greenhorn Road, 2.25 miles from the main processing center of the proposed Rise Gold Mine. I’ve continued to live here because of the abundance of natural beauty, the thriving artistic and literary community and the extensive locally grown and raised organic food.

Out of the vast number of threats Rise Gold portends for our community, and environs, I’ve chosen to focus my questions on the so-called Tailing Piles.

* Both tailing piles will go up to 70 feet in height, covering a total of 41 acres at the Centennial site and 31 acres extending from the main Brunswick mine area down along Brunswick Road. These would not be mere “piles"; they would be mega-mausoleums, commemorating what once was a vibrant cultural community in one of California’s prime gems of nature.

* Would these toxic mausoleums be visible from the hospital, our junior college, business areas, residential areas, and along both Brunswick Road, and Highway 49, two of the four major approaches to our once beautiful community?

* Would this create an ominous architectural signature for our area?

* Would their height, in the event of an earthquake, create an unstable structure that could fall onto surrounding areas, causing devastation and death of people, animals, and vegetative life?

* Would the immense weight of these toxic mausoleums cause catastrophic collapse of the underling mineshafts, causing death and injury of people, animals and destruction of property?

* Could such a collapse, create it’s own earthquake, causing further damage and deaths in the surrounding area?

Soil samples of the legacy tailings currently at the Centennial site show contamination from arsenic, cobalt, barium, mercury, thallium, chromium, copper, lead, zinc, cyanide, vanadium and nickel.

* Wouldn’t the same toxins be found in the RG mine tailings?

* Would the great height of the tailing mausoleums increase the interaction with the wind blowing around and through them, causing toxins and particulates to create toxic smog and fallout?

* How far could the wind carry these toxins? Would there be a toxic metal dust covering our community?

* Would residents have to purchase air filters and frequently vacuum their interiors in an effort to feel clean and safe from contaminated air?

* Would there be a toxic powdery residue in our near by lakes, rivers, streams and *irrigation ditches*?

* Would the height of the toxic mega-mausoleums increase interaction with rain and snow, causing increased toxic dispersal into ground water, and Wolf Creek?

* Would these toxic residues sicken and kill humans, vegetation, wild animals, pets, horses, and farm animals?

* Would our organic farmers lose their organic certification because of contamination with toxic metals produced by the Rise Gold’s toxic mega-mausoleums?

* Would those farmers then go bankrupt, perhaps lose their farms?

* Would people commit suicide because of the ongoing, ever increasing multifaceted devastation caused by the two toxic tailing mausoleums?

* Wouldn't the adverse health effects be greatly increased compared to the previous Idaho-Maryland mine, because of the massive increase in size of the toxic tailing mausoleums?

* Are there any scientific studies or data, of the health effects of the legacy tailings at the Centennial site that could be used to project the increased negative health and environmental devastation of RG's two toxic mega-mausoleums?

* Would the increased toxins in our air and water produced by Rise Gold's tailing mausoleums effect tourists?

* Would tourists choose to avoid our toxic area? Would the loss of tourism devastate our once thriving economy?

Sincerely,

Pamela D. Hall, D.C.

Cc: Ms. Hall, Board of Supervisors

From: Pauli Halstead
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:53 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly;

I am a resident of Nevada City and concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine resuming operations in the middle of Grass Valley, particularly the negative impacts for those who live or work close to the mine. The negative impacts would be toxic mine residue, increased noise and traffic issues.

I have been aware of all the mining operations across the United States and how they have contributed to pollution, health risks, and environmental degradation. The fact that this mine is in the middle of town is too risky. In the past, even though mining companies were supposed to clean up after themselves, this has proven not to be the reality. We cannot, in good conscience, allow the potential of toxic mine residue to pollute our communities. This would be negligence on the part of the County to allow it.

Therefore I ask you to stop any further negotiations with the mining company.

Sincerely,

Pauli Halstead

--
Pauli Halstead
423 South Pine St.
Nevada City, Ca 95959
home: 530-265-6704

From: Tisha Hamberlin
To: Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: Mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 5:58:38 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The Hamberlins, Darren and Tisha

14535 La Noria court

Grass valley, Ca 95945

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have lived here nearly my entire life. I'm an NU alumni and a participating member of this community and retired educator at Union Hill (as you know.) My husband is very involved as a county employee. We love this community.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Namely, the water table as it is so very close to my well. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

Regarding aforementioned water, the EIR should analyze the level of containments my family and livestock would be exposed to, the long term effect on the water table, the plan to deal with such a problem in the worst case scenario, and any other issues this educator might not be able to think to ask about as this is all new and scary to me. I know I should probably be concerned with the air quality and safety as well, so feel free to ease my concerns in this area.

In addition, I am interested in learning about the traffic impact at the most used intersection in my day- greenhorn and Idaho Maryland. What problems could arise?

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have or to learn more about this. At this point in time, I am very worried and pray that this mine doesn't open.

Sincerely,

Tisha Hamberlin, and co.

P.S- Please give your lovely family a hello and hug from Mrs. Hamberlin!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Reed Hamilton
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:54 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Reed Hamilton
13310 Nannas Way
Grass Valley, CA 95949
530-210-4216

Dear Mr. Kelley

I moved here 37 years ago because I wanted to live in the beautiful Sierra in a community with arts, music, culture in a small town setting. I have been around for all the attempts to open the San Juan Ridge mine and the previous attempt by EmGold to open the Idaho-Maryland site. I have seen the destructive effects of approved mine openings and the irresponsibility of mining corporations, so I am deeply skeptical when any gold mining operation is proposed.

I have a number of specific concerns about the Rise Gold proposal.

1. What will be the environmental and water height effects of discharging huge amounts of water into Wolf Creek. Years of work by local citizens have transformed the creek into a community amenity which could be easily destroyed.

2. What will the cumulative effects on air quality be with year-round, daily blasting and 100-trip-per-day truck traffic. Our county already has poor air quality due to downstream effects from the Valley and increasing wildfire smoke.

3. How will noise and traffic hazards from trucks and employee cars be mitigated to avoid all harm to existing residents of the community.

Mining companies always cite the employment benefits of their operation as compensating for damage to community assets like clean air and quiet. Usually the benefits are greatly exaggerated and temporary while the damage is permanent. I think it is incumbent on the company to clearly indicate how they will cause only minimal disruption.

Thank you

From: D Hammes <gvranch24@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 1:07 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Gold Mine IN FAVOR of negative impact EIR

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Kelly,
I am in favor of Rise gold reopening this underutilized gem that is called the Idaho Maryland Mine. Opponents will always cry and whine about a profitable venture taking place anywhere in Nevada county.
I for one would welcome more jobs in Nevada county.
I've been here for 60+ years and well remember the noisy/smokey 24/7 lumber mills that

occupied 3 locations along East Bennett Rd and they were well accepted and understood by the neighbors.
Open the Idaho Maryland!
Douglas Hammes

--

From: Richard Hansen
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine Imput
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Open the mine. Make sure they follow the laws, so they won't have problems. It can't any worse than dumping mercury and strip mining that was done in the past.

From: wearethebeloved@aol.com <wearethebeloved@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Gold mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
Given that opening the mine will affect property values create noise pollution, impact groundwater and possibly dry up wells, in addition to other possible toxic impacts to our environment, I am deeply opposed to the opening of the mine.
Sincerely,
Savannah Hanson

From: John Hardesty & Anne Moore, Attorneys at Law, P.O. Box 1600, Nevada City, CA 95959

August 6, 2020

Board of Supervisors, Nevada County
mailto:bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us
ATTN: Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
mailto:matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Idaho-Maryland gold mine

Dear Fellow Citizens:

We (my wife, Anne Moore and I, John Hardesty) write in opposition to the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland gold mine.

We live off Greenhorn Road about 2 miles from the intersection with Brunswick. We have lived here for 25 years and raised our daughter, a graduate of Nevada Union, on our beautiful forested land.

We endorse the letter of Tony and Lauren Lauria (attached below).

In 1999, my wife (Anne Moore), the first female public defender in the county, blew the whistle on the Nevada County Public Defender's Office, which was failing to uphold its duty to clients. We took the case to the public through *The Union* and directly to the Board of Supervisors.

After Board hearings and a comprehensive evaluation by the California Public Defenders Association, the head Public Defender was fired.

In 2000, we filed a lawsuit against the County on behalf of Anne Moore, who was harassed and constructively fired by the previous Public Defender after she went public. The lawsuit went to trial and in the fall of 2001 a Nevada County jury found for Anne and Nevada County had to pay a very substantial award for damages.

This proposal to reopen gold mining in Nevada County will almost certainly cause damages to large numbers of local citizens. How can that be in the interests of our county? What are the benefits to offset the potentially enormous costs listed in the Lauria's letter? Does the world need this gold? Isn't it clear that there is a high risk that the potential damages will far outweigh the slight gains in jobs or property taxes? There will be lawsuits.

We strongly urge you to OPPOSE this project.

Truly Yours,

Anne V. Moore
John Hardesty
(530) 477-1848, Email: anne@goldflat.com

ATTACHMENT- Letter from Tony & Lauren Lauria

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive

study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs

are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Tony & Lauren Lauria
13784 Greenhorn Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-913-6106

-----Original Message-----
From: John Hardesty <john@goldflat.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 5:27 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: RE: Proposed Idaho-Maryland gold mine reopening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

See attached letter.

From: Ken Hardin
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine project
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:08:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I would like to note my strenuous objection to the proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland mine.

Any possible economic benefits to our communities would be far outweighed by the large number of negative impacts that would be imposed on our small towns - the increased volume of truck traffic, noise pollution, air and water pollution, etc.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all of us in Nevada County.

Ken Hardin
13312 Long Valley Rd.
Penn Valley, CA 95946
kjhardin@yahoo.com

From: Julie Hardin
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I strongly object to the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

The environmental and negative social impact on our community would be a long-term detriment to the economy. Any possible short term economic benefit could not be worth the incredible impact the mine would have on our towns, and the lives of our children and grandchildren.

The impact would deter tourism, lower property values, and make our area a less desirable area for recreation, arts and culture, and historical interest.

Thank you for your work to keep Nevada County a gem to live in, and visit, in the Sierra Foothills.

--
Julie Hardin
530-559-2181

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
– **Dr. Seuss**

From: Paul Harrar
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine EIR Comment Letter
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:30:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to urge the County to FULLY study negative environmental impacts re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I have lived in western Nevada County since 1989 and own a home on Railroad Avenue in Nevada City. The era of industrial gold mining in Nevada County is over. I have no nostalgia for the massive environmental destruction mines caused in western Nevada County. The blighted landscapes and polluted watersheds from old mines are still with us today. Let's not return to an era of degradation and pollution of our beautiful environment that is at the heart our rural quality of life. Whatever minor economic benefits the mine may create will be offset by major negative impacts to watersheds, soils, roads, air quality and aesthetics.

I specifically object to a reopened Idaho-Maryland Mine:

- destroying Wolf Creek ecology, setting back community efforts to make the watershed a recreational gem
- generating massive amounts of hazardous waste
- significantly increasing noise and air pollution
- reducing property values and neighborhood aesthetics
- dewatering private wells
- generating greenhouse gasses
- creating more traffic hazards and issues
- negatively impacting businesses and services in the Whispering Pines Business Park

Again, I urge the County fully study impacts to water, land, air, aesthetics, noise and safety in the mine Environmental Impact Report. I want the County to make a clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Thank you for your consideration.

-- Paul Harrar

From:	James Haufler
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 8:04:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

TO: Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have some concerns about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine.

1. The chemical composition of the water in the mine will vary from section to section, and from shallow areas to deeper areas. Will a comprehensive process be implemented before the mine is approved to collect water samples from all regions and strata of the mine and analyze them for all potentially harmful components both organic and inorganic?

2. The water in the lowest strata is likely to be more like sludge than water. How will that material be treated before discharge into surface waters to minimize the impact of fines and dissolved solids on benthic invertebrates and salmonid spawning areas?

3. Has anyone looked at similar projects that have already been initiated to assess the risk that the walls and/or ceilings of the mine galleries might collapse to some extent after the water is removed? If some walls or ceilings do collapse, how will that material be disposed of?

4. Will Rise Gold purchase a performance bond to cover the costs of removing their equipment and restoring the site to its previous condition if they abandon the project before the end of its planned lifecycle?

5. Will Rise Gold purchase a performance bond to cover any and all damages that might be caused by a partial or complete failure of their plan for managing tailings?

6. The Mine is expected to result in the production of approximately 500 tons per day (182,500 tons per year) of barren rock which will be transported by trucks on the surface for use as engineered fill. Does Rise Gold plan to sell that or give it away? If

they intend to give it away, who will pay for the transportation? If they cannot sell it or give it away, will it be sent to County landfills?

7. What about mercury?

8. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.

9. The EIR should further analyze:

The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.

The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Thank you,

Jim

James Haufler

3555 Arden Villa Ct.

Roseville, CA 95747

916-865-4721 (Home)

916-801-3669 (Cell)

From: Carissa Hayes
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Regarding Wolf watershed + reopening of Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Carissa Rose Hayes and I am completely against the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine in as a meMember of our community. I am against polluting our waters any further and specifically polluting our waters due to unnecessary mining.

Water is sacred water is life- treat her like your grandmother.

Carissa Rose Hayes

From: Sophia Crawford-Hayes <lowfatmilk98@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:46 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:
My name is Sophia Crawford-Hayes and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this

project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sophia Crawford-Hayes
Resident of Nevada County
lowfatmilk98@gmail.com

From: Custis P. Haynes
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:21:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mrs. Custis P. Haynes

121 Starling Circle, Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 17, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly,

For 40 years I've lived here happily, and never found an issue daunting enough to weigh in on.

This has changed.

The proposed Idaho Maryland Mine reopening raises many dangers, and highest on my list is air, water and soil pollution.

I hope you mean to see that the EIR gives carefullest attention to this.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Custis Haynes

205 9271

From: Jim Haynes
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: idaho maryland
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:50:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

hello there,

it has come to our attention that nevada county is actively considering re-opening one of the defunct mines, this being the idaho-maryland mine. we are particularly concerned about the proximity of this mine to the brunswick area of grass valley. the numerous housing developments in that area, as well as one of our favorite hiking areas in the empire mine state park around gold hill.

we have no expertise in environmental science nor do we claim any profound knowledge in this; however, we are very concerned about this proposed re-opening for the health of the air, water, and soil that we all require in order to survive. the environmental concerns should also be of concern to all of those developments that the county is actively encouraging, even right at the corner of east bennett and brunswick!

given that nevada county has failed to reject such wastes of resources such as the centennial dam project, we have my profound reservations that nevada county is acting in the best interests its citizens in regards to the re-opening of the idaho-maryland mine.

we will thus keep this letter brief in voicing my dissent against this project. please take our voices into consideration when pondering the future of this project.

yours in magnanimity,

jim and erika haynes
113 winchester street // gv . ca

August 16, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Comments and Questions on the NOP for Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Dear Mr. Kelley

My family and I have lived on East Bennett Road in Grass Valley for 14 years, right in the geographic center of this latest mine proposal. Back in 2006, we picked our rural-residential location for its prime location, natural beauty and quiet setting, on a relatively low-use rural road, but still very close to town and Brunswick Basin. Unfortunately this proposal from yet another penny stock Canadian outfit presents the same set of problematic issues as the ill-fated Emgold proposal, along with several more this time. Our home, and many other homes and businesses in our rural corridor is now in the process of being connected with Gigabit speed internet (leading to many digital jobs). High speed internet was the only thing holding us back from people moving here for the lifestyle, and away from expensive urban areas. Housing developments with hundreds of new units are planned and being built along the Brunswick Road corridor. And, at this time of Covid-19, with the clear and documented dynamic of people moving from cities to places like ours for remote jobs and lifestyle, a gigantic industrial mine makes zero sense for our area. The area surrounding this massive mine operation will soon have some of the fastest internet speeds in the state, and is certainly going to attract business and high paying jobs, as so many flee the congested cities.

I am sure everyone at the County offices understands that the modern history of attempts to re-open old underground foothills gold mines is one of failure and failed promises, not just here but in places like Amador County. To say the least, a level of unprecedented scrutiny is required. So, it's another decade, and we face yet another underfunded Canadian promoter who wants to open a massive industrial operation in our residential population center. Because this proposal is so enormous, with the potential for so many impacts, the DEIR must be in-depth and detailed like no other ever prepared in Nevada County.

The EIR for this project must include an IN-DEPTH exploration of the following impacts in the following areas. There are many other vital areas of impact to address, which will be noted by people of expertise. These include biological resources (fish and wildlife), cultural resources, aesthetics, geology/soils and land use. So my list below is by no means comprehensive, but are of the areas of impact that are most important to my family.

Economic Study: A new full independent economic study MUST be completed as an integral part of any EIR. This study needs to analyze the revenues to Nevada County, but also the direct and social costs of the many impacts from an industrial mining operation in the middle of a desirable residential area.

Hydrology/Wells: Assurance of a fully independent group of independent professional hydrologists with experience with impacts of underground mining. A comprehensive mapping and footprint of all residences and businesses at risk must be provided, not just those in my neighborhood.

- A Rise map of my immediate area shows that NID will be run into our neighborhood. Will the county require Rise to pay the monthly cost of NID water if this plan is mandated. We did not move here to be forced to pay for a very expensive NID service when we have an excellent supply of quality well water.
- Requirement for financial liability protection to homeowners for any impacts or compromise of wells, and possibly having to pick up large monthly cost of residential NID water.
- Comprehensive accounting of all costs to homeowners from either having to pay for NID, and/or for well damage and/or well water quality, including clear definitions of terms and possible impacts.
- Strict requirement and clarity that the applicant will be fully financially responsible for any and all impacts on homeowners wells, including future costs of alternative water sources.

Dewatering/Water Quality: Full analysis of all potential flow and quality impacts from dewatering and ongoing discharge of water into South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek.

Traffic: For the viability and attractiveness of our community, a comprehensive traffic study is vital to the DEIR.

- Full and comprehensive study of impacts on all surrounding roads, not just on main corridors, but also on streets like East Bennett Road, and other surrounding roads from the inevitable related industrial traffic. With the hundreds of new residential units planned along the Brunswick corridor, everyone needs to see the likely impacts, backups and slowdowns that will occur.
- Impacts from the air and toxic metals pollution that will occur with mining waster being trucked up and down the road 100 times per day. And of course the ongoing, constant noise impacts must be studied of this constant stream of trucks hauling mining waste.
- What assurances do we have that Rise company trucks will not inevitably take shortcuts or diversions onto roads like East Bennett Road? Our road is not built for heavy trucking and industrial traffic. What penalties will apply if they do divert? East Bennett Road narrow, sloping, and is already crumbling along the edges in many spots, and this would render this road dangerous.

Noise: A comprehensive, independent study of noise impacts from this gigantic industrial operation right next to a residential area MUST be conducted, with strict limits on impacts to local receptors, and penalties established for non-compliance. All sources of noise need to be studied, from construction, operations, blasting, trucking and other related activities.

Mining Waste/Tailings/Hazardous Materials/Toxic Impacts/Air pollution:
A comprehensive, independent study of this incredibly concerning potential areas of impact is certainly required, over the many possible areas of impact, including documented human health impacts of the many toxins and carcinogens contained within an massive mining operation of this scope.

* How can the proposed mine permitting process even proceed, given that their required and integral Centennial location is a Superfund site, now being managed by California authorities as a certified toxic waste dump? The toxic waste at that site is massive and deep, and requires millions of dollars to clean up. How can anyone even contemplate approving this plan while the Centennial location remains unresolved?

- Air Pollution Impacts- Western Nevada County has one of the biggest problems within CA for its air pollution- ozone and particle emissions. What will be the impacts of this huge industrial operation, on top of our already challenging air quality environments.

Energy Use and Climate Change Impacts: This must be also comprehensively studied by an independent group of analysts, NOT PG&E.

*It seems obvious that Nevada County has never seen a proposed industrial operation of this scale. We are already experiencing blackouts from PGE during this hot summer. What impact will this massive operation have on the reliable availability of power during peak use periods?

*With California leading the nation in its plan of reduction of fossil fuels and greenhouse gases, what impact will this massive operation present to our local and state requirement to reduce the reliance on the old sources of energy?

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this mine proposal during this NOP process. We trust that any DEIR will include all of my areas of concern, as well as many others that will be noted by the anticipated many other commenters.

Best,

Art Healy
11918 E. Bennett Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	Art Healy
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on NOP for Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 2:08:39 PM
Attachments:	Healy NOP Comments IMM.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

Please find my comments on the mine proposal attached. Thanks so much,

Art Healy
11918 E. Bennett Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
ahealy41@sbcglobal.net

From:	Pam Heard
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Richard Anderson; sue.hoek@co.nevad.ca.us
Subject:	Rise Mine Project-Traffic Impact Analysis Report
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner August 14, 2020

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Dear Mr. Kelly and Planning Commission,

My husband and I moved to Grass Valley in 2014 in anticipation of our future retirements. We purchased a home at 11500 Brunswick Pines Road. Our home had been vacant for 5 years prior to purchase and we completely renovated the home, inside and out, over the next year. We used all local contractors because we wanted to invest in our community. Just last year, we installed solar panel arrays with California Solar. We are located 0.3 mile north, lateral side of the proposed Brunswick site.

I am a Registered Respiratory Therapist and my husband is a Board Certified Entomologist with an undergraduate degree in Economic Zoology. He was also trained as a meteorologist while serving in the Air Force. While we are not experts in traffic engineering, air pollution, geology, etc. - we do have considerable experience residing in the immediate vicinity.

This letter is the first of many in a series. I have not had adequate notice or time to review all of the submitted documents. Perhaps this was a result of isolation from Covid 19 precautions issued by the county, however 30 days notice to respond is insufficient for a project this extensive with an 80 year lifespan that will produce detrimental consequences for our city and county in perpetuity.

According to your memorandum, this project will be rezoned from Light Industrial (M1) with Site Performance Combining District (SP) to Light Industrial (M1) with Mineral Extraction Combining District (M1-ME).

Upon review of the definitions of the zoning districts found on mynevadacounty.com:

"M1" (Light Industrial) - "M1" District provides areas for the production, repairing, distribution, and warehousing of goods and equipment, along with supporting businesses and services. Uses should provide for buffering from adjacent land uses to minimize incompatibility and should have convenient, controlled access to arterial or major collector roads without passing through residential areas.

"ME" Mineral Extraction Combining District- The purpose of this District is to allow for surface mining and to provide for public awareness of the potential for surface mining to occur where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are likely present. This district shall be used only on those lands that are within any of the compatible Nevada Count General Plan designation and which are not in a residential zone.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Please explain to me how this project falls within these zoning definitions.

So far, I have evaluated the Air Quality and GHG Report and Traffic Impact Analysis Report. The traffic impact report is integral to evaluating air quality from contributing emissions. From first glance, there are inconsistencies, inaccuracies, omissions, and arbitrary model selections within the reports.

TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS REPORT

This report was generated on March 24, 2020. There is no mention of the Loma Rica Drive signalized intersection. This stoplight at the junction of Brunswick Road and Loma Rica Drive was activated on October 1st, 2015. This intersection was considered to be the "most dangerous intersection in western Nevada County" (Union) due to its #1 position for collision frequency rate.

Regarding safety during wet, icy and snowy conditions, the 5% grade as reported presents a traction hazard- a high quality aggregate was applied to improve traction. However, this application is already degrading and was designed for vehicular traffic.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Will all of the trucks require chains during these conditions and how will that affect road viability

The Loma Rica ingress/egress serves our Air Park, the wildfire command center as well as the industrial park businesses. These businesses include multiple propane vendors, welding and auto work along with Apria Healthcare which supplies medical oxygen. There is considerable traffic at these locations transporting gases with DOT HAZMAT 2 classifications, primarily. There is only one way in and one way out currently. Yet, this location did not make even make it on the map (Figure 3, page 18). According to

the Nevada County Report entitled “Loma Rica Industrial Area Plan” (2008) found on mynevadacounty.com/planning website:

“The County of Nevada recognizes the Loma Rica Drive industrial area as an integral western County business hub and employment center, serving as the largest business center allowing general industrial use within the unincorporated area of the County. The Loma Rica Drive Area Plan seeks to retain and enhance existing businesses…”

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Please evaluate how the Idaho Maryland project will support this vision statement and address safety issues regarding this intersection with the potential collision risk with HAZMAT Class 1 explosives and HAZMAT Class 3 diesel fuel transport trucks with HAZMAT Class 2 trucks

The mention in the report of a signalized tee intersection at Whispering Pines does not exist. The signal is at Brunswick Road/Loma Rica junction. Whispering Pines is another 0.2 miles past this point.

The report specifies that our current road infrastructure is inadequate to support this project in multiple ways. There is little room for expansion anywhere in the affected areas . Traffic will be backed up throughout town due to lack of lane numbers and queues. For example with regards to the Haul Truck route, proposed solutions are to place signal lights at Bennett Road / Brunswick Road, Brunswick Road / Whispering Pines and Brunswick Road / Idaho-Maryland.

These lights in addition to the Loma Rica Drive signal will impede traffic flow and leave all vehicles in idle mode for extended periods of time leading to congestion. This will increase emissions tremendously especially inhibiting diesel engine fuel efficiency. Also, the idea that the Haul Trucks will achieve a speed of 35 mph from Bennett Road/Brunswick Pines turn to Whispering Pines is not possible.

Just on the one way route from the Brunswick Site to the Centennial-if the proposed signals are installed, the route will be broken into increments of 0.5 miles from Bennett Road/Loma Rica Drive, 0.2 miles from Loma Rica / Whispering Pines, 0.2 miles from Whispering Pines/Crown Point stop sign, 0.5 miles to Centennial Drive turn. This would be a total of 3 lights.

When calculating emissions, the air quality report specified that the Haul Trucks would idle for a maximum of 10 minutes in 2 separate five minute increments. This criterion does not match the reality of the traffic pattern.

Our roads are already crumbling and will be pulverized by the additional tonnage. The report does not include the current baseline condition of our roadways, it only addresses future additional damage.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Who will pay for the improvements and ongoing maintenance required to support the necessary infrastructure for the project

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. My next report to follow will focus on the Air Quality and HGH report.

Sincerely,

Pam Heard RRT

11500 Brunswick Pines Road

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 17, 2020

RE: Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project

To Mr. Kelley and Planning Commission,

The report entitled "Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Nevada County, California" utilizes air quality data from Yuba City, CA and meteorological data from Blue Canyon, CA. Yuba City is at an elevation of 59 feet in the Central Valley. Blue Canyon, CA is at an elevation of 4695 feet just 4 miles southwest of Emigrant Gap in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Blue Canyon also has the distinction of receiving the third highest snowfall in the United States (The Donner Party).

Grass Valley, CA is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills at an elevation of 2477 feet.

- How is data from these two very disparate topographical locations applicable to Grass Valley, CA?

Please find attached a Year Round Weather Report for Grass Valley, CA generated by NASA's MERRA-2 meteorological model. This model is a compilation of data from a 36 year history, dating from January 1, 1980 to December 31st, 2016.

The Air Quality Report specifies that the County's prevailing wind is from a westerly direction (page 14). Based upon the NASA model, Grass Valley winds are "most often from the south for 7.4 months, from February 10 to September 21, with a peak percentage of 55% on August 11. The wind is most often from the east for 4.6 months, from September 21 to February 10, with a peak percentage of 49% on January 1 (page 5, Weatherspark Report).

The Brunswick Site is south, southeast of the entire city of Grass Valley and a large portion of unincorporated county properties. Having lived just 0.3 miles north of the proposed Brunswick site, I can vouch for the southern and eastern wind patterns. I would be happy to have an anemometer installed on my property to verify these wind patterns.

Taking these wind patterns into account means that all pollutants will be deposited over the city and surrounding areas especially into the Brunswick Basin.

The quadrant bounded by Idaho Maryland Road, Dorsey Drive, E. Main Street and the Brunswick Basin will suffer assaults from the reclamation of the Centennial site, the construction and ongoing operations of the Brunswick site, the construction and ongoing operations of the Centennial site.

This quadrant contains Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, 4 Skilled Nursing Facilities, multiple assisted living facilities including memory care, multiple senior housing apartments, Hospitality House for the homeless population and proposed housing project for the homeless (Brunswick Commons). There are also public health department offices, physicians' offices-many of whom serve Medi-Cal patients, Grass Valley Dialysis Center on Crown Point and Chapa-De Indian Health Center.

This quadrant is populated almost entirely of "Sensitive Receptors". This is an extremely vulnerable population-I have serviced their respiratory needs as a Field Clinician for Apria HealthCare for the past three years until my recent retirement this past year.

There is a large pedestrian population due to the Hospitality House operational hours from 4 pm-7 am. There are currently 54 beds. With the completion of Brunswick Commons, an additional 41 units will be added. The Brunswick Basin is a vital banking and shopping district allowing easy access to pharmacies, grocery stores, etc for Grass Valley residents and this primarily pedestrian population.

- What will be the impact of pollutants on these vulnerable populations and GV residents?
- Will a census including explicit health conditions be performed as a baseline prior to project initiation?
- Will health monitoring of Grass Valley residents be ongoing and documented?
- Will Grass Valley residents be compensated for health conditions related to mining pollutants exposures?
- What will be the impact during Public Service Safety Shutoffs when Rise Mine will be operating 4 -6 diesel generators and the populace is unable to operate their own ventilation systems?
- What will be the impact if we have electrical brown or blackouts-what is the priority for reenergization?
- How will Rise restrict the fugitive dust to the property line during high wind conditions such as the Diablo wind event of last year?
- How will this project protect and maintain our community's health?
- Will the 70 or so proposed truck driving employees be informed and compensated for their risks of pulmonary fibrosis, silicosis, mesothelioma, lung cancer and premature death?

On mynevadacounty.com website, the document "2019 Community Health Needs Assessment/ Community Health Assessments of Nevada County" supports this position. Grass Valley is a Primary Community of Concern (pg 30). The main area of central Grass Valley has the greatest vulnerability residing in the top 20 percentile (pg 35). Both mining site operations are within this area.

Mortality rates in Nevada County from Chronic Lung Disease occur at twice the California state rate: 69.26 deaths per 100,000 people vs 34.92 per 100,000 respectively (pg 17).

The introduction of this report states: "The health of a community is greatly influenced by the environmental and structural components of the community, and personal characteristics of its members. Community health includes the health status of the people, and the conditions in the

community that promote, protect and preserve their health...and are deeply connected to the health of the natural environment in which they live."

- Please explain how the Rise Mine Project will address these issues in light of our already elevated mortality baselines

POLLUTANTS AND EFFECTS

Section 2, pages 3-9, of the Air Quality Report should be required reading for every Grass Valley resident. The author has done a thorough explanation of depicting most of the pollutants that will be widely disseminated into the environment through the mining operation. The dispersal will primarily be airborne, uncontrollable and unquantifiable once released to the atmosphere. Breathing(respiration) is the most rapid introduction to the human body of these toxins, and all other biological life forms.

The County General Plan's Goal 14.1 is to "Attain, maintain and ensure high air quality". The current EPA designation of western Nevada County is moderate "nonattainment" for 8 hour ozone levels. However in 2018, the submitted NSAQMD ozone attainment plan requested reclassification to "Serious" nonattainment area for the County. CARB has designated the County as a nonattainment area for ozone and PM_{10} standards.

Several locations identified in the Traffic Impact Analysis Report identified areas that already exceed carbon monoxide levels as well.

- Please explain how the release of "mitigated" tons of nitrogen oxide compounds will enable Nevada County to achieve attainment goals for ozone on top of the existing elevated baseline
- Who will monitor and mitigate the destruction caused by acid rain from nitrogen oxide compounds?
- Who will monitor and enforce air quality standards since we do not have an Air Quality Control Officer ?
- Who will develop standards for the myriad of contaminants, many of them carcinogenic, that do not currently have established enforcement levels?
- Who will pay for third party monitoring necessary to ensure transparency?
- How will the California Health and Safety Code Section 41700 be enforced?

As a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Respiratory Care Practitioner with the state of California, my primary concern is for the immediate and long term pulmonary health of our community. All exposures from the mining operation are detrimental to lung health whether it is from site reclamation, the initial construction and grading exposure, continuous diesel fumes exposure and/or continuous "engineered" fill exposure.

This bracketing of sites results in *de facto* annexation of all property between the two sites and beyond. This area will be subject to all conditions of the mine and quarry sites. In fact, we will suffer from the

noise, light, vibration and pollution 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Employees will go home after each shift and will be offered the benefits of OSHA regulations and protections.

We chose to live here and we will choose to leave. We will walk away from our dream home if necessary. Nevada County and Rise do not have the right to "stake a claim" to my sanity, physical health or quality of life.

Sincerely,

Pam Heard RRT

Pam Heard RRT
11500 Brunswick Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 277-3891

P.S. By rezoning from Light Industrial to Mineral Extraction, Nevada County and Rise must accept responsibility for the consequences of that action. In recompense, Nevada County and Rise should at minimum:

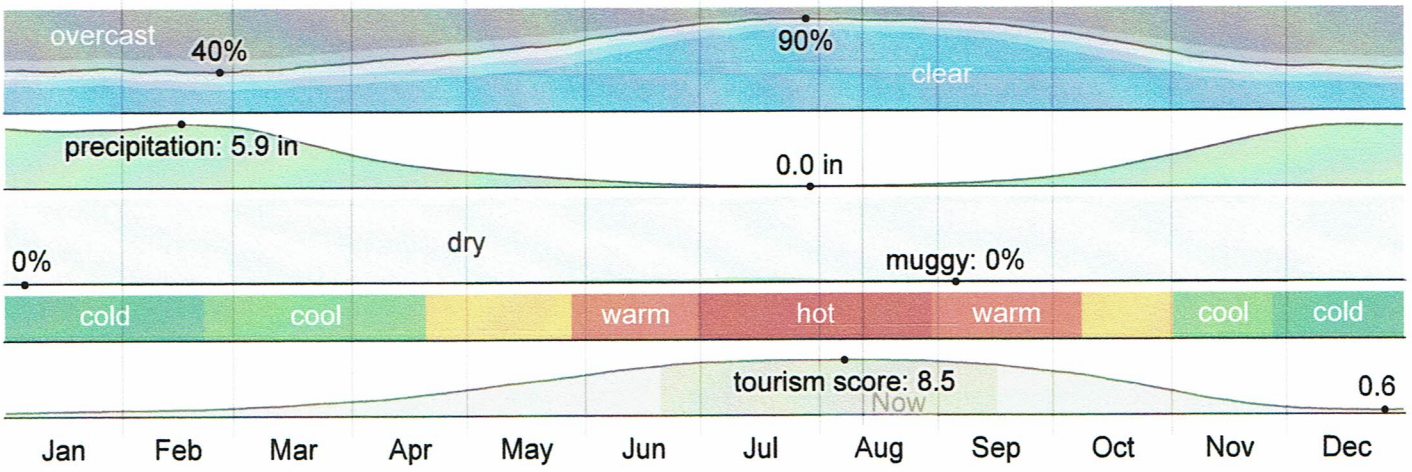
- Offer to purchase at current market price, any and all affected residences or businesses that wish to relocate
- For those remaining, pay all health care claims in perpetuity related to pollution generated by mine operation.
- Establish a water reservoir for wildfire mitigation since all vegetation will be negatively impacted
- Establish a fund for road maintenance since taxpayers should not be liable for their pulverization from mining equipment
- Establish an escrow account for Superfund cleanup of Grass Valley, not just mine site reclamation

Average Weather in Grass Valley *California, United States*

In Grass Valley, the summers are hot, arid, and mostly clear and the winters are long, cold, wet, and partly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 39°F to 88°F and is rarely below 32°F or above 95°F.

Based on the tourism score (https://weatherspark.com/y/1178/Average-Weather-in-Grass-Valley-California-United-States-Year-Round#Sections-BestTime), the best time of year to visit Grass Valley for warm-weather activities is from late June to mid September.

Climate Summary



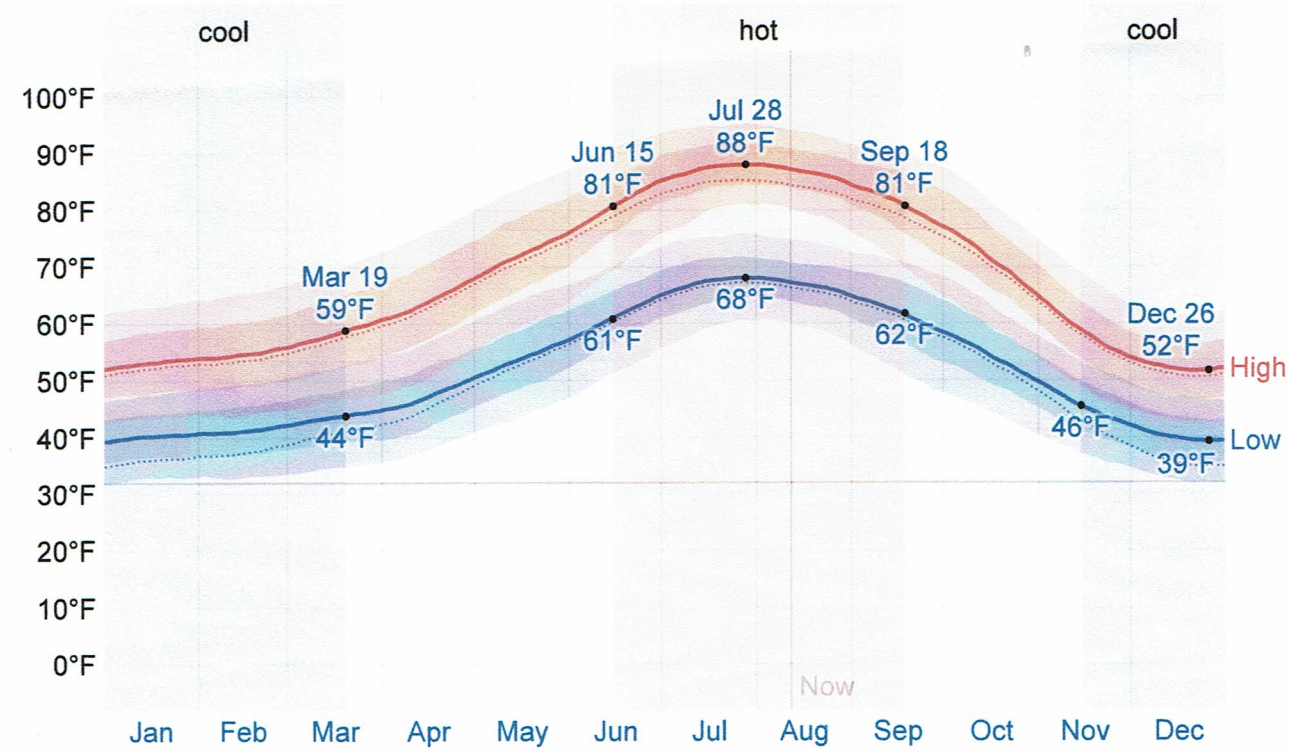
Click on each chart for more information.

Temperature

The hot season lasts for 3.1 months, from June 15 to September 18, with an average daily high temperature above 81°F. The hottest day of the year is July 28, with an average high of 88°F and low of 68°F.

The cool season lasts for 4.2 months, from November 14 to March 19, with an average daily high temperature below 59°F. The coldest day of the year is December 26, with an average low of 39°F and high of 52°F.

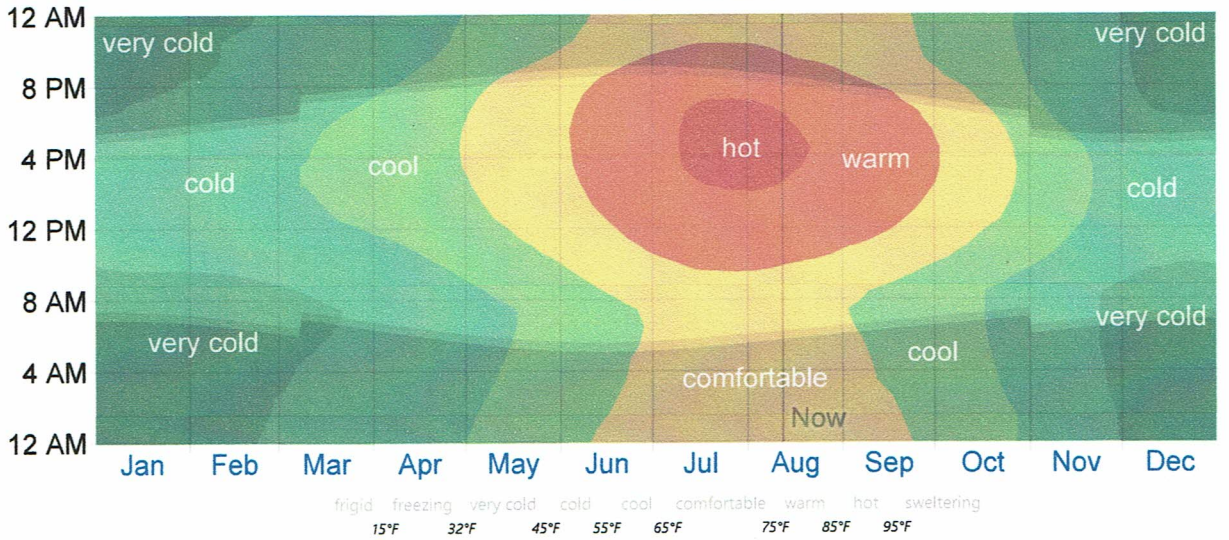
Average High and Low Temperature



The daily average high (red line) and low (blue line) temperature, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands. The thin dotted lines are the corresponding average perceived temperatures.

The figure below shows you a compact characterization of the entire year of hourly average temperatures. The horizontal axis is the day of the year, the vertical axis is the hour of the day, and the color is the average temperature for that hour and day.

Average Hourly Temperature



The average hourly temperature, color coded into bands. The shaded overlays indicate night and civil twilight.

Rome, Italy (/y/71779/Average-Weather-in-Rome-Italy-Year-Round) (6,127 miles away) and Katoúna, Greece (/y/86661/Average-Weather-in-Kato%C3%BAna-Greece-Year-Round) (6,546 miles) are the far-away foreign places with temperatures most similar to Grass Valley (view comparison (/compare/y/1178~71779~86661/Comparison-of-the-Average-Weather-in-Grass-Valley-Rome-and-Kato%C3%BAna)).

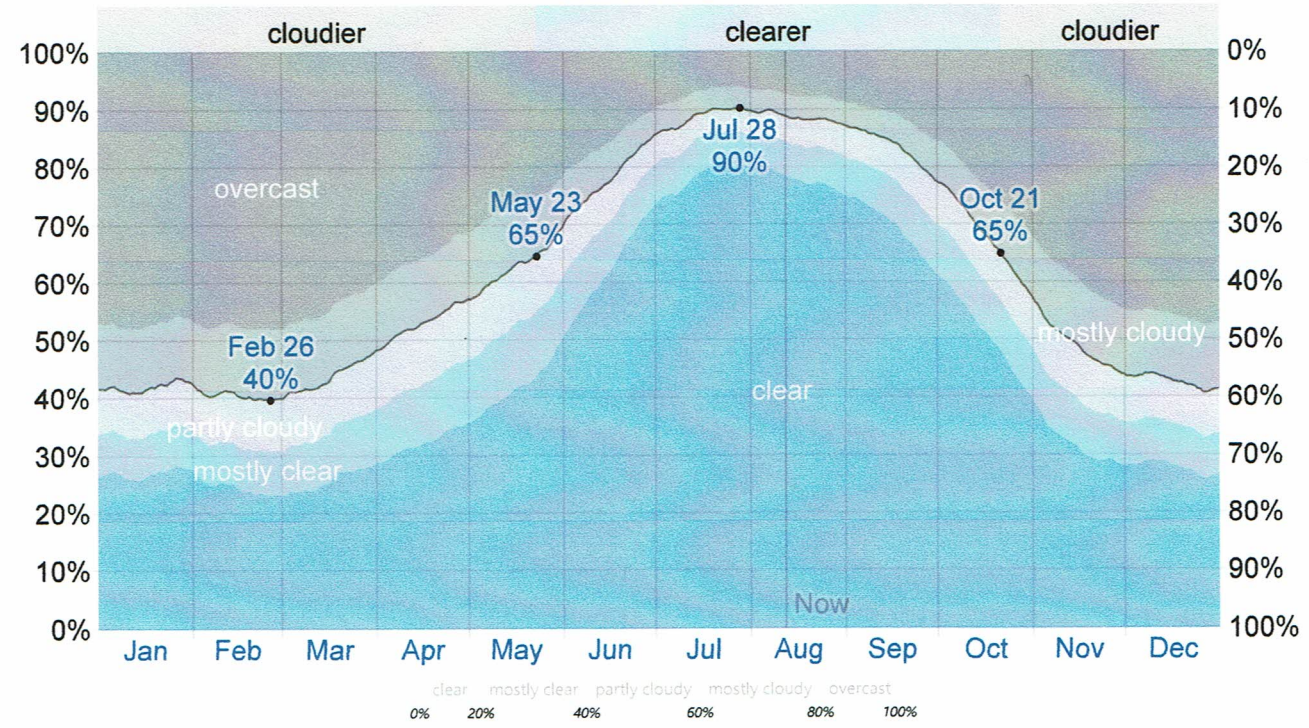
Clouds

In Grass Valley, the average percentage of the sky covered by clouds experiences extreme seasonal variation over the course of the year.

The clearer part of the year in Grass Valley begins around May 23 and lasts for 5.0 months, ending around October 21. On July 28, the clearest day of the year, the sky is clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 90% of the time, and overcast or mostly cloudy 10% of the time.

The cloudier part of the year begins around October 21 and lasts for 7.0 months, ending around May 23. On February 26, the cloudiest day of the year, the sky is overcast or mostly cloudy 60% of the time, and clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 40% of the time.

Cloud Cover Categories



The percentage of time spent in each cloud cover band, categorized by the percentage of the sky covered by clouds.

Precipitation

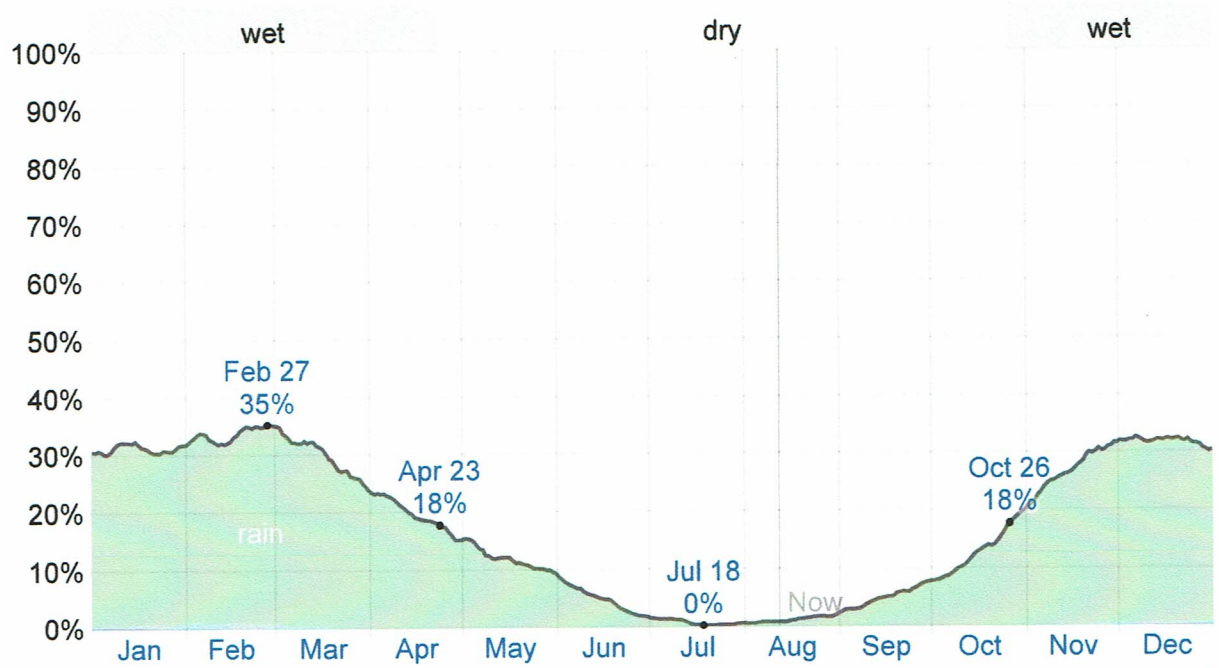
A wet day is one with at least 0.04 inches of liquid or liquid-equivalent precipitation. The chance of wet days in Grass Valley varies significantly throughout the year.

The wetter season lasts 5.9 months, from October 26 to April 23, with a greater than 18% chance of a given day being a wet day. The chance of a wet day peaks at 35% on February 27.

The drier season lasts 6.1 months, from April 23 to October 26. The smallest chance of a wet day is 0% on July 18.

Among wet days, we distinguish between those that experience rain alone, snow alone, or a mixture of the two. Based on this categorization, the most common form of precipitation throughout the year is rain alone, with a peak probability of 34% on February 28.

Daily Chance of Precipitation



The percentage of days in which various types of precipitation are observed, excluding trace quantities: rain alone, snow alone, and mixed (both rain and snow fell in the same day).

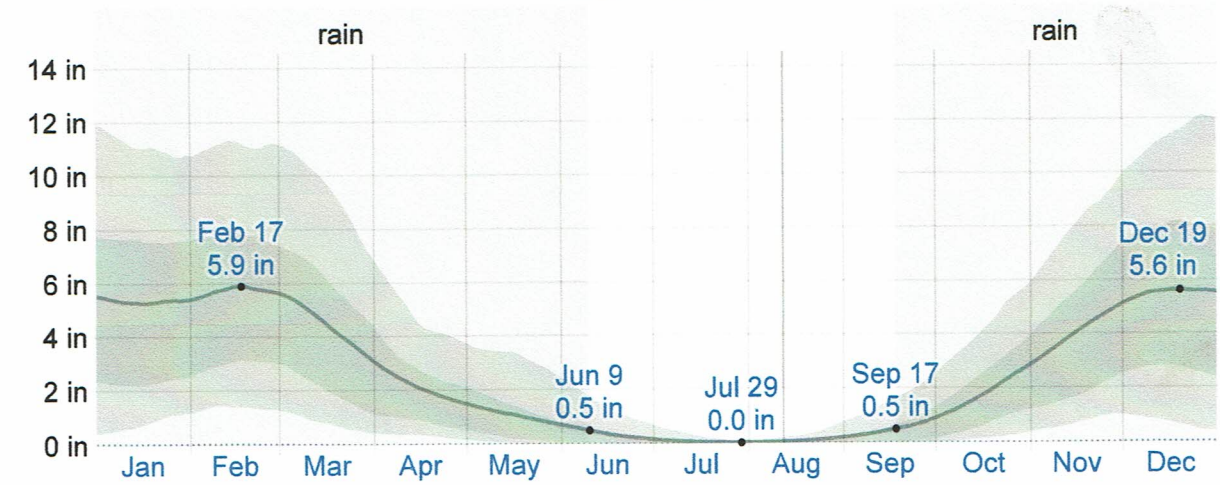
Rainfall

To show variation within the months and not just the monthly totals, we show the rainfall accumulated over a sliding 31-day period centered around each day of the year. Grass Valley experiences extreme seasonal variation in monthly rainfall.

The rainy period of the year lasts for 8.8 months, from September 17 to June 9, with a sliding 31-day rainfall of at least 0.5 inches. The most rain falls during the 31 days centered around February 17, with an average total accumulation of 5.9 inches.

The rainless period of the year lasts for 3.2 months, from June 9 to September 17. The least rain falls around July 29, with an average total accumulation of 0.0 inches.

Average Monthly Rainfall

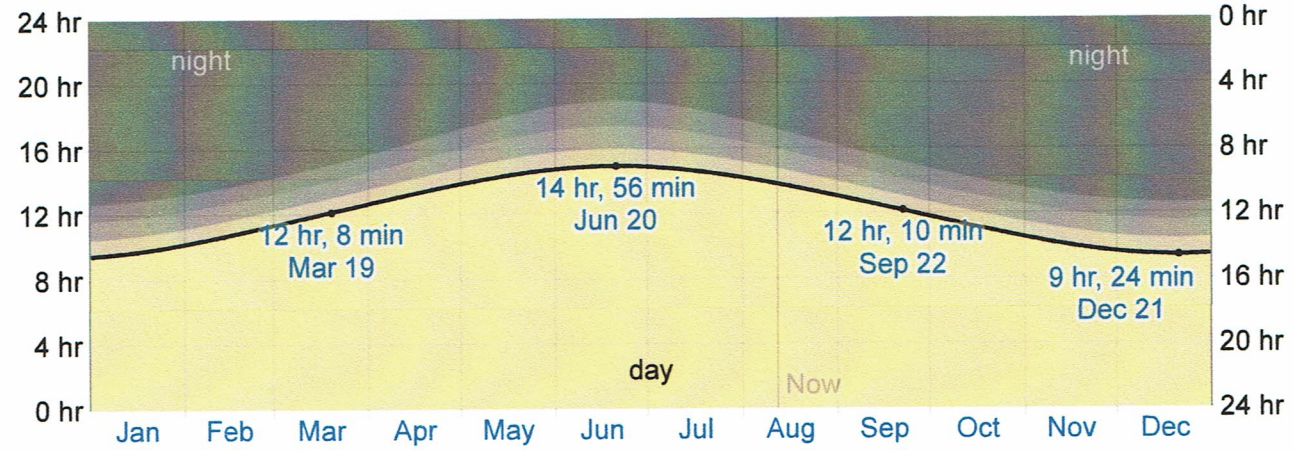


The average rainfall (solid line) accumulated over the course of a sliding 31-day period centered on the day in question, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands. The thin dotted line is the corresponding average liquid-equivalent snowfall.

Sun

The length of the day in Grass Valley varies significantly over the course of the year. In 2020, the shortest day is December 21, with 9 hours, 24 minutes of daylight; the longest day is June 20, with 14 hours, 56 minutes of daylight.

Hours of Daylight and Twilight

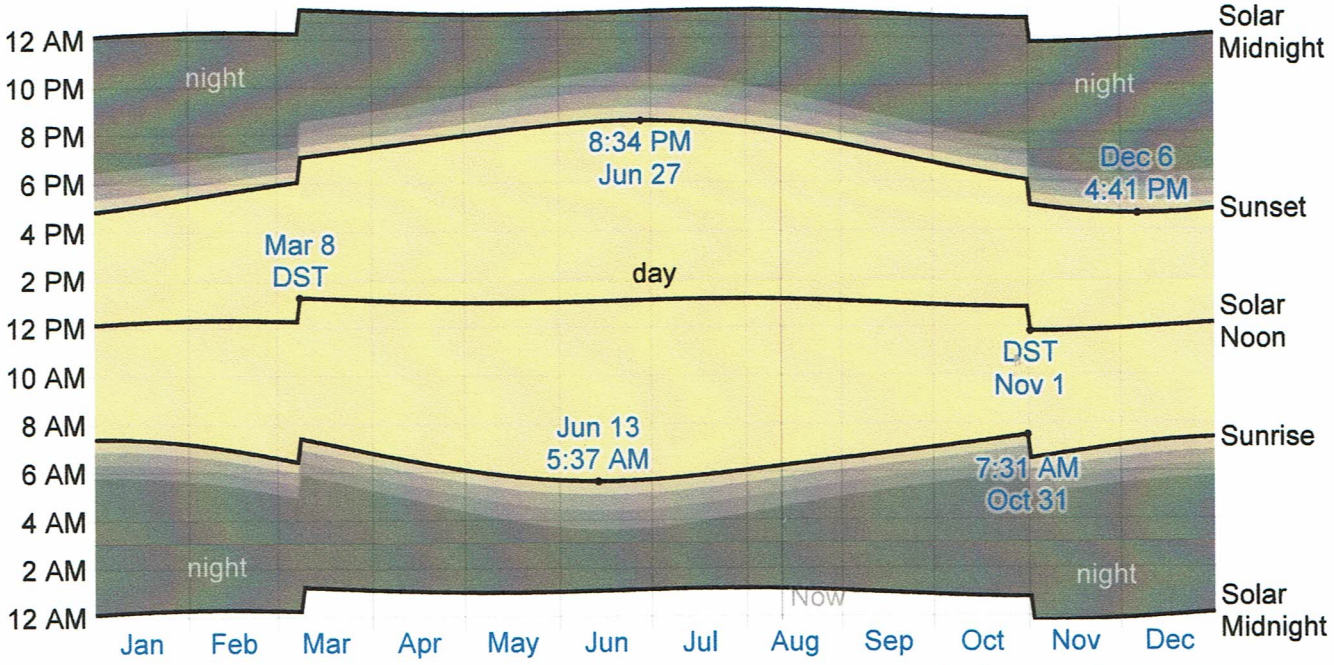


The number of hours during which the Sun is visible (black line). From bottom (most yellow) to top (most gray), the color bands indicate: full daylight, twilight (civil, nautical, and astronomical), and full night.

The earliest sunrise is at 5:37 AM on June 13, and the latest sunrise is 1 hour, 54 minutes later at 7:31 AM on October 31. The earliest sunset is at 4:41 PM on December 6, and the latest sunset is 3 hours, 54 minutes later at 8:34 PM on June 27.

Daylight saving time (DST) is observed in Grass Valley during 2020, starting in the spring on March 8, lasting 7.8 months, and ending in the fall on November 1.

Sunrise & Sunset with Twilight and Daylight Saving Time



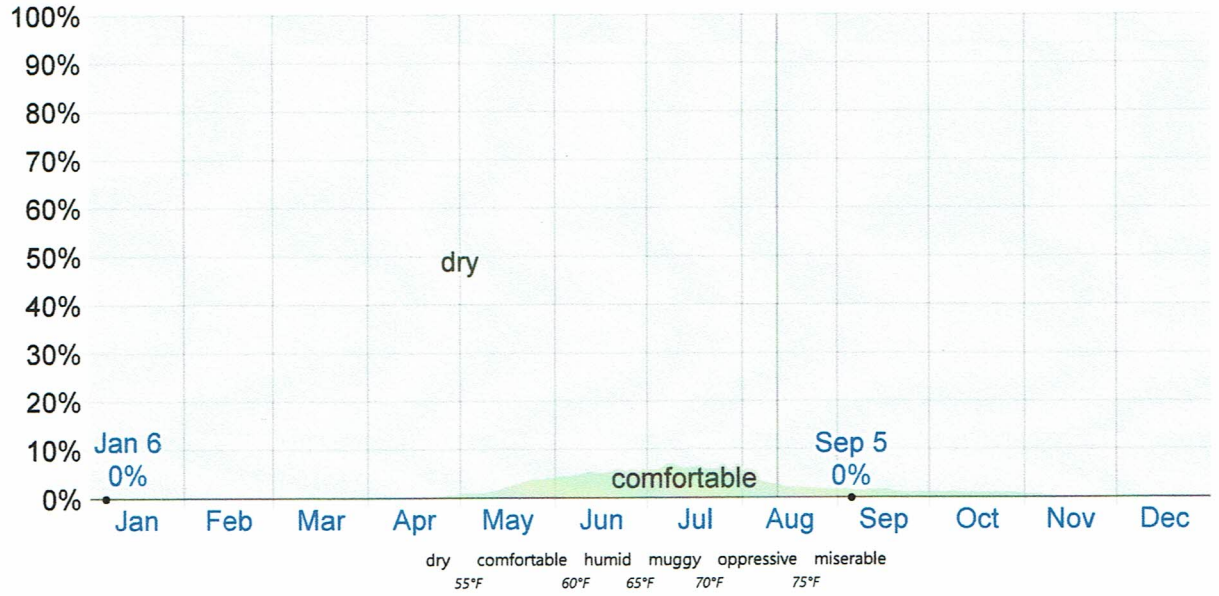
The solar day over the course of the year 2020. From bottom to top, the black lines are the previous solar midnight, sunrise, solar noon, sunset, and the next solar midnight. The day, twilights (civil, nautical, and astronomical), and night are indicated by the color bands from yellow to gray. The transitions to and from daylight saving time are indicated by the 'DST' labels.

Humidity

We base the humidity comfort level on the dew point, as it determines whether perspiration will evaporate from the skin, thereby cooling the body. Lower dew points feel drier and higher dew points feel more humid. Unlike temperature, which typically varies significantly between night and day, dew point tends to change more slowly, so while the temperature may drop at night, a muggy day is typically followed by a muggy night.

The perceived humidity level in Grass Valley, as measured by the percentage of time in which the humidity comfort level is muggy, oppressive, or miserable, does not vary significantly over the course of the year, remaining a virtually constant 0% throughout.

Humidity Comfort Levels



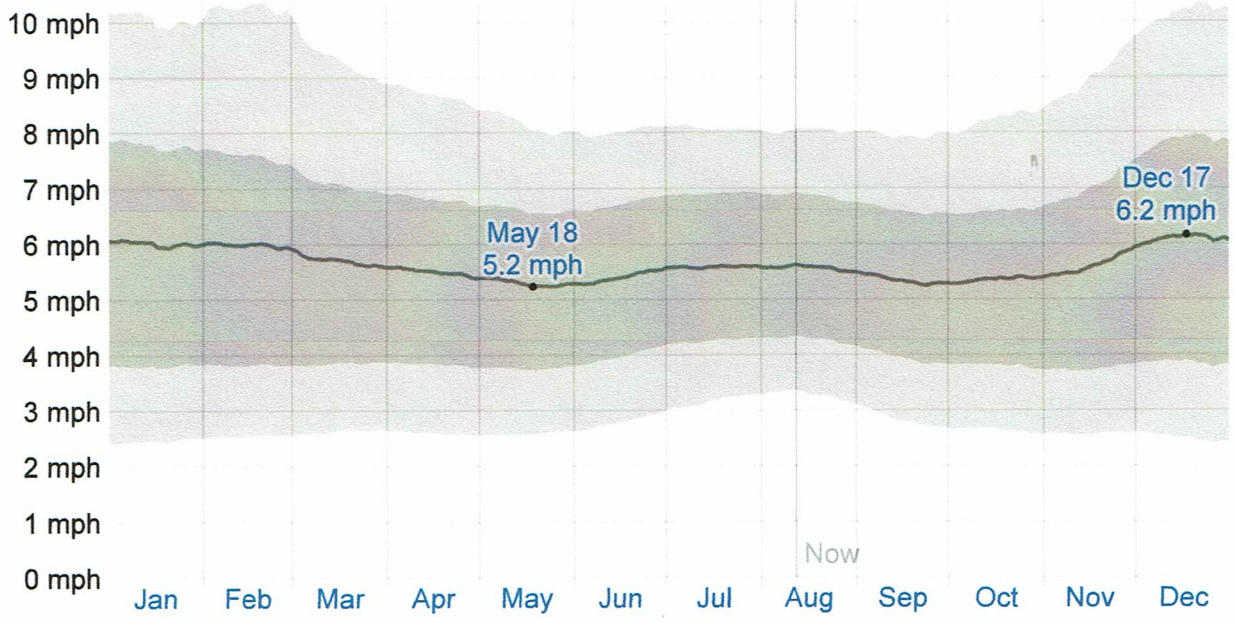
The percentage of time spent at various humidity comfort levels, categorized by dew point.

Wind

This section discusses the wide-area hourly average wind vector (speed and direction) at 10 meters above the ground. The wind experienced at any given location is highly dependent on local topography and other factors, and instantaneous wind speed and direction vary more widely than hourly averages.

The average hourly wind speed in Grass Valley does not vary significantly over the course of the year, remaining within 0.5 miles per hour of 5.7 miles per hour throughout.

Average Wind Speed

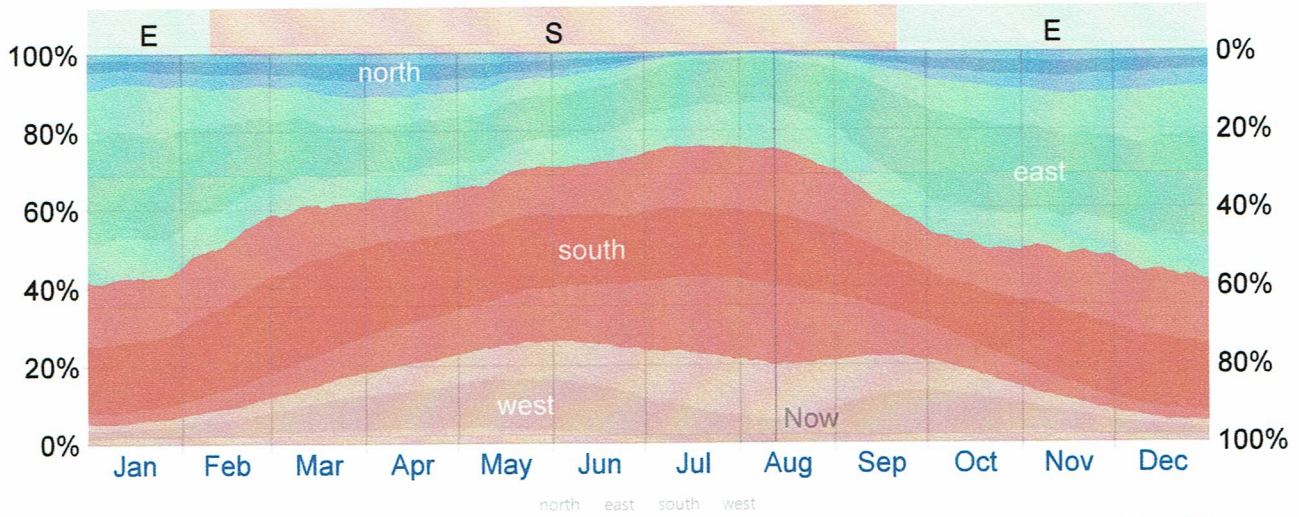


The average of mean hourly wind speeds (dark gray line), with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands.

The predominant average hourly wind direction in Grass Valley varies throughout the year.

The wind is most often from the south for 7.4 months, from February 10 to September 21, with a peak percentage of 55% on August 11. The wind is most often from the east for 4.6 months, from September 21 to February 10, with a peak percentage of 49% on January 1.

Wind Direction



The percentage of hours in which the mean wind direction is from each of the four cardinal wind directions, excluding hours in which the mean wind speed is less than 1.0 mph. The lightly tinted areas at the boundaries are the percentage of hours spent in the implied intermediate directions (northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest).

Best Time of Year to Visit

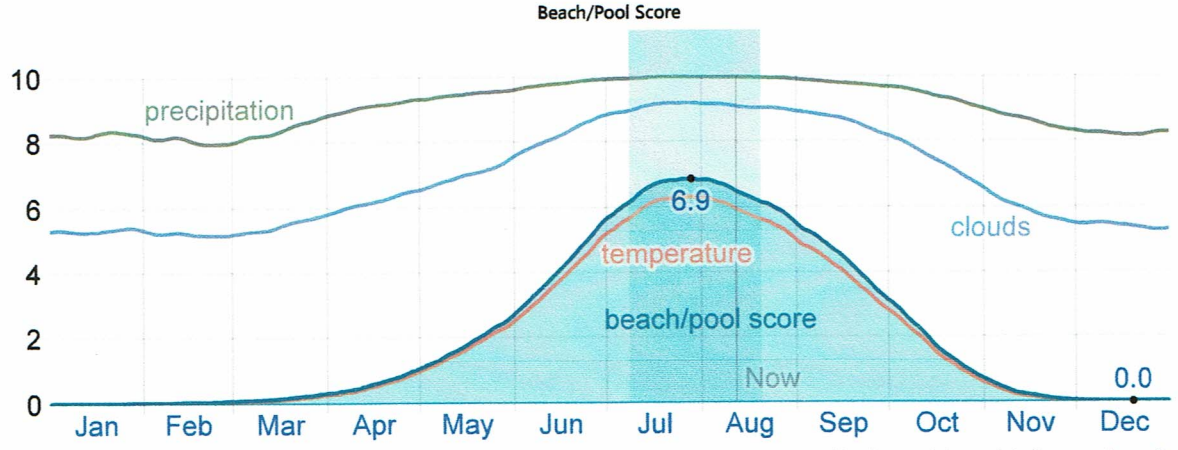
To characterize how pleasant the weather is in Grass Valley throughout the year, we compute two travel scores.

The tourism score favors clear, rainless days with perceived temperatures between 65°F and 80°F. Based on this score, the best time of year to visit Grass Valley for general outdoor tourist activities is from late June to mid September, with a peak score in the first week of August.



The tourism score (filled area), and its constituents: the temperature score (red line), the cloud cover score (blue line), and the precipitation score (green line).

The beach/pool score favors clear, rainless days with perceived temperatures between 75°F and 90°F. Based on this score, the best time of year to visit Grass Valley for hot-weather activities is from early July to mid August, with a peak score in the last week of July.



The beach/pool score (filled area), and its constituents: the temperature score (red line), the cloud cover score (blue line), and the precipitation score (green line).

Methodology

For each hour between 8:00 AM and 9:00 PM of each day in the analysis period (1980 to 2016), independent scores are computed for perceived temperature, cloud cover, and total precipitation. Those scores are combined into a single hourly composite score, which is then aggregated into days, averaged over all the years in the analysis period, and smoothed.

Our cloud cover score is 10 for fully clear skies, falling linearly to 9 for mostly clear skies, and to 1 for fully overcast skies.

Our precipitation score, which is based on the three-hour precipitation centered on the hour in question, is 10 for no precipitation, falling linearly to 9 for trace precipitation, and to 0 for 0.04 inches of precipitation or more.

Our tourism temperature score is 0 for perceived temperatures below 50°F, rising linearly to 9 for 65°F, to 10 for 75°F, falling linearly to 9 for 80°F, and to 1 for 90°F or hotter.

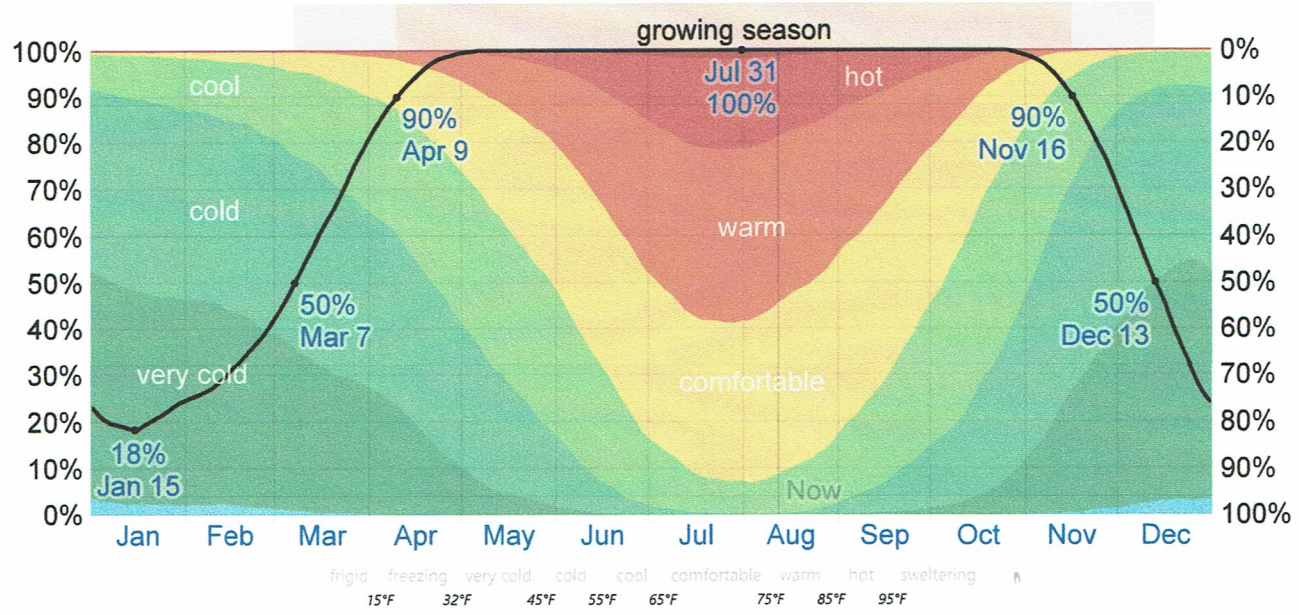
Our beach/pool temperature score is 0 for perceived temperatures below 65°F, rising linearly to 9 for 75°F, to 10 for 82°F, falling linearly to 9 for 90°F, and to 1 for 100°F or hotter.

Growing Season

Definitions of the growing season vary throughout the world, but for the purposes of this report, we define it as the longest continuous period of non-freezing temperatures (≥ 32°F) in the year (the calendar year in the Northern Hemisphere, or from July 1 until June 30 in the Southern Hemisphere).

The growing season in Grass Valley typically lasts for 9.2 months (281 days), from around March 7 to around December 13, rarely starting after April 9, or ending before November 16.

Time Spent in Various Temperature Bands and the Growing Season

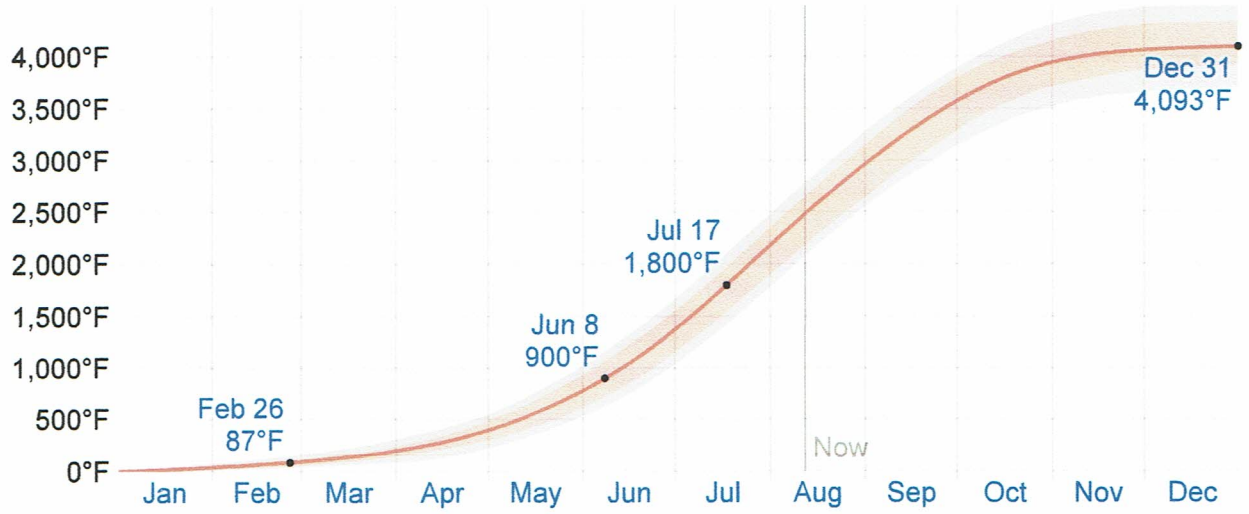


The percentage of time spent in various temperature bands. The black line is the percentage chance that a given day is within the growing season.

Growing degree days are a measure of yearly heat accumulation used to predict plant and animal development, and defined as the integral of warmth above a base temperature, discarding any excess above a maximum temperature. In this report, we use a base of 50°F and a cap of 86°F.

Based on growing degree days alone, the first spring blooms in Grass Valley should appear around February 26, only rarely appearing before February 5 or after March 26.

Growing Degree Days



The average growing degree days accumulated over the course of the year, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands.

Solar Energy

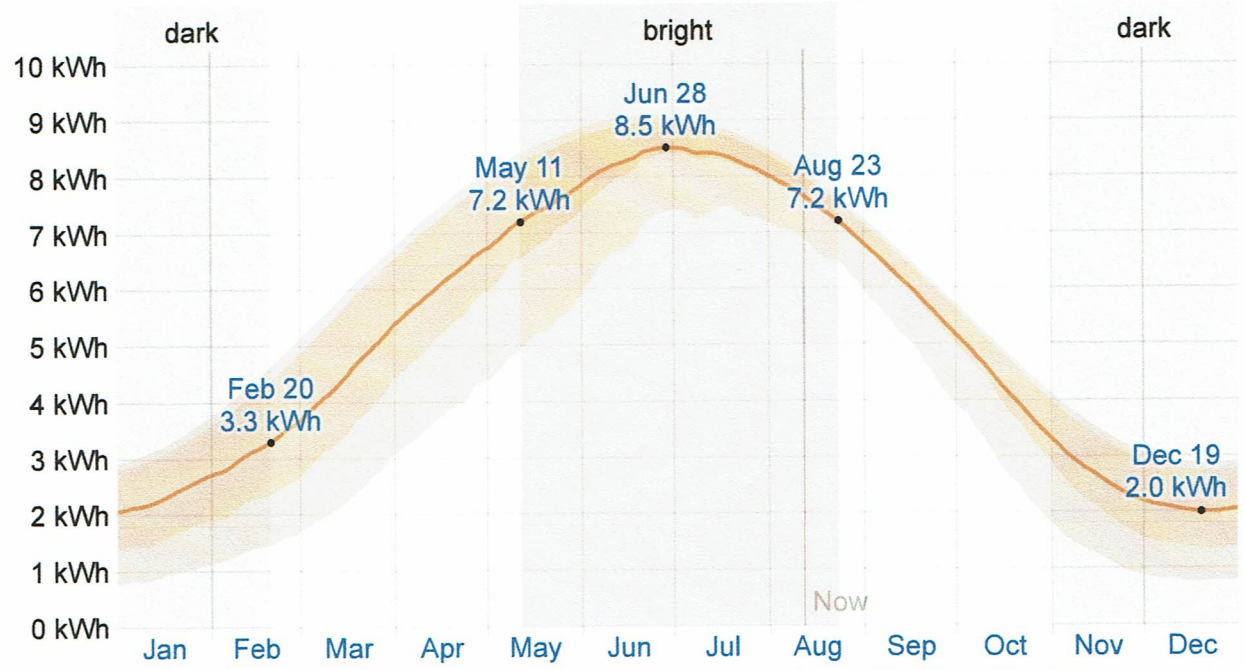
This section discusses the total daily incident shortwave solar energy reaching the surface of the ground over a wide area, taking full account of seasonal variations in the length of the day, the elevation of the Sun above the horizon, and absorption by clouds and other atmospheric constituents. Shortwave radiation includes visible light and ultraviolet radiation.

The average daily incident shortwave solar energy experiences extreme seasonal variation over the course of the year.

The brighter period of the year lasts for 3.4 months, from May 11 to August 23, with an average daily incident shortwave energy per square meter above 7.2 kWh. The brightest day of the year is June 28, with an average of 8.5 kWh.

The darker period of the year lasts for 3.6 months, from November 1 to February 20, with an average daily incident shortwave energy per square meter below 3.3 kWh. The darkest day of the year is December 19, with an average of 2.0 kWh.

Average Daily Incident Shortwave Solar Energy



The average daily shortwave solar energy reaching the ground per square meter (orange line), with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands.

Topography

For the purposes of this report, the geographical coordinates of Grass Valley are 39.219 deg latitude, -121.061 deg longitude, and 2,477 ft elevation.

The topography within 2 miles of Grass Valley contains significant variations in elevation, with a maximum elevation change of 764 feet and an average elevation above sea level of 2,545 feet. Within 10 miles contains significant variations in elevation (3,412 feet). Within 50 miles also contains extreme variations in elevation (9,298 feet).

The area within 2 miles of Grass Valley is covered by shrubs (61%), artificial surfaces (19%), and trees (13%), within 10 miles by shrubs (52%) and trees (35%), and within 50 miles by trees (45%) and cropland (19%).

Data Sources

This report illustrates the typical weather in Grass Valley, based on a statistical analysis of historical hourly weather reports and model reconstructions from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 2016.

Temperature and Dew Point

There are 3 weather stations near enough to contribute to our estimation of the temperature and dew point in Grass Valley.

For each station, the records are corrected for the elevation difference between that station and Grass Valley according to the International Standard Atmosphere (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Atmosphere), and by the relative change present in the MERRA-2 satellite-era reanalysis (https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/reanalysis/MERRA-2/) between the two locations.

The estimated value at Grass Valley is computed as the weighted average of the individual contributions from each station, with weights proportional to the inverse of the distance between Grass Valley and a given station.

The stations contributing to this reconstruction are: Nevada County Air Park (/y/149703/Average-Weather-at-Nevada-County-Air-Park-California-United-States-Year-Round) (67%, 5.0 kilometers, east); Auburn Municipal Airport (/y/145263/Average-Weather-at-Auburn-Municipal-Airport-California-United-States-Year-Round) (24%, 29 kilometers, south); and Beale Air Force Base (/y/145271/Average-Weather-at-Beale-Air-Force-Base-California-United-States-Year-Round) (9%, 33 kilometers, west).

Other Data

All data relating to the Sun's position (e.g., sunrise and sunset) are computed using astronomical formulas from the book, Astronomical Algorithms 2nd Edition (https://www.amazon.com/Astronomical-Algorithms-Jean-Meeus/dp/0943396611), by Jean Meeus.

All other weather data, including cloud cover, precipitation, wind speed and direction, and solar flux, come from NASA's MERRA-2 Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis (https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/reanalysis/MERRA-2/). This reanalysis combines a variety of wide-area measurements in a state-of-the-art global meteorological model to reconstruct the hourly history of weather throughout the world on a 50-kilometer grid.

Land Use data comes from the Global Land Cover SHARE database (http://www.fao.org/land-water/land/land-governance/land-resources-planning-toolbox/category/details/en/c/1036355/), published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Elevation data comes from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) (http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/), published by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Names, locations, and time zones of places and some airports come from the GeoNames Geographical Database (http://www.geonames.org/).

Time zones for airports and weather stations are provided by AskGeo.com (https://askgeo.com/).

Maps are © Esri, with data from National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, and iPC.

Disclaimer

The information on this site is provided as is, without any assurances as to its accuracy or suitability for any purpose. Weather data is prone to errors, outages, and other defects. We assume no responsibility for any decisions made on the basis of the content presented on this site.

We draw particular cautious attention to our reliance on the MERRA-2 model-based reconstructions for a number of important data series. While having the tremendous advantages of temporal and spatial completeness, these reconstructions: (1) are based on computer models that may have model-based errors, (2) are coarsely sampled on a 50 km grid and are therefore unable to reconstruct the local variations of many microclimates, and (3) have particular difficulty with the weather in some coastal areas, especially small islands.

We further caution that our travel scores are only as good as the data that underpin them, that weather conditions at any given location and time are unpredictable and variable, and that the definition of the scores reflects a particular set of preferences that may not agree with those of any particular reader.

From:	Pam Heard
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Richard Anderson; Sue Hoek
Subject:	Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:21:21 PM
Attachments:	Air Quality Final.pdf Weather Patterns Grass Valley.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

"it's here and attached"

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170 August 17, 2020

Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project

To Mr. Kelley and Planning Commission,

The report entitled “Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Nevada County, California” utilizes air quality data from Yuba City, CA and meteorological data from Blue Canyon, CA. Yuba City is at an elevation of 59 feet in the Central Valley. Blue Canyon, CA is at an elevation of 4695 feet just 4 miles southwest of Emigrant Gap in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Blue Canyon also has the distinction of receiving the third highest snowfall in the United States (The Donner Party).

Grass Valley, CA is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills at an elevation of 2477 feet.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->How is data from these two very disparate topographical locations applicable to Grass Valley, CA?

Please find attached a Year Round Weather Report for Grass Valley, CA generated by NASA's MERRA-2 meteorological model. This model is a compilation of data from a 36 year history, dating from January 1, 1980 to December 31st, 2016.

The Air Quality Report specifies that the County's prevailing wind is from a westerly direction (page 14). Based upon the NASA model, Grass Valley winds are "most often from the south for 7.4 months, from February 10 to September 21, with a peak percentage of 55% on August 11. The wind is most often from the east for 4.6 months, from September 21 to February 10, with a peak percentage of 49% on January 1 (page 5, Weatherspark Report).

The Brunswick Site is south, southeast of the entire city of Grass Valley and a large portion of unincorporated county properties. Having lived just 0.3 miles north of the proposed Brunswick site, I can vouch for the southern and eastern wind patterns. I would be happy to have an anemometer installed on my property to verify these wind patterns.

Taking these wind patterns into account means that all pollutants will be deposited over the city and surrounding areas especially into the Brunswick Basin.

The quadrant bounded by Idaho Maryland Road, Dorsey Drive, E. Main Street and the Brunswick Basin will suffer assaults from the reclamation of the Centennial site, the construction and ongoing operations of the Brunswick site, the construction and ongoing operations of the Centennial site.

This quadrant contains Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, 4 Skilled Nursing Facilities, multiple assisted living facilities including memory care, multiple senior housing apartments, Hospitality House for the homeless population and proposed housing project for the homeless (Brunswick Commons). There are also public health department offices, physicians' offices-many of whom serve Medi-Cal patients, Grass Valley Dialysis Center on Crown Point and Chapa-De Indian Health Center.

This quadrant is populated almost entirely of "Sensitive Receptors". This is an extremely vulnerable population-I have serviced their respiratory needs as a Field Clinician for Apria HealthCare for the past three years until my recent retirement this past year.

There is a large pedestrian population due to the Hospitality House operational hours from 4 pm-7 am. There are currently 54 beds. With the completion of Brunswick Commons, an additional 41 units will be added. The Brunswick Basin is a vital banking and shopping district allowing easy access to pharmacies, grocery stores, etc for Grass Valley residents and this primarily pedestrian population.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->What will be the impact of pollutants on these vulnerable populations and GV residents?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Will a census including explicit health conditions be performed as a baseline prior to project initiation?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Will health monitoring of Grass Valley residents be ongoing and documented?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Will Grass Valley residents be compensated for health conditions related to mining pollutants exposures?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->What will be the impact during Public Service Safety Shutoffs when Rise Mine will be operating 4 -6 diesel generators and the populace is unable to operate their own ventilation systems?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->What will be the impact if we have electrical brown or blackouts-what is the priority for reenergization?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->How will Rise restrict the fugitive dust to the property line during high wind conditions such as the Diablo wind event of last year?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->How will this project protect and maintain our community's health?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Will the 70 or so proposed truck driving employees be informed and compensated for their risks of pulmonary fibrosis, silicosis, mesothelioma, lung cancer and premature death?

On mynevadacounty.com website, the document "2019 Community Health Needs Assessment/

Community Health Assessments of Nevada County" supports this position. Grass Valley is a Primary Community of Concern (pg 30). The main area of central Grass Valley has the greatest vulnerability residing in the top 20 percentile (pg 35). Both mining site operations are within this area.

Mortality rates in Nevada County from Chronic Lung Disease occur at twice the California state rate: 69.26 deaths per 100,000 people vs 34.92 per 100,000 respectively (pg 17).

The introduction of this report states: "The health of a community is greatly influenced by the environmental and structural components of the community, and personal characteristics of its members. Community health includes the health status of the people, and the conditions in the community that promote, protect and preserve their health...and are deeply connected to the health of the natural environment in which they live."

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Please explain how the Rise Mine Project will address these issues in light of our already elevated mortality baselines

POLLUTANTS AND EFFECTS

Section 2, pages 3-9, of the Air Quality Report should be required reading for every Grass Valley resident. The author has done a thorough explanation of depicting most of the pollutants that will be widely disseminated into the environment through the mining operation. The dispersal will primarily be

airborne, uncontrollable and unquantifiable once released to the atmosphere. Breathing(respiration) is the most rapid introduction to the human body of these toxins, and all other biological life forms.

The County General Plan's Goal 14.1 is to "Attain, maintain and ensure high air quality". The current EPA designation of western Nevada County is moderate "nonattainment" for 8 hour ozone levels. However in 2018, the submitted NSAQMD ozone attainment plan requested reclassification to "Serious" nonattainment area for the County. CARB has designated the County as a nonattainment area for ozone and PM_{10} standards.

Several locations identified in the Traffic Impact Analysis Report identified areas that already exceed carbon monoxide levels as well.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Please explain how the release of "mitigated" tons of nitrogen oxide compounds will enable Nevada County to achieve attainment goals for ozone on top of the existing elevated baseline

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Who will monitor and mitigate the destruction caused by acid rain from nitrogen oxide compounds?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Who will monitor and enforce air quality standards since we do not have an Air Pollution Control Officer ?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Who will develop standards for the myriad of contaminants, many of them carcinogenic, that do not currently have established enforcement levels?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Who will pay for third party monitoring necessary to ensure transparency?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->How will the California Health and Safety Code Section 41700 be enforced?

As a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Respiratory Care Practitioner with the state of California, my primary concern is for the immediate and long term pulmonary health of our community. All exposures from the mining operation are detrimental to lung health whether it is from site reclamation, the initial construction and grading exposure, continuous diesel fumes exposure and/or continuous "engineered" fill exposure.

This bracketing of sites results in *de facto* annexation of all property between the two sites and beyond. This area will be subject to all conditions of the mine and quarry sites. In fact, we will suffer from the noise, light, vibration and pollution 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Employees will go home after each shift and will be offered the benefits of OSHA regulations and protections.

We chose to live here and we will choose to leave. We will walk away from our dream home if necessary. Nevada County and Rise do not have the right to "stake a claim" to my sanity, physical health or quality of life.

Sincerely,

Pam Heard RRT

11500 Brunswick Pines Road

Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 277-3891

P.S. By rezoning from Light Industrial to Mineral Extraction, Nevada County and Rise must accept responsibility for the consequences of that action. In recompense, Nevada County and Rise should at minimum:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Offer to purchase at current market price, any and all affected residences or businesses that wish to relocate
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->For those remaining, pay all health care claims in perpetuity related to pollution generated by mine operation.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Establish a water reservoir for wildfire mitigation since all vegetation will be negatively impacted
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Establish a fund for road maintenance since taxpayers should not be liable for their pulverization from mining equipment
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->▪ <!--[endif]-->Establish an escrow account for Superfund cleanup of Grass Valley, not just mine site reclamation

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 17, 2020

RE: Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project

To Matt Kelley and Planning Commission,

My name is Tom Heard. I am a Board Certified Entomologist Emeritus and have an undergraduate degree in Economic Zoology from Clemson University. Professionally, I have worked in urban entomology and pest control for the past 40 years. I reside at 11500 Brunswick Pines Road in Grass Valley CA.

A primary concern with respect to air quality, is how diesel fuel emissions will have a negative impact on honeybee pollinators. Following is an abstract from a peer reviewed scholarly journal for your perusal:

The Effects of Diesel Exhaust Pollution on Floral Volatiles and the Consequences for Honey Bee Olfaction - PubMed

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26424685/
NCBI homepageLog in

Access keysNCBI HomepageMyNCBI HomepageMain ContentMain Navigation
Advanced
Full-text links

The Effects of Diesel Exhaust Pollution on Floral Volatiles and the Consequences for Honey Bee Olfaction
Inka Lusebrink et al. J Chem Ecol. 2015 Oct.
Show details
Full-text links
Cite

Abstract

There is growing evidence of a substantial decline in pollinators within Europe and North America, most likely caused by multiple factors such as diseases, poor nutrition, habitat loss, insecticides, and environmental pollution. Diesel exhaust could be a contributing factor to this decline, since we found that

diesel exhaust rapidly degrades floral volatiles, which honey bees require for flower recognition. In this study, we exposed eight of the most common floral volatiles to diesel exhaust in order to investigate whether it can affect volatile mediated plant-pollinator interaction. Exposure to diesel exhaust altered the blend of common flower volatiles significantly: myrcene was considerably reduced, β-ocimene became undetectable, and β-caryophyllene was transformed into its cis-isomer isocaryophyllene. Proboscis extension response (PER) assays showed that the alterations of the blend reduced the ability of honey bees to recognize it. The chemically reactive nitrogen oxides fraction of diesel exhaust gas was identified as capable of causing degradation of floral volatiles.

In summary, the honeybees are unable to smell the flowers- leaving them unable to locate and therefore pollinate said flowers.

Here is another link regarding honeybee colony collapse due to diesel fume exposure:

Are Diesel Fumes Contributing to Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder?

https://entomologytoday.org/2013/10/03/are-diesel-fumes-contributing-to-honey-bee-colony-collapse-disorder/

This is an extremely valuable and necessary resource for local farms, orchards and apiaries contributing millions of dollars to our economy. Honeybees are also critical to food production and the entire food chain.

Sincerely,

Tom Heard
11500 Brunswick Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 277-3891

From:	Pam Heard
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall; Sue Hoek; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Richard Anderson
Subject:	Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project Effects on Honeybees
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 2:30:16 PM
Attachments:	Honeybees and Diesel.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

"It's here and attached"

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170 August 17, 2020

Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project

To Matt Kelley and Planning Commission,

My name is Tom Heard. I am a Board Certified Entomologist Emeritus and have an undergraduate degree in Economic Zoology from Clemson University. Professionally, I have worked in urban entomology and pest control for the past 40 years. I reside at 11500 Brunswick Pines Road in Grass Valley CA.

A primary concern with respect to air quality, is how diesel fuel emissions will have a negative impact on honeybee pollinators. Following is an abstract from a peer reviewed scholarly journal for your perusal:

The Effects of Diesel Exhaust Pollution on Floral Volatiles and the Consequences for Honey Bee Olfaction - PubMed

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26424685/

NCBI homepageLog in

Access keysNCBI HomepageMyNCBI HomepageMain ContentMain Navigation

Advanced

Full-text links

The Effects of Diesel Exhaust Pollution on Floral Volatiles and the Consequences for Honey Bee Olfaction

Inka Lusebrink et al. J Chem Ecol. 2015 Oct.

Show details

Full-text links

Cite

Abstract

There is growing evidence of a substantial decline in pollinators within Europe and North America, most likely caused by multiple factors such as diseases, poor nutrition, habitat loss, insecticides, and environmental pollution. Diesel exhaust could be a contributing factor to this decline, since we found that diesel exhaust rapidly degrades floral volatiles, which honey bees require for flower recognition. In this study, we exposed eight of the most common floral volatiles to diesel exhaust in order to investigate whether it can affect volatile mediated plant-pollinator interaction. Exposure to diesel exhaust altered the blend of common flower volatiles significantly: myrcene was considerably reduced, β-ocimene became undetectable, and β-caryophyllene was transformed into its cis-isomer isocaryophyllene. Proboscis extension response (PER) assays showed that the alterations of the blend reduced the ability of honey bees to recognize it. The chemically reactive nitrogen oxides fraction of diesel exhaust gas was identified as capable of causing degradation of floral volatiles.

In summary, the honeybees are unable to smell the flowers- leaving them unable to locate and therefore pollinate said flowers.

Here is another link regarding honeybee colony collapse due to diesel fume exposure:

Are Diesel Fumes Contributing to Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder?

https://entomologytoday.org/2013/10/03/are-diesel-fumes-contributing-to-honey-bee-colony-collapse-disorder/

This is an extremely valuable and necessary resource for local farms, orchards and apiaries contributing millions of dollars to our economy. Honeybees are also critical to food production and the entire food chain.

Sincerely,

Tom Heard

11500 Brunswick Pines Road

Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 277-3891

Letter Regarding the Rise Gold Mine Proposed Project "Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report"

Executive Summary

By Pam Heard RRT RCP

The Rise Idaho-Maryland Mine Project will have life threatening effects on the air quality in Grass Valley and its environs. There will be both immediate and future medical and legal consequences from the continued release of noxious gases and particulates into our atmosphere that will negatively affect every living thing in western Nevada County.

The Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report is basing their conclusions about air pollution on comparisons to unrelated locations. The locations for comparison are not even in the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. Grass Valley is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, 34 miles from the dispersion comparison site, Blue Canyon. The report stipulates that Blue Canyon was chosen because it was the closest of the three available models at 17 miles.

Our analysis is based on 36 years of meteorological data from NASA's MERRA-2 model using weighted data from three points: Nevada County Air Park, Auburn Municipal Airport and Beale Air Force Base. This model demonstrates that our wind direction is from the south for 7.4 months of the year, the remaining 4.6 months wind direction is from the east, thus blowing the Mine and trucking pollution into Grass Valley.

The report states (see p. 3), "the prevailing wind direction over the County is westerly". The NASA model allows for greater specificity to Grass Valley itself not the entire county. Transportation emissions from the Sacramento metro area influence our local air quality (Nevada County report 1995). Sacramento is located south of Grass Valley demonstrating that emission pollutants are brought on southern winds.

Since the Rise Idaho-Maryland Site and Centennial Site are located south of Grass Valley all emissions from both sites will be funneled into the Brunswick Basin and surrounding residential and commercial areas where an exceptionally vulnerable population lives, works and shops.

The quadrant (Bennett Road, Dorsey Drive, E. Main Street, Brunswick basin) is populated almost exclusively by "Sensitive Receptors". This area includes Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, 4 Skilled Nursing Facilities, multiple assisted living facilities including memory care and multiple senior apartment complexes. It also contains the public health department offices, dialysis center, physicians' offices, Chapa-De Indian Health Center, Hospitality House for the homeless and proposed housing for the homeless at Brunswick Commons. This quadrant will receive pollutants from the three major sources: mining operations, tailing transport (diesel fumes and dust) and dump management.

Criteria toxic air pollutants include: ozone(O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$ and lead (Pb). Page 17 reveals that for the measured years of 2016,2017, 2018, $PM_{2.5}$ has already been increasing. Pollution in 2018 exceeded the Federal standard of 35 $\mu g/m^3$ by a factor of 4! This increase may be attributed to increased traffic from development and wildfires but it must be taken into account when more is to be added.

Diesel fuel produces toxic particulate matter (a subset of $PM_{2.5}$). Seventy percent of all airborne cancer risk in California is attributed to these particulates, especially dangerous because 90% are less than 1 micron in diameter. Over 40% of diesel emissions are carcinogenic organic substances.

All vehicle emissions in the report will become invalid if the 3 traffic signals are added to Brunswick Road as proposed in the Traffic Impact Analysis Report. The idle times and travel speeds will be dramatically increased due to impeded traffic flow and congestion thus increasing emissions substantially.

Nevada County has a status of "nonattainment" for both ozone(O3) and PM_{10}. All other criteria air pollutants have no established limits. Since there's no Air Pollution Control Officer in this County, how will pollution levels be controlled?

The life shortening effects of lung inflammation from breathing noxious gases along with respired particulates (asbestos, crystalline silica, diesel fuel carcinogens) has been proven. The Mine's pollutants will go deep into resident's lungs ensuring accelerated damage and premature death from lung disease. The mortality from chronic lung disease in Nevada County is already twice the rate compared to the state of California at 69.26 deaths per 100,000 vs 34.92 per 100,000 (2019 *Community Health Needs Assessment/Community Health Assessments of Nevada County*).

Without basis, the Report claims that the impact of every pollutant and contaminate generated by the mine has been determined to be "less-than-significant". The Report must address additive and accumulative effects of all emissions including criteria and non- criteria pollutants regardless of established limits. Once these toxins are released into the atmosphere, every living thing will suffer the damage: 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for 80 years.

Under "Thresholds of Significance" (Section 2.4.1), significant impacts to the community and environment will occur from the Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project since all four tenets of this policy will be real. It is inconceivable that pumping hundreds of pounds of pollutants into the air each and every day will have a "less-than-significant "effect on our community. How does this reconcile with Rule 205 or the California Health and Safety Code Section 41700?

This Report is deceptive. It uses incomparable sites, air districts and criteria, and it draws vague and ambiguous results ending with unacceptable disclaimer declarations. As a Registered Respiratory Therapist, I predict that if Rise Gold Inc. reopens the Idaho Maryland mine, Grass Valley will become Ghost Valley.

From: Pam Heard <pspheard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Ed Scofield <Ed.Scofield@co.nevada.ca.us>; Sue Hoek <Sue.Hoek@co.nevada.ca.us>; Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>; Richard Anderson <Richard.Anderson@co.nevada.ca.us>; Dan Miller <Dan.Miller@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Executive Summary for Air Quality Report Concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello All,

Please find attached a letter summarizing key points from the report. It was a pleasure to meet the Board this morning, if only remotely. Thank you for your time and concern.

We look forward to many more meetings,

Pam and Tom Heard
11500 Brunswick Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
CC: Supervisor Heidi Hall. District 1
Re: Idaho Maryland Mine – Rise Gold, Grass Valley

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have lived on my Greenhorn property since 1996, and I am writing to share my concerns about reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.

My well is my only source of water. I would like to see more analysis on the impacts to wells beyond the scope of the boundaries Rise Gold has drawn, since aquifers do not necessarily follow property lines. I also believe the scope of potential water contamination may be far greater than is currently considered, and I have read about no guarantees against that possibility. If wells beyond the scope of the project become compromised or contaminated, Rise would need to pay to extend NID system lines in order to serve those households. The cost of connecting each affected residence to NID is substantial, and it would need to include actual hookup costs and 80 years' worth of water payments to NID. How will the County enforce such action, if it is warranted?

I also worry about the noise caused by the mine. My property is very quiet, but being only one mile from the mine site, the noise generated from the mining operations would change that drastically. Right now, I can hear train whistles blowing from Colfax, even though they are at least 12 miles away. But, given the geography of the land surrounding us, the noise of round-the-clock mining operations, and trucks running 16 hours daily just one mile away, would create constant, loud, industrial noise that is a destructive invasion of our rural environment.

I understand that jobs created by the opening of the mine are supposed to have a positive impact on our economy, but I wonder what jobs will actually be open to current Nevada County citizens. Will the miners be paid prevailing wages, or will they earn union wages? Will a miner earn enough to buy a home here? I doubt that our local citizens will be hired to manage or supervise, because even though mining is an historical industry here in Nevada County, the hard rock miners and engineers are long gone. That means those highest paying jobs, the ones that make home ownership possible, will likely go to people who move here from out of town, rather that folks who are already here. An influx of new individuals looking for housing here will only drive up prices, and make affordable homes even farther out of reach for workers earning modest incomes.

Finally, how will Nevada County ensure that Rise lives up to its environmental responsibilities? One needs to look no farther than Wolf Creek as it passes along Idaho Maryland Road, to see the environmental destruction that unregulated mining companies leave behind. How will our county enforce 80 years of environmental cleanup by a company which is headquartered in Canada?

I urge you and the Board of Supervisors to decline this project.

Sincerely – William Heck

From:	Bill Heck
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall
Subject:	mine project at Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:49 AM
Attachments:	Letter to Matt Kelley.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley and Supervisor Hall, please find my letter about the mine attached. Thank you.
Bill Heck

--
Thank you,

Bill Heck

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Re: Idaho Maryland Mine – Rise Gold, Grass Valley
Fr: Ricki Heck, Homeowner, **13641 Greenhorn Road**, 1 mile from proposed project.
CC: Supervisor: Heidi Hall, District 1 August 16, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly -

I have lived on my property since the early 1980's, built my home, raised my children and now am enjoying retirement; all on the same property. I have lovingly tended to the gardens, landscape and hardscape over 35 years. This is my home; it is my lifestyle and my treasure. I am writing to share my concerns and ask a few questions that I believe the EIR should analyze in great detail.

Water Quality Impacts to Neighborhoods.
I have an amazing well that has produced sparkling clear, pure water since it was drilled, about 1982. That well is my only source of water and it has performed beautifully and reliably for my family and gardens for over 38 years.

- I would like to see more analysis on the impacts to personal wells beyond the scope of the boundaries the project proponent has drawn. Aquifers do not necessarily follow property lines. I believe the scope of potential water contamination may be far greater than is currently considered.
- Should wells beyond the scope of the project become compromised or contaminated, Rise would need to extend NID system lines well beyond to serve those households. I know the costs of connecting to NID is substantial, and would need to include actual hookups to each home paid for by Rise, and 80 years' worth of water payments to NID, including any costs in the raise in rates that are likely over the term of the lease.
- Rise should pay the cost of testing the potability of each well identified in the EIR for its current potability, mineral and metal content before any dewatering can be approved. Then they should be required to take post dewatering samples each year of operations to determine the impacts to the wells.
- At what levels of contamination or change in water quality would be mandated for Rise to take action for private well owners, how will that be defined?

Noise.
- One of the things I love most about living on my land is the quiet. I am extremely worried and concerned that the noise generated from the mining operations, said to be 24 hrs day / 7 days a week, would simply ruin the rural quality of my home and life.
- If the project is allowed to go forward, I simply could not live with the noise and traffic impacts. I would need to leave the neighborhood, my beloved home and gardens.

Inverse Condemnation.
- I strongly believe that if allowed to move forward, the homeowners within the sphere of the project will have their homes devalued and be unable to sell for fair market value.
- I believe the noise, water and traffic conditions alone would be a "taking", a cause for an inverse condemnation action.

Collapsing Tunnels.

- As a long-time real estate professional, I have personally witnessed a brand-new home, nearby the project in the Brunswick Pines area that fell into a previously unknown mine tunnel. It happened about 15-20 years ago.
- I would like to see a specific study on the probability of homes and lands being swallowed once the dewatering takes place. This is a *real* concern, and something that happens more often than is thought. Tunnel collapses can happen anywhere.

Employment.

- I understand one of the arguments in favor of the project is the jobs that are supposed to be created and the positive impacts to our economy.
- I would like the EIR to do an in-depth study of our local labor force for the skill sets that would be required for the underground miners and all of the jobs this project says it will bring to our area. What will be the salary schedule for the proposed jobs and will it be sufficient to pay for our expensive housing? I suspect Nevada and Placer Counties no longer have a labor force that has experience in the skill areas that will be required. Resulting in few jobs for locals, and little housing stock for folks coming from other areas to work.

My concerns are many, with only a few stated here. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment and I am quite sincere about my opposition to opening the Idaho-Maryland mine. While mining may have given Nevada County its beginnings, our lifestyle, economy and quality of life have changed since those days. I urge you and the Board of Supervisors to decline this project, its time has passed.

Should you need to contact me, I can be reached as follows:
rickirheck@gmail.com
530-263-5433
13641 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Sincerely,



Ricki Heck
Homeowner

From:	Ricki RHeck
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall
Subject:	Re: Rise Gold Letter of Opposition and Questions for the EIR
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:50:44 AM
Attachments:	Rise Gold Comment Letter 8.16.20 (1).docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly - I erred on the date of my letter, stating August 20th. Since today is August 16, I obviously made a mistake. I will re-send with the correct date as I understand Aug. 17th is the cutoff.

Thank You,

Ricki Heck
530-263-5433 | cell

On Sun, Aug 16, 2020 at 10:34 AM Ricki RHeck <rickirheck@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Mr. Kelly - Please see the attached letter. Please include it into the Rise Gold public comment for scoping and the DEIR.
>
> Thank You,
>
> *Ricki Heck*
> *530-263-5433 | cell*

From:	Ken Heftel
To:	Matt Kelley; bdofsupervisors
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:53:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to you to request that the Idaho Maryland mine not be allowed to re-open for the reasons listed below, even if the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) concludes that there will be no significant environmental issues associated with the mine. I say this because I do not believe that adequate non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analyses have been completed for an EIR. If the mine is re-opened based on the current tests and analyses, it will be a terrible mistake that we homeowners will have to live with for the rest of our lives, and will result in a diminished quality of life, environmental damages, reduced property values, loss of groundwater resources, and cause what is now a beautiful are to be turned into an industrial mess. Please make sure that this does not happen.

Necessary Analysis and Reports:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.

This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every prospective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Please help us to make sure that the EIR process and our quality of life are not abused for the profit of others.

Thank you!
Kenneth Heftel
14278 La Noria Court, GV

From: faithinma@mindspring.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:06:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley:
I am writing to ask that we do not allow a gold mining operation.

- Given the extent of the underground tunnels, the mine may directly affect homes within 5-10 miles and many wells are expected to run dry from a million plus gallons of water pumped out each day.
- Toxicity is likely to pollute the ground water, streams and the land, as previous mining operations have done in Nevada County and elsewhere.
- Air and noise pollution will skyrocket. Traffic will include up to 100 truck trips per day from the mine site to the dumping site off Idaho-Maryland. Greenhouse gas emission from trucks and machinery, along with particles from blasting, drilling & loading toxic materials, will pollute our air.
- Property values in the area will drop and tech businesses will move elsewhere.
- Essentially we will have a large industrial wasteland in the Grass Valley/ Nevada City community.

Thank you for hearing me and considering this point of view along with all the others with this point of view.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Hegeman

Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Stephen Hein
To: Matt Kelley
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Idaho-Maryland Mine

From:
Stephen Hein
California Survey Co.
136 Idaho Maryland Rd.

This project is one of the most significant, in my lifetime, for the future of our County. Mining continues at various locations around the County, but re-opening the Idaho-Maryland as proposed, with hundreds of employees and 24-hr. operations planned into the next century, is going to have a large and lasting affect on our community. Before the approval process even begins we need to take the time to ensure that an industrial scale gold mine is compatible with our roots and our values,

I have worked with the Rise engineers on this project and they are capable and focused, but they are from Vancouver, and young and they have little commitment to our County. This is a project with the scope of a century, and it is worth taking some time to consider the applicant's motivations, and assess the value of their plan to the folks who are living here.

I believe that it might be possible for this plan to succeed if Rise can ensure that they won't contaminate the downstream community along Bennet St. and the City of Grass Valley and that the tons of exposed tailings won't exacerbate the historic tailings leachate and dust which currently elevate our exposure to lead, cadmium and other metals.

I like Grass Valley sleepy, and honestly I am not a fan of indiscriminate development, but I think the planning process is in place to consider the needs of the general community and the natural world. If Rise is able to demonstrate that there would be actual community benefits of the gold mine, let's hear the proposal.

For an industrial-scale mine to be successful in Nevada County of the 21st century. It will need to be a different type of operation from the Idaho-Maryland that was shut down during World War II, as a non-essential business. We have a far deeper understanding now of ecological and community systems, and what we are considering is pumping millions gallons of groundwater and exposing 100s of tons of serpentine matrix rock. The surface works and daily operations are similar to the 24 hr. a day saw mill that existed on the same site for many years, but the potential long-term affects on the community are greater and need to be evaluated before permits are issued, and any reclamation, monitoring and or mitigation measures that are required to ensure the co-existence of the mine with the existing community need to be robust, specific and effective.

Reviewing the documents submitted as part of the application is something of a daunting task,

but I have looked at the some of the work and it seems a little generalized. For example the proposed erosion control measures rely on seeding of native grasses. I saw no discussion of the actual grading of the processed ore, but grass seed is unlikely to grow on gravel or larger, cobble-size fill, especially if it is largely the serpentine-based rock that is toxic to many species, and straw-wattle or silt barriers will have little effect on leachate. Maybe these issues are addressed in some of the documents that I have not reviewed, but please, take adequate time to ensure that if the Idaho Maryland project is approved, there is oversight, monitoring, funding and long-term planning as a part of the process to ensure that our vibrant community is not a victim of corporate rapacity or the fickleness of economic shifts that have affected most gold mines.

--
Stephen Hein LS 6792
www.Calsurv.com
California Survey Co.
136 Idaho Maryland Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: erik@cdburnguy.com <erik@cdburnguy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:02 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine - Rise Gold

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelly Senior Planner

950 Maidu Ave

Suite 170 Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Matt Kelley,

I am a resident and homeowner off Greenhorn Rd./Brunswick Rd. in Grass Valley and I vehemently oppose any consideration to permit the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. The historical legacy of mining in the area has left generations that followed to deal with habitat destruction, environmental pollution, aquifer disruption, watershed damage, and countless ecological damages. Reopening the area to commercial mining is irresponsible, short sighted, and does not serve the best interest of the residents of the area or greater Nevada County. Any anticipated revenue will be offset by the cost of a single environmental accident by the mining company with no ties to the local community. Property values will decrease and homeowners will have the right to file for an adjustment to commensurately reduce property tax payments, reducing county revenues. Roads will incur heavier traffic from both commercial vehicles and mining employee traffic, which will increase road maintenance costs. Noise pollution from permitted underground blasting and heavy equipment will degrade our quality of life. I sincerely hope that you will consider the wishes of your local constituents, community members, and neighbors who speak for themselves and their children in asking for your wisdom in seeing the true value of what our community has come to accept as our responsibility to ensuring the care of our home in beautiful Grass Valley.

Respectfully,

Erik Heinrich

12670 Blackberry Trail

Grass Valley CA 95945

From:	Eric Hellebust
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall; Brian Foss
Subject:	Re: Rise Mine Public Comment Period
Date:	Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:20:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thanks for your kind assistance in detailing the process for the Rise Mine proposal.
I signed up for project notifications on the MyNevCo site some weeks ago but may have missed the notice on the public scoping meeting. I was able to watch the recorded video on the county website which was very helpful. Thanks again for your help.

Best Regards,
Eric Hellebust
On Monday, August 3, 2020, 12:38:08 PM PDT, Matt Kelley <matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Hellebust:

Supervisor Hall and Planning Director, Brian Foss asked me to respond to your email below in regards to the opportunities to provide public comments on the proposed project for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

We are currently in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) public comment period of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process in which the Nevada County Planning Department as lead agency is requesting comments on the scope of the EIR analysis. The Notice of Preparation was mailed out on July 17, 2020 to Responsible Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties as well as property owners within 500 feet of the extent of the subsurface mineral rights that are owned by the applicant. In addition, the Notice of Preparation was also posted on the County website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley and posted in the Union Newspaper also on July 17, 2020. As specified by the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation is being circulated for a 30-day review period which began on July 17, 2020 and which closes on August 17, 2020 at 5pm.

As part of the NOP process and consistent with CEQA Guidelines, Section 21083.9 a public scoping meeting was held virtually to solicit comments, inform interested parties about the proposed project and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to comment on the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting was a virtual meeting that was recorded in advance by County Planning Department Staff and the EIR consulting firm and made available afterwards for the public to download and view by July 27 2020 at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley. Verbal comments were not going to be received during the scoping meeting, however, commenters are encouraged to submit written comments to the Nevada County Planning Department during the review period. At the close of the NOP comment period, the Nevada County Planning Department will catalog all of the received comments, which will then be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the draft EIR.

We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020. A link to the project application materials, which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received and it will contain all of the written responses to all of the comments received during the minimum 45-day review and comment period of the draft EIR.

Upon the completion of the Final EIR, it will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission hearing(s) will provide another opportunity for the public to provide comments on the project and the environmental impacts evaluated in the EIR. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project.

After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission’s recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Thank you Mr. Hellebust, and I hope this information is helpful.

If you have any additional questions about the proposed project or the EIR process, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner



Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Eric Hellebust <erichellebust@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 11:46 PM
To: Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine Public Comment Period

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisor Hall,

I am a resident of District 1 who supported you in the last election. I am writing to solicit your support in extending the public comment period for the Rise Mine proposal. A 30 day comment period for such an impactful project feels like the fast track to approval. The mine borders closely on District 1 and many of

the people you represent. I appreciate your support in extending the comment period.

Sincerely,

Eric Hellebust

Manion Canyon Rd.

Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	Eric Hellebust
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley NOP Comments
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:58:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Eric Hellebust, 13503 Manion Canyon Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a resident of Nevada County for 25+ years and have deep concerns regarding the Idaho Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley project currently in the NOP phase. Please include my comments in the catalog of public input for EIR purposes.

Aesthetics

- The planned construction on the Brunswick Industrial site changes the existing natural/historic setting into an industrial complex with large machinery, tall structures and night time lighting. This conflicts with Nevada County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance whose central tenants include "Fostering a rural quality of life". Industrial complexes and rural life are diametrically opposed.
- What impacts will the proposed construction at the Brunswick Industrial Site have on the sites visual quality and does it degrade the existing visual character from the vantage of Brunswick Road, East Bennett Street and Greenhorn Road?
- What impacts will the proposed engineered fill at the Centennial Industrial Site have on the sites visual quality and does it degrade the existing visual character from the vantage of Whispering Pines Lane, East Bennett Road, Idaho Maryland Road and Highway 20?
- The existing ambient night time light at the Brunswick Industrial site and surrounding residential area is remarkably low. What artificial light intensity is proposed? How will it be verified and managed. What impacts will it have on the surrounding residences and wildlife?
- Night time trucking traffic between the Brunswick Industrial site and the Centennial Industrial site will also produce elevated light levels. What light intensity is expected and what impacts will it have on the routes residents and wildlife.

Air Quality

- For many years Nevada County residents have been living with elevated

ozone levels resulting from densely populated areas to our west and the geographic barrier of the Sierra Nevadas to our east. Consequently the local population has many more sensitive receptors than local health records would indicate. We know our residents already suffer higher pulmonary morbidity rates compared to the rest of the state. How will the ozone increases from the proposed project impact county residents long term health? How will ozone levels near the mine be monitored and managed? Who will pay for the costs of treatment for residents impacted by increased ozone?

- Ozone is a particular concern for Nevada County but the same questions listed in the previous bullet must be answered for other pollutants listed in the Air Quality and GHG Report.
- The Air Quality and GHG Report models air pollutants on the basis of equipment lists submitted by the mine operator. What limits are established for mine equipment over the proposed 80 year operating period? How will oversight of mine equipment be managed over this period?

Hydrology/Water Quality

- The Ground Water Model Report includes many predictions, estimates, assumptions and simulations. Many of these are based on historic rather than measured data. This puts the conclusions in question.
- How were the reference documents cited in the Ground Water Model Report verified for accuracy.
- The word "reasonably" appears throughout the Ground Water Model Report. In these statements what parameters define reasonably and how are they scientifically supported?
- The Ground Water Model Report includes sensitivity analysis on specific input parameters. Which model inputs were not analyzed and what was the scientific basis for their exclusion?
- Recommendation #4 in the Ground Water Model Report acknowledges that actual mining activities will deviate from the mining plan which was analyzed. In the event of such deviation how can the reports conclusions be accurate?
- The water table and underground movement are difficult to predict. Changes in groundwater brought about through mining activities could negatively affect wells distant from the mine. How will continued residential well performance be insured? Who will pay for the cost of well repairs if problems occur. What geographic boundaries will be considered for mining related well impacts.
- Pollutants can enter groundwater from mining activities. Water pumped out of the mine is to be treated but water contaminants left in ground can migrate beyond into residential and commercial water systems. How will

surrounding water systems be monitored for contamination? What contaminants will be measured? How will clean water be provided and who will pay for it. Who will pay for health problems arising from water contaminants.

Land Use/Planning

- Zoning changes require adequate consideration of public benefit. Who will determine the public benefit of the zoning variance requested with mine proposal? What public benefits and detriments will be considered? Will an analysis be available to the public?

Noise

- During 2019 and 2020 the test drilling activities conducted off E. Bennett St. caused intolerable noise and vibration levels in the homes of local residents. This fact contradicts the following statement from the noise and vibration analysis.
  "Exploration and mining of the underground workings will begin once dewatering is complete. Because the equipment and processes will be located far underground, with the exception of blasting, the transmission of noise from the underground operations is not expected to be audible at the surface." Full production level drilling, blasting and processing at the Brunswick Industrial Site will be more intrusive than the test drilling. There is no mitigation possible for the noise and vibration generated from this activity. Given the expanse of the mineral rights area and the 24x7x365 proposed underground operation many local people will be exposed to noise and vibration around the clock. Although underground activity is limited to the boundaries of the mineral rights area the noise and vibration will travel much further. How will noise and vibration from underground operations be monitored and managed at the surface. What are the possible health effects from long term exposure to noise, vibration and the associated stress? Who will pay for treatment of those who suffer related health problems?

Transportation/Traffic

- Heavy trucks will be used to move rock to the Centennial Industrial Site. These trucks must negotiate a dangerous downhill left hand turn from Brunswick onto Whispering Pines Lane. Brunswick often has heavy traffic moving at 45+ mph. The danger increases in winter when roads become wet and/or icy. How will the increased danger at this intersection be managed?
- The public roads surrounding the mine will all experience increased traffic from trucks, automobiles and heavy equipment. Who will pay for the increased maintenance costs associated with this traffic?

Economic Impact

- Although an economic impact assessment is not required under CEQA I strongly urge the county to undertake this important evaluation.

Sincerely,
Eric Hellebust

John Hellwig
13500 Spenceville Road
Penn Valley, California 95946
530-432-3232 johnwhellwig@yahoo.com

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: NOP Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelley:

My family and I moved to Nevada County in 1970 – now fifty years ago. We came here for one simple reason: quality of life. Today, in the age of the Internet, people continue to relocate to our area because they can make a living, raise a family, or retire, all while enjoying our beautiful environment, recreation, cultural and historical resources, and small town friendliness. In fact, the long-term economic viability of our area depends on quality of life.

I am deeply concerned that re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine will seriously degrade the quality of life in Western Nevada County and significantly injure the physical and economic health of its residents. Recall the old saying: “don’t foul your own nest.” That’s what this project would do.

As this ill-conceived proposal is considered, there are numerous potential impacts that should be evaluated, in order that an EIR is sufficiently comprehensive. Some of my concerns follow. I hope these are considered in your study, along with other potential impacts I may not be aware of.

- What will be the impacts to water quality and supply, given that many local residents are served by individual wells?
- What will be the impact of dumping massive quantities of mine water into local watercourses, especially Wolf Creek? How will the health of the creek and its biology and ecology be affected?
- What toxins will wind up in local watercourses?
- Where will water for the mine operations be sourced? How will tapping local sources of water impact availability and price of water for residents in our area?
- How will transportation of ore and tailings be achieved? What impacts will occur to air quality, roadways, and traffic from trucking large quantities of material?
- How will mine operations, including crushing, affect air quality?
- What will be the sources of energy required for continuous operation of the mine? Will this energy come from the aging PG&E grid, which has proven to be a significant fire hazard in the North State, and is already over-taxed in hot weather? Will energy come from renewable sources? If so, how much?
- Will energy and fuel consumption associated with the mine be a contributor to global warming via greenhouse gas?
- What are the noise impacts from the mine operation, including but not limited to, truck and heavy equipment, ore crushing and processing machinery, and underground explosions? Will these noise impacts occur 24X7X365?
- What are the seismic impacts of the underground operations? Will explosions destabilize local faults? Will explosions release asbestos or other toxins?
- How will explosives be transported to the site? What potential exists for damage to people and property associated with use the explosives?

John Hellwig
13500 Spenceville Road
Penn Valley, California 95946
530-432-3232 johnwhellwig@yahoo.com

- What will be the visual impacts of the mine and operations?
- Where will tailings be deposited? What impacts are associated with the tailings, including but not limited to visual impacts, and toxic impacts to people and environment?
- What will be the health effects to workers, both working underground and working in crushing and processing facilities?
- What will be the impacts of hazardous chemicals used to process and extract gold from crushed ore? Will cyanide or other compounds be sprayed on ore above ground? How will such chemicals be transported to the mine? How will the byproducts of these chemicals be contained and removed from the facilities?
- What will be the impact of the mine and operations on housing values? Will nearby housing lose value due to degradation of air quality, water quality and supply, noise, traffic, and aesthetics?

If there are any questions, please call me at 530-205-6670.

Sincerely,

s/ John Hellwig

John Hellwig

From:	John Hellwig
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Concerning Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:54:35 PM
Attachments:	Mine Letter.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Ave

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: NOP Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelley:

My family and I moved to Nevada County in 1970 – now fifty years ago. We came here for one simple reason: quality of life. Today, in the age of the Internet, people continue to relocate to our area because they can make a living, raise a family, or retire, all while enjoying our beautiful environment, recreation, cultural and historical resources, and small town friendliness. In fact, the long-term economic viability of our area depends on quality of life.

I am deeply concerned that re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine will seriously degrade the quality of life in Western Nevada County and significantly injure the physical and economic health of its residents. Recall the old saying: “don’t foul your own nest.” That’s what this project would do.

As this ill-conceived proposal is considered, there are numerous potential impacts that should be evaluated, in order that an EIR is sufficiently comprehensive. Some of my concerns follow. I hope these are considered in your study, along with other potential impacts I may not be aware of.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What will be the impacts to water quality and supply, given that many local residents are served by individual wells?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What will be the impact of dumping massive quantities of mine water into local watercourses, especially Wolf Creek? How will the health of the creek and its biology and ecology be affected?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What toxins will wind up in local watercourses?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Where will water for the mine operations be sourced? How will tapping local sources of water impact availability and price of water for residents in our area?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How will transportation of ore and tailings be achieved? What impacts will occur to air quality, roadways, and traffic from trucking large quantities of material?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How will mine operations, including crushing, affect air quality?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What will be the sources of energy required for continuous operation of the mine? Will this energy come from the aging PG&E grid, which has proven to be a significant fire hazard in the North State, and is already over-taxed in hot weather? Will energy come from renewable sources? If so, how much?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Will energy and fuel consumption associated with the mine be a contributor to global warming via greenhouse gas?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What are the noise impacts from the mine operation, including but not limited to, truck and heavy equipment, ore crushing and processing machinery, and underground explosions? Will these noise impacts occur 24X7X365?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What are the seismic impacts of the underground operations? Will explosions destabilize local faults? Will explosions release asbestos or other toxins?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How will explosives be transported to the site? What potential exists for damage to people and property associated with use the explosives?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What will be the visual impacts of the mine and operations?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Where will tailings be deposited? What impacts are associated with the tailings, including but not limited to visual impacts, and toxic impacts to people and environment?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What will be the health effects to workers, both working underground and working in crushing and processing facilities?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What will be the impacts of hazardous chemicals used to process and extract gold from crushed ore? Will cyanide or other compounds be sprayed on ore above ground? How will such chemicals be transported to the mine? How will the byproducts of these chemicals be contained and removed from the facilities?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What will be the impact of the mine and operations on housing values? Will nearby housing lose value due to degradation of air quality, water quality and supply, noise, traffic, and aesthetics?

If there are any questions, please call me at 530-205-6670. Thank you for your consideration. A pdf version of my letter is attached.

Sincerely,

John Hellwig

From: Arly Helm <arlyhelm@pacbell.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley:

We are surrounded by the environmental disasters left by mining companies already. There's absolutely no reason to believe they would clean up our environment after messing it up. Why would we give up what cleanliness we have, to put money in someone else's pocket?

Yours,

Arly Helm, MS, IBCLC-retired

From: Karel Hendee
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: oppose the Idaho Maryland mine reopening
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:52:25 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley

I would like to express my strong opposition to the Idaho Maryland Mine Proposal. I live less than a mile from the mine site. Our community had nothing to gain, and so much to lose from the re-opening of the mine. As a resident in the vicinity, it proposes direct negative impacts on my life and so many around me. From environmental hazards, impacts on our wells, traffic, noise, and degradation of the quality of life and the natural setting of our community. We can do better and create more long-term and less hazardous and destructive jobs. This is an outside company that has no interest in our community and will not endure the short or long-term impacts. Please do thorough research and listen to the voice of the community.

Karel Hendee
12469 The Hoillow Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	Lorraine Hendriksen
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine public comment
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:00:27 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
Thank you for reading this public comment regarding the possible reopening of the old mine near Brunswick road. While it's unlikely I'll say anything you haven't already heard, I felt it important to write. I felt especially compelled, given the lack of communication and information regarding this project. It seems that even this public comment time was not made especially public, a lot of us caught by surprise of news of the project, including the immediate deadline for these submissions.

I have lived in the county for nearly 40 years. I have owned or been a part of many businesses and facets of the county. In that time I have seen several companies attempt this project. There are simply too many concerns that cannot be addressed and guaranteed. Water (currently more valuable than gold), pollution of every kind, traffic, destruction of ecosystems, underfunded companies not being able to fulfill obligations. It all spells danger for our community.

While I have your attention, who do I speak with about the 174 project? It's great Cal trans is trying to make things safer. We have all heard rumors though of an increased speed limit. Making the road straighter and raising the speed limit is not the right idea. We don't want and can't turn into another 49. Please don't raise the speed limit. How about a signal at You Bet Road? How about law enforcement out there once in a while to remind people to slow down? Please help. There are too many things that are trying to be pushed through while we are all dealing with our world crisis. It will not end well if big mistakes are made. We all want to protect this beautiful place we call home.

Thank you for your time. Im sorry this got as long as it did. It's important though that we stay involved with our community, and help move forward with integrity and care. To that end, thank you for your help.
Sincerely,
Lorraine Hendriksen

From: Nancy Herrick
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: oppose themine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:46:04 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

We are residents and property owners in Nevada City/Grass Valley area.

WE strongly oppose the Rise Gold mine due to a multiplicity of inevitable problems that will very likely occur, namely:

1) Toxic fumes

2) Intense noise level increase due to major trucks running thru our community as well as blasting and drilling.

3) Local wells may run dry.

4)We have a beautiful town and we dont want it ruined!!

Sincerely,

Nancy Herrick PA
Roger Morrison MD

From: Paul Hespel
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:28:28 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 8 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might

have.

Sincerely,

Paul Hespel
831-334-6099

Sent from my iPad

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed_____Date_____

From: sierrabreeze@yahoo.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine No
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:09:18 PM
Attachments: IMG_1369.PNG

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Signed: Marianne T Hicklin, 8/17/20
Inline image



Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Turiya Hill <turiya@jps.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:16 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to you today to address my concerns on reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.
I believe this business venture is not what we need in Nevada County.
It is not good for the environmental impact it will cause. Such as, noise pollution, traffic, destruction to the natural landscape, air pollution, and water/well damage to neighboring communities.
I am not against development in our county. But this kind of business is destructive.
This mine is not something you want to have as your legacy,
You will want to be known as leaders who protected our environment while promoting new and good businesses that create jobs and do not destroy our environment.
A legacy you will be proud to tell your children and family about.

Thank you for your concern

Turiya Hill
265-4298

From: Theresa Hioki
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:34:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I am opposed to reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine for a number of reasons. I am concerned about the harmful, contaminated water. The notice in the Union Newspaper stated, "Environmental site investigations from 2006 to the present indicate high levels of arsenic and lead present in some of the soil due to past mining activities." Current taxpayers and citizens are the ones who are paying for the environmental and public health costs and impact. The run off into Wolf Creek is also deeply concerning. Will this water be tested and monitored to ensure contaminants are removed from the water? How will this water be released safely when flooding already occurs in the winter on the lower end of Mill Street? It is clear that arsenic, lead, and other contaminants have a devastating and oftentimes irreversible impact on one's health. Will these residents have to be relocated? Who will be held accountable for the safety and health of our residents exposed to toxins?
I am concerned about the noise level, air pollutants, and around the clock mining schedule that has been set forth. Where will these workers come from? Is there a plan to hire locally? As you know, there is a housing shortage in Nevada County. Will employees be paid a livable wage? What does that look like during a pandemic?
Lastly, how will this mine benefit the community? Nevada County needs small businesses that fit into our community that will help us thrive. Assets to our community include limited environmental impact, positive community benefits, and reasonable business profits. How will this mine fit into our community and meet our needs to sustain our economy and infrastructure?

Please reconsider reopening and developing the Idaho Maryland Mine

Respectfully,
Theresa Hioki
Nevada County resident

From: Theresa Hirashima
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:05:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am surprised and dismayed at the idea that the City of Grass Valley would consider allowing a gold mine to begin operations during a Global Pandemic where many businesses have been forced to close, or drastically reduce their hours of operation. I cannot understand why the City of Grass Valley would allow a business that would use water - a commodity in California that is highly valued and used by residents to live, to run this business 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Allow semi trucks to run 24/7 on the roads of Grass Valley, that are already not in the best condition. Would allow this business to create not only noise pollution, but air pollution to residents in the surrounding areas of this project. Would cause traffic delays for residents as these semi trucks enter and exit the site all for the good of who? Who profits from this project? How can anyone other than rise gold mine think this is a good plan? Please reconsider any plans to open a gold mine that will only bring down the value of this town by showing residents that they are no longer the primary concern here.

Thank you

Theresa Hirashima

From: John Hirst
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

One of most important and beneficial programs the county offered this year was the free green waste program conducted on mine property. Being able to dispose of green waste in quantity helped immeasurably in wildfire prevention.

In my opinion any permitting for mine operations should include provisions to continue and EXPAND the green waste program on that property. Thanks for listening.

John Hirst

From: Barbara Travis <barbaratravis@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:35 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Gold's proposed project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

We are reaching out to you to share our strong belief that the mine re-opening should not be allowed. Simply stated, the project will impact the place we live in a negative way. It will lower our quality of life and further degrade the natural environment. Many of us feel a deep sense of ecological grief. We're upset and filled with anxiety about turning over this project to an industry that's known to damage the environment and to siphon off the profits to out-of-towners.

Do people really accept that paving over contaminated soil is cleaning up the environment? Our doomsday clock is set at 2 minutes to midnight, warning us that catastrophe is close. This project will push the clock closer to midnight. This mining project will heavily contribute to local pollution and toward greater global warming. We need to project the place in which we live. For the sake of all – especially the children – reject the mine re-opening.

Sincerely,
Richard Hochwald, retired Dentist
And
Barbara Hochwald, retired non-profit CEO
Residents of Nevada County since 1975

From: Richard & Barbara
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold"s Proposed project
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:33:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We are reaching out to you to share our strong belief that the mine re-opening should not be allowed. Simply stated, the project will impact the place we live in a negative way. It will lower our quality of life and further degrade the natural environment. Many of us feel a deep sense of ecological grief. We're upset and filled with anxiety about turning over this project to an industry that's known to damage the environment and to siphon off the profits to out-of-towners.

Do people really accept that paving over contaminated soil is cleaning up the environment? Our doomsday clock is set at 2 minutes to midnight, warning us that catastrophe is close. This project will push the clock closer to midnight. This mining project will heavily contribute to local pollution and toward greater global warming. We need to project the place in which we live. For the sake of all – especially the children – reject the mine re-opening.

Sincerely,
Richard Hochwald, retired Dentist
And
Barbara Hochwald, retired non-profit CEO
Residents of Nevada County since 1975

From: Joyce Hoffman <joyceasmyself@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Nevada County Planning Department:

I am concerned about the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine for the following reasons:

Well Water: A common problem for housing near mines is the loss of well water. Consider San Juan Ridge for example.

Noise, Air Quality and Traffic: Several trucks will be transporting mine waste daily, seven days per week. Imagine these trucks going through our roundabouts. Traffic is already awful, adding truck noise will affect homes for **miles** around Grass Valley and air quality can only be negatively impacted by the increase in traffic.

Population, Land Use and Aesthetics: Too many homes have already been established near the mine to ask homeowners to put up with the commercial noise, traffic and potential toxic water problems. The land is now recreational, residential, and beautifully **still** healing from the last gold mines.

Joyce Hoffman
266 North Auburn Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

-----Original Message-----
From: Marv Hoffman <mrhhoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose opening the mine in our beautiful area filled with people. We do not want the environmental impact. Marv Hoffman

From: Carolyne Holland <ojailyna1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:35 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing today to express my deepest concerns regarding the possibility of reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have a background in the Oil Industry, and my concerns are valid. This opening would give further rise to the contamination of our fresh water aquifers as well as contaminants in our soils, for which remediation would be necessary. Such contaminants would expose our community to serious health issues, such as cancer and lung disease. I don't think I should have to site the story of Erin Brochovich, with whom most are familiar.

In cases where fossil fuels and subsequent hydrocarbons will be released, these contaminants will take centuries to dissipate from dangerous levels. These elements are highly carcinogenic and multiple future generations will be affected. The equipment needed for mining operations would require the transportation of petroleum based products. This alone, would damage our roads and highways, the cost of which would be passed onto our community taxpayers. In addition; has no one taken into consideration the issue of SINK HOLES?

Profits for certain businesses, whose aim it is to pillage the Earth, are SOULESS entities that pay no regard for these environmental impacts. Is this the legacy we want to leave behind?

My family moved here in 2006 because of the unique beauty in multiple water features and forests that have been preserved for our future enjoyment. There are so many more reasons to stand against this type of plunder, some of which have not even been considered at this point. This will cause irreparable damage from which we will NEVER recover. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Carolyne Holland
(530) 477-7989

From: Susan Hollon
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,
I'm contacting you in response to the proposed mine project.
Reopening the mine was attempted a few years ago. I know it was researched and protested enough that further development was halted.
I'm shocked and outraged that the idea is even being considered again!
I'm no expert, but anyone with plain common sense should realize how irreversibly devastating this would be to our community!
I don't care who's throwing around whatever amount of money, the destruction to the land, air and water, not to mention the noise pollution
should be enough to stop this insanity. We're still living with the toxins from the original mining in the area.
There will be no more peace and quiet in the proposed areas of use. Between the constant traffic of the mining noise and lights, massively weighted trucks destroying the roads ,wells running dry, property values dropping....and on and on.
Don't we already have enough problems to deal living with?
I'm sure there are thousands of other people who feel the same as I do.
I never write letters to protest anything! That is changing now.
Please stop this madness before it's too late!!!

Sincerely,
Susan Hollon
30 year resident of Western Nevada County

August 16, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Comment Period – Idaho Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Erin Murphy and I have been a Nevada County resident for 28 years and counting. We live in downtown Grass Valley, very near E. Bennett Rd. Like so many others in the area, we were drawn to this peaceful, community because of its incredible natural beauty, fondness for the arts, music and cultural, agricultural prospects and unlimited recreational opportunities.

We offer this letter in response to the Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR and Public Scoping Meeting. Erin and I are especially concerned about this project and the affect it will have on our peaceful town, Grass Valley's charm and quaint appeal. Moreover, we are deeply concerned about the threats to our environment, as history reveals, the impact will be vast; marring natural terrain, trails and spoiling waterways – all of which we enjoy so much and in so many ways – stand up paddle boards, trails walks, mountain biking, horseback riding, even trekked out in a wheelchair.

There are a number of issues that this project will bring that are untenable.

- First and foremost is the application for zoning change. Current zoning of the property is Light Industrial, M1. Any consideration of the zoning change to M1-ME would allow for surface use of this large site for "…processing, stockpiling of mined material, waste disposal and reclamation…". This proposed use of the site is well outside of the established M1 allowed uses. The ME Combining District purpose is specifically stated in the Zoning District Description: "The purpose of this District is to allow for surface mining and to provide for public awareness of the potential for surface mining to occur where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are likely present. This district shall be used only on those lands that are within any of the compatible Nevada County General Plan designations and which are not in a residential zone."
- This M1 zoned property lies directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods including those adjacent zoned RA 1.5 to the north, RA-3 and RA-5 to the east, RA-X and R1 to the south, all surrounding the proposed site.
- Are Standards met for creation of the ME district - Per Zoning requirement? That is, "...Said lands have been designated as Mineral Resource Zone-2 (MRZ-2) based on State of California Reports". This proposed use under a change to M1-ME is reflective of a Heavy Industrial use that has no place in the center of this rural residential and rural residential-agricultural district; a change in zoning allows an intense surface use that will negatively affect property values given this use of– encroaching on the peaceful enjoyment of any residential property.
- Reverse condemnation? Will the change of zoning to M1-ME cause reverse condemnation claims against the County? Properties in the immediate area are improved and unimproved residential

sites that were developed or purchased knowing that this site was zoned Light Industrial. Changing the zoning district that is adjacent to these properties to a highly intensive use will cause legal action.

- Brunswick Road: As proposed, fill will be transported (20 tons per truck) from the Brunswick Road site to the Centennial Industrial Site at an average of 50 trips per day (up to 100 trips daily). This additional traffic load significantly affects both Brunswick Road, a main arterial route that provides access to our rural community as well as a commuter route, and Whispering Pines Lane which is a route through a Whispering Pines Business Park where the most sites along the route are office uses and not industrial uses, excepting those at the westerly portion of Whispering Pines. Heavy industrial loads with an average of 50 trips per day (and up to 100 trips) is an unplanned burden on those surface roadways.
- Building improvements to the site: Under the M1 (current zoning), building height is limited to 45 feet. The proposed improvements to the site include a 165-foot portion of a shaft building. This simply violates zoning and should not be approved.
- When mining resumes and the process creates voids in the earth, who is responsible for sinkholes and the damage they create that may occur throughout the region? Recalling a sinkhole that occurred on Brunswick Road in 2017 as well as the more recent sinkhole, west of Highway 49 at Freeman Lane.
- Environmental impacts of wastewater into Wolf Creek: We are not experts in this matter, however, significant issues can arise from dumping unplanned water flow into the existing creeks in the region including natural habitats, effects on properties downstream including water levels encroaching on improved properties, to name a few.

Additionally, we have concerns about the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond, the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. If wells become unusable the EIR should further anticipate costs and analyze costs of providing safe-drinking water, be it well or NID, to home owners over time.

Mr. Kelly, we strongly urge you to reconsider the Idaho Maryland Mine Project -- located at the Brunswick Industrial site. Please, thoughtfully consider the far-reaching, environmental impact, with some impact beyond repair. In short, this proposed project is a real gut punch to those who call Grass Valley home.

Respectfully,



Kim Honeywell
Erin Murphy

112 Wood St
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(Property Owners)

Additional Property Owned:

11009 Spenceville Road
Penn Valley, CA 95946

From:	Kim Honeywell
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	EIR and Public Scoping Meeting
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:38:27 AM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine Project_2020_08_16.docx.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Kelley,
Please find attached a letter in response to the Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR and Public Scoping Meeting. Thank you.
Kind Regards,
Kim Honeywell

From: Lani Howard
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Grass Valley Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt
Although I know that the jobs and skills this mine would provide would be very welcome here, I am concerned about the environmental impacts of this mine on our community.

- In the past the mining operations used mercury and sulfuric acid and I'm not sure if that is still part of the mining process but it is very poisonous.
- The process of crushing rock is a loud one and we have become used to a very bucolic environment.
- The toll that the trucks will have on the road bed and the traffic and the noise of that is also a concern.
- I remember a few years back that a man in Colfax fell to his death in his kitchen when a mine shaft opened beneath him. Sink holes and the mine shafts undermine the land our homes are built on.
- Grass Valley already suffers from pollution blown up here from the valley. Now we will be generating pollution right here in town from the plant and the trucks.

Thank you for including my concerns.
Blessings,
Rev. Lani Howard
200 Rockwood Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-477-6454

From: Sunny Lyons
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been in this community for 17 of the last 20 years. My husband and I moved away for a few years, but found ourselves back because of the natural peace and beauty here, along with the slower lifestyle.

I am writing due to my concern about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I am very, very concerned with the ramifications of reopening this mine to our beautiful environment and to our fragile water supply. I understand that many local wells could be impacted which can devastate a household or community. Other factors of concern are noise pollution, traffic and other environment impact in the area.

Please consider carefully. Although mining operations built this community, they can also destroy it. Your deep consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Linda Howe

From: Sima
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:55:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

In regards to the Idaho-Maryland (Rise Corp.) mine, I would kindly request to be adding my concerns to the potential opening of the mine and the harmful effects on our environment, our community and our lives, in our community for the financial benefit of others. The studies that will inform the decision to allow or deny the reopening of the mind should include, but not be limited to:

- Contamination: The history of mining in Nevada county has already have its negative footprints on the environment and water ways with this invasive industry for a long term. As a mother living in Nevada County I am currently already hauling water in plastic gallons from stores as I am too concerned about drinking from the tab all the time. The current taste and water that we get from the faucet is already so much chlorine as I am worried to drink due to the past mining activities. This will only become a greater concern if there will be mining for another 80 years. What is the impact of this on our future drinking water? And how about the waters that we currently enjoy with our kids? How will those be impacted? We are a county that is plentiful with clean and crisp water ways. How will those be impacted? What about our health?

- Besides the environmental pollution, I am alco concerned about the impact this mine will have on our recreational lives as well for those that need to commute to areas outside Nevada County. The traffic and roadways are already packed for a small town as Nevada City and Grass Valley with only a few highways that are already currently congested. How do these trucks with heavy materials will not only create congestion but destroy the roads and infrastructure. Also, for a small town, focused on nature and outdoor live with hikers and cyclists and mountain bikers. We can not share the road with even more heave trucks that could be a threat to the safely of our community? Hazardous materials being transported in and out of the country?

- Lastly, the financial impact on our property values and roads/infrastructure. Housing is expensive and I paid a premium to be living here due to the nature and the beautiful mountains and fresh air. This will all be jeopardized which will reduce my property values over time. And what about the costs due to the loss of tourism? People are drawn to here because of the historic town and nature, not to mining and industrialization of this county. Or what about the agriculture and all the farmers that are currently able to produce organic and healthy products? Will it be possible to continue to farm sustaninably and organically? All the business that will be lost as a result of contaminations of the water, air and ground/earth

As you can read, I am not a scientist nor environmentalist, and don't understand all the terminology , but I am business owner and a mother who lives here, who cares about the community and mother earth.

Thank you for your considerations

PS; I apologize for the submission after 17.00 but due to the panic of the potential fire evacuation I was unable to send earlier.

Sima Hsu
Founder and Managing Director
415-706-3390
shsu@sima-consultancy.com
www.sima-consultancy.com
Nevada City, 95959



From: Theresa Huck
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:28:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing about the Rise Gold Mine. I lived on the corner of You Bet Road and Lost Lake Road, in a rental of a home and pasture for farming, from 2010 to 2013. I rented that property from Dennis Naumann. That will allow you to look at parcels and see history.

You will note that it is in a superfund site. I rented the property, so Dennis Naumann never reported to me that we were living on a superfund site. As a result, my son and I were both poisoned by the natural spring on the property.

In 2012 my son began to have strange pains in his wrists and I began to have strange itching all over my body. I went to as many doctors as I could, here in Nevada County, but no one could figure out what was wrong with me. My son was referred to Stanford Childrens Hospital and I found myself referred to Dr. Timothy Berger, the head of Dermatology at UCSF. Dr. Berger tried to find the cause of my itching and one day I told him what my son had been diagnosed with. He told me it was the same thing but that his brain was transmitting the signal of pain while mine was transmitting as itch. We both have neurological disorders that can never be cured and I will one day be unable to work as it progresses.

Here are my reasons we should not allow the Rise Gold Mine or any other mine in Nevada County.

1. The remaining legacy of mining is toxic and poisoning people in Nevada County (Dr. Berger knew that Nevada County has a problem with toxic mining legacy from medical journals! If it's in the journals, it is widespread knowledge and Nevada County has an obligation to prevent it from happening again.)

2. The amount of water they will use is astronomical and will lead to more wildfire in the area.

3. Flushing the mine will release the old mine tailings filled with mercury, aresenic and lead. This will carry out to Placer County and The Delta. I will be calling Wade Crowfoot to discuss the effects on water in the Delta contaminated with our legacy.

4. Trucks: there is no way I want that many truck trips here. I live on Banner Lava Cap. I do not want o see that many trucks taking away the openness and lack of traffic that I have enjoyed here for 24 years.

5. Clean Air: the contaminants they will be releasing into the air is unacceptable. We have a problem of trapping smog here in our valley and this will ruin the last bit of clean air we might enjoy on good days.

6. Water use. NID has been fighting to buy up more water rights and wants to build a dam, claiming that they need more water due to climate change. Then why would we give up this much water or contaminate it so some folks can buy gold buillion.

This is just so some company can make some money on selling gold. We don't NEED it. Do you really want to drive people out of this county because of more fire risk, increased traffic, water issues, poor air quality and trucks moving contaminated materials around our major shopping areas?

If we don't NEED it, why are we even entertaining this? What will the advantages be? Jobs? Most are specialized and won't put me and my family to work. Money?? Can Nevada County still thrive without it? Seems to me that we are doing okay despite even Covid-19.

Please protect my rights as a Nevada County citizen and do not allow this mine to destroy every feature that I love about it.

Warm regards,
Theresa Huck
(530) 263-6385

Sent with Criptext secure email

From: Luke Hunt <lukejhhunt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:30 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Public Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I have lived in Nevada City for 11 years, and my wife is 3rd generation from Nevada City.

My wife Dr. Heather Hunt owns a thriving chiropractic business that serves clients who prioritize their personal health. In 2015 (the most-recent data available), Nevada City/Grass Valley had the most chiropractors per-capita of any town in the United States. This was attributed to the quality-of-life and alternative health-focused identity of Nevada City and Grass Valley. We see the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine as a threat to this

regional identity and therefore as a threat to my wife's business. We request that the effects on health-focused recreation and businesses be analyzed in the EIS, under both best-case and worst-case scenarios.

We continue to witness the fallout from the undercapitalized and poorly-planned mining operations at the San Juan Ridge Mine. Grizzly Hill School now mainly serves students who are unable to commute to Nevada City/Grass Valley. The school is dying and with it, a vital part of the community-- educated young families- is moving away. If Idaho Maryland had a similar sized area of impact, it would affect the entire south side of Grass Valley. Furthermore, the San Juan Ridge Mine is not on a watercourse, so the Idaho Maryland Mine, on South Wolf Creek could have a much larger impact. We request that the EIS explicitly compare potential community impacts with those of the San Juan Ridge Mine in a case study that explains to community members how unexpected consequences will be different this time. It is not only the actual impact of the mine that is important to our community, it is the perceived risk that will affect the cultural identity that our businesses are built upon. We know the impact from the San Juan Mine, and the current effort must recognize and be explained in that context.

Thank you for taking on this challenge.

Luke Hunt Ph.D.
Nevada City

From: kathyandhutch@gmail.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:19:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

Please consider the environmental impact of reopening this mine before voting.

The environment, the local people, and our quaint existence is our gold. Please don't sacrifice what's actually precious by inviting another country to come in and extract ore better left where it is.

Our quality of life is worth more than the profits that this Canadian company will generate. Profits that to a great extent will be taken out of our local community and sent back to Canada.

Please Matt, vote against the reopening of Idaho Maryland Mine.

Thank you,
Kathy Irving
15229 Nugget Street
Nevada City CA 95959
(530)613-2506

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ivan A6100
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Stop the mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:39:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Matt,

I hope this email finds you well.

I wanted to add my name to the list of people strongly opposing the proposed Grass Vally mine.

Having grown up in a region devastated by mining, nothing good came out of it. Even the long term impacts of working on the mines (my dads and grand dads), all having suffered health issues, was not worth it.

I have family up in Nevada County, three generations to be exact, so this is near and dear to my heart.

Please put a stop to this.

Thanks,

Ivan

From: Linda Ivie <wivie@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: reopening mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

We are home owners on Lost Lake Rd. off Greenhorn Rd. approx. 3 miles from proposed mine opening.

My husband and I have lived here for over 40 years, one of us having been born in Grass Valley.
Many years ago the land surrounding Brunswick Mine had very few homes so the production of drilling and extraction was not as much of an issue. However now we have many family homes and neighborhoods with

children. Our homes depend on our ground water, may I add some of those residences nearby the mine are compromised of a quiet home because of equipment noise.

We strongly oppose to what we consider an unimportant project for our community that may threaten survival on our property.

We say NO do not let this go forward!!

Wayne and Linda Ivie
wivie@att.net

From: tishlove2007@yahoo.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:13:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 8, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Matt,

We have become aware of the proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine on Brunswick Road in Grass Valley. When my husband and I moved to Nevada County, we were alarmed by all the disclosures that we were required to acknowledge before purchasing our home on Lee Lane. The area had obviously been riddled with toxic practices stemming from the mid 1800's forward. We felt grateful that the land, trees and water were in the process of being restored to a healthy environment. Then we learned of the proposed reopening of mines in the area that threaten to continue polluting this beautiful land for the same reason it was so devastatingly destroyed more than a century ago, and continuing to be allowed into the late 20th century.

It is our understanding that if the Rise Corporation were allowed to open the Idaho Maryland mine, that there would be blasting of underground tunnels, threatening the homeowners that rely on private wells by potentially striking water bearing fractures and dewatering or contaminating local wells.

There have been many lessons learned about the devastating effects from mining that need to be remembered in order to protect our entire area. Simply walking in Empire Mine State Historic Park and seeing how many areas are still too toxic to be open to the public is a huge red flag as to how devastating this practice is, whether the operations are above ground or below.

Property values will be impacted tremendously if the pollution of truck traffic, the safety of our roads with the hauling of rock and mining debris, the noise of blasting, the inevitable public health issues of toxic metals being released into the aquifers are allowed, sacrificing the beauty of our natural environment for a proposed 80 years only for a few additional jobs and tax revenue. It's too great of a risk to take. Instead, we need to heal the devastating effects of the past mining operations, creating a healthy environment for those of us that have been born here or have migrated here for a better and healthier life.

Thank you for rejecting the proposed mine opening, promoting and sustaining the health of this beautiful land and its residents both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Letitia and Robert Jacobs

13584 Lee Lane, Nevada City, CA

From: paul jaffe
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:48:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Grass Valley citizen Paul Jaffe, 353 Pleasant St., Grass Valley

The environmental impact report should consider: noise, water use, water effluent toxicity,, soil stability of the mining site, and traffic. I want to see included in the EIR an investigation of Rise Mine and Mr. Grossman's history of compliance with environmental regulations , and fany fines levied, included in the report.

From: Mickleej@yahoo.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mining concerns
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mick and Lee Janeway
14132 Manion Canyon
Grass Valley,Ca 95945
Mickleej@yahoo.com
530-272-8225

Dear Mr. Kelley,
We have lived in Grass Valley, off Greenhorn Rd for 32 years. Our decision to move here was based on a rural, horse loving lifestyle for our children. Now our next generation would like to enjoy the same.
Our family is very concerned as we will be directly impacted by this project which is coming to our area. Below are our concerns and want them addressed in the environmental impact report.
We are concerned about the impact to private wells in the area. The EIR should let us know how many wells could be affected. Water is essential to life!
What would be the cost of connecting to a new system? How would households be compensated for loss of use and dependence on an NID as never before? How will we know if there is contamination?
Also how will we negotiate the roadways? Can our small town and narrow roads manage the trucks and congestion?

Thank you,
Mick and Lee Janeway

From: Rita Jennings
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposed
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:07:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

'To the Idaho Maryland Mine.

There was a time for mining in our county. But given the effects on the scores of houses surrounding this project, your department should have done their due diligence back when the homes applied for their building permits and saved those innocent home builders/buyers from this atrocity. The time for mining in this county is long gone.

Water is the big issue. There is no way to guarantee that people's wells will not be affected. The flow of underground water is not at all an exact science. There is just no way to know, not to mention the corrupt engineers hired (for example) to support the Blue Lead Mind and its excessive use of underground water. The experts cannot be held personally accountable. They collect their fees and go away. The population will pay the price.

I strongly recommend against approving this project.

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Submitted electronically to: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Comments of the Notice of Preparation ("NOP") for an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelley,

The following comments on the NOP of an EIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project ("Project") are submitted on behalf of the California Native Plant Society ("CNPS").

CNPS is a non-profit environmental organization with more than 11,000 members in 35 Chapters across California and Baja California, Mexico. CNPS's mission is to protect California's native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations through the application of science, research, education, and conservation. CNPS works closely with decision-makers, scientists, and local planners to advocate for well-informed policies, regulations, and land management practices.

The Project would take place on 175.34 surface and 2,585 subsurface acres. Approximately, 104 acres of habitat would be directly and permanently impacted by construction activities. Additionally, the ongoing operations will have significant direct and indirect impacts, including those related to dewatering activities and greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, we recommend that the county evaluate the following issues/concerns in its forthcoming EIR:

1. **Vegetation:** The EIR should include detailed maps of the vegetation on the Project site. These maps should follow detailed surveys that classify plant communities at the alliance and association levels. Likewise, the EIR should include an analysis of impacts to Sensitive Natural Communities, as classified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW")[1]. Plant communities of concern that are known to occur in the project vicinity include MacNab cypress woodland, Fremont cottonwood woodland and wetland and riparian habitats. Impacts to sensitive natural communities should be mitigated for at a minimum ratio of 3:1.

[1] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=153398&inline

2. **Rare Plants**: The EIR must include an analysis of impacts to rare plants on the Project site. This analysis requires protocol-level botanical surveys conducted in line with CDFW's Protocols[2]. These guidelines outline requirements of appropriate botanical surveys including proper timing, identification of prospective species based on existing records, and visits to reference sites of rare plants likely to occur on the site. Rare plants with the potential to occur on the site based on their occurrence in adjacent areas include, but are not limited to Pine Hill flannelbush (*Fremontodendron decumbens*), Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* subsp. *humboldtii*), Sierra Brodiaea (*Brodiaea sierrae*), Scadden Flat checkerbloom (*Sidalcea stipularis*), Sierra bluegrass (*Poa sierrae*), Finger rush (*Juncus digitatus*), and chaparral sedge (*Carex xerophila*). This is not a complete list of rare plant species with the potential to occur on the Project site. As is required by CDFW's protocols, botanical surveys should be floristic in nature, such that all plants that occur on the site are identified. Should rare plants be documented on the site, direct and indirect impacts caused by the construction and operation of the Project must be quantified. Mitigation measures should be adopted to reduce impacts to less-than-significant. Emphasis should be placed on the avoidance of impacts and in situ conservation measures. Losses of rare plants on site should be mitigated at a ratio of no less than 3:1. Offsite mitigation, if required, should prioritize the acquisition of nearby habitat that could become threatened in the future. Transplantation of rare plants and restoration/reintroduction should not be accepted as mitigation, as these measures have a sparse record of success[3]. Lastly, should a species that is listed under either the Federal and/or California Endangered Species Act be located on the Project site, this would require consultation with responsible agencies and the acquisition of relevant permits.

3. **Downstream Impacts on Wolf Creek:** The Project will require "initial dewatering" of the area to be mined that will result in the release of 2500 gallons of water per minute, 24-hours for a year or more into Wolf Creek. This will cause Wolf Creek to constantly be at "flood stage" for a prolonged and atypical period of time. The EIR must analyze the direct and indirect impacts of the addition of water into Wolf Creek on downstream aquatic and riparian habitats. Likewise, pumping of water to keep the mine dry will be required on a perpetual basis for 80 years. The EIR must analyze the impacts of ongoing inputs of water on aquatic and riparian habitats along Deer Creek. These analyses should focus not only on increased water flow but also changes in water temperature (e.g. water pumped from the mine is likely to be cooler in temperature than normal surface flows). Water pumped from the mine is also likely contain contaminants, such as heavy metals, and solids that will exceed normal levels observed in Wolf Creek.

4. **Impacts of Mine Operations:** The EIR must evaluate the long-term direct and indirect impacts of mine operation. This includes the impacts to habitats on the Project site and adjacent lands from the excavation, loading, hauling, deposition, and removal of thousands of tons of fill over the course of operation. It will also require the grading of engineered fill to a depth of up to 90 feet on the project site. The EIR must include an analysis of and mitigation for

[2] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline
[3] Mitigation related transplantation… Fiedler 1991

these impacts. The EIR must also evaluate the impact of mine operations on adjacent habitats, including but not limited to fugitive dust, changes to hydrology in adjacent properties, impacts on pollinators, and potential effects on subsurface hydrology.

5. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**: The EIR must evaluate all direct and indirect impacts caused by greenhouse gas emissions. A Project of this scale is likely to have significant greenhouse gas emissions related to mining operations, transportation of materials to and from the site, and vehicle travel to and from the site. These emissions must be quantified in the EIR and mitigation measures must be adopted to compensate for their impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NOP for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Jensen, PhD
Lead Conservation Scientist
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
njensen@cnps.org

From:	Nick Jensen
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on Idaho Maryland NOP
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:50:51 PM
Attachments:	Idaho-Maryland_NOP_CNPS.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Attached are comments on the NOP for an EIR for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project submitted on behalf of the California Native Plant Society. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thanks,
Nick

--
Nick Jensen, PhD
Lead Conservation Scientist
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
njensen@cnps.org

From:	Joan Jernegan
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Joan @ Gmail
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Joan A. Jernegan
6195 View Way
Auburn, California 95602
Jernegan95602@gmail.com
(530) 613-4479
August 12, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a homeowner in unincorporated area of Placer County, near the Bear River for 31 years. I was drawn to this area From Los Angeles because of its incredible natural beauty and to find peace and quiet, away from traffic of urban areas.

My home on acreage has a private well, with low flow of water, only enough for household needs. My neighbors are all on private wells also. I purchase agricultural water for plantings on my acreage from the Nevada Irrigation District. Concerns about the availability of water almost prevented me from purchasing my property.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to our homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I am also concerned about the increased traffic of heavy equipment on Highway 49, creating noise, further traffic congestion and air pollution. I hope that each of these issues will be fully studied and addressed in the EIR.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Joan A. Jernegan

From: Bill Jewel <12bearfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:40 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise GV

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

Concern about the haul road to centennial site. At the intersection of Brunswick and Whispering pines the road grade pitches to the right downhill side as you make the turn on to Whispering pines this can cause the trucks to be unstable with a possible roll over. What types of dump trucks are proposed to haul material?

Second question is about the water pipeline to residents on east Bennett. My home is 1100 feet off Bennett all up hill. My well is serviced by a 2” pump. Will I be provided with a 2” service line to my home and who will pay for the installation of this line? Will I be given a say in the location of this line? What about water use/costs and water restrictions in the future?

Thank you
Robert Jewel
11948 E Bennett Road

From: Bill Jewel <12bearfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:52 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise GV

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

Bennett Road pipeline

Will fire hydrants be installed on this project?

From:	Paul Jewel
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org; Heidi Zimmerman (heidi@serku.com); 12bearfarm@gmail.com
Subject:	RE: Rise Gold - Idaho Maryland Mine - Comments on NOP Process (comments due by COB 8/17/20)
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:02:13 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

My name is Paul Jewel and I own a single family home/rental property at 11933 East Bennett Road Grass Valley, CA 95949. I have owned this property since July 2016.

I have reviewed the NOP on-line presentation dated July 27 and posted on YouTube. I have not reviewed any other presentations or documents the County might currently have online, but plan to do so in the near future.

Here are some things to consider for the NOP scoping. These are not in any type of priority order:

1. **Truck traffic safety** – The proposed truck route to move tailings from the Brunswick Site to the Centennial site involves travel via the Brunswick Grade (through the Loma Rica Intersection) and Whispering Pines.
    a. I would imagine that the trucks hauling the materials will either be single or transfer/"doubles" dump trucks. Did the Traffic Safety/Mitigation report address the issue of having loaded, slow moving trucks traveling on a steep grade at the rate of one movement every 6-10 minutes all day? How will this impact traffic flow on Brunswick, especially when trucks are starting uphill from a dead stop at the four way Brunswick/Greenhorn intersection or from the uphill, S/B lane at the light at Loma Rica (S/B would be a lesser issue as the trucks would be unloaded)?
    b. Did the Traffic Report address the issue of truck operations during those times of year when there can be snow and ice on the Brunswick Grade?
    c. The turning movement from N/B Brunswick to W/B Whispering Pines involves a right turn that is "banked away from" instead of "in to" the turn. A heavily loaded dump truck with a high center of gravity could be at risk for a roll over in making this turn, especially at a speed above 10 mph.

2. **Impacts on residential water wells** – Like the other landowners along Brunswick, our property gets its water from an on-site well. The well delivers a flow rate of 15 gpm. We have the water tested annually by Cranmer in Grass Valley and have always received good feedback about the quality. Will the mining operation, which is likely to extend subsurface below our property, impact the quality of our water or the flow of our well? I understand that Gold Rise

will be constructing an underground potable water line along East Bennett Road to service residents who's wells are impacted by mining operations. Our water is currently "free" and theoretically we are unrestricted in the amount we can use day/month/year. If our well is impacted:

a. Is Rise going to pay the full cost for us to hook up to the new potable water line? Our house sits about 600' uphill from East Bennett?
b. What assurances will we have about the water quality?
c. Will we have access to an unrestricted amount of water?
d. Is Rise going to cover in perpetuity the annual cost of water service, which I am guessing is being provided by NID?

3. **Truck noise on East Bennett** - What assurances do the property owners along East Bennett have that 100% of all mine related truck activity will stay off of East Bennett?

4. **Improvements to the bicycle network** – Given that the mine operation will no doubt increase traffic volumes and traffic safety issues along Brunswick, and since Gold Rise will have to do major underground construction along East Bennett to install an unground water line, I think it makes sense to explore whether a positive outcome of this project could be for Gold Rise to create a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian pathway along East Bennett all the way from Greenhorn to the intersection of Bennett and East Main in downtown GV. Even better, extend the facility across Brunswick to Greenhorn and along Brunswick north to Sutton and south to the 174 "Y". There's no doubt that this project is going to stir up a lot of negative PR for Gold Rise. A bicycle /ped path improvement project might be an excellent, and legitimate, way of mitigating the negative impacts on the community.

Paul Jewel
Home address
15501 Fay Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949

Paul Jewel
Principal - National Transit Expert
Public Transit, National Parks and Sustainable Tourism
Fehr & Peers | Sacramento/Roseville
1001 K St, 3rd Fl
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office 916.773.1900
Direct 916.379.7010 | FehrandPeers.com

From:	Jeffrey Johnson
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Opening Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:39:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley County Senior Planner,

I wanted to send you this note about opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine since what I have read is very alarming I'm also very concerned because the entire history of mining in Nevada County seems to have translated into disaster after disaster. Going way back we can be thankful that the Huntingtons, Crockers, and Stanfords teamed together to stop strip mining just over 100 years ago. Today's residents of Nevada County surely don't have the financial of these wealthy families but I really think the concerns are much the same. Accordingly, I ask that you take your review of this matter various seriously.

Regards,

Jeff Johnson
15597 Shannon Way
Nevada City, CA
916 217-9236

.

From: Jeffrey Johnson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:24:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley,

I have many concerns with the Idaho Maryland Mine but the foremost among these is the possible threat to water quality. We're in a place with many aquifers and as water moves from one place to the next it can have cascading effects. What is the likelihood that opening the Idaho Maryland Mine will have an impact on water quality? This assessment should also address release of treated water that would be used in the mining process.

Thank you,
Jeff Johnson
15597 Shannon Way
Nevada City, CA 95959
916 217 9236

From: mark johnson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,
As a long time resident of Grass Valley and former resident of Penn Valley, I must speak against re-opening The Idaho-Maryland Mine. I am also speaking for tens of thousands of fellow residents that hold the same beliefs against this proposal.
Degradation of our town and it`s resident`s ways of life is unacceptable in any form.We will not open our neighborhoods to unscrupulous carpetbaggers from other countries with prior records of defaulting on their obligations in previous endeavors, nor will we allow our ways of life to be stolen from us by anyone that wishes to rape our locale in a quest for monetary gain.
Thank you for your rejection of this proposal. We, the citizens of Nevada County expect nothing less.
Sincerely, Mark Johnson
11130 Orion Way,
Grass Valley, Ca.
95949

From: Lou V. Johnson
To: Lou Lib; Matt Kelley
Subject: NO! on approving the gold mining project.
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

My name is Lou Johnson. I own a large home and property on Highway 174.

My home is not far from the proposed mine.

I'm very concerned about protecting the underground aquafiers which provide well water for residences, businesses, and crops in our area.

I do not think the mining company can adequately guarantee that they will not disrupt the aquafiers that are so important to our community.

I strongly implore you to not facilitate any mining danger or allow Rise Gold and/or their affiliates to put so many people and their assets at risk.

The only way we can avoid an outside company from ruining our community, our environment, and our futures is to not allow it to happen.

The spector of unavoidable mining damage has drastic consequences.

If allowed to proceed, and I do not think it will or should, it will severely and nonreparedly injure our water supply, economy, businesses, families, children, residences, agriculture, and employment.

In addition there will be serious and continuous disruptions of traffic, a terrible wall of bad noise pollution, plus much wear and tear on the roads in our town and community.

For these reasons I ask you to oppose this proposed project and include me among those concerned citizens who are against allowing this gargantuan and catastrophic endeavor to move forward in Grass Valley.

We vehemently oppose the mining proposal for the safety of our citizens. Thank you for listening and for your consideration.

Lou V. Johnson

--

The Best,

Lou

LISTEN TO LATEST RECORDING! ***PEACE.***

https://louisvalentinejohnson.hearnow.com/peace

www.louisvalentinejohnson.com

www.soundcloud.com

www.thepeaceconcerto.com

www.youtube.com

From: janet johnston <jjwriter7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Janet Lynn Johnston
17798 Applegate Rd.
Applegate, CA. 95703
jjwriter7@gmail.com
916-749-5579

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I moved to this area because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Janet Johnston

Janet Johnston
Transformational/Enneagram Coach
Affiliate, Amherst Artists and Writers
www.janetjohnston.com
916.749.5579

Kim Davison & Bonnie Jones
12040 East Bennett Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (650) 274-1955

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by Rise Mining Co.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

As property owners living one half mile from the Idaho-Maryland mine site we have concerns surrounding potentially negative environmental impacts and want to voice our opinion that your office undertake and oversee the necessary environmental impact studies that are needed before this project move forward. We also want to voice our opinion that these environmental impact studies are performed by independent third-party companies with no allegiance to either side of the issues surrounding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal and all costs associated with such studies should be payed for by the Rise Mining Company and not by or share by the residents of Nevada County.

Necessary Analysis and Reports performed by Independent Third Parties:

1. **Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)**
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment. The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer when water is for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells may go dry. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. Most of the potentially affected homes do not have a public water option because the infrastructure is not in place.

2. **Land Use and Planning - Zoning**
The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant.

3. **Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors**
CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts for construction noise impacts and operational noise impacts. Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. **Transportation & Traffic**
With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and Hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives. Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. **Economic**
Our community is at risk of losing high tech business' which may choose to relocate due to the impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. **Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
Measurements should be studied to determine the impacts from heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume on clean air. The release of particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere may be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. **Agriculture and Forestry Impact**
Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. **Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources**
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. **Existing Superfund clean-up site**
This is a primary concern and needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean-up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public and has numerous sink holes. The impact of these sites should be considered cumulatively.

10. **Friable asbestos in serpentine rock**
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than

significant impact. Additionally, what are the long-term effects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground?

11. **Water Quality in/outflows**
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation should be done by this agency before awarding a waste-drainage permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. **Utilities and Energy Use Impact**
It is stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all.

13. **Hazards**
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, if there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. **Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported**
Would a heavy industrial zoned site contribute to fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area? How does this benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

All the required studies must be comprehensive and contain a range of alternatives. The reports must demonstrate facts supporting its conclusions. They should explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures and should consider impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

The prospect of losing our water and to endure the impacts to our environment are already affecting us, as we are now have to face potential changes to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions, the loss of our community water resource is not acceptable. The Idaho-Maryland Mine Project needs to be disclosed to every perspective property buyer in the area.

Also, will the Rise Mining company set aside multi-million dollar bonds to guarantee monetary coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will the Rise company be held responsible for

health claims from exposure to toxic substances (which has occurred in every other mine), and likely to occur with this one?

Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This project must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to potentially become an industrial waste-site.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our water, wildlife, air and the forest.

In conclusion, we reference facts shared in the documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168 This information is direct and factual. The Rise company cannot guarantee it will not negatively impact our water and community in the same manner. And if the Rise Company *is* allowed to move forward and similar circumstances do come to pass who will pay for the damage? Rise? Nevada County? These are all important questions which as residents and property owners we believe should be answered in the most comprehensive and responsible manner possible.

Sincerely

Kim Davison & Bonnie Jones
12040 East Bennett Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (650) 274-1955

From: Louis B. Jones
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: I-M Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:49:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please count me as one of those opposed to the mine.
Our area has intangible assets whose value far exceeds that of profits of extraction. The beauty and livability of the place is an investment that lasts for centuries, and will keep growing in value.

Thank you:

Louis B. Jones

From:	Eileen Jorgensen
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Mine issue
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 6:39:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

I am writing as a long-time resident who has seen many mines come and go:

what they have left behind is de -watered well, environmental degradation and a

divided community.

Please be sure that Rise Gold's EIR covers the pollution that 24 hour

trucks traffic, bright lights, de-watering the mine and noise will bring to our community.

We are no longer a developing community. The the contrary, we are established

cities with some 90,000 residents in the proximity of the mine. Gold extraction is not

appropriate for our future. We are residential and after this pandemic, we will be looking to

lure high tech businesses here to enjoy our environment: an ongoing mine operation will not

be looked on favorably, I believe.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Eileen Jorgensen

16547 Indian Flat ,

Nevada City, Ca 95959

530 265-6415

From: stephen.joslin@comcast.net
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: The Mine Why I am opposed
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:25 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to the reopening of the mine across the street from my home.

The reasons I have are:

1. Where does all that **millions of gallons of water** go? Who is responsible for it and the damage it does after leaving the mine site? I remember the Oroville dam; it was built to code too.

2. **The noise** – a friend of mine lived in Bodie California in its heyday. She said the stamp mills made it nearly impossible to sleep. How many of these will be near the county buildings?
There will be lots of them near my home.

3. **Air pollution**. I have COPD so this makes the mine an extreme health hazard for me. That much air in circulation will create a lot of dust.

4. **The animals** I bought my home to see will not like the noise or the huge traffic of 7.2 minutes between trucks leaving the mine or the huge array of electric lights around the facility.
Essentially the end of my home. Do these drive like the logging trucks I have seen in the past?

5. Does anyone on the council own a home near here? Would they like this to happen to their neighborhood? Just thought I would ask.

6. **Property values** How do I reclaim the money I have spent for this house? I moved here from Paradise after the fire. I do not like being pencil whipped out of anything.

Thank you

Stephen Joslin
12999 Wood Rose Wy
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Stephen.Joslin@Comcast.net

From:	Pam Jung
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland mine
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:22:22 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'd like to state my objections to the proposed mine operations by a Canadian company.
I am very concerned about the following:
1) Water depletion and its effects on wells, Wolf Creek, sensitive riparian zones and subterranean ground water (possible sink holes?).
2) air pollution: dust with possible arsenic/asbestos in it...and diesel fumes, all of which are injurious to health.
3) noise pollution will be considerable..again, injurious to health.
4) safety problems that are part and parcel of the use of explosives, which is also a noise pollution problem.
5) greenhouse gasses. In this era of urgency re: climate change, how could we even consider putting 9,000 tons annually of these gasses into the atmosphere? It defies logic.
6) the coup de gras is that the operator is a foreign country (Canada). I do not want them (or anyone) raping our precious town.

Please, please say NO to this operation.

Respectfully,
Pam Jung
Grass Valley, CA

From: valeriekb <valeriekb@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, I'm writing to register my rejection of any mine starting up on any waterway in this area. We are already taxing our waterways terribly and I know this because I live on Wolf Creek and I have seen the Arsenic Bloom and oil on the top of the surface and everything else that flushes out of the 8 mines along this area of the creek. The harm that is going to be done to our environment, despite the holding ponds and whatever perfunctory methods are used to keep toxins out of the ground, will be monumental. I have threatened to move away over the

years as this question comes up repeatedly. I have read the reports and have never had confidence in what was proposed to reopen a mine. To employ how many people? This is about greed and I say to those who are trying to propose opening , go somewhere else to build your mine!
Dr. Valerie Kack

From: Rich Kalwa
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Rise Gold Mining!
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:40:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On Sat, Aug 15, 2020, 1:32 PM Rich Kalwa <richkalwa66@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Sat, Aug 15, 2020, 1:26 PM Rich Kalwa <richkalwa66@gmail.com> wrote:
> I've been living close to the mine for 32 years. I didn't move to this "paradise"just to see it destroyed by this mine opening . Yes destroyed by big $$$. I'll keep it short and sweet to the point!!
> Get the f@$%# out of our beautiful town!
> Stop this shit now!!
>
> Concerned resident,
> Rich Kalwa

From: Jeff Kane
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold mining proposal
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:43:46 AM
Attachments: jeffkane.vcf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I urge denial of Rise Gold's mining application at the Idaho-Maryland mine.

I could argue that the project's dust and noise pollution, insufferable truck traffic, depletion of the water table, and other forms of virtual vandalism are overwhelmingly noxious, but I'll leave that to others.

Even if it were done cleanly--if that were possible—it 's ultimately useless to our county at best, and at worst, ruinous. It simply extracts profit from our community and sends it elsewhere. The few jobs it offers are grossly outweighed by the mess this industry consistently leaves behind, much of it toxic and undiscoverable for years.

If the proposal were, say, to build a children's hospital or affordable housing, I'd support it as benefiting our community. But this proposal treats Nevada County like it's a colony to be milked and then abandoned. I don't see why we can't give Rise Gold a summary “thumbs down.”

Jeff Kane MD

Forty-year Nevada County resident

From: Susan Kane
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine EIR
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 17, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr.Kelley,

As a 33-year resident of Grass Valley I am very concerned about the possible re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine in what is effectively a residential area. And how it will impact the landscape of that area.

Dewatering of wells was a hot button item when Emgold was exploring reopening the mine many years ago. This should be clearly addressed in the EIR. That means pricing out connectivity to NID for failed wells; possibly drilling new wells, after assessing potential contamination issues. And equally important is the effect on the thousands of trees in the area. What happens to the tree cover when ongoing dewatering will take place?

I remember when NID was looking at relining the canals to capture all the water going through the cracks in the canal system. It's the same question. How will this operation impact the tree cover, which is already impacted by drought conditions.

Air quality is perhaps most important. In the summer, local air quality is often poor due to pollution flowing up the Sacramento Valley, plus frequent fires emitting a smoke haze for days at a time. The mining operation will emit a mix of toxic substances 24/7 that will be disbursed into the air.

I request that more detailed information be included in the EIR pertaining to these three items in particular.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Kane

16660 Fairless Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95949

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Dear Mr Kelly, August 14, 2020

I'm writing to you today becasue I'm concerned about the impact of the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine just outside of the city of Grass Valley.
I've been a resident of Grass Valley- living right in the downtown area, for about 16 years now. I am also a business owner and have a shop on Loma Rica Dr. close to the airport which will be effected by the noise and pollution from the mine.
I moved here because of the beauty & quiet, peaceful nature of living in a small town. I realize that there has been a history of minimg in this area for some 170 years, however I was under the impression that those days were done and most of the jobs and income was from tourism to our beautiful area. We should be very careful not to pollute our air and water, so people will still come up to our town to enjoy the vibrant town we have created. I would like the EIR on Rise Gold's proposal to address the following concerns.

1) How will the downtown area be affected by noise from the 100 truck trips per day.
    a) Noise travels across the valley that Wolf Creek carves out along Idaho Maryland road. Trucks dumping material 100 times a day up by Centenial Dr. will be heard by many residents and then there is the grading and compacting operation, which they say will be running 7 days a week from 7 AM-3:30 PM. Really!!!! Even construction sites aren't suppose to operate on Saturdays and Sundays.....and then starting at 7 AM on a weekend.....there goes sleeping in.....This is unheard of and should not be allowed!

2) How will all those machines/trucks affect our air quality.
    a) We already suffer from bad ozone pollution coming up from the Sac. Valley Do we really want all that extra particulate matter put into our air too?

3) How will they insure that the explosives they use will be safely transported through our town?
They may be getting off Highway 49 at the main exit and there-by passing right by Grass Valley Charter School (formerly Hennessy) at the bottom of the exit-or perhaps they will get off at Idaho Maryland Rd. In which case they will wind up a very narrow stretch of road on Idaho Maryland between Sutton and Brunswick. (A road I frequently bike up-Large trucks going up this road are very scary as there is NO shoulder.)

4) How will they insure that the vibrations from the explosives they use won't effect the sensative business's in Whispering Pines business area.

a) How can we be assured that we won't be woken up in the middle of the night by little "earthquakes" from their underground explosions?
b) Will they compensate landowners if there is damage to property from the shaking?
c) What about sink-holes caused by underground mining activity?
    a) The city of Grass Valley already had to deal with a major sinkhole on Freeman lane by Wolf Creek, cause by a drainage pipe that was damaged and not releasing water into the creek.
    b) What sort of bond might they be required to put up to insure that they are solvant enough to pay for any damages that might incurr.

5) And for the people living very near to the site- Their property values are going to suffer mighty bad from having a mine move in and potentially de-water their wells. I know that Rise Gold has proposed hooking them up to NID, but they have already invested in drilling and maintaining their own wells, and now to be told they might not have water anymore and must pay the Utility for it.....that is not part of the deal these people should be going through now. Especially because people are already suffering through this pandemic.

Please make sure that the EIR covers these issues and the many other myriad of issues that industrial mining on this scale poses.

I appreciate your throughness in this matter.

Sincerely,
Rob Katzenstein
245 N. Auburn St.
Grass Valley, Ca. 95945
530 218-7124

From: Rob Katzenstein
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold EIR-points to address
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:28:11 PM
Attachments: Idaho Maryland mine EIR reply.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr Kelly,

Attached is a letter addressing my thoughts about the upcoming EIR for the reopening of the IM Mine.
Thank you for considering this project VERY carefully.

Rob Katzenstein

--

Solar awnings, patios, arbors & greenhouses

Rob Katzenstein
Ca. Lic. #577830
530-218-7124

power-structures.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Cristiana Kelly <criskelly@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning, Matt.

My name is Cris Kelly, I live in Nevada City. I love this community and am involved with various aspects of it...volunteering, working, shopping. It is a very unique community in which we live.

That said, I am very opposed to the Idaho-Maryland mine that is proposed. I believe we do no need to start mining here again. I believe our county can sustain without bringing in earth-damaging and leave-damaging mines. Money is not worth the unhappiness it would bring to so many of us here.

Thank you for reading this email.

Best to you and your family,
Cris Kelly

From: Marianne Kennedy
To: Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: EIR report request
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:55:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James Hall and Marianne Kennedy
12540 Beaver Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Mr. Kelly,
I have been a Grass Valley resident for over 20 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its' natural beauty, clean air, water, and the quiet and serenity.
I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
These are areas of great concern and the request is as part of the EIR that baseline levels be gathered by appropriate state agencies or their designated contracted firms prior to any start of the project, including construction of buildings or any other parts of the project. Once the baseline analyses are documented, will there be continual monitoring by the state agencies? Will information be provided to the residents monthly and timely with transparency?

Baseline areas of analysis as part of the EIR:

1. Potential impact to residents with heavy industrial mining operations that back up to family homes, nearby schools, and businesses across the proposed broader area of operation sites and between sites.
2. Contamination and or de-waterization of wells as this is our neighborhoods source of water.
3. Ground stability under homes as during the core sample period we have heard large explosions, have seen substantial cracks and settling to properties and this was not full-scale hard rock mining operations.
4. Air pollution from mining operations and large trucking of extraction materials. What is EPA baselines for the area? Monitoring on continual basis?
5. Water, air and soil contamination from the mining operations, extraction, processing, tailing processing, water pumping from underground and airborne carcinogens such as asbestos. How will these be measured and track through continual monitoring (state or independent)?
6. Long term health impacts of operational outputs from production with tons of material being disturbed of with extraction of soils, rock and water, from asbestos, lead, mercury, and arsenic, to name a few? .
7. Noise pollution from the underground mining in hard rock, from the trucks

and traffic from operations, and heavy machinery used in processing? I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Jim Hall and Marianne Kennedy
Mkennedyconsulting@gmail.com
916-768-0212

From:	Jonas Ketterle
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine - Submission of Public Comment
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 6:23:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My name is Jonas Ketterle. I have lived in Nevada County now for a year and a half, and am strongly considering moving my chocolate company to Nevada County as I continue to grow roots here. However, the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening gives me significant pause, because a gold mine is not a compatible neighbor for a small food business like mine.

I've in fact walked all of the light industrial parcels in the gold mine area as I seek the right property for my business. I imagine it quite likely that extensive truck traffic and round the clock mining will decrease property values in the area, and the inevitable pollution will make it a less desirable area to have a peaceful business. This is making me seriously reconsider my investment. I just heard about this proposal recently, and am also letting the realtors that I am in touch with know that this proposal could likely significantly impact the value of the properties that they've showed me.

I also currently live right on South Wolf Creek where I enjoy the healthy wildlife daily. Osprey fish in the creek, geese raise their young there, we even have a resident beaver. I am very concerned the dewatering of the mine into South Wolf Creek will create an ecological dead zone.

I am choosing to run my business and raise a family in Nevada County. I deeply value what I have found here, and deeply care to preserve the health and wellness of how far this place has come from the damages that were done from past mining operations. The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and business investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

I was not impressed by the initial studies on the mine that I saw. Please consider non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)

We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.

The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning

The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.

This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed. As well as these vehicles will carry heavy explosives within them.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.

Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all

of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine

disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168

This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Thank you for your care and consideration of the concerned citizens of this county,

Kindly,
Jonas

Jonas Ketterle
Firefly Chocolate
+1-707-861-8504
https://ceremonial-cacao.com

From:	David Kimmel
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION PLEASE - Massive Environmental Impacts of Impending Re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine in Grass Valley -
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 7:18:29 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massive Environmental Impacts of Idaho Maryland Mine Re-opening on our Grass Valley/Nevada City Community

To: Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
530-265-1423

Deadline for Comments: 5 p.m. August 17, 2020

Purpose of Comments: To help steer the direction of the draft environmental impact report

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have serious concerns of the Idaho Maryland Mine Re-opening creating strong negative environmental impacts of the Grass Valley and surrounding area.

As I began to research this topic, I did a simple google search and I used my common sense.

Firstly, the google search. I asked: “What are the common impacts that mines have on their surrounding

environment?”

The answer from Wikipedia was “Environmental impacts of mining can occur at local, regional, and global scales through direct and indirect mining practices. Impacts can result in erosion, sinkholes, loss of biodiversity, or the contamination of **soil**, groundwater, and surface **water** by the chemicals emitted from mining processes.”

Negative impacts from mining is an expected occurrence.

Secondly, it occurs to me that it should be common sense that mines have a negative impact on their surrounding areas and certainly known to those of us who live in the Grass Valley area.

We don’t have to look far. Go by the Empire Mine State Park, located not far from the Idaho Maryland site, and see all the very expensive work that had to be done to attempt to mitigate the toxic impacts of this former mining operation in our community. Might I add that the owners of the mine who made quite a bit of money from the mining operations did not pay at all for this very expensive and imperfect reclaiming of the land and remediation of massive amounts of poisonous mine by-products.

Should we be so naive to think these type of impacts have gone away because we happen to be in the 21st

century?

Why would we in our right minds even consider starting a new large mining operation in our community?

Unless we didn't care about the negative environmental impact.

Please do not attempt to cover up the basic facts in complicated reports or slanted research paid for by mining companies that don't care a darn about our community and as business people only care about getting a profit and doing whatever is necessary to pass the test and get started on their project.

The extensive negative impacts would be:
Negative impact on water.
Negative impact on air.
Negative impact on surrounding property values and lives of our citizens.
Negative impacts of noise of a 24/7 operation (may I remind you that the Idaho-Maryland Mine less than 1 mile from the commercial centers of our town and even closer to residences.)
Negative impacts on road use with massive numbers of loaded large trucks running all day every day.

I'm quite sure there are more impacts than these.

Mr. Kelley, please don't sacrifice the well-being of our

community by not clearly stating the negative impacts that are expected, likely or possible in the above areas.

Thank you,
David Kimmel
Lake Wildwood Resident

From: Ray Kinman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: STOP THE MINE!!!
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:56:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho Maryland mine and am adamantly opposed to it.

I am a homeowner off Greenhorn Road. We purchased our home in this area to be in a peaceful, clean environment. What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative impacts for the community with the only upsides being profit for them and Nevada County.

The main reasons I am opposed to this mine being re-opened are:

*** Potential Environmental Impact on many levels**

· Air Quality

· Pollution into our local creeks from mine water

· Wildlife impacts

· Explosives stored on site

· Resources needed to operate the mine and trucks

*** Concerns Over Our Well Water**

· Pumping out millions of gallons a day for 11 plus years has to impact our ground water.

· Having NID water that we have to pay for instead of free water is not reasonable to ask.

· Safety of our drinking water

· LOWERING OUR WATER TABLE, with the increased fire risk in an already extremely high fire risk area

*** Noise**

Having huge excavation trucks running from 6 AM to 10 PM will destroy our peaceful quiet neighborhood.

*** Traffic**

With large trucks going in and out, the Greenhorn/Bennett Brunswick intersection will become very congested.

*** Evacuation Impact**

In the event of evacuation, Greenhorn will be a seriously impacted road. We have over 1 thousand residents who in an emergency, such as a fire, will be evacuating out Greenhorn to Brunswick. We are already extremely concerned about too many cars getting out. Add 250 employees of the mine and their trucks, it creates a very dangerous situation.

*** Home Values Decreasing**

We fear the value of our home will go down due to an active mining operation with all its negative impacts.

I understand this mine will bring in high tax revenue for the city/county and offer some jobs to locals. However, it offers nothing but negatives to the community and nearby homeowners. I hope the health, safety and happiness of the residents of Grass Valley take precedence over money.

Please consider these important points, and do everything in your power to maintain the integrity of our community and your position.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Raymond Kinman
12888 Lost Lake Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Raykinman@yahoo.com

From:	THOMAS KLUGE
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	THOMAS KLUGE
Subject:	new mine at Brunswick Road
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:07:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am writing you to please not allow another mine to start up in Grass Valley. Has this town not suffered enough because of the tremendous damage mines have caused?
They promise to be a good company to the neighborhood but fail miserably. and the county and people living here pay the price.

My family moved here 6 years ago to raise our children in a beautiful and quiet neighborhood. We have a well that produces plenty of good water. We live right across the proposed mine site and will join the law suits that will follow ones the well either dries up or the water gets polluted. And what about the noise? We heard the machines when they where doing the test drills! Constant rumbling.
How loud will the production rock crushers be? Day and night, 24/7? Would you like to have that in your back yard? I am sure you understand our dilemma.

Please consider this:
Tax revenue is not as important as being good guardians of this county and its inhabitants.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kluge
10830 Lantana Lane
GV, CA 95945

530-615-6542

From: Maggie Knapp
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comment against the Idaho Maryland Mine reopening
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:51:13 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I grew up in Nevada County and am now a publi school teacher here. I love about this community its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I am absolutely 100% against this mining project and will fight it legally every way possible. There is absolutely no justification for destroying our water quality in this county or anywhere else on earth.

Sincerely,

Maggie Knapp

From: Ofer Kolton <ofer@expertcleanandgreen.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:13 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Strong oposition to Idahi-Maryland mine!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,
As a property owner and a voting resident of Nevada county I wanted to express my strong opposition to the proposed Idaho- Maryland Gold mine project.

This mine will cause devastation to all the people in the area and to the environment. The only

benefit will be 312 jobs--at the cost of noise, pollution, and who knows what health problems.

Sincerely
Ofer Kolton

Resident of Nevada County and property owner in Nevada County.

Ofer Kolton, Owner
Expert Clean & Green
(415) 242-2428; (530) 955-1835
ofer@expertcleanandgreen.com
www.expertcleanandgreen.com

-----Original Message-----
From: adam.jake24@gmail.com <adam.jake24@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Protests

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a resident in Nevada County off of Brunswick Road. I oppose this project of reopening the mine. I think the impact it will have on the community and environment. It will cause noise, pollution, and unknown health problems. Pleaser reconsider. Thank you for your time.

Adam Kolton-Mitlyng

From: Kraus, David - SNMH <David.Kraus@DignityHealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:10 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Kraus, David - SNMH <David.Kraus@DignityHealth.org>; 'macks1956@gmail.com' <macks1956@gmail.com>; tony@tonylauria.com
Subject: FW: Oppose the Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to request the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening be soundly rejected.
My neighbor, Tony Lauria, lays out the issues in detail below.

As a practicing cancer specialist, I am loath to see anything that threatens the health of our community,
18 years ago, I moved here to live and work in our beautiful foothills community.
It would be tragic to allow it to be forever degraded.

Thank you,

David Kraus MD

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be

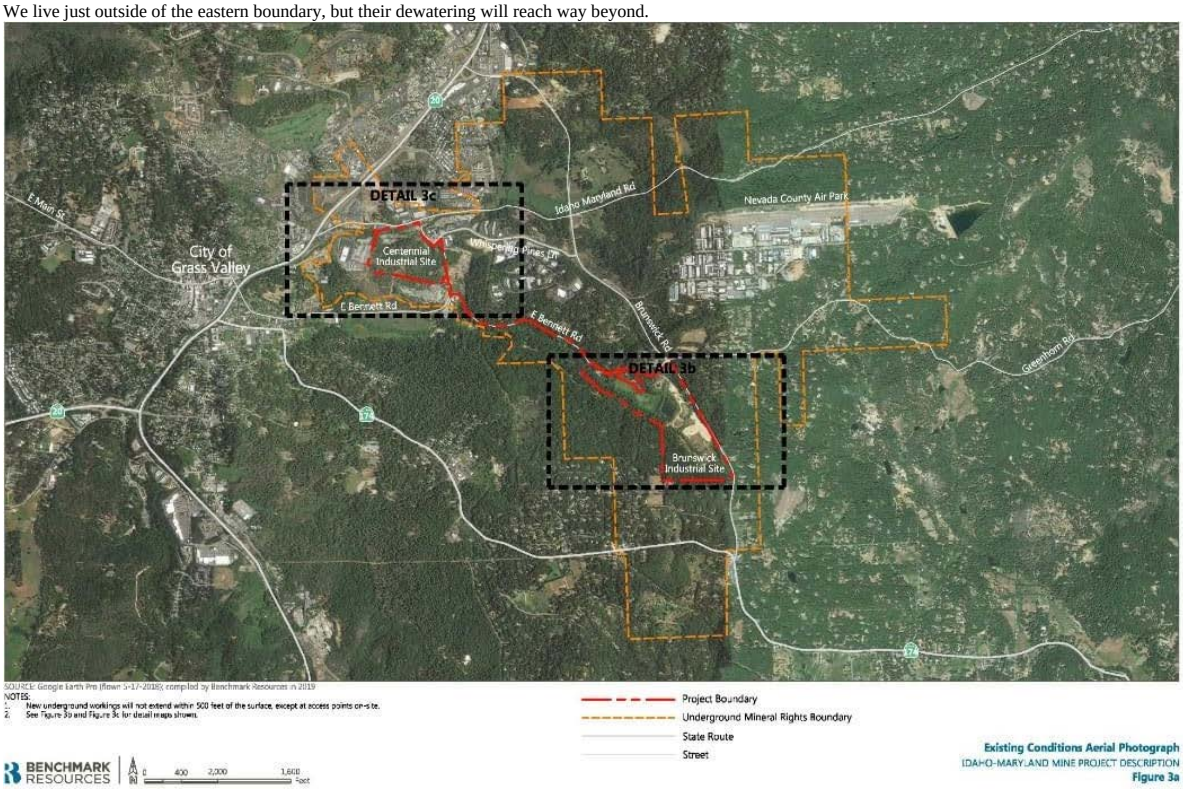
impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Tony & Lauren Lauria
13784 Greenhorn Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-913-6106

We live just outside of the eastern boundary, but their dewatering will reach way beyond.



From: Jared Krause <jaredkrause@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 8:25 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Matt,

I'm a resident, property owner and voter and I strongly oppose the opening of the Idaho Maryland mine. There's still toxic waste all over this county from 100 years ago that tax payers have to pay clean up. Honestly, it's outrageous that we have to have this debate. Anyone who votes in favor of this will be aggressively voted out.

From: mpkril@aol.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rice project
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:51 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

Like many people who retired to this area, my wife and I did so in order to enjoy the solitude, Nature's beauty and the sense of small town community. Already PG&E and CalTrans are decimating our trees and forever changing the environment and climate, ostensibly for the good of the public. Please do not be manipulated in allowing this project to proceed. It will have a significant and detrimental impact and profit only the developers -not the community.

Merv Kril
12381 Colfax Hwy
Grass Valley 95945
530.273.6654

From: Dawn Krusi <dawnkrusi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelly,

I have lived in Nevada County for thirty-two years. I am very much against the gold mining project at the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I am concerned about the environmental impact and truck traffic. We do not need this kind of project in our community. I say definitely no. Lets have projects that actually improve our community, not projects that benefit foreign investors which

decrease our quality of life.

Sharon Dawn Krusi LMFT

From: Jack Kuehn
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Mine EIS
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:19:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

to Mr. Matt Kelley
Scoping comment for the Rise Mine EIS

1. The effects of the planned extensive dewatering must be quantified in verifiable detail. The number of private wells that could be dewatered must be carefully surveyed and plans must be in place to protect homeowners prior to the beginning of dewatering operations. How many private wells are there in the region of the approximately 2500 acres of mineral rights owned by Rise? Additionally, the wider depression of the water table resulting from dewatering must be quantified and mapped in order to measure the effect of dewatering on homeowners wells. These homeowners must be identified and plans must be made for indemnifying them in the event of well dewatering.

2. The proposal includes allowing Rise to extend operations into several setbacks, and to operate in areas with a greater than 30% slope. The environmental and erosion effects of doing this must be quantified and analyzed so that the County can arrive at an informed decision regarding these variances.

3. The effects of moving 1000 tons of fill per day 365 days per year must be studied throroughly: how much dust will be produced and where will it blow; what will be the effect of the trucks be on Brunswick Road and how much will it cost the county to maintain the roadway; the plan indicates the fill will contain high levels of iron and manganese, but how can they guarantee there will not also be high levels of arsenic which has been a common pollutant from past mining operations; what will be the impact of the fill operation be on the residential areas that surround the site, including the effect on real estate values.

4. The mine site is very close to the city of Grass Valley. What will the effects be in downtown with respect to noise, dust, increased water flow in Wolf Creek on tourism? The economies of both Grass Valley and Nevada City rely heavily on tourism, and is a gold mine operation so close to town compatible with the important tourist economy? What will the effect of a large industrial operation so close to residential and businesses have on real estate values?

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.
John Kuehn
10559 Bragg Ave, Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530)687-2532

From: Jack Kuehn
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: RISE MINE EIS scoping comment
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:46 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

John Kuehn
10559 Bragg Ave
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 687-2532
jack.kuehn@gmail.com
August 13, 2020

Dear Mr Kelley,

The following concerns relating to Rise mine must be thoroughly dealt with in the EIS:

The size, depth and contents of the tailings piles will be plainly visible from many locations in downtown Grass Valley. What will the impacts be on residents and businesses? On Tourism? Gold mining tailings from past mining in our area contain arsenic, cobalt, barium, mercury, thallium, chromium, copper, lead, zinc, cyanide, vanadium and nickel, and Rise must show that there will be no public exposure to these toxic waste products, and that they will not be carried away from the fill sites in runoff water. The main way arsenic exposure happens is through the air, and Rise must demonstrate that NO dust will be released into the Grass Valley, Nevada City area.
Sincerely,
John Kuehn

From: Dylan Kuenzi
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine reopening
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:53 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
My name is Dylan Kuenzi and I am a Nevada county resident. My homestead is located on Wolf creek. I am 33 years old and have been working every day of the last 6 years to create a home that I can one day raise a family in, grow my own food on, and manage in a way that increases biological diversity. I water my vegetable and tree crops with water from wolf creek, swim in wolf creek, harvest fish from wolf creek and the downstream watersheds, and see the watershed and those people that live along it as my immediate community.
The fact that the future integrity of wolf creek could be put at risk in order to revive a gold mine is simply disgusting to me. The water quality impact, environmental impact, and potential permanent contaminants such activities could have on my wolf creek community must be considered when making a decision about whether or not to allow international business to extract from this land.
Furthermore, my upstream neighbors in the immediate grass valley area should be heard in their protests to further degrade our freshwater supply via such side effects as well drying and contamination.
Lastly, the cultural impact of reviving the practice of industrial gold mining in our community is one that must be considered. Our future as a community depends on our ability to revive this land that was so thoroughly depleted and destroyed by our mining predecessors. A return to such an economy will be a black mark on our image and a truly disgraceful step backward.
Thank you for considering my and my future family's concerns. I wish you and those others responsible for making decisions about the future of the Idaho Maryland mine strength and integrity.
Sincerely,
Dylan Kuenzi
dylankuenzi@gmail.com

From:	Howard Kuhlmann
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley:

First, let me introduce myself. My educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and a Master's Degree in Biological Science. My work background includes teaching Chemistry, Biology and Environmental Science at high schools and colleges in Central California. I have also worked in a consulting and training capacity for those who are involved in hazardous waste management, including asbestos, lead and radiation abatement.

I am opposed to reopening the mine for the following reasons:

1. My wife and I moved here from the Bay Area and built a home and alpaca ranch on 20-acre parcel 3 miles up Greenhorn Road. At the time we moved, our well produced over 8 gallons of water per minute. Due to the drought over the last decade, it has dropped to less than 2 gallons per minute. And that is for a well which is 500 feet down. We are stretched to provide drinking water for ourselves and our alpacas, to say nothing of our need for water for our gardens where we raise food for the table. I cannot image how we could move forward with our current plans if the water table were to drop any farther.

2. Our local environment is fragile as it is, what with loss of trees on our property and on surrounding parcels. The loss of groundwater here will have a devastating effect on the health of our forests and further increase the risk of forest fires with the subsequent loss of lives and property. We cannot afford to lose what little ground water that we have left. Also, all of the climate change models show the West Coast as becoming dryer and hotter as we move into the 21st Century. Please do not remove any more water!

3. You also need to consider the potential de-watering of our local aquifers. Our property sets on decomposed shale. When shale decomposes, it turns into clay. Clay is great for storing water in its interstitial spaces. However, when the water is removed, the spaces can collapse. And if the spaces do collapse, they may not refill, as the weight of the overlying rock actually flattens them. (Consider what has happened to the water table in the San Joaquin Valley.)

4. And, as to the risk of forest fires, what happens when we need to evacuate more people from those neighborhoods which feed onto Brunswick Road? There is simply no place for additional vehicles in this part of west county. Do not exacerbate the already sketchy evacuation plan (such as it is). The problem of evacuation is of great concern to all of us living here. Do not make this problem any worse.

5. I am very skeptical of the mine owner's assurance that they can adequately remove toxic metals and other hazardous chemicals from their waste streams. Claims like this have been made many times in other mining operations, with little to no follow-up on the promises. And once heavy metals and other compounds enter riparian habitats and other bodies of water, they prove almost impossible to remove. Discharging this "treated" water into our local waterways is a recipe for disaster.

6. What method will they be using to extract the gold? The cyanide process is toxic and can result in contaminated waste water. And even worse is the mercury process. This extremely toxic metal remains in water and especially in river and lake sediments forever. It never goes away and it never becomes less toxic. And if it combines with organic compounds in the water it can form methyl mercury, which is up to 1000 time more toxic than mercury alone.

7. How will they go about protecting our surface waters from potential toxic runoff from the mounds of spoils which will be removed from the mine? Mercury and cyanide are just the beginning of the problems. What about lead, arsenic, cadmium and other metals which often accompany gold deposits? These elements and their compounds belong below the surface of the ground, not on the top where they can leach into surface water forever. Please protect our environment!

8. And what about the capacity of our local waterways to handle an initial discharge of 815 MILLION gallons of wastewater and then an additional 1.2 MILLION gallons of wastewater each day thereafter? Surely somebody must be considering the effect of all of the water and the potential for flooding homes and local businesses, especially during the wet months.

9. And what about the noise and heavy traffic on our small county roads for many years of construction? Cynthia and I moved up here to retire away from noise pollution, air pollution, and water pollution. An industrial mining operation is not the type of neighbor that we want to have. This one has NIMBY written all over it.

10. If the supervisors really want to help the residents by bringing new business and revenue into the county, how about installing high-speed internet so that high-tech companies will look favorably on moving their operations up this way. Everyone benefits from this.

11. We need look no farther than to our own county's record of mining operations to begin to appreciate just how environmentally damaging this type of operation can be. Those parts of California which have been scarred by gold mining have not and probably never will be fully restored to their original beauty. NO MORE MINING!

12. I encourage you to look toward the future for growth and development in Nevada County. Do not look back to the 19th Century as a model for how to move into the 21st Century. While mining was an important industry for over 100 years in our county, we do not need to return to this devastating practice in order to make ends meet. I would like to think that we have moved beyond destroying the environment just to bring profit to the wealthy few. Let’s not go there again. Please.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

Howard Kuhlmann

August 7, 2020

From:	Howard Kuhlmann
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelly:

First, let me introduce myself. My educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and a Master's Degree in Biological Science. My work background includes teaching Chemistry, Biology and Environmental Science at high schools and colleges in Central California. I have also worked in a consulting and training capacity for those who are involved in hazardous waste management, including asbestos, lead and radiation abatement.

I am opposed to reopening the mine for the following reasons:

1. My wife and I moved here from the Bay Area and built a home and alpaca ranch on a 20-acre parcel 3 miles up Greenhorn Road. At the time we moved, our well produced over 8 gallons of water per minute. Due to the drought over the last decade, it has dropped to less than 2 gallons per minute. And that is for a well which is 500 feet down. We are stretched to provide drinking water for ourselves and our alpacas, to say nothing of our need for water for our gardens where we raise food for the table. I cannot image how we could move forward with our current plans if the water table were to drop any farther.

2. Our local environment is fragile as it is, what with loss of trees on our property and on surrounding parcels. The loss of groundwater here will have a devastating effect on the health of our forests and further increase the risk of forest fires with the subsequent loss of lives and property. We cannot afford to lose what little ground water that we have left. All of the climate change models show the West Coast as becoming dryer and hotter as we move into the 21st Century. Do not remove any more water!

3. You also need to consider the potential de-watering of our local aquifers. Our property sets on decomposed shale. When shale decomposes, it turns into clay. Clay is great for storing water in its interstitial spaces. However, when the water is removed, the spaces can collapse. And if the spaces collapse, they may not refill, as the weight of the overlying rock actually flattens them. This benefits no one. (Consider what has happened to the water table in the San Joaquin Valley.)

4. And speaking of forest fires, what happens when we need to evacuate more people from those neighborhoods which feed onto Brunswick Road? There is simply no place for additional vehicles in this part of west county. Do not exacerbate the already sketchy evacuation plan (such as it is). The problem of evacuation is of great concern to all of us living here. Do not make this problem any worse.

5. I am very skeptical of the mine owner's assurance that they can adequately remove toxic metals and other hazardous chemicals from their waste streams. Claims like this have been made many times in other mining operations, with little to no follow-up on the promises. And once heavy metals and other compounds enter riparian habitats and other bodies of water they prove almost impossible to remove. Discharging this "treated" water into our local waterways is a recipe for disaster.

6. What method will they be using to extract the gold? The cyanide process is toxic and can result in contaminated waste water. And even worse is the mercury process. This extremely toxic metal remains in water and especially in river and lake sediments forever. It never goes away and it never becomes less toxic. And if it combines with organic compounds in the water it can form methyl mercury, which is up to 1000 time more toxic than mercury alone.

7. How will they go about protecting our surface waters from potential toxic runoff from the mounds of spoils which will be removed from the mine? Mercury and cyanide are just the beginning of the problems. What about lead, arsenic, cadmium and other metals which often accompany gold deposits? These elements and their compounds belong below the surface of the ground, not on the top where they will leach into surface water forever. Please protect our environment!

8. And what about the capacity of our local waterways to handle an initial discharge of 815 MILLION gallons of wastewater and then an additional 1.2 MILLION gallons of wastewater each day thereafter? Surely somebody must be considering the effect of all of the water and the potential for flooding homes and local businesses, especially during the wet months.

9. And what about the noise and heavy traffic on our small county roads for many years of construction? Cynthia and I moved up here to retire away from noise pollution, air pollution, and water pollution. An industrial mining operation is not the type of neighbor that we want to have. This one has NIMBY written all over it.

10. If the supervisors really want to help the residents by bringing new business and revenue into the county, how about installing high-speed internet so that high-tech companies will look favorably on moving their operations up this way. Everyone benefits from this.

11. We need look no farther than our own county's history of mining operations to begin to appreciate just how damaging this type of operation can be. Those parts of California which have been scarred by gold mining have not and probably never will be fully restored to their original beauty. NO MORE MINING!

12. I encourage you to look toward the future for growth and development in Nevada County. Do not look back at the 19th Century as a model for how to move into the 21st Century. It didn't work then and it won't work now.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Howard Kuhlmann
August 6, 2020

From: Wren LaFeet
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Cease Mining Operations
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,

I hope you will seriously reconsider the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland gold mine. It is an egregious misuse of resources and a travesty in the making in terms of environmental impact.

All one has to do is look at the Malacoff diggings to see what kind of havoc gold mining has had on this land.

Don't subject Nevada County residents to yet more environmental destruction related with the mining industry.

Sincerely,
a concerned resident

--
Sent from my tiny robot

Wren LaFeet
Transformational Facilitator • Somatic Permissionary • Founder
Cocréa LLC

Claim your Free Gift for Improving All your Relationships through Dance!
bit.ly/CocreaFG

Embody Your Genius and become a Cocréa Facilitator!
https://www.dancecocrea.com/training

Book a Dance Session with Me!
bookwrenlafeet.as.me

Follow us on Social!
Facebook.com/dancecocrea
Instagram.com/cocrea_dance / instagram.com/wrenlafeetdance
Vimeo: www.vimeo.com/dancecocrea

From: Azriel LaMarca <azriel.lamarca@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Azriel LaMarca

11205 Icon Way

Nevada City, CA 95959

azriel.lamarca@gmail.com

530-477-2173

August 7, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a resident of Nevada County for most of my life. I grew up on San Juan Ridge, went away to college, moved back to the area in 2000. In 2010, my family purchased a home on Icon Way, just 1.7 miles up Idaho Maryland Road from Brunsick Road.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I am concerned about the impact on nearby wells, like my own. The cost of connecting to NID water supply was out of reach when we moved here in 2010, and I imagine it will be extremely costly to connect whole neighborhoods to the NID system. What is the plan for providing water to homes whose wells become unstable due to the mine and who will cover that cost?

I am also concerned about traffic impacts. Brunswick Road is already a busy road, almost a highway, connecting to Hwy 174. I am specifically concerned about the intersection of Idaho Maryland Road and Brunswick Road. How will the traffic impact of the mine be mitigated at that already dangerous intersection?

What about the noise issue? I live about less than two miles from the Idaho Maryland Mine. I live here because it is a quiet country life. I do not want to live near an industrial zone. What is the noise impact on neighbors?

I hope that the EIR addresses the impacts of water, noise, and traffic on the surrounding community.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Azriel LaMarca

From:	Chris Lambert
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	EIR for proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 3:05:52 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley :

I would like to offer my thoughts regarding the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine, and what should be in the Environmental Impact Report

Our community has changed drastically since the original mine was closed in 1956. This is no longer a place able to accommodate the multiple serious impacts an operation such as this would impose. The area has become predominately residential, and oriented toward tourism, retirement living, and vacation housing. Mine operations would entail a large increase in traffic, noise, water and air pollution, plus unknown effects of deep mining on aquifers and surface waters.

The proposed mine would also impact the larger environment with the production of prodigious quantities of greenhouse gases and air pollutants. The operation would also consume large amounts of electrical power, which itself has a long-range impact at a time when there is an effort to decommission fossil-fuel plants.

The EIR therefore should address all of these issues, impacts local and general.

Further, there should be an economic impact evaluation, as the claims of new jobs and revenues are very questionable at best.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Lambert

Resident of Nevada County

chriszenji@gmail.com

From:	Daun Langston
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi4NevadaCounty@gmail.com; Ed Scofield; Heidi Hall
Subject:	Rise Gold Mine, how Sharon Boivin gave us Empire Mine State Park, Lake Wildwood, and the Clean Water Act
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 5:29:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Summary: The article explains how a Nevada County Planner, Sharon Boivin, is responsible for giving us Empire State Park, Lake Wildwood, and how she brought about the Clean Water Act. The Rise EIS is missing several elements required by the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act and the The Federal Water Pollution Control Act 1972 as amended (CWA). This article explains the CWA history directly resulting from early historical mining in Nevada County. It suggests missing elements required by law. The article exposes possible penalties Nevada County may accumulate if state and federal laws and rules are ignored.

As a young engineering student I was drafted by a professor to work on a project study for Governor Regan concerning a proposal by Newmont Mines to reopen the Empire Mine in Nevada County.

You might have heard of Sharon Boivin, she was a senior planner for Nevada County, she recently passed away. Before she worked at Nevada County, Sharon, met Charlie Black while on a hike in 1968-1969. In brief, Sharon shared her concern with the chemistry of the Newmont discharge water in to Deer Creek, the effect on the drinking water in Smartsville and the proposed town of Lake Wildwood by Boise Cascade in Penn Valley.

Charlie Black was the son of the President of PG&E and spent many of his summers in Nevada County while growing up. Charlie was a senior member of Stanford Research Institute. He was an expert in hydrology and water formation in the Sierras.

Sharon asked if there was any way Charlie could help her make sure Newmont was not able to restore their operation to once again contaminate Deer Creek with Realgar and other harmful minerals. Charlie soon came to the conclusion the state needed a law to protect the water in Deer Creek since it was the sole source of drinking water for Smartsville. He asked his wife, Shirley Temple Black, for assistance. Mrs. Black, was a very close friend of the Governor, Ronald Regan. Regan listened to Charlie's concerns then introduced Charlie to Gordon Cologne.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act was passed in 1969. The act at that time contained a provision that any sulfide mine, such as the Empire mine must accomplish a process prior to being issued a use permit by a county.

The Act required the mine obtain a permit prior to pumping any water from a mine. It

needed a permit to certify treatment of the water. It needed a permit to confirm the testing of a compliance laboratory. Any discharge of water into a California stream required a permit. Permits processing required an independent study of the mine plans and proposals. The other possibly harmful minerals in the gold bearing quartz had to be discovered by a licensed geologist. The volume of potential recovered water had to be discovered by an engineering and historical analysis. A plant to remove undesirable minerals potentially dissolved in the recovered water had to be designed by a licensed professional engineer skilled in water treatment plant design. A permit for discharge of the recovered water into somewhere had to be obtained. A plant operation plan was required to determine if the plant had to be operated by licensed and certified waste treatment operator and to estimate the annual operating costs.

The costs incurred by the Porter-Cologne study process to obtain an operational permit were very expressive in 1970 dollars. The costs were shared by Newmont, Boise Cascade and SRI as the final cost for the study was nearly $100,000 even though costs were kept lower using university student labor.

Governor Regan wanted a national act since streams flowed into California and the state alone could not protect the water if California went solo.

Regan knew Ed Muskie was working on a bill to protect water. He got the mining protection section from Cologne's California Bill attached to Muskie's National bill. The Clean Water Act passed in 1972. The bill was promptly vetoed by Nixon. Regan lobbied the Republicans using his charm and reasoning. An unexpected veto over-ride occurred in late 1972. This success by Regan, using personality working both sides of the aisle, cements Ronald Regan's future position in the National Republican Party. The mining protection section from Cologne's California Bill became cfr 40 part 440 of the Clean Water Act.

This mine compliance section was deleted from California law in 1975 to avoid any conflict with the Federal Act. Cologne's California Bill now only requires any California legislative body to have the three required CWA EPA permits in hand before any action is taken on permitting. A permit issued by the EPA to dewater a sulfated metal mine, a permit to certify the treatment process, and a permit to certify the compliance laboratory. A separate state permit is still required to dump the treated effluent into a tier 1-3 stream in California.

Clean Water Act (The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Clean Water Act of 1977 and the Water Quality Act of 1987) (the Act), 33 U.S.C. 1311, 1314 (b), (c) and (e), 1315, 1317, and 1361; The rules are now called 40 CFR Part 440, Gold Ore Mine Effluent Guidelines.

I started work on the project in the fall of 1971 while attending Santa Clara University in connection with Stanford Research Institute. My job was to maintain the project schedule.

SRI was charged designing a tier 3 stream compliant quaternary water treatment plant for de-watering the proposed Empire Mine. A tier 3 stream is a creek that conveys very clean water destined to a treatment plant for consumption by humans. Newmont Mines wanted to use Deer Creek for disposal. We first had to establish the amount of water needed to be removed from the mine. We soon discovered the water discharge estimate indicated by Newmont from the Empire was far too low. By a study of the design of the old pumps at the 500 foot level and old records we soon determined the annual discharge was twice the estimate from the company. The peak discharge was enough to fill Englebright Dam every fourteen months. SRI designed an ion-exchange plant to remove the calcite, cyanide and Sharon's Realgar, the harmful arsenic sulfide mineral from the mine recovered water. But now the water was too clean, it would come out of the quaternary treatment plant as ultra pure deionized water, too clean to drink. We proposed to build a pipeline from the mine treatment plant to Bannor Mountain to intersect with a NID water treatment plant for dilution with hard stream water to mineralize the water so it may be used as a potable water source. Today the EPA demands most mine water should not be removed from site unless it is extensively treated and purified as potable water

In 1971 the water treatment plant would cost about 25 Million Dollars to build and another half a million to operate per year. Today it would cost at least ten times the amount to construct and build.

Today, the EPA regulatory for sulfated mines costs between $800,000 for open pit and up to $2,400,000 for deep mines to obtain. It is a very complex process laid out in more the 3,640 pages of regulations. One simply must look at the cost for a fairly simple open pit mine, Pebble Mine in Alaska. The Canadians have invested more than two million dollars trying to use the easier Part 401 CWA process for open pit mine permits which is evaluated by Army Core of Engineers rather than the EPA.

With the work currently accomplished, I suspect the County is at least through twenty percent of the process. The issue remaining is some of the existing work flow is Clean Water Act, CWA, non-compliant and would have to be dismissed.

Newmont donated Empire as a State Park in 1974 after they decided a water treatment plant was too expensive to construct and operate.

Sulfide mine formations such as Empire contained a significant amount of Realgar mixed in with the gold formations. Realgar, α-As_4S_4, is an arsenic sulfide mineral, also known as "ruby sulphur" or "ruby of arsenic". It is a soft, sectile mineral occurring in monoclinic crystals, or in granular, compact form, often in association with the related mineral, orpiment and is found intermixed with the gold deposits. It is a hard stable non-water soluble mineral until it is exposed to a catalytic red light at 692nm in the presents of oxygen. Then it rapidly degrades to a water soluble yellow powder and becomes very dangerous to life. Cyanide salt was manufactured on site from the Empire's tailings by cooking it with a charcoal mix from about 1890-1930. Cyanide Salt was used to extract gold from ponds of the crushed tailings. Both arsenic, cyanide, and other less toxic sulfide minerals, one example are cobalt and copper, in

lesser forms are available in the Empire's mine water and must be removed prior to discharge.

California signed a consent decree with EPA in 1983-86 saying it would suspend the license of any professional engineer with an enforcement hearing who signed off a California Environmental Impact Report without going through the Clean Water Act Section 402 cfr 440 approval processes for an Environmental Impact Review prior to a use permit being issued. The county who approves such a permit without Section 402 approval is no longer eligible for Federal funds offsets until the issue is corrected. I could not confirm if the consent decree is still in effect.

Ramsey County in Minnesota may have improperly approved a use permit without a cfr part 440 studies. The county was fined $220,000,000 by Federal Court. $200 million may go to the mining company to compensate for unusable completed post County permit construction costs and $20 million to the EPA as fines. The appeal of these fines is currently in process, PolyMet's lost their air pollution permit for their copper-nickel mine, which is already tied up in litigation into how regulators did not properly handled it's part 440 water quality permit.

Shirley Temple became an ambassador to Gahanna for President Regan. Charlie became a mentor and a good friend after I graduated from Santa Clara University. I was the US representative to the UN International Telephone Union in Geneva for Clinton, Bush and Obama. Charlie passed away in 2005, Shirley in 2014 and Sharon just recently. I retired early this year.

Sharon Boivin changed Nevada County forever. Without Sharon we would not have either the Empire Mine Park or Lake Wildwood. Smartsville probably wouldn't have clean water. She accomplished this before she became a planner for Nevada County. She never received any awards or acknowledgment for preserving the environment in Nevada County. She won each person she needed with a smile, a convincing science based message and a warm heart.

Sulfides are very stable until expose to large amounts of free oxygen. Water is safe to be taken from an aquifer of a sulfated mine if the water contains less than 1/2 of 1 percent of dissolved oxygen as a free gas. The water will have a large value of dissolved calcites but will be very safe to drink. An ion exchange with potassium chloride and potassium permanganate will yield wonderful fresh soft clean non-staining drinking water when obtained from a sulfated mine.

If sulfides are exposed to more than eight percent oxygen gas, and in the case of realgar, and a specific frequency of a small amount of light as a catalyst, chemistry changes will occur. If the available oxygen levels are exceeded ferrous sulfate will convert to sulphuric acid and iron rust, arsenic will convert to its water soluble form, cyanide will become soluble then insoluble when exposed to ferrous oxides. Mercury will become go through the same transitioning from cinnabar then becoming liquid mercury settled at bottoms of streams. Copper sulfate and cobalt sulfate will stay dissolved until it mixed with the Yuba River where it will settle to the river bottom.

A researcher concluded from a study of the clays from in the deep water canyon in Monterey Bay in 1965-1968 sardines and otter may not have disappeared just from overhunting but also they possibly were poisoned by the discharge into the San Francisco Bay from harmful minerals dissolved in drainage from the northern mines such as the Empire.

If a planning professional ignores the CWA in the permit process the federal courts have become very draconian. A planning professional may be barred for a period of seven years working in the profession, a licensed professional engineer may have their license suspended for the same period and the local government may be barred from receiving a portion of federal funds and required to pay restitution.

Please seek the guidance of the EPA and your excellent county staff attorneys before proceeding with any permit process. The EPA can be very helpful and they are actually very willing to assist with guidance and information. If you require contacts, I could place you in contact with expert staff professionals which whom are actually still serving under the current administration.

Daun Langston
21790 McDaniel Rd
Smartsville, CA 95977. (Nevada County)

(530) 263-9293
daunlangston@gmail.com

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2020

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EACH SUPERVISOR RECD
Dist 3

August 10, 2020

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With regard to the Rise proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine at Brunswick Rd and Bennett St/Greenhorn Rd, I'm sure you have heard the protests from my neighbors and many other residents within the County. Most of them are far more well-versed than I in stating all the detrimental effects this mine project will bring about so I will just say that the noise, dust, traffic, damaged roads, and air pollution could never be outweighed by the benefits our County may or may not receive from the mine. From what I have read, there will likely be no real benefits as most of the workers will come from out of the area and most of the profits will end up in Canada.

I have lived within a mile of the site, down Greenhorn Rd, for 26 years and I cannot even imagine how the County can entertain or even consider this proposal. How can the County consider risking the water levels of all our nearby wells, the purity of our water, the health of the air we breathe and the stability/safety/value of our land and homes? What kind of profit is worth taking a beautiful, near pristine residential area and turning it into an ugly, 24/7 industrial blight that would go on for 80 years?

The mine was closed in the 20th century and Rise wants to reopen it in the 21st century and run it right into the 22nd century. If the mine had only recently been closed, the area that grew up around it would be quite different from what it is now and reopening might make sense. But the mine was closed a very long time ago and what is being proposed makes no more sense than if we were to allow a nuclear testing site or a high-rise casino to move in. None of them fit the area!

I OPPOSE THE REOPENING OF THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE... AND YOU ALL SHOULD TOO!

Sincerely,

Linda Lanzoni

Linda Lanzoni
14149 Christopher Robin Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Do Not Approve this horrific DEADLY Project!!!

From: Barbara Larsen
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:49:55 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

My husband and I have lived in Nevada County for over 40 years. Although the allure of some visitors to our county has been the history of mining and our beautiful Empire Mine State park. In reality the mines for so many Cornish miner's and their families was not so glamorous. Hence, the orphanage at St. Joseph's run by the Sisters of Mercy.

The community had to suffer from drilling on an 24/7 days a week. And, only stopped when the owners arrived from the Bay Area. They didn't like the sound the stamp and drilling made and interfered with their guest's and parties.

So, here we are again. Years after knowing the affects of mining to our beautiful community and what this will entail: more traffic, dust and pollution, loud drilling, etc. This is not in our best interests.

Years ago we learned the hard way about trusting industry to serve our better interests with the shopping center at KMART. The developers made many agreements they did not uphold and we ended up calling the area Pineless Creek. The city council in Grass Valley woke up and started to work on focusing the upgrading of the downtown. Everyone loves our quaint village now.

How hard did SYRCL work to get the 37 miles of the Yuba River to be preserved as wild and scenic.

Please don't go forward with the open of the mine.

Sincerely,
Barbara and Bill Larsen
530-265-4049

From: Leslie Lattyak
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposition to Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:09:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed opening of the historic Idaho-Maryland Mine. I live just a mile from the site.

In addition to many other concerns, my main concerns are:

- How will we be sure that the water supply is not affected?
- What will the noise pollution be? Trucks on our roads, drilling?
- What will the wear and tear on the roads be?
- What wildlife will be affected? Bird and other animals live in this area
- What hours of the day will nearby residents be subjected to noise from the mines?
-How many jobs are expected to be created, and for what period of time?
-What is the obligation of the company to clean up and restore the area to what it is currently?

We feel strongly that a mine should not be opened in a residential area. Quality of life will be negatively impacted.

Thank you,

Leslie Lattyak

From: Tony Lauria <topotony@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:57 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Opposing comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that

devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one

route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it’s a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A

reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including “No Project” must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it’s profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Tony & Lauren Lauria
13784 Greenhorn Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-913-6106

-----Original Message-----
From: Caulen Lauria <caulen.lauria@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Brunswick

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings Matt,

I was born and raised on Greenhorn Rd and must express deep concern for the need to preserve the

environment and the health of the community. The proposed reopening of the mine must be met with vigilant rejection as to the detrimental environmental and health risks associated with such a dangerous idea. The facts surrounding the reason for it's closure in the first place are reason enough to reject the proposal, however, the astronomical dewatering pump out required would completely empty and destroy surrounding wells while simultaneously contaminating them with the remaining chemicals. Any negligence in governmental assessment to this proposal and allowing it to commence with all the lasting negative effects would mean massive legal ramifications for those involved. A commercial mining operation 2 minutes drive from downtown Grass Valley, let alone the immediate residences, is utterly absurd for the community to need to address for obvious reasons.

Please respond with your intention and efforts to preserve the community on this matter.

Thank you,

Caulen Lauria

From:	Marisa Laursen
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	STOP THE MINE!!!
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:33:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho Maryland mine and am adamantly opposed to it.

I am a homeowner off Greenhorn Road. We purchased our home in this area to be in a peaceful, clean environment. What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative impacts for the community with the only upsides being profit for them and Nevada County.

The main reasons I am opposed to this mine being re-opened are:

*** Potential Environmental Impact on many levels**

Air Quality

Pollution into our local creeks from mine water

Wildlife impacts

Explosives stored on site

Resources needed to operate the mine and trucks

*** Concerns Over Our Well Water**

Pumping out millions of gallons a day for 11 plus years has to impact our ground water.

Having NID water that we have to pay for instead of free water is not reasonable to ask.

Safety of our drinking water

LOWERING OUR WATER TABLE, with the increased fire risk in an already extremely high fire risk area

*** Noise**

Having huge excavation trucks running from 6 AM to 10 PM will destroy our peaceful quiet neighborhood.

*** Traffic**

With large trucks going in and out, the Greenhorn/Bennett Brunswick intersection will

become very congested.

*** Evacuation Impact**

In the event of evacuation, Greenhorn will be a seriously impacted road. We have over 1 thousand residents who in an emergency, such as a fire, will be evacuating out Greenhorn to Brunswick. We are already extremely concerned about too many cars getting out. Add 250 employees of the mine and their trucks, it creates a very dangerous situation.

*** Home Values Decreasing**

We fear the value of our home will go down due to an active mining operation with all its negative impacts.

I understand this mine will bring in high tax revenue for the city/county and offer some jobs to locals. However, it offers nothing but negatives to the community and nearby homeowners. I hope the health, safety and happiness of the residents of Grass Valley take precedence over money.

Please consider these important points, and do everything in your power to maintain the integrity of our community and your position.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Marisa Laursen
12888 Lost Lake Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
marisa@ayurvedacollege.com

Dr. Marisa Laursen (Sri Devi)
Lead Faculty, California College of Ayurveda
Ayurvedic Doctor
Ayurvedic Yoga Therapist
Pancha Karma Specialist
Sivananda Certified Yoga Teacher
www.AyurvedaCollege.com
Marisa@AyurvedaCollege.com

From: Boni or Kim LaValley
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We are homeowners at 10828 Success Cross Rd in Nevada City, and we would like to express our great concern for the re-opening of the Rise Gold Mine.

In our opinion it is extremely inappropriate to re-open this mine. Conditions and environmental knowledge have changed significantly since the mine was last operated. As nearby residents, we are greatly concerned about the noise that will be generated by the mine and its impact on our daily lives. We purchased our home up here on Banner Mountain specifically because of the quiet. That is one of the main draws of the area. If we are bombarded by noise day in and day out it will severely disrupt our lives as well as impact our property values.

In the past it may have been acceptable to have such a large industrial operation in residential areas, but it is no longer. We are all concerned with the quality of life in our community. The mine may be very profitable for some, but profits above life quality is no longer an acceptable goal in our society.

We are speaking to our specific concerns within our neighborhood with regard to noise. The addition of lights, of trucks, and of traffic, as well as large and ugly visible structures is of concern to the larger area.

We are urging you to not permit the operation of this mine. The costs to the community are far, far greater than the benefits to a few.

Sincerely,

Boni and Kim LaValley
10828 Success Cross Rd.
Nevada City, CA

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2020

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BONI and KIM LA VALLEY
P.O. BOX 1070
NEVADA CITY, CA 95959
lesiavalley3@gmail.com

August 10, 2020

Board of Supervisors
c/o Clerk of the Board
950 Maidu Ave, Ste. 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Supervisors,

We are homeowners at 10828 Success Cross Rd in Nevada City, and we would like to express our great concern for the re-opening of the Rise Gold Mine.

In our opinion it is extremely inappropriate to re-open this mine. Conditions and environmental knowledge have changed significantly since the mine was last operated. As nearby residents, we are greatly concerned about the noise that will be generated by the mine and its impact on our daily lives. We purchased our home up here on Banner Mountain specifically because of the quiet. That is one of the main draws of the area. If we are bombarded by noise day in and day out it will severely disrupt our lives as well as impact our property values.

In the past it may have been acceptable to have such a large industrial operation in residential areas, but it is no longer. We are all concerned with the quality of life in our community. The mine may be very profitable for some, but profits above life quality is no longer an acceptable goal in our society.

We are speaking to our specific concerns within our neighborhood with regard to noise. The addition of lights, of trucks, and of traffic, as well as large and ugly visible structures is of concern to the larger area.

We are urging you to not permit the operation of this mine. The costs to the community are far, far greater than the benefits to a few.

Sincerely,

Boni and Kim LaValley
10828 Success Cross Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959

From: Frank Lawrence
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Opposed to Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 3:18:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for the information.

On Wed, Aug 12, 2020 at 11:54 AM Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

> Good Morning Mr. Lawrence:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.
>
> Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of

the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Frank Lawrence <frank@franklawrence.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposed to Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Idaho-Maryland Mine project, and the environmental review specifically. I'm a 21 year resident of Nevada County, and have lived on Banner Mountain for the last 18 of those years. I do not have time to provide detailed comments at this time, but rest assured that I will volunteer my time and 30+ years of legal expertise to the legal effort to stop the mine at all costs. I represent Indian Tribal governments, and have litigated CEQA (and NEPA) issues for decades. I was part of the volunteer neighborhood group that commented on the NID Banner-Cascade pipeline project, which caused NID to fire it's environmental

contractor, throw away the first environmental review, and start the process all over again. I also persuaded NID that it did not have easement rights in our neighborhood, causing NID to fire it's legal counsel and take years negotiating construction and right-of-way easements for the pipeline project. Our neighborhood group sued NID under CEQA and NID eventually settled for all of the mitigations we sought, including adding a treated water line with fixed-cost hookups, raw water manifold access, and fire hydrants to the project. By contrast, there are no mitigations that will make this mine project acceptable. Traffic is already bad, and the noise, environmental and other impacts cannot be sufficiently mitigated to maintain the quality of life that makes Nevada County special.

Thanks for listening.

Frank Lawrence, Esq.

--

Law Office of Frank Lawrence

578 Sutton Way, No. 246

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Tel. (530) 478-0703

frank@franklawrence.com

www.franklawrence.com

NOTE: This e-mail from the Law Office of Frank Lawrence is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete the e-mail and do not copy or disclose it to anyone else. If you are not a client, do not construe anything in this e-mail to make you a client unless it expressly states otherwise and do not disclose anything to us in reply that you expect it to hold in confidence. If you properly received this e-mail as a client, co-counsel or retained expert, you should maintain its contents in confidence in order to preserve all available privileges to protect confidentiality.

--

Law Office of Frank Lawrence
578 Sutton Way, No. 246
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tel. (530) 478-0703
frank@franklawrence.com
www.franklawrence.com

NOTE: This e-mail from the Law Office of Frank Lawrence is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete the e-mail and do not copy or disclose it to anyone else. If you are not a client, do not construe anything in this e-mail to make you a client unless it expressly states otherwise and do not disclose anything to us in reply that you expect it to

From:	CenturyLink Customer
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	walkerdi1@msn.com
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR topics
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:43:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Dear Sir:

We would like to express our opposition to the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. We understand the need for the completion of an Environmental Impact Report but we do not comprehend how a project of this scale near residential areas close to Grass Valley has even gotten this far in the permitting process.

Please ensure that the following items are addressed in the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Rise Gold/Idaho Maryland mine.

* number and proximity of existing and proposed residential housing and human population within a one mile radius of the Brunswick site. These figures should be considered when assessing the impacts of:
> on-site noise at both site including above ground and below ground,
> traffic noise from the Brunswick location to the Centennial location,
> reduced air quality from vehicle diesel emissions from hauling waste from Brunswick to Centennial location,
> vagrant dust emissions from both on-site locations as well as truck traffic on Brunswick Road, Centennial Dr, and Whispering Pines Lane.

* of initial six month and long term dewatering of Idaho Maryland mine shafts upon South Fork of Wolf Creek riparian and aquatic environments, with attention to metal contaminants (removal of manganese and iron) and water temperature.

* overall appropriateness of this large scale industrial activity in a community that is expected to expand it's residential population during the next twenty years and in particular the Loma Rica Basin and in other parcels located along Brunswick Road.

Respectfully submitted on 8/13/2020 by Bill Lawrence and Diane Walker. We have lived in Nevada County since 2011.

From: Frank Lawrence <frank@franklawrence.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposed to Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
I write to express my strong opposition to the Idaho-Maryland Mine project, and the environmental review specifically. I'm a 21 year resident of Nevada County, and have lived on Banner Mountain for the last 18 of those years. I do not have time to provide detailed comments at this time, but rest assured that I will volunteer my time and 30+ years of legal expertise to the legal effort to stop the mine at all costs. I represent

Indian Tribal governments, and have litigated CEQA (and NEPA) issues for decades. I was part of the volunteer neighborhood group that commented on the NID Banner-Cascade pipeline project, which caused NID to fire it's environmental contractor, throw away the first environmental review, and start the process all over again. I also persuaded NID that it did not have easement rights in our neighborhood, causing NID to fire it's legal counsel and take years negotiating construction and right-of-way easements for the pipeline project. Our neighborhood group sued NID under CEQA and NID eventually settled for all of the mitigations we sought, including adding a treated water line with fixed-cost hookups, raw water manifold access, and fire hydrants to the project. By contrast, there are no mitigations that will make this mine project acceptable. Traffic is already bad, and the noise, environmental and other impacts cannot be sufficiently mitigated to maintain the quality of life that makes Nevada County special.
Thanks for listening.
Frank Lawrence, Esq.

--

Law Office of Frank Lawrence
578 Sutton Way, No. 246
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tel. (530) 478-0703
frank@franklawrence.com
www.franklawrence.com

NOTE: This e-mail from the Law Office of Frank Lawrence is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete the e-mail and do not copy or disclose it to anyone else. If you are not a client, do not construe anything in this e-mail to make you a client unless it expressly states otherwise and do not disclose anything to us in reply that you expect it to hold in confidence. If you properly received this e-mail as a client, co-counsel or retained expert, you should maintain its contents in confidence in order to preserve all available privileges to protect confidentiality.

From:	Hannah Lawson
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	BOS Public Comment
Subject:	No gold mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
I'm from Oregon and I was interested in moving to Nevada County because my school is going remote but my friend who lives in Nevada County mentioned a mine is going to reopen and I don't think I will move if so. Mines are incredibly harmful to the environment around them, the health of the people working in them, and the community as a whole. I urge you to relinquish your need for capitalism and consider the health of the community.
In solidarity,
Hannah
--
she/her/hers

Dear Nevada County Planning Dept,

I am writing with questions about the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

#1 When you take water out from the shafts won't it disturb the animals and plants down stream?

#2 How will the gases released from the stack that's 6 stories high affect our air quality and pollution?

#3 Our community is in wild fire danger so won't the extra particulates make it harder for people to breathe?

TAKE CARE OF OUR Future!!

L.C.
4th grader

From: Nancy
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: A 4th Grader Questions the Effects of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:13:00 AM
Attachments: Idaho Maryland Mine.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Idaho Maryland Mine.jpg



From:	jeffmbellucci
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland mine concerns and comments
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jeff Bellucci & Simone Leask

Residence: 11407 Cedar Ridge Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Mailing: 13007 Iron Rock Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: 650-776-4854

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We have been Grass Valley residents for 3 years; however, my family has owned property in Grass Valley for over 30 years, and I have been coming to this area regularly since I was a young child. We have always been drawn to this community because of its natural beauty, numerous parks, and incredible opportunities for outdoor recreation, among many other reasons. I have always dreamt of living in Grass Valley, and fortunately, a few years ago, circumstances allowed my partner and I to move to Grass Valley full time. Now I am worried that the area that I have known and loved for as long as I can remember, could become unrecognizable and irrevocably altered.

While I am well aware of Grass Valley and Nevada City's history as gold mining towns, mining has not been a part of local industry since the 1950's. In the meantime, the local area has built up many small businesses and has spent millions of dollars in an attempt to undo the extensive environmental damage caused by the large-scale gold mining efforts of years past. There are a number of areas that are still unstable and/or have toxic deposits of mine tailings. Restarting the Idaho-Maryland Mine would undo a considerable amount of the environmental recovery that has taken place, and likely begin an entire new era of damage to local ecology. Clearly, our community has done just fine without mining being a part of the local economy.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine and the undeniable impact it will have on elements of our local environment, quality of life and economy:

1. One of my biggest concerns is that local groundwater, aquifers and waterways will be impacted negatively. While the Rise Gold Corp. has done preliminary studies on how pumping out the flooded mine complex will affect local groundwater and creeks, there is no way of knowing for certain exactly what toxins (and how much) may be in the water that has flooded the mine. Rise may end up pumping unhealthy amounts of mercury and arsenic, among other chemicals (byproducts of older gold purification techniques) right into Wolf creek and other waterways downstream, potentially poisoning wildlife and allowing the same nasty chemicals to seep into our groundwater. Also, Wolf creek does not flow into any local reservoirs, so that water will be lost to Nevada County forever. Currently, that underground water, and whatever it contains, is sequestered within the mine's tunnel system, which is where it should be left. Pumping it out could have disastrous consequences.

2. Removing all that water out of the mine, including an estimated 1.2 million gallons of water every day, just to keep

the mine from re-flooding, will lower the local water table in unpredictable ways. The best Rise has to offer are estimates on affected areas, but there is a high likelihood that they are not completely certain how many Grass Valley residents who subside on well water, who may see their wells run dry. I've read that Rise is offering NID water hookups for residents who might be impacted, but Rise can't be certain at this point of everyone that will be affected until they actually start the pumps, or if it will be possible to get NID water to the more remote locations that end up with dry wells.

3. The proposal states that 3.6 million gallons of water will be removed per day for the first 6 months to drain the tunnels, then 1.2 million gallons every day for the 80 year planned operation. Let's calculate how much water that is roughly, over the mine's lifespan:

   (3.6 million gallons/day x 180 days, for removing the flooding) + (1.2 million gallons/day x 365 days x 80 years, for keeping the tunnels dry) = 35.7 billion gallons of water we can't get back. All that water will be taken from being used for local wells, crops, wildlife areas and wetlands, not to mention the potential for a considerable increase in fire danger that reduced groundwater could cause in local forests. Rise plans to run the mine for up to 80 years, so we won't have access to that water again until the year 2200, meaning our local water supply may be severely diminished by this project until then, and almost no one alive now will ever know the lush green of Grass Valley again, if Rise starts their mining project.

   To put that amount of water into perspective, the local Scots Flat Reservoir has a capacity of 39,000 acre-feet of water, which translates to 12.7 billion gallons. Therefore, over the 80 year lifespan of the mine, we could drain Scots Flat Reservoir completely bone dry and refill it 3 times over, with water to spare. That is an unimaginable amount of water that will just get wasted and/or contaminated by this project in the years to come.

   What if some or all of these consequences don't occur immediately, but happen perhaps 10+ years into the project's future? Will residents have any recourse at that point? What is the ongoing plan and process for communication and conflict resolution between Rise and residents for issues that may come up down the road?

4. Generators, large trucks, and other fossil-fuel powered industrial machinery will increase local air pollution considerably. Also, Rise plans to pour an enormous amount of concrete, the manufacture of which is known to give off about 7% of all the world's carbon emissions. Their heavy use of concrete will only add to this growing problem. I feel it this goes without saying, but between the concrete, continuous running of fuel-hungry heavy equipment and trucks, Rise will add considerable carbon emissions, much of which will be go directly into our presently clean air.

5. Those same machines will markedly increase noise pollution, making the wonderfully quiet and peaceful nature of this community a thing of the past. The proposal states that there will be roughly 100 ore truck-trips per day, not to mention the rock crushers and regular underground blasting that will rumble the entire area, including potentially directly under our home.

6. What will be the impact on local flora and fauna? Between the changes in the air and water, the increased noise from equipment, blasting, and the notable addition to local traffic will result in a heightened danger to plants, insects, and animals.

7. The above ground site mapping is fairly clear; however, the maps of the mineral rights appear to be much larger and

extend below a large number of structures in Cedar Ridge and Grass Valley, which means they may be blasting/excavating directly below our neighborhood. Rise has provided almost no description of the effects that underground blasting could have on our area, or the potential for sinkholes. What kind of financial compensation is Rise willing to give to residents directly affected by their excavations, and what is the mechanism or process for filing a grievance against Rise, if damage were to occur on or around our property?

8. Increased trucking will negatively impact traffic, especially on Brunswick. In addition, those roads weren't engineered for extremely heavy ore trucks, and the affected roads will need constant maintenance to prevent their destruction. Will Rise Gold Corp be paying for the roads they damage?

9. The economic impacts of this project will be dramatic and far-reaching. First, property values in our community, especially those within earshot of the mine will go down, since demand for homes near gold mines that work 24/7 is not particularly strong. Rise Gold Corp. is a Canadian company, so we can't even say that the profits will stay and be spent in our country.

   Second, almost no employees will be hired locally, since Rise will simply use their own miners from other sites, as opposed to training local personnel and getting them up to speed. The mine proposal says they will need 312 workers, but 242 are specialized geological and/or mining engineers. At best, about 70 of the jobs could go to locals, but even that is optimistic. What could Rise be offering so that anyone who holds a public office in Grass Valley would even consider creating such a mess? I know I wouldn't vote for the re-election of any mine supporting local officials.

   Lastly, one of our most important local industries is tourism, thanks to the beauty and quaintness of Grass Valley and Nevada City. If roads are congested with huge trucks, and there is noise all over town, the number of visitors will decrease over time. Not only will Rise hire little to no local talent for their personnel needs, the mine's presence will directly hurt our tourism industry and local economy. The novelty and attraction of this area will all go out the window as soon as people learn there is an industrial scale mining operation just a few minutes outside of town.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any of my statements or questions, and answer any questions you might have for me.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bellucci & Simone Leask

From: Dani Lee <leedanix@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Comment re: Idaho-Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, Matt,

Thank you for welcoming comments on the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project.

I am concerned this project will have detrimental impacts on the surrounding ecosystems and waterways, despite its best efforts to mitigate impacts and efforts to keep discharge

particulates and contaminants to below Environmental Protection Agency standards. I strongly believe that no mining runoff should be allowed in our waterways.

I would encourage you and the county to consider NOT moving forward with this proposed project.

Thank you,

Danielle Lee, MPH, RD
Nevada City resident

From:	Florence LeFrancois
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 2:13:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do what you can to ban the gold mine.
Mining is inherently a nasty business and done on a large scale, it does not belong anywhere near our town. Any business that will disrupt our way of life, specifically noise, water, use of roads, contamination of air water etc. can not be allowed to operate here.
I give my permission to forward this email to whomever will help stop this mine from opening.

Sincerely,
Florence Lefrancois
Nevada county resident since 1991.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Eric LeMonnier
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No to Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:33:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please reject further developments to the Idaho Maryland Mine. It provides no value to the community and it's fragile ecosystem. We already have to deal with the lasting effects from older mining operations, we do not need to start new ones.

I vote no to the Idaho Maryland Mine

Thank you
Eric LeMonnier
Grass Valley resident

From: rachel leonard <rachel14leonard@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 8:00 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a resident in downtown Grass Valley and I have many concerns about re-opening the Idaho Maryland mine. I do believe it would cause pollution that the residents will be stuck not only paying for but also affecting our water supply, environment, and ultimately our health. I am not for re-opening the mine.

Thank you,

Rachel Leonard
Grass Valley CA

From: Betty Levin
To: bdofsupervisors; Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:02:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My husband and I are writing to let you know that we ***strongly oppose*** the reopening of the Idano Maryland Mine. If the mine is allowed to reopen, the negative impacts will leave countless homeowners without water. Everyone around the mine is on a well. Then, the trees in the area will be compromised and begin to die because they won't have any water either. Then we will be more susceptible to wildfire. The wildlife will suffer and die too from lack of water.

Furthermore, during the process, the noise from the blasting and construction will be heard for miles around. Sound, as you know, can travel miles up these canyons. I understand that construction will be 24 hours a day.

Many people who live here are seniors who have put their savings into their homes and now they will become the victims of an out of country mining company. Does the mine want to pay us fair market value for all of our homes and move us out?

I would think that Nevada County has learned multiple lessons about the toxic results of mining. Please do NOT repeat that lesson.

Betty and Larry Levin
12626 Baccarat Court
Grass Valley, CA

From:	Carrie Levine
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland mine public comment
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
I am writing to voice my concern over the planned reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. As a neighbor to the proposed site, I am very concerned about the noise, the environmental impacts to the state park, and the pollution that will enter our fragile watershed as a result. Our landscape has been ravaged for more than 150 years by overextraction of natural resources without any consideration for the environmental consequences. I firmly believe Nevada County should be investing in economies that fight climate change, reduce fire risk, and promote small business opportunities for existing residents. Additionally, in this time where we are deeply reconsidering the racist underpinnings of the town, state, and country's history, I am concerned about establishing further extractive industries without consultation with or comment from the Nisenan people, to whom this land rightfully belongs.

I hope the county will seriously consider all social, political, and environmental impacts of this project and come to see that this will not benefit our community.

Sincerely,
Carrie Levine

Carrie Levine, PhD

Lead Scientist

Conservation Science Partners, Inc.

(530) 214-8905 (office) or (773) 307-2583 (cell) | csp-inc.org
(she, her, hers)

From: Peter Levine <levinepw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:21 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Against Re-Opening The Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir:

It was with regret that I learned that a new attempt is being made to open the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine.

Have we learned nothing from our history? Ecological devastation, adverse health conditions

for what? Jewelry? An investment hedge? This is covid capitalism at its worst- not what we need in this town.

Tell these carpetbaggers to go home!

Sincerely,
Pete Levine
626 South Auburn #3
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Carol Levow
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland gold mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:26:59 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I own a house in downtown GV. I am vehemently opposed to reopening the Idaho-Maryland gold mine. The disruption and risk it puts on the citizens of Grass Valley are terrible!! It's an insane idea/proposal for this community. It's only filling the pockets of those outside this community, polluting our groundwater, creating crazy traffic, and will move tech businesses away and create an ugly environment!

How could you let this happen to a beautiful, creative town that has done well to serve its citizens?

No, no, no! Please do not let this happen! Don't we have enough going on right now?!

Thank you
Carol Levow

From: Donna Levreault
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Gold Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Gold mine. Despite assurances from the corporation, there will be increased truck traffic and potential poisoning of our air, water and land. Nevada County is still negatively affected by mining operations of the 1800s. We have not fully cleaned up from those days. Because a corporation's top priority is to make money, human values of clean air, water and land - and no increased traffic - will take a back burner. Our area relies on tourism--this will discourage people from coming to our towns and our businesses will suffer.

They talk of jobs, but how many in our county would qualify for specialized mining work. There are better, healthier ways to help people who need jobs.

Donna Levreault
10752 Alta St
Grass Valley, CA

From: Donna Levreault <donnalevro@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 11:56 AM
To: LAFCO <LAFCO@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Gold mine. Despite assurances from the corporation, there will be increased truck traffic and potential poisoning of our air, water and land. Nevada County is still negatively affected by mining operations of the 1800s. We have not fully cleaned up from those days. Because a corporation's top priority is to make money, human values of clean air, water and land - and no

increased traffic - will take a back burner. Our area relies on tourism--this will discourage people from coming to our towns and our businesses will suffer.

Donna Levreault
10752 Alta St
Grass Valley, CA

From:	Rob Lewis
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

As a 35 plus year resident of Nevada County I am deeply concerned and **opposed** to the Idaho Maryland Mine Project. While I am aware of the long history of mining in our area i think it's very important to recognize that times have changed and the impacts of such a project would have devastating effects on the area.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the

environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and

operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for

the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean

up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange

of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water,

and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this

documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San
Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Sincerely,

Robert Lewis
13859 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Lauren Lewis <lolilewis530@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Rob Lewis <lewthepro@gmail.com>; Lauren Lewis <lolilewis530@gmail.com>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

As a 40 plus year resident of Nevada County I am deeply concerned and **opposed** to the Idaho Maryland Mine Project. While I am aware of the long history of mining in our area i think it's very important to recognize that times have changed and the impacts of such a project would

have devastating effects on the area.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road

repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it’s a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and

analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Sincerely,

Lauren Lewis
13859 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Rebecca Lexa
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Environmental Review
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:03:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. Mining is generally an ecologically destructive process, from the physical damage done to the land, to the noise pollution that can disrupt the activities of wildlife, to the pollution created as a byproduct, including greenhouse gases. Reopening this mine could lead to a host of negative ecological impacts, to say nothing of the effects it may have on nearby communities. Any environmental review should be strict, to say the very least.

Thank you,

Rebecca Lexa, MA

-----Original Message-----
From: jezra <jezra@jezra.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Gold

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

For the safety of the environment and citizens of Nevada County, Rise Gold should not be allowed to reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine.

Rise Gold executives don't live here or care about Nevada County. To them, our county is simply a

resource to be exploited for shareholder profit. The executives and shareholders won't have to deal with the dust and waste water of a 24/7 mining operation; but the people of Nevada County will. Eventually, the corporation is going to cut corners on safety in order to maximize profits. When that happens, and it will happen, there is going to be an accident, and it won't be the executives or shareholders that suffer, it will be the residents of Nevada County who have to deal with the fallout. Contaminated wells and poisoned streams in Nevada County mean nothing to people that don't live here.

The mine on the ridge, in their quest for maximized profits, contaminated local wells and Nevada County is still dealing with that problem.

PG&E corporation maximized profits by ignoring mandated safety upgrades, and then burned down Paradise, killing over 80 people.

If Rise Gold is granted permission to exploit our environment for shareholder profit, the true burden of the eventual catastrophe will fall on the shoulders of the residents of Nevada County. To Rise Gold, the problem will amount to a financial loss; to the people of Nevada County, it will be the loss of wells, or of a local water way, or of life itself.

Jezra Lickter

From: Lisa Lillie
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:11:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. It will increase Traffic, Noise. But more than that, the reality is we no longer live in the 1800's and that area has been zoned as rural residential and developed as such. Mining is not compatible with residential uses. The County will be vulnerable to law suits.

Besides the noise and possible environmental impacts, I seem recall that the last time they tried to re-open it, the cost of dewatering
and treating the contaminated (arsenic and cyanide), mine water was prohibitively expensive.

I think it is time to put this to rest, perhaps the County can purchase the land and mine, turn it into a tourist attraction and
open up a drive in movie theatre there?

Lisa Lillie
lisa@lisaclillie.com

From: Julia Link-Herrera
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine study
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:34:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern,

I am planning to submit a comment letter before Monday August 17 but could not find available the initial study for the project. This should be available to the public for review in order to determine what factors may have been scoped out of the project prior to the EIR/CEQA review.

Please advise.

Thanks,

Julia Link-Herrera

From:	Julia Link-Herrera
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comment letter re Idaho Maryland mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:55:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing with regard to the Idaho Maryland mine project proposal. I am writing as a concerned homeowner and member of the East Bennett community in Grass Valley, California.

I have a variety of concerns regarding the environmental impact that this project and mine re-opening will have on the immediate community. I expect these issues to be thoroughly reviewed in the EIR.

First, the local aesthetics from a project such as this would be impacted greatly. The proposed buildings and infrastructure developments for the mine will impact viewpoints for a variety of homeowners and others in the area. This, in conjunction with the noise associated with large scale operations, will change the look and feel of the entire community. Being in a natural and quiet environment just outside of town is the reason many choose to live here.

Second, traffic into and out of the sites will inevitably create congestion on local thoughways. Traffic, road use, and population increases in the area will increase the need for public resources such as police and fire personnel due increased risk of wildfires, hazards, and other accidents. It will significantly increase tax burdens to maintain this. In addition, energy requirements will increase and the greenhouse emissions from such a large operation are a major environmental concern. Air quality will be undoubtedly compromised.

The water resources required to de water the mine and assist in its function will affect the local water table and aquifers. It is already clear that this will dewater the wells of local homeowners and essentially steal our water without just compensation. The water through local creeks and waterways would clearly be compromised due to waste station dumping and run off. Soil geology and air quality will be affected by the hazardous materials required to operate a mine. Many have livestock and agriculture that could be compromised. Our public health could be at risk.

All of these concerns weigh greatly on the future health and livelihood of our community. There is concern that land use may change completely in the area, and housing values may be compromised for the long term if this mine is allowed to reopen. And entire community could be forever changed from rural/suburban to industrial.

While I understand there may be many lucrative benefits to a project like this, I feel strongly that the environmental risks to our community absolutely outweigh any benefits.

Sincerely,

Julia Link-Herrera, MMS, PA-C

Julia Link-Herrera

From: Zach Liptak
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine - NOP Comments
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:17:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Kelley,

I am a citizen in Sacramento County but have deep ties to Nevada County and it's beautiful landscape and rivers. I am concerned about the proposal to revitalize the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Nevada County, and wish the County would reconsider re-opening this historically damaging and problematic mine. One issue that must be considered is the environmental impact to the protected California reg-legged frog that utilizes South Fork Wolf Creek for breeding habitat. The NOP proposes to discharge the water currently within the Brusnwick shaft to the creek, and to discharge wastewater during operation of the mine into South Fork Wolf Creek, which will impact both the sensitive protected amphibian wildlife within the creek, as well as disturb the Yuba River, where these discharge waters are a tributary to. We experienced a brief taste of the future to come last year when the Yuba River turned brown with large amounts of sediment from a mysterious source, and it appears this project has the potential to contribute more pollutants and sediment to our valued waterways. Please consider the deep unmitigatable environmental impacts associated with re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine and reconsider pursuit of this project. I oppose the proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Thank you very much,

Zach Liptak
Concerned Citizen.

From: Susan Logsdon
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Please STOP the Idaho Maryland Gold Mine!
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:37:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Susan Logsdon
12628 Towle Ct
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
susanlogsdon22@gmail.com
415-847-1363

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for over 5 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to recreation, music and the arts.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I live directly across from the mine site off of Wood Rose Way. This mine will have a direct and negative impact on my neighborhood and quality of life, including a decrease in property values.

How do you intend to address the following:

Noise and Earth tremors from 24/7 underground blasting and tunneling.

6am to 10 pm hauling away of mine tailing s,

The increased traffic, noise and air pollution created by 100 trucks per day driving on Brunswick/Bennett and Hwy 174.

The potential toxic mine tailings dump at the end of Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver road, causing dust and runoff into the watershed.

Extraordinary noise and light pollution. No one in our quiet community will get any sleep.

The storage of Toxic chemicals in our neighborhoods.

How do you intend to mitigate the threat to the wells in the area? Clean reliable water is a necessity for our citizens health, and welfare, not to mention property values.

I intend to get a fair market appraisal of my home before and after, if the mine is approved. If there is a serious drop in property values surrounding the industrial complex how would you suggest this be addressed?

I humbly request that you do not approve the Idaho Maryland Mine to reopen.

Thanks!

Susan Logsdon
415-847-1363

From: Michaelyn Logue
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comments regarding IM Mine EIR
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Mr. Matt Kelly, Senior Planner for the Proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine and EIR,

I have been going over the documentation provided by RISE Gold and believe there are many areas that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report. First and foremost please take a close look at the methods used for Dewatering the underground mine. What chemicals will be used and what affect they will have on the surrounding ecology, especially over prolonged exposure. I know the current proposal is to have this and other waste-waters dumped into Wolf Creek. Nevada County has a diverse ecology and I wonder what wildlife (flora and fauna) can be found in the area?

From wolfcreekalliance.org "The Wolf Creek watershed occupies a narrow, biotically diverse band of elevation between the tule fog of the Central Valley and the alpine cold of the higher elevations. This is the zone where the blue oak and gray pine woodlands of the lower foothills gradually transition into the Ponderosa pine-dominated mixed evergreen forests that characterize the middle elevations of the Sierra Nevada. •Unlike most other west-slope Sierran streams and rivers (which flow east to west), Wolf Creek flows primarily along a north–south axis. In comparison to east–west streams, this geographic positioning gives much more of the land a southern or partially southern exposure and thus the ability to support the most productive and diverse ecosystems. •Populations of indigenous people in the Wolf Creek watershed were relatively high because of the land's productivity and biodiversity. •In most watersheds that include urbanized areas, cities and towns are usually at the bottom end of the watershed, at elevations significantly lower than the head waters. The Wolf Creek watershed is unusual, therefore, in having its major urbanized area (Grass Valley) very close to its sources. This is particularly the case when Wolf Creek and its tributaries are considered as part of the upper portions of the Bear River watershed. Wolf Creek is a major tributary to the Bear River. •The Bear River flows into the Feather River and then into the Sacramento River, whose waters ultimately flow to the San Francisco Bay"

There are a number of Special-Status species of plants and animals that reside within the Wolf Creek watershed including those on the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered animals. Any decisions made regarding the use of this tributary as "a storm drain" will directly and negatively impact not only our surrounding areas but all those further down the watershed. It's illegal to dump toxins into storm drains that flow directly to the bay, which is in fact what would be occurring here.

This dewatering process also impacts and endangers those residences with wells. What is the potential that their groundwater will be affected, either run dry or be permanently contaminated? I know others have been affected by similar promises of the past regarding reopening and development of mines in the area.

Secondly, please take a closer look at the methods used for extracting the rock, both mineralized and "barren" that will be transported out of the mine. What chemicals will be present in the engineered fill that is planned to be dumped on the Brunswick Industrial Site? What impacts will this have on the surrounding areas, is there concern of run-off from the rock after it has been deposited at its final resting site? What impact will the trucks removing and moving this engineered fill and other wastes have? Both in regards to increase in traffic, noise in the surrounding area, as well as emissions from the vehicles and their contribution to green-house gasses. Will

the homes in the area still be desirable for people to live in them? And if not, who will want to purchase them?

The environment is one of our most precious and undervalued of resources. Something that the residents of Nevada County appreciate and enjoy about their community is its connection with nature. This is one of the attractions for tourism to the area. If we compromise our natural resources through pollution to groundwater, river sanctuaries and forested habitat will we still see the same draw to the area? Not to mention the increase in traffic and noise. People come here to get away from it all, will we still be able to provide that escape into nature?

Lastly I would ask that you look into the history of RISE Gold itself. What are their mining practices like and how well have they complied with their previous contracts? Have they had issues in the past and what likelihood is there of recourse if we encounter issues with them now? It has become clear that they are already acting out of compliance and with wonton disregard towards our community and California's environmental protection policies through the actions they've taken during their exploratory mining phase.

- Violation of timber harvest regulations; in constructing an equipment storage area, RISE removed a healthy stand of timber, including ponderosa pine, incense cedar, and big leaf maple, without a timber harvest plan.
- Multiple violations of the 100' riparian setback from a perennial stream (in this case South Wolf Creek, a tributary of Wolf Creek, which runs in close proximity to this site).
- Failure to follow the approved grading plan.
- Multiple violations of Storm Water Management best practices.
- Violation of a subsequent Comprehensive Management Plan.

This missive addresses the primary of my concerns, however there are many more. Thank you for taking the time to consider this impact on our community and all of its constituents, especially those that cannot speak for themselves.

Concerned Citizen,

Michaelyn Logue

Benjamin Mossman History

"Yellow Giant Gold Mine" also referred to as "Yellow Gold Mine" of Banks Island Gold Mine Ltd. within the Gitxaala Nation.

Overview: Benjamin Mossman was C.E.O of Banks Island Gold Mine Ltd. near Prince Rupert Island of British Columbia.

Many charges were filed against the company. There were labor and environmental concerns at the Yellow Giant Gold Mine, owned by Banks Island Gold Mine Ltd. The company went bankrupt and there were/are concerns that the province may have to pay for the cleanup of a discharge that effected the waterways that the Gitxaala Nation rely on.

Links are provided for full document review.

see below for excerpts that seemed relevant:

https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/bankrupt-mining-company-now-faces-35-charges-for-banks-island-mess/

Bankrupt mining company now faces 35 charges for Banks Island mess
A bankrupt mining company charged for allegedly polluting Banks Island near Prince Rupert has been handed an additional 17 charges. **Apr. 6, 2017**

As of March 14, **Banks Island Gold Mine Ltd**., the company that ran **Yellow Gold Mine** within **Gitxaala Nation**, now faces at total of 35 charges under the under the federal Fisheries Act and the provincial Environmental Management Act and Water Act.Two years ago, the Ministry of Environment ordered Banks Island Gold to shut down after unauthorized discharge of effluent and tailings had been leaking into the environment for several months. On July 9, members of the provincial government paid a visit to the site 110 km south of Prince Rupert, and determined the company was in violation of the Environmental Management Act and its waste discharge permit.
B.C. legislation requires the mine owner to pay for the clean-up costs related to environmental spills but on January 2016 the company declared bankruptcy.

The government has been dipping into the $420,000 reclamation security deposit to pay for the clean up.

As of May 2016, the Ministry of Energy and Mines stated it had removed all hazardous materials and in August, the ministry visited the site again to determine costs to reclaim and close the mine.

****

https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/ex-ceo-of-banks-island-gold-mine-acquitted-of-obstruction-charge/

Ex-CEO of Banks Island Gold Mine acquitted of obstruction charge
Prince Rupert judge said he cannot be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt
SHANNON LOUGH Mar. 6, 2019 12:48 a.m.

Former CEO of the now-bankrupt **Banks Island Gold Mine, Benjamin Mossman,** has been acquitted of **one** of his charges.

On March 6, Judge Herman Seidemann delivered his judgment in the Prince Rupert courthouse.
Mossman was acquitted in this charge under the Mines Act. On Dec. 6, 2018, the mining company's CEO was given a $15,000 penalty after he was found guilty of one Fisheries Act violation and one Environmental Management Act violation.

****

Northern View (see link above) **Witnesses testify in court on Banks Island Mine disaster**
Former safety manager shares photos of waste from the mine site spilling into the environment **SHANNON LOUGH** Sep. 26, 2017

One of the first witnesses to take the stand was **former safety manager of the site, Brent Edmunds**. With 40 years in the mining industry, Edmunds was hired in April 2015 and once on site, he said he saw many **labour issues** and he was alerted about **uncontained spillage**. In May 2015, he toured the site and took photos of liquid discharge from the mine.

The Yellow Giant Gold Mine on Banks Island within the **Gitxaała Nation** was shut down on July 15 by the Ministry of Energy and Mines.
Former CEO of now-bankrupt **Banks Island Gold Mine Ltd., Benjamin Mossman**, as well as mine manager, Dirk Meckert, and aquatic biologist Allegra Cairns are facing 35 charges under the federal Fisheries Act, provincial Environmental Management Act and Water Act.

The Yellow Giant mining site on Banks Island is still under remediation. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources stated in an email that it had removed all hazardous materials by May 2016. In June 2017, the ministry set up a site-wide water quality monitoring program to determine areas needing remediation.
Remediation has cost the ministry approximately $250,000 out of the $420,000 confiscated from Banks Island Gold Ltd.'s reclamation security deposit.

****

https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3539874/Banks-Island-Gold-Charges-March-2017.pdf (provides court document of charges)

****

https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/witnesses-testify-in-court-on-banks-island-mine-disaster/ link for above witness remarks

****

http://www.mining.com/gitxaala-nation-accuses-b-c-government-of-delaying-mining-site-clean-up/
Gitxaala Nation accuses B.C. government of delaying mining site clean-up
Valentina Ruiz Leotaud | **August 15, 2016**

The Director of Environmental Management Act for the Southern Interior Region, Cassandra Caunce, issued a pollution abatement order, saying the company had released tailings and effluent into a creek, a lake, a pond, as well as forest and wetland on Banks Island. She also said that the tailings would continue to seep if activities were not stopped.
Now, **Banks Island Gold, its president and CEO Benjamin Mossman** and its chief geologist Dirk Meckert are facing charges for allegedly releasing the waste material and are scheduled to appear in court on September 7, 2016. The company also filed for bankruptcy in January 2016.

But the **Gitxaala** still criticize what they deem a lack of continued oversight. “What we believe is happening is that the site is under receivership and the receiver is trying to find a mining company to purchase the lease, in order to recover the funds that were lost when Banks Island Gold declared bankruptcy,” Witzke said. “We believe the government is waiting for a company to come along and do that, **so the government doesn’t have to spend its own money on clean-up.”**

According to government estimates presented by B.C. Chief Inspector of Mines Al Hoffman, clean-up efforts and remediation costs could add up to more than half a million dollars. Currently, the province holds $450,000 in security from Banks Island Gold for the Yellow Giant mine.

****

https://www.gitxaalanation.com/single-post/2016/05/17/Gitxaa%C5%82a-to-ban-mining-on-remote-island newsletter **Gitxaała opposed to mining on Bank's Island**

May 17, 2016 Despite our opposition to the Yellow Giant Gold Mine, the project went ahead and now, as a result of negligence on the part of the company and the permitting agency, we are dealing with an environmental disaster that has yet to be dealt with. G.E.M Manager **James Witzke** spoke to the CBC regarding the disaster.

****

https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.3719194 First Nation says B.C. government failed to monitor mine as pollutants leaked into the wetland and waterways.
Andrew Kurjata - CBC NewsPosted: **August 15, 2016**
Last Updated: August 15, 2016 A B.C. mining company, along with its CEO and chief

geologist, are facing charges for allegedly releasing waste material into woods, wetland, and water on a Hecate Strait Island.They have been charged with 18 offences for allegedly violating the province's Environmental Management Act, including failure to report a spill of a polluting substance and repeatedly failing to comply with environmental permits.
Banks Island Gold Ltd., president and CEO Benjamin Mossman and chief geologist Dirk Meckert have not yet appeared in court. They will make their first appearance in Prince Rupert on Sept. 7.

"They kind of operated under this wild west mentality, where they were out on an island, and they were isolated, and they kind of did things accordingly," said **James Witzke, assessment manager of the Gitxaala Environmental Monitoring Office.**

****

https://vancouversun.com/business/local-business/banks-island-gold-creditor-contemplates-reopening-yellow-giant-mine/wcm/55df9d78-f216-4073-873c-38b35e7da91a/amp/

Gordon Hoekstra
Publishing date:
Jun 29, 2016 **The ministry is interested in securing a new owner for the mine, in part because if none is found, the province will be responsible for cleanup and remediation.** The province holds $450,000 in security from Banks Island Gold for the Yellow mine, but that will not cover the full remediation costs, B.C. Chief Inspector of Mines Al Hoffman told a legislative committee earlier this month.

****

https://www.peacearchnews.com/business/banks-island-miners-face-18-pollution-charges/#
Banks Island miners face 18 pollution charges
Gold mine near Prince Rupert shut down last summer for permit violations, owners charged for failing to report spill **TOM FLETCHER Aug. 12, 2016**

Benjamin Mossman and Dirk Meckert are scheduled to appear in Prince Rupert provincial court Sept. 7. Also charged is **Banks Island Gold Ltd., which went into receivership after being shut down last year for provincial permit violations.**
The Yellow Giant mine was ordered shut down by the Ministry of Environment in July 2015 after a tailings spill was reported on a tip. **There is one charge of failing to report a spill of a polluting substance, and the other 17 charges are for failing to comply with permits.**

North Coast MLA Jennifer Rice raised the issue in the legislature this spring, after receiving a letter from the **Gitxaala First Nation** referring to two separate tailings spills.

****

https://www.timescolonist.com/news/b-c/northwest-b-c-gold-mine-shut-down-due-to-spills-1.2012816
Gordon Hoekstra / Vancouver Sun
JULY 27, 2015 Northwest B.C. gold mine shut down due to spills
Gitxaala First Nation plans legal action against small operation, but environment ministry says risk to animals, humans minimal.First Nations and conservationists are concerned about the effect of this latest spill on animals and aquatic life, including salmon, at the island located about 100 kilometres south of Prince Rupert. Pacific Wild executive director **Ian McAllister,** who lives in the area, visited the island on Sunday to get a first-hand look. Although he was blocked from the mine site by company personnel, a drone flight he carried out showed migrating salmon splashing in Banks Creek on their way to Banks Lake. There were also salmon jumping in the ocean at the mouth of the river, six to nine metres wide, he said, noting the area is rich in biodiversity, home to herring, a unique population of sandhill cranes and genetically distinct wolves.

"Whatever discharged into the system has gone into what appears to be a very productive salmon river," McAllister said in a phone interview.That shutdown order followed a July 10 order from the environment ministry for **Yellow Giant** to stop releasing pollution into the environment.

The province said the company had "unauthorized" discharges of effluent in March and also effluent and tailings discharges in June and again in July.

****

http://fnwarm.com/2016/08/16/

Mining.com – Gitxaala Nation accuses B.C. government of delaying mining site clean-up
16 Aug 2016

Two-hundred kilograms of waste material have been sitting for over a year in the streams around the **Yellow Giant gold mine**, near Prince Rupert, B.C. The information was provided by **James Witzke**, Environmental Assessment Manager at Gitxaala Environmental Monitoring Office, who is…(see article above)

****

http://www.mining.com/gitxaala-nation-accuses-b-c-government-of-delaying-mining-site-clean-up/

****

https://miningwatch.ca/sites/default/files/uvic_environmental_law_centre_analysis_report_0.pdf

D'Arcy McGee
TUESDAY, **AUGUST 4, 2015**

North Coast NDP MLA Jennifer Rice offered up some late July commentary on a couple of issues of interest to the Northwest, with the MLA making her first comments related to the **Banks Island Mining situation**, as well as offering up a few observations related to Premier Christy Clark's cabinet shuffle of last week.

Ms Rice posted two notices to her information portals by the end of last week, with the **current status of mining on Banks Island** receiving her attention late Friday afternoon, as the MLA highlighted the work thus far of the NDP's Norm MacDonald on the mining file in the Northwest.

“My primary concern is representing the interests of my constituents, the **Gitxaala Nation, the mine workers and those concerned about potential environmental damage.** Conflicting media reports have made this a difficult story to assess fully and I will continue to do that work so that the North Coast is effectively represented in Victoria.

Further links:

https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications/mining-company-former-president-fined-violating-environmental-legislation.html

http://www.nationalpost.com/m/gold+company+been+ignoring+province+mine+shutdown+order/11256076/story.html

From:	jennifer long
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine Comments
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 3:12:11 PM
Attachments:	Benjamin Mossman Banks Island Gold Mine.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I am concerned about the **impact on our local tourist economy** regarding the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

The mine property is too close to town to be feasible: **noise pollution**, **water pollution**, **traffic congestion**, **maintenance of roads,** residents that live close by the site and their **wells failing** - all of these very real possibilities cannot be mitigated without great cost.

Locally I have seen gold investment hustles before, and am concerned we are going to be "left holding the bag"; that **Nevada County taxpayers may be impacted if the mine goes bankrupt.**

I am attaching a document of the information I found online regarding Mr. Benjamin Mossman's actions as a corporate officer in British Columbia.

The linked articles address the environmental complexities of gold mining and mining in general.

I also find it interesting that the Yellow Giant Gold Mine overseen by Mr. Mossman was on Gitxaala Nation land.
Their waterways and fisheries were impacted by a spill from the mine.
The mine went bankrupt and the local ministry may have to cover some of the costs of the clean-up.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Long 16665 Eden Ranch Road Nevada City 265-5059
resident in the Nevada City area since 1971
retired from Nevada County Library 2013

From: Mary Long
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Gold Rise Project
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:51:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Please do everything in your power to prevent the proposed mining in the middle of Grass Valley.

With all of the *anticipated* ramifications it is inconceivable such a project would even be considered.

Thank you,
Mary Long

From:	Kurt Lorenz
To:	Planning
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Attention Matt Kelley, senior Planner
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:38:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 16, 2020

Comments on the DEIR process for the Idaho Maryland Mine,

To: County Planner Matt Kelley, Senior Planner, and The Nevada County Planning Commission members –

From: Kurt Lorenz, former Nevada County Planning Commissioner and two year Chair Person.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I have not been following the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine in any level, of detail, but I urge the Planning Dept. and the Commission to completely stonewall any movement to water down the scientific evidence and conclusions in the Environmental review process. Go for the maximum detail and in-depth review of all aspects of this proposal.

For myself I don't have to go any further than to question pumping out miles of industrial tunnels and dumping the water laden with God only knows what metals and chemicals into Wolf Creek. Do you seriously think that the RWQCB is going to issue a permit for that? We went through this similar scenario with the flooded Siskon Mine on San Juan Ridge in 1995. That was a mess and was also a drop in the bucket compared to the water content of the Idaho Maryland. What will be in that water, and how will you justify blowing out the creek with that level of flow, and for how long? The DEIR must address this issue.

And what about the proposed huge mine waste piles on the edge of Grass Valley? Mine waste piles all over the world are toxic generation grounds and potential disasters of instability and landslide. How will the risks of these piles be mitigated, to say nothing of the expense necessary of placing and maintaining them, and by whom, and for how long, as well as a huge eyesore?
The DEIR must address this issue in depth.

Mining is all about huge industrial scale devastation that usually doesn't make any money, and where the incentive is always to cut any corners possible to eliminate both environmental and safety controls.

In gold mining especially, the goal of the so-called "Junior Miners" is to mine their investors, and then to leave the mess. Look carefully at the track record of this particular Canadian Company, as there may be that sort of behavior in the past.

Please exercise maximum due diligence at every stage of the process. Don't be bullied into making things "nice" because the public has been bribed with the myth of lots of good jobs. Mining generally produces only limited very dangerous jobs under horrible working conditions. It's up to you hold out for the company to prove the safety and rationality of this project. That's their job. Your job is to make them do it, and then to decide if this is a good project.

Thank you for your time and the unenviable responsibility you bear, all of which I know only too well.

Kurt Lorenz
P.O. Box 1564,

Nevada City, CA 95959

Foxfire Way,
San Juan Ridge,

45 year Nevada County resident and former Nevada County Planning Commissioner.

-----Original Message-----
From: Vicki Lorini <vlorini@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Please, NO MINE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a citizen of Nevada County for 35 yers, I am asking you to reject this mine application. The safety and health of our community is at stake and Must be considered.
Thank you.

Victoria Lorini

CapRadio Reads
Vlorini@yahoo.com
Vicki.Lorini@capradio.org
17817 Wallis Drive
Grass Valley, Ca. 95949
916-215-8320

From: Karen Loro
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopening of Idaho -Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:41:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelly,

As a resident of Nevada City for over 16 years , I have extensive concerns over permitting the reopening of the mine and it's consequences.

Just a few are listed here:

Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral of the subterranean rock of this area. Mine tailings and waste rock brought to the surface for processing and disposal will result in arsenic being released into the air as fine dust particles. The most common exposure pathways for humans are through water and air. Mercury vapor emissions from the prior contaminated soils on the site are also of concern.

1. Specifically , what will be the projected impact on air quality based on the volume of rock proposed to be processed at either site . What number , as in PPM (parts per million) of arsenic dust will be emitted. In the event that some "reasonably expected" amount that is deemed allowable is exceeded , what recourse will neighbors or the general community have to curtail or stop the operation of the mine ???
What is the prevailing air flow in this area of the Brunswick basin . What maps of monitoring air currents will be made to the community in the EIR?

2. Regarding Murcury, what levels of Mercury vapor are currently at the site ? How are they measured ? How can the community be assured that monitoring of Mercury vapor resulting from processing at either site will be acheved ? What kind of overview committee will be allowed for citizens to participate in to hold the operators accountable in the event the safety measures fail ?

3.Regarding water : What specific funds will be required to be held in Trust for if and/ or when the neighborhood wells are contaminated , or fail ? What will be the process of recovering damages in any regard from the mine owner/ operator ?

I look forward to seeing these few questions addressed in the upcoming review process. These questions are the tip of the iceberg regarding concerns about this venture.

Sincerely , Karen Loro

18221 Nubian Way ,Nevada City ,Ca

-----Original Message-----
From: Sharon Loucks <sbloucks317@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt
As a community member I will object to the opening in of the IM mine. The stress it would put on our natural resources and the heave traffic would not be worth the small number of jobs it would create. I would like to be informed about the developments in this process.

Thank you
Sharon Loucks
Rough and Ready

-----Original Message-----
From: Lara Love <laughinglara@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: residents in Allegiance for our watershed.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
I am wanting to be a point person for a growing group of residents opposing the planning of the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

I am a business owner , a Registered Nurse as well as a parent of young children , it is greatly concerning that the planning department of our amazing county is having to deal with such a proposal. My heart says this commUnity has already learned the huge painful lessons of what mining can do to the watershed as well as the health and safety of each animal and human alike in its wake .

I fundamentally disagree that Any legislation of this sort even be on the table during a pandemic. The typical ways of voicing concern in public has been taken off the table so we can remain healthful citizens . Please at least table this in till the pandemic is through. My kindest regards to you and your loved ones .

Lara Love RN

Sent from my iPhone

State of California • Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Gavin Newsom, *Governor*
Lisa Ann L. Mangat, *Director*

August 11, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelley,

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. CDPR is a State Agency as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) § 21082.1, and a Trustee Agency as used by CEQA, its Guidelines, and as defined by CCR § 15386 for the resources affected by this project within a unit of the State Park system.

The mission statement and the Department Operations Manual directs CDPR to: preserve and protect biodiversity and fully functioning natural ecosystems; provide for the health and safety of the public (park visitors, park employees, and park residents); create and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of California; and protect cultural resources (http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=91). The following comments reflect the internal policies and directives of CDPR as they relate to the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project (Project).

CDPR has several points of concern regarding the Project as proposed; specifically, its potential to negatively affect and/or degrade the natural resources, recreational values, health and safety of Park visitors and employees, and the general well-being of Empire Mine State Historic Park (SHP). Impacts to Empire Mine SHP (or Park) resources are anticipated because the Project is located adjacent to Empire Mine SHP and because the proposed Project includes discharging water into the South Fork Wolf Creek, which flows into the Park. The proposed Centennial Site is located 900 feet (0.17 miles) north of Empire Mine SHP's Bennett Street Grasslands, a 33-acre assemblage of dense riparian areas, wetlands, and unique, low elevation wet and dry grassland communities. Approximately 0.64 linear miles of the South Fork Wolf Creek flows through Empire Mine SHP, and of that, 0.45 linear miles flow through the Bennett Street Grasslands. The proposed New Brunswick Industrial Site is located approximately 0.5 miles west of the Park's Indian Ridge Loop Trail on Union Hill.

Park specialists have analyzed Rise Gold's application documents, project proposal, and project elements and are acutely concerned about the following aspects of the Project:

1. **MINE TUNNEL DEWATERING -** Mine tunnel dewatering at the New Brunswick Site has the potential to significantly increase stream bank and bed erosion and to negatively alter water quality in the South Fork Wolf Creek. The Project proposes to discharge 5.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water daily from mine tunnel dewatering activities into the South

Fork Wolf Creek at the New Brunswick Industrial Site, which is just 0.46 miles upstream of Empire Mine SHP. Park specialists measured flows on the South Fork Wolf Creek of 0.62 cfs (May 2008) to 2.83 cfs (Jan 2011). On January 15th, 2020, flows were measured at 2.30 cfs. The addition of 5.6 cfs to the average flows on South Fork Wolf Creek would be significant.

Specifically mine dewatering could lead to:

- Increased heavy metals and turbidity to the South Fork Wolf Creek.
- Erosion and degradation of bank stability of South Fork Wolf Creek.
- Decreased benthic macro invertebrate (BMIs) populations in South Fork Wolf Creek, which are a food source for the abundant avian population that lives in this riparian area.
- Degradation of aquatic wildlife habitat, and especially for amphibians.
- Alteration of adjacent vegetation communities including loss of riparian hardwoods, loss of recent native vegetation plantings, and loss of *Sidalcea gigantea* (California Native Plant Society rare plant rank 4.3 http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/detail/3670.html) populations.
- Alteration of groundwater supplies within the watershed that may negatively affect surrounding vegetation communities within the Bennett Street Grasslands.

2. **NOISE / VIBRATION** – Noise and vibration from construction, blasting, rock/ore processing and truck hauling has the potential to disrupt wildlife nesting and migration, impact Park visitor recreation experiences and values.
3. **AIR QUALITY** – Dust including potential airborne heavy metals from construction, blasting, rock/ore processing and truck hauling including arsenic could settle within the Park and impact the health and safety of Park visitors and employees
4. **SAFETY** – Project activities including construction, blasting, rock/ore processing, truck hauling, and the storage, handling and usage of flammable chemicals could increase the risk of a wildfire ignition and would jeopardize the safety and wellbeing of the Park's natural resources, visitors and employees.

The Bennett Street Grasslands and the South Fork Wolf Creek are also the site of a recently completed six year mitigation project, the "Magenta Drain Mitigation" project which was a required mitigation from **Section A.8 of Streambed Alteration Agreement and Major Amendment No. 1600-2011-0009-R2**. The mitigation restored both wetland and riparian habitats along the South Fork Wolf Creek and included 4th and 5th graders planting native riparian vegetation along the banks of the creek.

These potential impacts from the Project as proposed could also negatively affect the Park visitor experience in general and revenue for the State Park. Empire Mine SHP receives over 100,000 Park visitors every year and approximately half of those visitors pay entrance fees to visit the historic grounds. In addition, more than 4,000 4th grade students visit the Park annually as a part of their California history curriculum.

The Bennett Street Grasslands also hosts annual field trips for local 4th and 5th grade students. The students participate in active resource restoration and in a four-year volunteer bird banding and inventory project along the South Fork Wolf Creek. One such field trip was captured the video "Bird Banding at Empire Mine State Historic Park", which was featured in

the 2019 Wild and Scenic Film Festival: https://youtu.be/3kJ68T92Flw. The Bennett Street Grasslands is important breeding, wintering, and fall migration habitat for birds. Over 80 species of birds have been detected at the site including banding and capture of Willow Flycatcher (California State Endangered Species) and yellow breasted chat (California Bird Species of Special Concern), and aural detection of Olive-sided Flycatcher (California State Bird Species of Special Concern) in 2019 and 2020.

The health and safety of Park visitors and employees, the Park visitor experience, and the preservation of natural and cultural resources are of the utmost importance to California State Parks. The Project as proposed could have significant impacts on those resources and values.

If any of our comments need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Parks Environmental Scientist Daniel Lubin at dlubin@parks.ca.gov or at (530) 272-0298.

Sincerely,

Dan Canfield, Superintendent
Sierra District


Proximity of Idaho-Maryland Mine Sites to Empire Mine State Historic Park
Centennial Site
Bennett Street Grasslands
Brunswick Industrial Site
Empire Mine State Historic Park
20
174
Wolf Creek
E Bennett Rd
Upper Union Hill Trl
Indian Ridge Trl
Pipeline Trl
Indian Ridge Crossout Trl
Lower Union Hill Trl
Foster Rd
Hardrock Trl
Osborn Hill Loop Trl
Brunswick Rd
Macboyle Way
Lower Colfax Rd
0
0.25
0.5
1 Miles
N
August 11, 2020
State Highway
Local Road
State Park Trail
Stream/River, Intermittent
Idaho-Maryland Mine Sites
Park Boundary

From:	Lubin, Dan@Parks
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	CA State Parks letter of comment on Idaho Maryland Mine NOP
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 1:48:10 PM
Attachments:	CaStateParks_IMM_NOP Comment Letter 08112020.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Matt Kelley:

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine Notice of Preparation, California State Parks comment letter

Attached is a PDF letter of comment on the overall Notice of Preparation for the Rise Gold – Idaho Maryland Mine project proposal, project description, and application supporting documents. The California Department of Parks and Recreation appreciates having input into this project as Empire Mine State Historic Park is very nearby to the Idaho Maryland Mine project sites.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this letter and its contents at any time,
Thank you,

Dan Lubin
Environmental Scientist
Sierra Gold Sector, Sierra District
CA State Parks, Grass Valley, CA
530-272-0298 office
Dan.Lubin@Parks.ca.gov

From: Vince lu
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Rise Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:48 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,

My question was, Is the county extending an 80 year use permit?

Thanks,
Vince

On Wed, Aug 12, 2020, 9:14 AM Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

> Good Morning Mr. Lucia:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project:
> https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: V <vince.lucia@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 8:14 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

There has been a lot of chatter back and forth about the Rise Mine re opening.

Rather than send you an email saying I oppose this project, I would first like to understand how the County can reinstate an 80 year old use permit when in fact the operation of this mine has been dormant?

This is the info I have heard but having a hard time finding written in the published documents. Perhaps you can highlight this for me in your documentation, so I can have a better understanding how this works in the County's mind.

I would appreciate and response sooner than later so I can make an educated decision.

Vince

From: Charles Luckinbill <charlieluck@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 4:26 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Gold proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Just to let you know, we oppose the Rise Gold reopening of the Idaho-Maryland

Mine. We live on 174, Colfax Hwy. very near the Empire Mine State Park. My husband has lived here for 69 years, I have lived here for 22 years. We have watched some of the attempts to clean up the arsenic and heavy metals from the water table in the mine with settling ponds, blocking access to the forest and hiking trails. Over the years we have observed many locations developing sinkholes around the community, as well as, in the mine. We are concerned for our neighbors with wells, the dewatering, water quality and heavy financial burden of paying to hook up to NID (if even possible). And for the community, air pollution, noise, heavy truck traffic, dust, blast vibration, gas emissions, more arsenic and heavy metal, defacing the beauty of the land, lowering property values, affecting tourism, housing shortage for out of county workers and most of all, health issues caused by the reopening.
Please consider these factors in your decision, we need your help.

Sincerely,
Lissa and Charlie Luckinbill

From: Tamara Luckinbill <tamaurajean@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 7:27 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,
I am writing in regard to concerns I have about the current plans to reopen mining at the Idaho-Maryland location. I am a sixth generation native to Nevada County on both sides of my family. My Grandmother lived on Lake Olympia and went to school at Mount St. Mary's. I know she was familiar with the devastating water quality of Wolf Creek due to this industry. I am opposed to this business taking place. It is a priority for me to build a community here

which enjoys the healthy ecosystem of our watersheds. Please consider postponing this project so that the community has a better opportunity to participate in discovering the full extent of environmental impact to this endeavor. As this is taking place in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, when we are isolated from one another more than ever, it seems unfit to sweep this decisions past the people when it has been a questionable task many times in our local community's past.

Thank you for your professionalism,
Tamara Luckinbill

www.WingsandTales.me
Subscribe to my Fantastical Literary Journal

From: Linda Lumbard
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:44:48 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed Rise Gold reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I am extremely concerned about the effect on my well; and the noise, air, traffic and light pollution created by this project.

Our community is still dealing with the cleanup of contamination left behind by previous mining operations. As the daughter and granddaughter of miners I am proud of our past. But mining and its negative impacts should not be part of our community's future.

The well-being of current residents who have devoted their lives to building our amazing community should not be forsaken for the possible future profit of
a foreign company.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my fears over this proposed project which would undoubtedly affect my home's value and the quality of life of myself and my neighbors.

Sincerely,
Linda Lumbard
11922 Lower Colfax Rd
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jonathan
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine project
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:47:09 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,
I would like to express in the strongest terms my opposition to the Idaho Maryland mine gold mine project.

It is simply not worth it for whatever amount of jobs the project might generate to endanger our environment, traffic, noise, water and all the other issues involved with the project.

I don't think we should risk our beautiful lifestyle here in Nevada County for the benefit of a private corporation.

I am asking that the planning department deny the permit for the gold mine.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Lyerly
Sent from my iPhone

From: Frank Lynch
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposition to opening Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold of Canada
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 12:07:50 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley

I, Frank Lynch and my wife Isabel Lynch have lived at 11191 Juniper Dr. Nevada City for the past 51 years and have seen a lot of changes over the years. I would like to see the mine property rezoned to avoid any future interest in mine operation. Over our time in this community, I have seen the rural areas of Nevada County develope into small home plots of 1 to 2 acres in size. This type of development was not present when the mine in question closed in the early 1950`s.

I am particularly concerned about the de-watering of the mine shafts. For 52 years I was a practicing surface water Hydrologist and have some knowledge of ground water hydrology. The mine tunnels that are higher in elevation above the Brunswick and E. Bennet st. project site exert hydrostatic pressure into the lower elevation tunnels. When the extraction of water begins, water in the tunnels higher in elevation will also be drained effecting many wells on Banner Mountain. The well next to my property serves 8 homes and is 85 feet deep, the well produces over 40 gallons per minute. The well drillers log shows that the drill bit entered one of the mine shafts. The 3-D view of the tunnel system shows one of the exploratory tunnels very close Juniper Dr. and Idaho Maryland rd. Hope this is of interest to you in making a informed decision on the opening of the mine.

I also object to the heavy truck traffic and air pollution from the operation of the mine as stated by Rise Gold.

Respectively submitted

Frank Lynch
530-913-4556

From: LLPC INFO
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Reopening of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 14, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

From: Ellen Macdonald
10581 Bragg Avenue
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Re: Rise Gold and the Re-opening of Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have serious concerns about the re-opening of the Idaho/Maryland Mine that is currently under consideration by Nevada County.

My first issue is the expected heavy use of explosives, and chemicals as well as diesel fuel, needed to process the gold and their daily use and storage at the site. Residential neighborhoods are scattered throughout the area and lives could be in jeopardy by these potent chemicals in such close proximity. Also, there are a number of medical groups/offices in the area as well as retail stores and a much-used large meeting area as part of Unity in Gold Country Spiritual Center all of which would be in the path of these explosives and dangerous chemicals.

It is estimated that 1500 tons of rock will need to be removed apparently every day on a 24/7 basis. This rock will likely contain arsenic and asbestos and add to the danger imposed on the county. That threat as well as the increase in greenhouse gases caused by the 24/7 use of diesel fuel and increased dust from the rock cutting to mention just two issues.

The next problem with this proposal is the excessive water pumping necessary to clear the existing mining tunnels. The water is to be dumped into Wolf Creek, 1.2 million gallons per day as I understand it. This is dewatering in a time when drought is again threatening our water supply. What the effect this process will have on groundwater, Wolf Creek itself, as well

as vegetation along the site gives me a good deal of apprehension.

The proposal for this mine states that 300 jobs will be created. How long will there be that many people employed – i.e., what will that number be once the mine is reopened and operating? How many will be local, and will the company train workers who do not otherwise have mining experience? What will the salaries and benefits be?

Overall this project appears to be a great threat to our environment which is especially worrisome as the planet continues to suffer under huge and sometimes devasting changes to our climate. Also, I am skeptical about the number of employees who will have long term jobs and not just construction jobs, as well where these workers will be from and where they will live.

Hence, I am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland as it stands now with the Rise proposal.

Ellen Macdonald
32 Year Resident

Mark Machado P.E.

13640 Kantorbery Court
Grass Valley, CA. 95945
530.559.5035 cell
markmconsult@gmail.com

August 13, 2020

Matt Kelley – Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Rise Gold proposed mining project – Draft EIR comments/questions

Dear Mr. Kelley:

As both a consulting engineer and resident, living approximately 1 mile due east of the proposed Rise Gold mine project, I desire to have the following questions responded to by qualified, impartial geology, hydrology and/or engineering experts, in the draft environmental impact report:

1. The initial 6-month de-watering process will remove approximately how much water from the underground water/aquafer system?

2. Once the initial de-watering is complete, what will be the on-going rate, in gallon per day, of de-watering required to maintain localized, mine-site water levels low enough to maintain "safe" mining operations.

3. How will the de-watering of the sizeable network of existing underground mine shafts in the greater Grass Valley region, now an integral part of the natural aquifer system, effect the existing, well-established and reliable regional water table?

4. More specifically, how will the initial and on-going dewatering programs effect water tables at ½, 1, 2 and 5 mile radii from the mine site? Knowing the number of existing residential water wells within these radii; describe in detail the expected level of adverse effect on the existing and functional source of well water for the known property owners.

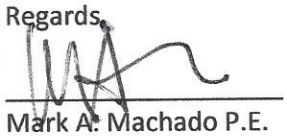
5. In the Sierra Foothills, cite examples of successfully predicted de-watering effects on surrounding water tables with the re-opening of 100+ year old gold mines and specifically the resource expertise used to successfully predict.

6. What liability does the County and/or individual Board of Supervisors assume for adverse effects to existing property owners if and when water tables are lowered to such a degree than existing and proven wells become non-functional? Note: The liability of the gold mine company is not being sought here. I'm addressing the more responsible, deciding parties.

Mr. Kelley.....these questions only address the potential for significant adverse effects from the massive de-watering proposed. Many other questions remain from not only an engineering standpoint, but from a broader perspective, relating to the future of our community, quality of life, impact on surrounding neighborhoods which never existed even 50 years ago, aside from future neighborhoods being planned such as the Loma Rica Ranch development project. Those issues will be left for others to bring to your attention.

Thank you for the time and consideration. Please do not assume these are trivial questions from a single, uninformed/uneffected resident of this County. You would be mistaken. I, as well as all of my surrounding neighbors, who are totally dependent upon well water as their only means of a usable, drinkable water source, expect these questions to be addressed thoroughly in the draft EIR and dealt with using critical thinking skills.

Regards,



Mark A. Machado P.E.

From:	Mark Machado
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Nancy R Machado
Subject:	Rise Gold Draft EIR comments
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 1:13:01 PM
Attachments:	M.Machado Rise Gold comments.pdf
Importance:	High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Rise Gold Draft EIR comments

Mr. Kelley:

Attached, please find my comments relating to the Rise Gold “Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report”. I would request that the questions raised in my letter to you be addressed and incorporated in the draft and final versions of the subject EIR.

Thank you.

Mark Machado P.E.
530-559-5035 mobile

From: lauren machado
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Stop the mining!!!!
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:30:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,
The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.
The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.
It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.
Analysis and Reports necessary:
1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.
2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.
3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing

board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.

Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it’s a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this

project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168

This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

From:	Tyana Maddock
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	The possible Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:19:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
I am very concerned about the proposed mine application at the Idaho Maryland area.

Even just the start of the project includes dewatering over 70 miles of abandoned mine tunnels. It's not hard to understand that removing that water will drain the area's water table, affecting wells, waterways, and vegetation depending on that water. The operations and removal and disposal (one site in our local area) of rock will create air pollution. Arsenic and asbestos are present in the soil and rock that will be pounded, broken open, and moved. Full operations of the mine, including fuel for equipment, electricity, exhaust from the daily use of diesel trucks, bulldozers, graders, and compactors, cement paste backfill plant, and other operations are estimated to produce around 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year. Explosives, diesel fuel, chemicals for processing the gold, and various other chemicals will be regularly transported to the site, and stored on site. Explosives will include ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate and Fuel Oil), and Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion. In a residential area, this seems unsafe and foolish.

Please ensure all these factors are very carefully examined in the environmental and local impact study.
I am very much against this mining operation being allowed into our community.

Thank you, Matt.

Tyana Maddock
Resident and Business Owner, Nevada City

--
Tyana Maddock
Mighty Acorns Preschool
mightyacornspreschool.com
tyanashock@gmail.com
916-508-3011

From: Timothy Madeira
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Project
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:38:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Kathleen Madeira and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing. The truck traffic will detrementally affect our small roads and endanger neighborhoods.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Madeira
Resident of Nevada County
tmadeira@sbcglobal.net

From: Tom Maher
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine reopening
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:59:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi! My name is Thomas Maher. I have lived in Nevada county for over 30 years. I am very concerned with the proposed mine reopening. Though I understand the need for good paying jobs I am adamantly opposed to reopening this mine. I am very concerned with the impact this mine would have on air quality, noise pollution and water quality! Vote no on this baseless proposal. Not in my county which I have been paying property taxes since 1983. Thank you for considering my viewpoint!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Nicky Maloney
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 3:15:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 35 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Nicky Maloney 14290 Mill Creek Lane Grass Valley Ca 95945

To: Matt Kelly, Senior Planner

Re: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

I am commenting regarding the proposed **Rise Gold Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.** I live within the bounds of the *Underground Mineral Rights Boundary* as defined in the scoping memorandum. I have a well that was constructed in 1988 which has consistently produced a meager 2-3 Gallons Per Minute flow rate and is dug to a depth of 280 feet. The proposed mine plans to *dewater up to a depth of 260 feet below the Brunswick Shaft.* This dewatering has the potential to reduce my well to an unacceptable flow rate, rendering it, and many of the other wells in my area, unsuitable for consumption. It also has a potential to contaminate the well water due to increased concentrations of toxins and also the toxins that are introduced during the mining process. If my well (along with my neighbors wells) are depleted/contaminated, then our only other option would be to have to truck water up our road into holding tanks. However, this will not be 100% feasible as our road is a small private deadend road that is barely accessible to garbage trucks and the road itself is already being damaged due to the current minimal traffic it receives. An increase in traffic with large and heavy water trucks delivering water on a regular basis would render the road inaccessible very quickly and could trap us if we need to repair any major damage caused by the increased traffic. In effect, it could leave us without water, leading to a massive devaluation of our property and leave my family and local community in an unsafe and unfit situation to live and would be forced to abandon our property and move out.

What will be the ramifications if our wells do become impacted by opening the mine?

Will **Rise Gold** be responsible for damages?

This is only **ONE** of the many concerns that my family has regarding the potential approval for the mine opening.

Opening the mine presents an entirely **unacceptable risk** to my family and the families in my community that **will** be negatively impacted by this mine project. I urge the planning department to reconsider any forward progress in the permitting in this project.

Sincerely,
Amber Taxiera and Ray Marceau
13186 Omega Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945
678-978-2817
ray@raymarceau.com

From:	Ray Marceau
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Re: Comments for Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:15:47 PM
Attachments:	Comment for Idaho Maryland Mine .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

I have attached my comments regarding the Rise Gold mine project to this email. I will also copy the text here for redundancy:

> To: Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
>
> Re: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
>
> I am commenting regarding the proposed **Rise Gold Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.** I live within the bounds of the *Underground Mineral Rights Boundary* as defined in the scoping memorandum. I have a well that was constructed in 1988 which has consistently produced a meager 2-3 Gallons Per Minute flow rate and is dug to a depth of 280 feet. The proposed mine plans to *dewater up to a depth of 260 feet below the Brunswick Shaft.* This dewatering has the potential to reduce my well to an unacceptable flow rate, rendering it, and many of the other wells in my area, unsuitable for consumption. It also has a potential to contaminate the well water due to increased concentrations of toxins and also the toxins that are introduced during the mining process. If my well (along with my neighbors wells) are depleted/contaminated, then our only other option would be to have to truck water up our road into holding tanks. However, this will not be 100% feasible as our road is a small private deadend road that is barely accessible to garbage trucks and the road itself is already being damaged due to the current minimal traffic it receives. An increase in traffic with large and heavy water trucks delivering water on a regular basis would render the road inaccessible very quickly and could trap us if we need to repair any major damage caused by the increased traffic. In effect, it could leave us without water, leading to a massive devaluation of our property and leave my family and local community in an unsafe and unfit situation to live and would be forced to

abandon our property and move out.

What will be the ramifications if our wells do become impacted by opening the mine?

Will **Rise Gold** be responsible for damages?

This is only **ONE** of the many concerns that my family has regarding the potential approval for the mine opening.

Opening the mine presents an entirely **unacceptable risk** to my family and the families in my community that **will** be negatively impacted by this mine project. I urge the planning department to reconsider any forward progress in the permitting in this project.

Sincerely,

Amber Taxiera and Ray Marceau

13186 Omega Court

Grass Valley, CA 95945

678-978-2817

ray@raymarceau.com

From:	Morgan Lee Margulies
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Oppose the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 8:25:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Morgan Margulies and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.
Best,
Morgan Margulies
--
Morgan Margulies
B.A. Candidate in Political Science, Sustainable Development Concentration
Columbia College, Columbia University '22

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Re. Notice of Preparation for Environmental Impact Report
Idaho/Maryland Mine Reopening

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada City resident for almost 3 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of the peaceful, small town setting. Grass Valley is our "big town" escape, yet a small town environment with lots of amenities. This area is a great place to live in, a beautiful Sierra-foothill community with an unsurpassable quality of life. The Reopening of the Idaho/Maryland Reopening project is of my utmost concern for the negative impact it will have on our quality of life.

Also as a retired Civil Engineer, with civil/environmental background, I am very concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening project at its detrimental effect on our city and County existing infrastructure and environment. Below are my requests for analyses of environmental impacts to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

- Applicant's Documents - The application documents (as shown in the County webpage) are extensive and highly technical. I request that the EIR allows sufficient time for the review period not only by qualified professionals but for group of residents, and community organizations that will be involved in the review process.
- Aesthetics - A full visual analysis (using new hi-tech video simulations) of how the 165 feet tall mine head shaft at the Brunswick site (and other planned large structures), will be seen from residential neighborhoods, commercial zones, historical, recreational and key scenic locations in Grass Valley.
- Agriculture and Forestry - Full review of the chemicals and other reagents to be used, including the MSDS (material safety data sheet). Experts shall consider the effects of these materials on the emerging organic agriculture in our region as well as on the health of our forest.
- Air Quality - The hauling of mining tailings and gold concentrate will occur seven days a week for more than twelve hours a day. The trucks used in this process will release incredible amounts of greenhouse gases. Analyze the impact of dust and air pollution on our region due to the use of heavy earthmoving and transportation equipment. Include effect on downtown commerce, neighbors, hospitals and related medical facilities.

- Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources - experts to analyze impact on local land/water wildlife ecosystems.
- Cultural Resources - Analysis of the effects that similar companies with “new technologies for mine reopening projects” are currently having on today’s cultural resources of old mining towns all over the country (old-mine tours, art/musical festivals, etc).
- Tribal Cultural Resources - include the opinion of local Native Americans regarding the impact of this project on their plans for restoration, protection and preservation of these forests, lands and waters.
- Geology/Soils - The geology of this area consist of many abandoned tunnels and shafts that are poorly recorded. Analyze existence of potential fault zones.The Blasting report does not mention risk analysis for tunnel collapses, soils and boulders settlements, ground caving that are a potential for tragedies.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Include local hospital and health professional opinion on the fact that the trucks used in the hauling of mining tailings and gold concentrate will release incredible amounts of greenhouse gases.
- Hazards & Hazardous Material - The mining work will include expanding tunnels by performing underground blasting. Our community has serious safety concerns due to the proximity of this operation to residential areas with increasing population and historical downtowns. Review and give an opinion on how these materials will be transported, stored and used (quantities, times, warnings, safety, etc.)
- Hydrology/Water Quality - Analysis of how the millions of gallons of water to be used will affect current and future demand of the area water needs for human consumption, agricultural and recreational use. Water is essential in California and supply is scarce and expensive. In the future both upstream and downstream towns and populations will increase their demands. The mine wastewater from this project will be disposed of into the South Fork of Wolf Creek at a time when the community is trying to restore the ecosystem on this creek.
- Land Use/Planning - A great number of acres will be disturbed, which would be hard and expensive to restore in the future should the City or County decide to rezone these lands for other uses.
- Mineral Resources - the price of gold is volatile and will always go up and down. The County must ensure that enough financial guarantees are in place should the company abandon the project.
- Noise - The hauling of mining tailings and gold concentrate will occur seven days a week for more than twelve hours a day. New traffic lights will installed be at key intersections. The noise from trucks and increase traffic in the area will not only affect nearby neighbors but also commercial and medical facilities on the west side of SR49/20.
- Population/Housing - The hauling of mining tailings and gold concentrate by heavy trucks will disturb not only existing nearby residents. The population in the area is increasing and demand for housing will also increase, placing more population at risk of traffic accidents, pollution, blasting accidents.
- Public Services Recreation - The County Planning Department, in coordination with the two cities, must analyze to what other uses these lands could be

dedicated to. Perhaps the land could be rezoned for other non-mining uses. Much needed housing developments could be an alternative to consider.

- Transportation & Traffic - The traffic study is quite complex. It analyzes the effect on traffic congestion, but vaguely mentions the cost of repair or rebuild after the deterioration of paved streets, gravel roads, potential accidents, damage to street utilities.
- Utilities & Service Systems - The traffic study is lacking information on how the continuous heavy traffic and also underground blasting will affect our existing underground utilities, paved streets, sidewalks, existing pavement in need of repairs, etc., and make a cost-benefit analysis, including a projected repair expenditure plan.
- Economic Study - The County expert on cost/benefit analysis must present an economic study which should not only include the projected employment of about 300 people and their contribution to the local economy, but also the environmental impacts which are too many, the economic benefits which are too few, and the effects on local quality of life which are too adverse. Include a full financial review of Rise Gold Corp., to reflect current and projected financial soundness of this company. Our community cannot afford this business to go broke and leave a huge mess that may include aesthetic degradation, contaminated sites and land devaluation, local small business closures, and loss of local and foreign of tourism.
- Other Impacts on Health - Analyze the impact on people with hypertension, high stress levels, respiratory conditions, people in nursing homes, and retirement communities.

Thanks for the opportunity to participate on the Notice of Preparation for this EIR. I hope my comments are useful in providing a thorough analysis of the proposed project. Please contact me to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Francisco Mariscal, P.E.
California Civil Engineer
251 Willow Valley Rd. #17
Nevada City, CA 95959
(510) 652-5403
fmariscal@sbcglobal.net

From:	Francisco Mariscal
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	NOP for EIR Idaho/Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 2:40:51 PM
Attachments:	NOP for EIR IdahoMaryland Mine .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
Here is my comment letter regarding the NOP/EIR for the Idaho/Maryland Reopening project,
Please acknowledge receipt.
Thanks,
Francisco Mariscal, P.E.

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----
From: Kalyani <circleupmusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:29 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Please no mine !

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,
Just writing to voice my concern about the possible opening of a mine near Idaho Maryland. My main problem is the amount of water that will be needed to operate potentially draining the wells nearby. Also bringing the insecurity of water of the entire grass Valley area.
Not to mention the contamination it will bring. Haven't we learned that it's not worth It!!
Thank You,
Kalyani Marsh

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Denise Martin <winkmartin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

No! Nobody want the mine to reopen except the foreign investors..... no to the mine

No
No

No
No
No
No
No

D Martin
Grass Valley resident

From: donald martin
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fw: Rise Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:52 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: donald martin <donmartinmd@yahoo.com>
To: "matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us" <matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: donald martin <donmartinmd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020, 02:07:53 PM PDT
Subject: Rise Mine

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. It appears the County has thought of most of the categories of impact on our community. The impacts on the water table and water quality and on air quality will be very large There is no way that the noise created by this complex operation is not going harm the whole area. This is in the middle of residential areas and is also very close to the large number of developments and homes on Banner Mountain where I happen to live. Besides the unending pumping of water even after the initial dewatering, there will be air pumping, the large conveyor belts, and the processing plants all operating 24/7. In addition there will the 16 hours a day of large diesel trucks carrying the tailings to the Centennial location. Fire is another large issue and the operations of this heavy industrial plant will only increase the risk.

This whole operation is antithetical to the character of the community and to what should be the future county plans. We seek a quiet, clean, environmentally responsible county for our citizens. I know our county government does an excellent job of protecting our quality of life and of supporting the needs of its citizens . We would have to allow a large number of entitlements to avoid rules which were put into place for excellent reasons. We should sometimes offer entitlements to businesses, but only if they add value to the community. This project has a large number of downsides and risks and yet offers no benefits other than a possible 60 or so local jobs.. If is even more inexcusable that this is a foreign company with a poor reputation with no long term interest in our welfare (like other mines, if the cost of production soars or the price of gold drops, they will just will quickly exit). I hope someone can do some more research on this company and its past actions as I believe this is a relevant factor in the decision. It has been fined for environmental violations and fairly recently filed for bankruptcy. If it creates the expected environmental degradation and goes bankrupt, the county will be left holding the bag. The biggest danger would be if this mine were allowed to go forward with the belief that it will not be that destructive, only to find the pollution and noise are much worse than expected. In that case I would think it would be very hard or impossible to go back after the fact to try to close it down.

Don Martin MD
10960 Success Cross Rd
Nevada City, Ca 95959

From: Lizbeth J. Martin
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland- Rise mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:08:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

> Permitting a gold mine to reopen at the former Idaho Maryland mine
> site goes against every public health and environmental policy ever
> drafted to protect health and safety of citizens, wildlife, and the
> environment. It would be an unconscionable decision and those permitting it would be sorely lacking in human empathy and basic
> intelligence and foresight.

> Please do not let this happen to those of us who live in this county, our children, and future generations. The mental and physical health of our progeny depend upon a healthy environment, not a destroyed
> environment.

> I have owned my home within a few miles of this site for 30 years. I beg you to not destroy my life and those of my fellow citizens locally. This would set a terrible precedent for profligate use of natural resources to the detriment of human lives and natural habitats. The whole nation is watching California set an example for
> ameliorating climate change. This would increase the carbon footprint
> enormously, destroy resources, and devastate the community.

> The nation is watching.

> Sincerely,
> Dr. Lizbeth Martin
> Iron Rock Road
> Grass Valley

From: Lizbeth Martin
To: jeffmbellucci
Cc: Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: Re: Idaho-Maryland mine concerns and comments
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:20:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Very beautifully written and thought out. Thank you for sharing. You clearly have an good knowledge and understanding of the issues. I am proud of you! (Always)

Mom

On Aug 16, 2020, at 9:07 PM, jeffmbellucci <jeffmbellucci@gmail.com> wrote:

Jeff Bellucci & Simone Leask

Residence: 11407 Cedar Ridge Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Mailing: 13007 Iron Rock Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: 650-776-4854

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We have been Grass Valley residents for 3 years; however, my family has owned property in Grass Valley for over 30 years, and I have been coming to this area regularly since I was a young child. We have always been drawn to this community because of its natural beauty, numerous parks, and incredible opportunities for outdoor recreation, among many other reasons. I have always dreamt of living in Grass Valley, and fortunately, a few years ago, circumstances allowed my partner and I to move to Grass Valley full time. Now I am worried that the area that I have known and loved for as long as I can remember, could become unrecognizable and irrevocably altered.

While I am well aware of Grass Valley and Nevada City's history as gold mining towns, mining has not been a part of local industry since the 1950's. In the meantime, the local area has built up many small businesses and has spent millions of dollars in an attempt to undo the extensive environmental damage caused by the large-scale gold mining efforts of years past. There are a number of areas that are still unstable and/or have toxic deposits of mine tailings. Restarting the Idaho-Maryland Mine would undo a considerable amount of the environmental recovery that has taken place, and likely begin an entire new era of damage to local ecology. Clearly, our community has done just fine without mining being a part of the local economy.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine and the undeniable impact it will have on elements of our local environment, quality of life and economy:

1. One of my biggest concerns is that local groundwater, aquifers and waterways will be impacted negatively. While the Rise Gold Corp. has done preliminary studies on how pumping out the flooded mine complex will affect local groundwater and creeks, there is no way of knowing for certain exactly what toxins (and how much) may be in the water that has flooded the mine. Rise may end up pumping unhealthy amounts of mercury and arsenic, among other chemicals (byproducts of older gold purification techniques) right into Wolf creek and other waterways downstream, potentially poisoning wildlife and allowing the same nasty chemicals to seep into our groundwater. Also, Wolf creek does not flow into any local reservoirs, so that water will be lost to Nevada County forever. Currently, that underground water, and whatever it contains, is sequestered within the mine's tunnel system, which is where it should be left. Pumping it out could have disastrous consequences.

2. Removing all that water out of the mine, including an estimated 1.2 million gallons of water every day, just to keep the mine from re-flooding, will lower the local water table in unpredictable ways. The best Rise has to offer are estimates on affected areas, but there is a high likelihood that they are not completely certain how many Grass Valley residents who subside on well water, who may see their wells run dry. I've read that Rise is offering NID water hookups for residents who might be impacted, but Rise can't be certain at this point of everyone that will be affected until they actually start the pumps, or if it will be possible to get NID water to the more remote locations that end up with dry wells.

3. The proposal states that 3.6 million gallons of water will be removed per day for the first 6 months to drain the tunnels, then 1.2 million gallons every day for the 80 year planned operation. Let's calculate how much water that is roughly, over the mine's lifespan:

   (3.6 million gallons/day x 180 days, for removing the flooding) + (1.2 million gallons/day x 365 days x 80 years, for keeping the tunnels dry) = 35.7 billion gallons of water we can't get back. All that water will be taken from being used for local wells, crops, wildlife areas and wetlands, not to mention the potential for a considerable increase in fire danger that reduced groundwater could cause in local forests. Rise plans to run the mine for up to 80 years, so we won't have access to that water again until the year 2200, meaning our local water supply may be severely diminished by this project until then, and almost no one alive now will ever know the lush green of Grass Valley again, if Rise starts their mining project.

   To put that amount of water into perspective, the local Scots Flat Reservoir has a capacity of 39,000 acre-feet of water, which translates to 12.7 billion gallons. Therefore, over the 80 year lifespan of the mine, we could drain Scots Flat Reservoir completely bone dry and refill it 3 times over, with water to spare. That is an unimaginable amount of water that will just get wasted and/or contaminated by this project in the years to come.

   What if some or all of these consequences don't occur immediately, but happen perhaps 10+ years into the project's future? Will residents have any recourse at that point? What is the ongoing plan and

process for communication and conflict resolution between Rise and residents for issues that may come up down the road?

4. Generators, large trucks, and other fossil-fuel powered industrial machinery will increase local air pollution considerably. Also, Rise plans to pour an enormous amount of concrete, the manufacture of which is known to give off about 7% of all the world's carbon emissions. Their heavy use of concrete will only add to this growing problem. I feel it this goes without saying, but between the concrete, continuous running of fuel-hungry heavy equipment and trucks, Rise will add considerable carbon emissions, much of which will be go directly into our presently clean air.

5. Those same machines will markedly increase noise pollution, making the wonderfully quiet and peaceful nature of this community a thing of the past. The proposal states that there will be roughly 100 ore truck-trips per day, not to mention the rock crushers and regular underground blasting that will rumble the entire area, including potentially directly under our home.

6. What will be the impact on local flora and fauna? Between the changes in the air and water, the increased noise from equipment, blasting, and the notable addition to local traffic will result in a heightened danger to plants, insects, and animals.

7. The above ground site mapping is fairly clear; however, the maps of the mineral rights appear to be much larger and extend below a large number of structures in Cedar Ridge and Grass Valley, which means they may be blasting/excavating directly below our neighborhood. Rise has provided almost no description of the effects that underground blasting could have on our area, or the potential for sinkholes. What kind of financial compensation is Rise willing to give to residents directly affected by their excavations, and what is the mechanism or process for filing a grievance against Rise, if damage were to occur on or around our property?

8. Increased trucking will negatively impact traffic, especially on Brunswick. In addition, those roads weren’t engineered for extremely heavy ore trucks, and the affected roads will need constant maintenance to prevent their destruction. Will Rise Gold Corp be paying for the roads they damage?

9. The economic impacts of this project will be dramatic and far-reaching. First, property values in our community, especially those within earshot of the mine will go down, since demand for homes near gold mines that work 24/7 is not particularly strong. Rise Gold Corp. is a Canadian company, so we can’t even say that the profits will stay and be spent in our country.

   Second, almost no employees will be hired locally, since Rise will simply use their own miners from other sites, as opposed to training local personnel and getting them up to speed. The mine proposal says they will need 312 workers, but 242 are specialized geological and/or mining engineers. At best, about 70 of the jobs could go to locals, but even that is optimistic. What could Rise be offering so that anyone who holds a public office in Grass Valley would even consider creating such a mess? I know I wouldn’t vote for the re-election of any mine supporting local officials.

   Lastly, one of our most important local industries is tourism, thanks to the beauty and quaintness of

Grass Valley and Nevada City. If roads are congested with huge trucks, and there is noise all over town, the number of visitors will decrease over time. Not only will Rise hire little to no local talent for their personnel needs, the mine's presence will directly hurt our tourism industry and local economy. The novelty and attraction of this area will all go out the window as soon as people learn there is an industrial scale mining operation just a few minutes outside of town.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any of my statements or questions, and answer any questions you might have for me.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bellucci & Simone Leask

From: Keeley Martinez
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:46:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you today to address my concerns on reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.
I believe this business venture is not what we need in Nevada County.
It is not good for the environmental impact it will cause. Such as, noise pollution, traffic, destruction to the natural landscape, air pollution, and water/well damage to neighboring communities.
I am not against development in our county. But this kind of business is destructive.
This mine is not something you want to have as your legacy,
You will want to be known as leaders who protected our environment while promoting new and good businesses that create jobs and do not destroy our environment.
A legacy you will be proud to tell your children and family about.

Thank you for your concern,
Keeley Martinez

From: Natalie Martinez
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Regarding the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:43:09 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you today to address my concerns on reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.
I believe this business venture is not what we need in Nevada County.
It is not good for the environmental impact it will cause. Such as, noise pollution, traffic, destruction to the natural landscape, air pollution, and water/well damage to neighboring communities.
I am not against development in our county. But this kind of business is destructive.
This mine is not something you want to have as your legacy,
You will want to be known as leaders who protected our environment while promoting new and good businesses that create jobs and do not destroy our environment.
A legacy you will be proud to tell your children and family about.

Thank you for your concern,

Natalie Martinez
Adult Literacy Coordinator
Nevada County Community Library

From: Natalie Martinez <nemartinez246@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:41 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Concerns Regarding the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to you today to address my concerns on reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.
I believe this business venture will negatively impact Nevada County.
Reopening the mine will be detrimental to the environment. It will cause noise pollution, traffic, destruction to the natural landscape, air pollution, and water/well damage to neighboring communities.
I am not against development in our county. But this kind of business is destructive.
This mine is not something you want to have as your legacy,
You will want to be known as leaders who protected our environment while promoting new and good businesses that create jobs and do not destroy our environment.
A legacy you will be proud to tell your children and family about.

Thank you for your concern,

Natalie Martinez
Adult Literacy Coordinator
Nevada County Community Library

From: Peter Mason
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Mine Notice of Preparation & Project Description Draft
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 11:45:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

As a resident of Nevada County, I am concerned with the prospect of an active mining operation in the Brunswick Basin.

Historically, the mining industry does not have a strong track record of honoring promises to care for the environment or to mitigate it's impacts on nearby neighborhoods. Should this project be approved, how will Nevada County insure compliance with environmental laws? What sort of performance bonds will be required and with what, if any, limitations? Will the proposal include incremental stages of startup operations and include provisions for mandatory shut-down if the proposed criteria for operation are not met (e.g. noise, dust, traffic, water quality)?

Sincerely,
Peter Mason
12023 Crystal Wells Rd
Nevada City, CA 95959

From: Jeffrey Mason <jeffreydmason@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to ask you to prevent the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I'll raise some specific concerns, but first, I'll explain my personal connection with gold mining

in Nevada County. I am part of the sixth generation of my family to live in Grass Valley and Nevada City. My ancestors left Cornwall in the 1850s to take advantage of the mining opportunities in this part of California; my grandmother's grandfather and great-grandfather were part of the group that owned the North Star during the 1860s, all professionals who had grown up living the tradition of deep, hard rock mining. So I am well aware of the significance of gold mining to our area, but I maintain that we've moved on and shouldn't seek to turn back the clock to the economic, aesthetic and especially environmental values of the past. We're better than that, and we know that the cost--to the entire community--of extracting more gold from our hills simply isn't worth the questionable benefit.

Here are just a few points to consider:

- water - Like many people in our area, I draw my water from a private well, and I'm only too aware of how factors beyond my immediate control could cause my well to run dry or become poisoned with unhealthy minerals. The proposed mine will surely affect the water supply in ways that the operators cannot possibly anticipate.
- noise and traffic - The proposed mine would require extensive trucking that would significantly reduce the quality of life for anyone living near the mine.
- air pollution - Between the trucking and the day-to-day operation of the mine, the clear, clean air of Grass Valley would suffer.
- excavation - Sinking the necessary shafts will surely involve extensive excavation and bring up large quantities of tailings for disposal. Let's remember that the gold will constitute only a tiny portion of the mined rock; most of it would be waste. Let's also remember that we live in earthquake country and should avoid subterranean modifications to our mountains.

I suggest that a key perspective is to consider other communities where mining predominates. Do we really want to turn Grass Valley into a mining town?

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mason
(530) 470-3553

From: Valentina Masterz
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: re;Mining
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:26:59 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt
I am asking for you to think of our community, of our future, of our home, of our resources. This is Canadian Company and has nothing to do with us. This money and this wealth belong here and with our people and it is CRIMINAL to allow anyone but our community to take claim in this
Thank you!
I hope you are guided by your heart and your soul and your consciousness

With Much Love,
Valentina Masterz

This private email message, and any attachment(s)are covered
by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2521,
and is for the sole use of the intended recipient and contains
privileged and/or confidential information.
To all public servants, including but not limited to Federal,
State, or Local corporate government(s): Any/all political,
private, or public entities, International, Federal, State,
or Local corporate government(s), private International Organization(s),
Municipality(ies), Corporate agent(s), informant(s), investigator(s) et. al.,
and/or third party(ies) working in collusion by monitoring My (this email)
email(s), and any other means of communication without My
express written permission are barred from any review, use, disclosure,
or distribution. With explicit reservation of all My rights,
Any omission does not constitute a waiver of any and/or all intellectual
property rights or reserved rights.

San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association
P.O. Box 421, North San Juan, CA 95960
(530) 478-1941 info@sjrtaxpayers.org www.sjrtaxpayers.org

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please find attached the comments of the San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association regarding the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

A week ago, we requested that the Board of Supervisors extend the 30-day comment period on this project by another 30 days—a practice that is common in NOP comment periods when requested by interested parties to do so for justifiable reasons. In previous requests by a number of people and organizations, the Planning Department inexplicably denied the request for an extension.

As Planning Department staff are well aware, the application for a use permit to re-open and expand the Idaho-Maryland Mine by the Rise Gold Corporation is multi-faceted, extremely complex in nature, involves dozens of studies and supporting documents, would require permits from numerous agencies and zoning changes by the County. It must also be pointed out that there was no public scoping meeting held (which could have been accomplished virtually), but rather a pre-recorded scoping meeting was released by the Planning Department.

The fact that the comment period for scoping also overlaps with the period of comment to California Department of Toxic Substance Control for Rise Gold's Centennial site cleanup puts an even greater burden on those with concerns about the project.

In light of the possible 80-year timeline of this project and its potential major impacts on the environment and health of surrounding communities, extending the comment period by 30 days was a reasonable request. We ask that the Planning Department re-consider its decision not to do so.

The denial for extension of the scoping comment period during these unprecedented times leaves citizens concerned about the negative impacts of this project in a bind. If the NOP comment period is not extended, we ask the county to address in the DEIR concerns of potential impacts that are raised after today's deadline, even if they were not raised during the scoping comment period. This flexibility would go a long way towards alleviating community concerns that we were not provided due process for the scoping phase of the environmental review for the project.

Sincerely,
Sol Henson, President
and board members Sara Greensfelder, Rhea Williamson, Jeff Lauder, Badri Matlock, Daniel Fink

cc: District IV Supervisor Sue Hoek

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

August 17, 2020

The following are comments of the San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. We are an organization that includes many residents of Nevada County who regularly visit Grass Valley and rely on its businesses, agencies and schools, and as we do not have significant urban development in our area, consider Grass Valley to be part of our home.

Our experience with an underground gold mine in our community in the 1990s was a disastrous one, and we hope that the Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors and people of Nevada County will take it as a cautionary tale. The hydrological consequences that caused some residential wells and those of the local school and local cultural center to fail were not predicted by the hydrology study of the applicant. We hope not to see anyone in *any* community suffer these consequences. Nor can we imagine having to endure the multiple negative impacts that this huge and complex project would inflict on adjacent communities, businesses and institutions.

We ask that the DEIR seriously consider the potentially significant cumulative impacts that could result from this project, including many impacts that may not be able to be mitigated to a point of insignificance. The health, safety, and water supply of the greater Grass Valley area is at stake.

Specifically, impacts to water quality, water supply, aquatic ecosystems, air quality, and other resources, as well as to human health and safety must be carefully evaluated in light of this project's potentially significant impacts in combination with other cumulative impacts of climate change, population growth, and cumulative air quality impacts such as ambient ozone and particulates.

Finally, we ask to be kept on the list of those informed of this project throughout the CEQA process. Thank you for considering these comments. We can be reached at the following:

San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association
P.O. Box 421
North San Juan, CA 95960
info@sjrtaxpayers.org
(530) 478-1941

1. The DEIR must evaluate potentially significant impacts to water supply and quality in the area of potential impact, identify any impacts that cannot be mitigated, and provide sufficient mitigation measures for impacts that can be mitigated.

Water is our most precious resource. Climate change and population growth will make water even more valuable over the coming years. Following a poor precipitation year, there is anecdotal evidence that some wells in Nevada County are suffering in 2020. Permitting an 80-year project to use billions of gallons of water to extract a mineral that is not in short supply for the profit of a corporation and its investors is not justifiable.

CEQA requires that the DEIR evaluate potentially significant impacts to water quality and supply in the DEIR, identify impacts that cannot be mitigated, and propose mitigation measures that will reduce impacts below the level of significance.

Toward that end, the DEIR must make realistic projections as to the long term water impacts. The DEIR should predict the total amount of water pumped from underground over the 80 year lifespan of the project and its potentially significant impacts on surrounding communities, groundwater, forests, biological resources, agriculture and businesses. The DEIR should estimate the amount of water the project expects to use from NID, both for daily operations, and to supply residents along East Bennett Street with NID water via a new pipeline. These totals should be compared to the water needs of surrounding communities, forests, biological resources, agriculture and businesses up to at least two miles distant from mining tunnels over the lifetime of the project, using population growth and climate change models.

The DEIR should examine how long it would take to replenish groundwater depleted by the project over its 80-year lifespan, using different precipitation models and forecasts predicted by climate change.

The DEIR should anticipate that certain factors may occur that cause interruptions in underground mining activity, thus requiring that de-watering at high levels would need to be repeated. It should provide the statistical probability of such interruptions over the 80-year lifetime of the project, and estimates of how much additional water would need to be pumped from underground in order to de-water the mine workings should they occur.

The applicant estimates that 3,620,700 gallons of water will be pumped from mine tunnels the first six months (a total of 660,777,750 gallons), followed by 80 years of de-watering at a rate of 1,224,000 gallons per day, all of which will be sent down the South Fork of Wolf Creek. The applicant proposes to use another 47,700 gallons of NID water per day for sinks, toilets, showers and dust suppression and compaction, in addition to supplying the water needs of residents of East Bennett Street with a 1.25 mile long NID pipeline.

Operational mine projects are unpredictable in nature. Interception of water-bearing faults that flood mines can occur, machinery can break down, underground safety issues

can arise, gold and stock prices can fall, and when mines get into trouble, bankruptcy can result. (A combination of most of these factors took place at Siskon Gold Corporation's San Juan Ridge Mine in Nevada County between 1994 and 1997, resulting in its premature shut down.) It is virtually inevitable that one or more of these factors will occur during the lifespan of the project, and that a shutdown of mining operations would result. Consequently, dewatering of the mine workings could quite likely occur on multiple occasions over the lifetime of the project. The DEIR should anticipate such scenarios and should present an estimate of additional water that would be pumped out of the mine should they occur.

The DEIR should evaluate the potentially significant impacts of this project on water supply and quality for the area, including both impacts on aquatic ecosystems as well as water supply for local human populations. The DEIR should acknowledge that such impacts may not be mitigable. Potential mitigation measures to be assessed in the DEIR should include requiring bonds in an amount sufficient to meet long term water needs that are currently served by water supplies that could be impacted, as well as mitigation for aquatic ecosystems.

2. The DEIR should evaluate the potential for significant impacts to human health and safety as well as violations of California and federal water law related to the dewatering of wells, including loss of water supply and contamination of groundwater by substances harmful to human health.

The proposed project posses a high risk of significant water impacts to water supply and content, and analysis of this potential should be comprehensive. Impacts that cannot be mitigated should result in a denial of the project; impacts that can be mitigated should be mitigated by measures that are sufficiently robust to prevent loss of water supply, including bonding for water delivery to affected properties for the life of the project and anticipated future impacts.

Worst-case scenarios of intercepting water fractures that could potentially de-water existing wells in the surrounding areas should be presented and analyzed and the DEIR should address the potential significant impacts of the cumulative effects of such events in combination with planned de-watering of the mine workings. The DEIR must assess these potentially significant impacts and also potential mitigation measures, including bonding that would restore long term water supplies if lost. If the potentially significant impacts cannot be mitigated, the project should not go forward.

The applicant should be required to institute a pre-project baseline well-monitoring program for residents and businesses within a minimum two-mile radius of the project area for any who wish to participate. Testing for quantity *and* quality of wells should be done over a period of one to two years at seasonal intervals. The baseline monitoring program should be lead agency-facilitated and include input from community organizations.

There is no way any hydrology study will be able to provide a real-life scenario of what will happen with all the dewatering this project entails. It's simply not possible for a study to accurately predict the hydrological outcome of such a huge dewatering project, which includes not just the current underground workings, but a vast expansion of the workings.

The project description states that 1,224,000 gallons (1.9 cfs/ 850 gpm) will need to be dewatered from the underground workings every day for 80 years. If a permit is granted for this project, the mine will be gambling with enough water to supply 3,060 households, at an average household usage of 400 gpd.

Rise Gold plans to expand upon the current underground mine workings to construct an extensive network of tunnels and raises throughout the lifetime of the mine. This would be done through the use of explosives and drilling.

There is no guarantee that such extensive underground blasting and drilling would not intercept water-bearing fractures, as happened at the San Juan Ridge Mine in 1994 and 1995 when Siskon Gold Corporation's tunneling intercepted two such fractures—resulting in the de-watering of some 14 wells that provided water to the local school, the local cultural center and local residents. Some of the affected wells were nearly two miles away from mine operations. Deepened and replacement wells were of inferior quantity and quality, providing water contaminated with minerals that to this day needs to be filtered and/or treated by many well-owners to provide minimum standards of potability. Grizzly Hill School has had to do so for some 25 years, at great expense to the school district.

Intercepting a water bearing fracture would also result in much larger volumes of water needing to be removed from the mine workings. Do South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek have the capacity to transport volumes of water greater than the estimated releases during de-watering and tunneling and if not where will the additional conveyance capacity be found? If such an event took place during a heavy rainy season when creek levels were already high, it could result in flooding in Grass Valley and elsewhere.

The 119-acre Brunswick Industrial Site is surrounded by land zoned for residential housing, and many if not most current residences rely on groundwater wells that may be threatened by de-watering. Whereas construction of a 1.25 mile NID pipeline is part of Rise Gold's plans, in order to provide residents along East Bennett Street with potable water in the event of wells being de-watered, this is in no way a guarantee to all adjacent residents of the planned project should their wells be affected by mining operations.

Nevada County can simply not afford to take a gamble like this with our water and with the downstream hydrology of our neighbors. Both current residents and future generations will suffer from the underground hydrologic consequences of this plan.

3. Potentially significant impacts of allowing the project to go forward given the applicant's history of failing to mitigate negative impacts of past projects must be assessed in the DEIR.

The applicant has a history of failing to complete mitigation measures or observe legal limits, and this should be taken into account in evaluating potential impacts of the mine. Appropriate mitigations for possible repetition of this bad performance should be included, including requiring bonding sufficient to mitigate impacts should the operator enter into bankruptcy. Past environmental and mine safety performance of Rise Gold CEO Ben Mossman when he was president of Banks Island Gold Mine should be investigated as part of the DEIR. The mine was responsible for dumping toxic mining waste into wetlands that feed salmon-bearing waters. Numerous environmental laws were broken, the mine owner failed to clean up the waste, and the company went bankrupt. Mr. Mossman was fined as a result. The Safety Manager of the mine complained that he was fired for raising safety and environmental violations.

Benjamin Mossman, CEO of Rise Gold, Inc., has already created one extremely large, ongoing pollution event of his own, with his Banks Island Gold project in British Columbia. The mine was shut down in 2015 after its ongoing polluting discharge was discovered. His security deposit was confiscated, to be used to clean up the environmental damage. Estimates show, however, that the deposit will not pay for all the necessary work. After the pollution was discovered, Mr. Mossman's Banks Island Gold project filed for bankruptcy, on January 7, 2016.

According to a January 11, 2019 article in the *Prince Rupert Northern View,* "The company faced 35 total provincial and federal charges after Environment and Climate Change Canada enforcement officers found evidence that the company was dumping waste from its Yellow Giant gold mine into the surrounding woods and wetland area approximately 110 kilometres south of Prince Rupert in 2015. Further, Mossman did not report the spills to any regulatory body or fisheries officer. The mine was shut down in 2015 and the Ministry of Energy and Mines confiscated the company's $420,000 security deposit to clean the polluted site. But White estimated the total cost of the cleanup will be approximately $1.6 million."

Nevada County should not allow someone with such an abysmal track record to open a mine with a proposal that already has so many environmental red flags attached to it. Under CEQA, the potential impacts of a failure to perform mitigation measures should be assessed in the EIR.

4. Potentially significant, cumulative impacts on aquatic ecology of streams and on the watershed as a whole should be evaluated in the DEIR.

The water contamination sources and impacts on creeks and the watershed from this project are numerous. The DEIR needs to address the potential significant impacts of these as well as the cumulative impacts of these and other projects.

In the project description, there is no mention of how the applicant plans to deal with the nitrates from ANFO and emulsion explosives that will pollute the water in the underground workings.

There is no mention of how the pollutant-rich water from gold processing (sulfides, thickeners, fine sediments from crushed ore, collectors, flocculants, promotors, frothers, etc.) will be treated—or how the water that will be "dewatered" from sand tailings will be processed.

How will a 40 acre foot settling pond allow for sediments to settle and the water treatment plant process contaminants quickly enough to discharge decontaminated water while 3,620,700 gallons of water flows into the pond every day during the six month dewatering period?

The DEIR should directly sample and discuss impacts of contaminated water discharge on Wolf Creek and downstream freshwater communities. The majority of the current reports provided discuss primarily special status species. There is no discussion of benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI, stream insects) communities in Wolf Creek and how dewatering will impact these important components of a healthy stream food web. Many sites in Wolf Creek already contain degraded BMI communities which would be effectively destroyed by these operations, while the few sites that contain robust and health BMI communities would be significantly degraded. Further, BMI uptake of heavy metals can lead to rapid contamination of the food web through biomagnification (increasing concentrations in higher-level organisms through consumption of large amounts of BMI; examples include fish), none of which is discussed. The DEIR should assess BMI community composition, likelihood of BMI community degradation, potential for BMI heavy metal accumulation and biomagnification, and overall project impacts on a healthy freshwater stream ecosystem.

5. The DEIR should address the incompatibility with the Nevada County General Plan and the General Plan's Goals and Policies for proposed operations at the 119-acre Brunswick Industrial Site. **This project is in violation of General Plan provisions, and thus may not lawfully proceed under the Nevada County General Plan.**

The DEIR should address the incompatibility of the proposed zoning change from M1-SP Light Industrial Site Performance Combining District to M1-ME Light Industrial with Mineral Extraction Combining District. According to Nevada County zoning definitions and the General Plan's Goals and Policies, the County should not allow heavy industrial activity in a light industrial zone, and should not rezone the project area.

The Brunswick Industrial Site is zoned M1-SP, Light Industrial Site Performance Combining District. The area surrounding the Brunswick Industrial Site is primarily in residential zones RA-3, RA-1.5, RA-3PD, RA-X and R-1. Proposed cumulative operations including continual loud noise from a variety of sources, dust that may contain toxins, diesel and explosives fumes, multiple trips by heavy trucks and excessive nighttime lighting are inconsistent with Nevada County General Plan Goals and Policies for Community and Rural Regions.

Nevada County definition of M1 (Light Industrial):
"The "M1" District provides areas for the production, repairing, distribution and warehousing of goods and equipment, along with supporting businesses and services. Uses should provide for buffering from adjacent land uses to minimize incompatibility and should have convenient, controlled access to arterial or major collector roads without passing through residential areas."

Nevada County definition of M2 (Heavy Industrial):
The purposes of the "M2" District is similar to that of the "M1" District, except that allowed uses are potentially more intensive and may generate greater impacts on adjacent land uses, public facilities and services, and the environment.

Nevada County definition of "ME" Mineral Extraction Combining District:
"The purpose of this District is to allow for surface mining and to provide for the public awareness of the potential for surface mining to occur where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are likely present. This district shall be used only on those lands that are within any of the compatible Nevada County General Plan designations and which are not in a residential zone."

6. The DEIR should disclose any potential significant impacts and cumulative effects of expanding the mine workings into the four square miles of underground mineral rights.

Possible potential significant impacts include subsidence that could devastate residential communities and business areas, impacts to schools, pre-schools, agencies and institutions, impacts to groundwater, and noise impacts for residents and businesses above the mine. Impacts should be evaluated and mitigations that would alleviate impacts to all residents and others should be proposed.

7. The DEIR should evaluate potential significant impacts to human health and safety hazards of mine workers.

It should require Rise Gold to spell out when in the project timeline they will train qualified mine rescue teams, and if such teams will be available on-site once miners go underground.

Rise Gold proposes to explore their four square miles of mineral rights with new rises and tunnels that would be deep underground and cover many miles. Miners would be loading and detonating explosives and removing thousands of tons of fractured rock.

Rise Gold's project description states that the project would include fully trained and equipped mine rescue teams, and that teams would be trained in accordance with Mine Safety and Health Administration standards. It also states that they intend "to seek cross-training opportunities and mutual-aid agreements with local emergency response organizations and other mining operations." To our knowledge, the closest mine rescue team that could respond to an underground fire, flood or accident is hours away, so

having specially-trained mine rescue teams on site is of utmost importance. Clarification is needed as to what is meant by "seeking mutual aid agreements with local emergency response organizations." Such aid cannot take the place of properly trained mine rescue teams.

Mining in tunnels 500 feet below the surface is *dangerous work*. See the URLs below.
https://science.howstuffworks.com/engineering/structural/underground-mining.htm#pt3
The environmental toll of underground mining is significant. It includes air pollution, changes in water-flow patterns, chemical and gas seepage into water supplies and soil, inaccessible fires in abandoned mines, and dramatic changes in land composition that can make the area unusable after the mining operation is done [source: Saxena].

Many accidents occur when the mine props collapse due to earth tremors. Explosions, too, trigger casualties when ventilation systems fail to effectively remove exhaust from mining equipment, coal dust and natural underground gas leaks. Blasting can ignite those gases, leading to deaths from both the explosions themselves and the subsequent collapse of mine structures [source: Macia].

Long-term health problems are a serious job risk, as well. Continually breathing in mineral dust can cause lung diseases like pneumoconiosis or the dreaded black lung. Breathing in welding fumes, radon or mercury (often found in mines) also causes respiratory diseases. Hearing loss from noisy equipment and back injuries from lifting heavy loads are also common [source: Live Science].

https://www.thebalancesmb.com/specific-and-non-specific-hazards-in-underground-mines-2367338
"Specific and Non Specific Hazards in Underground Mines"

https://www.oshaeducationcenter.com/articles/msha/
Mine Safety & Health Act Explained
Because the mining industry creates dangerous working conditions, both new miners and current miners are required by OSHA to complete specialized safety training to instruct them on how to recognize health and safety hazards, minimize accidents and injuries, and protect themselves in hazardous and emergency situations. Learn more about our online MSHA Part 46 training courses and register today.

8. The DEIR should address potential impacts of this project on Nevada County's ability to meet General Plan housing goals and objectives.

The DEIR should evaluate impacts of the project on housing, Nevada County's affordable housing goals and the balance between its potential significant environmental impacts, the kinds of jobs offered by this project (many that will require specialized skills of people who do not reside here already; many of them hazardous underground mining jobs) and the rural, pastoral nature of residential housing and current employment profile around the Brunswick Industrial Site. Alternatives should include proposed housing instead of mining projects.

In our current Coronavirus pandemic crisis, Nevada County—like so many other rural areas of the United States— has seen an influx of well-paid workers and others fleeing from urban centers to the relative safety of the more rural parts of California. As a result, home purchases and rentals in the county are in short supply and prices have been driven up. Many recent immigrants to Nevada County are able to work from their new home base over the internet. There will very likely be more job opportunities through remote working than any opportunities that would be lost when this mine application is, eventually, rejected by the county or abandoned by the project applicant. The Nevada County agencies and those that will review and approve or reject the project should be asking if we are willing to sacrifice our environment and rural quality of life for a massive and highly impactful project, all for the promise of "more jobs."

9. The potentially significant impacts of toxic dust on human health and safety and the natural environment, including wildlife, should be evaluated in the DEIR.

The DEIR should directly address any changes in exposure potential of local wildlife and people to dust containing heavy metals and carcinogens associated with mineral extraction. Mitigations, including bonding sufficient to address possible health impacts to the residents of the greater Grass Valley area should be evaluated in the EIR.

Abandoned mine tailings in our community have historically been significant sources of heavy metals and carcinogens, some of which naturally co-occur in gold-containing rock. For example, the abandoned site of the Champion and Providence mines in Nevada City contained hazardous levels of cadmium, arsenic, and lead, requiring extensive engineering-based remediation work in the last decade. These metals can then be inhaled as dust by the local community either through recreation and direct exposure or indirect exposure on windy days. Plants tested at the Providence site also showed significant uptake of metals, which then provides another pathway for contamination of the local food web (e.g. deer browse). Further, use of this extracted material as engineered fill can lead to further contamination, as evidenced by the metal remediation work needed at Pioneer Park in Nevada City, which used engineered fill from local mines during construction. Finally, the applicant discusses use of the Cemented Paste Backfill (CPB) method for application within the mine itself. The applicant uses a Desktop study to claim that sulfide recovery in this method has 93-96% effectiveness, thus "effectively eliminating water quality issues". A 93% recovery rate does not eliminate issues; only 100% would. The DEIR should extensively sample for and discuss all potential heavy metal contaminants in removed material and impacts on heavy metal exposure in both humans and wildlife. This should include all potential naturally-occurring carcinogens and sulfide loss if using the CPB method, along with projected impacts of the remaining 4-7% of sulfide not recovered.

10. Impacts on air quality and the potential to exceed air quality standards should be evaluated in the EIR.

This project has the potential to result in violations of air quality standards both in particulate emissions and in emissions of toxic metals and substances that would be borne by dust produced by the project. These potentially significant impacts must be evaluated, and the potential to violate air quality standards must be addressed.

11. The DEIR must consider how the project's anticipated cumulative greenhouse gas emissions contribute to California's statewide greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030 and 2050.

12. The DEIR should include a cost-benefit analysis, to include the potential loss of property values of residents and businesses surrounding project sites and resultant potential loss of property tax to the County.

If the Planning Department were to create even a preliminary cost-benefit analysis, it would find that costs of the project far outweigh the benefits. We request that such an analysis be made, and that it be used to stop this ill-advised project in its tracks, saving County staff and agency staff from thousands of hours of their time.

<u>Costs</u>

*Degradation of quality of life in a large area surrounding the two sites. (Noise, water issues, traffic, dust from ore and barren rock crushing, ongoing anxiety over water contamination and water loss.)

*Decreased property values for hundreds of homeowners in the surrounding area, due to degradation of quality of life. These homeowners would be justified in requesting a reduction in property taxes, thus leading to a decrease of property tax revenues to Nevada County.

*Destruction of Wolf Creek ecosystem due to flooding/scouring of creek by mine dewatering and accidental releases of sediments and waste waters from the site.

*Release of massive amounts of greenhouse gases -- in order to extract gold for jewelry and investors. (There is already more than enough gold for dentistry/medicine/electronics and other beneficial uses.)

*Billions of gallons of groundwater removed from the environment, plus daily use of tens of thousands of gallons of NID water.

*Noise pollution from numerous sources:
Rock and ore crushing;
-"engineered fill" processing;
-dumping of rock into silos;
-loading and unloading rock into/out of trucks;
-piling and compacting "engineered fill" to create two huge mountains:
-heavy vehicles and backup bells driving on surface 24/7;
-ventilation fans, etc

With 24/7 operations, this project—like virtually all other mining and industrial projects that operate in the midst of populated areas—will increase ambient noise levels quite noticeably for many neighbors, even if the project operates within permitted noise levels. This is because ambient noise levels rarely rise to permitted levels for any length of time. But a large industrial project like the one proposed has so many noise sources that it could quite possibly operate continually at maximum permitted levels both day and night.

*Light pollution from 6000 watts of lighting at Brunswick site

*Daily transportation for eight decades of 1,000 to 2,000 tons of rock (approximately 700 to 1,400 cubic yards) from Brunswick to Centennial sites will create noise, road hazards and road surface degradation on East Bennett Road.

*Visual pollution from the creation of 75 acres of 80- to 100-foot-high plateaus of "engineered fill." These barren wastelands will stick out like sore thumbs and be visible in a wide-ranging area.

*The County and numerous agencies will need to spend huge amounts of time monitoring this mega-project for decades. Virtually every mining project we know of has created numerous unforeseen adverse impacts. Mining companies are forever trying to avoid taking responsibility for negative environmental impacts, cleanup, etc.

*Nevada County citizens will have to put in massive amounts of *volunteer/unpaid* time and energy to work through this permit process to do whatever we can to prevent the impacts of this project from degrading the quality of our surroundings. Nevada County residents have already spent thousands of hours on Emgold's application. The current application promises to have even worse consequences for us.

*If the project is ever approved and if it ever actually commences, massive amounts of volunteer community time and energy will have to be put into ensuring that the mining company is abiding by its use permit.

*Many of the jobs this mine will create will not be filled by current county residents, but by people with experience in mining who will move here from other states. (This was the experience of the Siskon Gold mine on the San Juan Ridge in the 1990s, which, incidentally only provided about one third to one half of the promised jobs while it operated.)

Benefits:

*Jobs. *However, many of these would be filled by people with mining experience who would move here from outside the county and state, and many would be hazardous underground mining jobs.*

*Additional taxes to the county? The county will only get tax money if the project actually succeeds. Most gold mining projects don't succeed. And a project that is proposed so close to residential areas like the Rise Gold project has a very big chance of not succeeding.

These impacts are inconsistent with the goals of the General Plan, and the consistency of this project with the General Plan should be evaluated in light of this cost benefit analysis.

13. Conclusion

The San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association has reviewed this project and believes there are a number of potentially significant impacts to the environment and to public health and safety that cannot be mitigated to a point of insignificance. For this reason, the project should be denied.

The DEIR should provide sufficient analysis to highlight potentially significant impacts of the project, and should provide adequate range of alternatives and mitigation measures to assess the economic, social, and environmental costs of various approaches.

The SJRTA looks forward to further participation in the CEQA process.

From: Badri Matlock <badri@ananda.org>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; Sue Hoek <Sue.Hoek@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: SJRTA Idaho Maryland Mine NOP Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

17 August 2020
To: Matt Kelly, Sue Hoek
From: San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association
Re: Idaho Maryland Mine NOP Comments

From: Louis Quaintance
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine, draft EIR
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:39:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am very concerned about the detrimental impact this mine will have on important wildlife habitat surrounding the site. Issues include:

Water quality of Wolf Creek as it flows through grassland and meadows
Air quality, as mine operations and traffic increase harmful emissions
Noise levels due to mining and traffic
Soil quality, as mine tailings pile up
Loss of wildlife habitat

Several species are of special concern, Including Yellow-breasted Chat and Willow Flycatcher.

How does the company plan to survey the area for wildlife, such as nesting sites?
How does it plan to ensure that existing flora and fauna are not damaged?

Sincerely,

Jean Matsuno
10777 Banner Mine Way
Nevada City, CA. 95959

From: Michael Mauldin
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: If Rise Gold can...
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Seems to me, that if a company can remove and purify the water from the old or new mine so that it is drinkable or at least is usable for agriculture, then they would have a business that could, would make money selling water. Water is and will become more valuable as time goes by. Maybe not as valuable as Gold but much more useful.

That said, I'd like to see the data/research from one or two independent water testing experts that would verify that this can be done by Rise or anyone with current technology.

If is can be done then ONE of the hurdles to having a local gold mine will be accomplished.

Otherwise the following issues still remain:

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application
to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine because:
*Mining 24 hours/day/7 days/week.
*Over 1,000,000 gallons of groundwater and
1500 tons of waste rock will be removed DAILY.
*Trucks w/ rock/tailings 16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.
*Over 9,000 tons of CO2 produced YEARLY.
*Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would
be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Michael Mauldin
Grass Valley Ca
530 477 7170

From:	Mark Maulhardt
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine - Rise Grass Valley EIR
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 11:34:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,

I am a Grass Valley resident and homeowner in Cedar Ridge located less than a third of a mile from the proposed Brunswick Industrial Site of the Idaho Maryland Mine project.

I have some concerns related to the project as it directly pertains to my and my families health and well being. I believe these concerns need to be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Report.

1. The first concern is the impact on the health and well being of local citizens by the toxic metals being distributed throughout the surrounding communities as carried by airborne dust from operations at the Brunswick and Centennial industrial sites. I believe these hazardous materials, currently embedded in the rock and earth below ground, will be brought to the surface and distributed around the community as airborne dust particles by the various above ground processing activities.
2. The second concern is the noise levels above current ambient levels that the surrounding residents will experience as a result of processing operations at the Brunswick Industrial Site and truck traffic hauling inbound and outbound materials and tailings.
3. In connection with the second concern above, is a concern about the additional local traffic congestion that will result from mine operations and the associated wear and tear on the public road infrastructure. Will the additional mine truck traffic result in an additional cost to the general public to maintain the roads affected.

Regards,
Mark Maulhardt

From: Carola May
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Dear Matt, About the mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:33:44 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to you today to address my concerns on reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.
I believe this business venture is not what we need in Nevada County.
It is not good for the environmental impact it will cause. Such as, noise pollution, traffic, destruction to the natural landscape, air pollution, and water/well damage to neighboring communities.
I am not against development in our county. But this kind of business is destructive.
This mine is not something you want to have as your legacy,
You will want to be known as leaders who protected our environment while promoting new and good businesses that create jobs and do not destroy our environment.
A legacy you will be proud to tell your children and family about.

Thank you for your concern,

Carola May,

Sent from my iPhone

From: Renee Schley May
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opening Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:05:04 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Tiera M.
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for my whole life. Like many others in the area, I love this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture. I strongly believe that Nevada County's history of destroying the land to extract natural resources should stay a thing of the past. As a community, we should be planning for the future by investing in Sustainability and creating Green Jobs for our residents. Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine seems like a step in the wrong direction entirely.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tiera May

From: Rahima <catmac@spiralemail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm concerned about water quality to surrounding wells, as well as to Wolf Creek

I also have concerns regarding light and noise pollution coming from a 24 hour business, and the impact on traffic, as well as the railings that come out of the mine.

Thank you,

Cathy McCain

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Endependence
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine project
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,

I am a twenty-one year resident of Nevada county.

I am writing to express my overwhelming opposition to reopening of the mine.

The environmental impact on our waterways and the huge increase in truck traffic are unacceptable.

No amount of money or number of jobs can justify the long term environmental damage the mine is going to inflict on our local area.

The era of gold mining in the mother lode has already scarred the landscape and waters of our county. After 170 years the evidence of environmental degradation is visible all over our county and our waters still bear the mercury and heavy metal residue.

How can we possibly enable such irresponsible environmental behavior to torture our county again.

Concerned,

Frank McCarthy
Grass Valley, California

Sent from my iPhone

Mary McClain
11026 Gold Hill Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
mary-mcc@sbcglobal.net
530-277-6016

Dear Mr. Kelley, August 16, 2020

I have lived in Nevada County for over 40 years and raised my children here. I have deep concerns about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I'm asking the EIR cover the following areas, at a minimum:

Air Quality - It's well known we have a pretty serious problem here already.

Economic Study - Enough jobs to offset the loss of property values and degradation in quality of life for those living close enough to be impacted by noise, vibration, rumbling truck traffic?

Plenty of experts will be commenting on other areas I'm sure. Whatever the developers are offering, I find it hard to believe it's worth it to our community in the face of all the downsides.

Sincerely,

Mary McClain

From: Mary McClain
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:35:55 PM
Attachments: IMmine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see letter attached - Thank you
Mary McClain

From: Kelly
To: Matt Kelley
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelly,

I've just learned about the mining project and am severely concerned and disappointed. We should not allow a big cooperation to come into our town and disrupt not only our way of life with constant 24 hour noise for 80 years but also disrupt and potentially harm our forest friends and our beautiful land that we call home. The land and animals don't have a voice to protest and stand up for themselves so us as a community must speak for them. I hope you reconsider working with this corporation and block their attempts to destroy our precious town.

Thank you.

TRISH MCCOY
14434 WILDER LANE
GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945
TRISHAAAKK@GMAIL.COM

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 15 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

TRISH MCCOY

From: Trish McCoy
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: I DO NOT WANT IDAHO MARYLAND MIND TO RE OPEN
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:02 AM
Attachments: LETTER IDAHOE MARYLAND.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

SEE MY ATTACHED LETTER

--
Trish

Mr. Matt Kelley-Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley,

RE: Idaho Maryland Mine

I vehemently oppose the re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine. This would be disastrous to our community here in Grass Valley and Nevada City.

The impact on our environment would be horrible with the Greenhouse gases with its 9000 metric tons of carbon dioxide a year. Not mentioned in the Greenhouse Gas Analysis is the contaminated air that will be exhausted from the mine shaft, 24 hours a day, every day. The mine expects to use close to a ton of ammonia nitrate fuel oil and 257 blast detonators every day. The fumes and dust from this blasting will be vented into our air, along with other chemical and physical contaminants found in gold mines.

The Groundwater Hydrology study Rise Grass Valley paid for used analytical, conceptual, and numerical models to assure us that wells won't go dry and that "the project would not have any significant impact on groundwater supplies." Yet after the mine shaft is dewatered, they will still suck out over a million gallons of groundwater a day. In spite of their models I wonder how removing all that water might affect our forests. Will it further dry out our trees and increase the fire danger in our community, which is already rated as a "Very High" Fire Hazard Severity zone?

Another concern is the truck traffic. Trucks will be carrying tons of explosives through our town; and every day trucks will be making between 50 and 100 round trips hauling fill rock (containing asbestos and silica).

The mine will run 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Each day, 1,500 tons of rock will be hoisted to the surface, dropped into a silo, and then transported over a conveyor system. One thousand tons of rock will be ground down to facilitate extracting the gold. From 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., 1,000 tons of rock will be dumped into metal trailers and then hauled away. Noise from the mine will be nonstop.

Please DO NOT approve this project. This is NOT what people want to live next to and deal with in this community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia McCoy
11851 Banner Ct. Nevada City, CA 95959 650 245 9903,

From: Trish McCoy <trishkmccoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see my attached letter opposing the re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine.

--

Trish McCoy
650.245.9903

www.NevadaCityRetreat.com
www.MossBeachRetreat.com
www.TheCountryRetreatGV.com
www.TrishMcCoy.com
BRE 01046162

This email communication contains CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WHICH ALSO MAY BE LEGALLY PRIVILEGED and is intended only for the use of the recipients identified above. The information may also be protected by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act 18 USC §§ 2510-2521. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are hereby notified that any unauthorized review, use, dissemination, distribution, downloading, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies. I have not verified or investigated, nor will I verify or investigate, information supplied by third parties.

-

From:	Carolyn McGrath
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Environmental comments in opposition to Mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 3:53:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

CAROLYN SOMMER McGRATH
Attorney At Law
13530 Apple Julianna Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530/273-1715 Fax: 530/272-2070

mcgrathcarolyn@hotmail.com

August 15, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Via E-mail: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing this as a concerned member of the public to register my opposition to opening the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I am not an agency and do not know how formally to provide comments on environmental issues. But I can say that my family moved to Nevada County more than 28 years ago to provide a clean, quiet, peaceful natural environment for our young children. Our children are now grown but I want to grow old in the same environment.

I grew up in southern CA where Rocketdyne experimented with super-sonic aircraft and I was subjected to frequent earth rumbling and sonic booms. This was before environmental impact laws. I fear an operating mine under foot will feel and sound the same. I also fear for the loss of the high quality of our water and our well's output.

Nevada County's air quality already is negatively impacted by pollution floating up from Sacramento traffic. It will be made worse when fine dust particles from the mine operations and exhaust from gravel trucks are added to the air.

Reopening this mine will be an environmental disaster for this part of the county.

Sincerely,

Carolyn McGrath

From: Larry McGrath
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland comments
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:15:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Via E-mail: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Matt,

I am writing you to voice by concern to opening the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Like my wife, I am not an agency and do not know how to formally provide comments on environmental issues. Our family moved to Nevada County from LA County more than 28 years ago to provide a clean, quiet, peaceful natural environment for our young children. Our children are now grown but we want to grow old in the same environment.

I fear we will feel and hear a constant rumble/noise with an operating mine close to our location. I especially fear for the loss of the high quality of our well water and output.

Nevada County's air quality has been negatively impacted by pollution floating up from Sacramento traffic for years. It will be made worse when fine dust particles from the mine operations and exhaust from gravel trucks are added to the air. Traffic on Brunswick Road will be congested with heavy gravel trucks that will slowly destroy the road.

Reopening this mine will create environmental damage for this part of the county.

Sincerely,

Larry McGrath

From:	Maile McGrew-Fredé
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	NOP Comments for draft EIR
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:36 AM
Attachments:	MaileClaire.NOP.draftEIR.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Maile C. McGrew-Fredé
12102 Red Gate Road
Nevada City, CA 95959
505-692-0766 ph
maileclaire@gmail.com

August 15, 2020

Dear Mr. Matt Kelley,

My name is Maile Claire. I live and work as a freelance artist at 12102 Red Gate Road, off Banner Lava Cap Road, in Nevada City. I've lived in the county for just over a year now; drawn here like many others by the natural beauty, eclectic community, and cultural richness found here. Coming from a more urban environment, my family longed for a slower, saner pace, the chance to pursue a more fulfilling work/life balance, and live with greater connection to the earth, which sustains us all.

As you can probably guess from the opening of my letter; I am very concerned about the proposed re-opening and operation of the Idaho-Maryland mine. While I live nearby and am concerned about a vast number of issues, noise, aesthetics and the ceaseless trucking between sites included; I feel the issue that is most alarming, and most likely to pose the greatest threat to the community as a whole, is the **de-watering of the mine.** Rise GV's own documents state that to de-water the mine and keep it from re-filling, would require pumping out over **1,224,000 gallons** of our precious community ground water *every day*.

Please insure that the upcoming draft EIR examines all the possible effects of this proposed de-watering; from various vantage points, human, land and animal, because all of us are essential to the web of life.

Health and Safety (contaminating community water)
First, draining the water from this mine is very likely to disturb toxic heavy metals used during our industrial hydraulic mining era, such as arsenic, mercury, asbestos and lead. These are now lying relatively dormant in tailings and shaft sediment layers. Wouldn't these toxins be agitated and flushed back into all our groundwater systems in high concentrations, as the mine shafts are drained and pumped? Can a draft EIR effectively address these unknowns? Shouldn't the toxic facts of our

hydraulic mining history (which dumped over 26 million pounds of mercury into the Sierra Nevada mountains) inform this EIR? I've been learning of the existence of thousands of other abandoned mine sites still in need of mitigation and rehabilitation---shouldn't studies from these sites have some bearing on this draft EIR? Are there records of which chemicals were used by the Idaho Maryland mine and in what quantities? The draft EIR should address all of these questions and include data about risks to human health and wellness from the particular toxins likely to be disturbed.

Water Treatment – What happens downriver?

The draft EIR should examine RISE GV's claims about water treatment. Can this type of proposed treatment completely remove heavy metals like arsenic and mercury, asbestos and lead from water? Also, what would the dumping of so much treated (and likely heated?) water do to fish and riparian wildlife in our rivers and streams, especially Wolf Creek? Could the saturation of Wolf Creek with so much treated water affect ground water further down the line or drain into to other river networks and streams; affecting a larger area than initially considered? Wouldn't the dumping of treated water into Wolf Creek, which flows into the Bear River, which flows into the Sacramento River---ultimately affect our agricultural water supply ---potentially poisoning our own food system with additional levels of toxic heavy metals? Is the size of the clay-lined pool they plan to build to facilitate water treatment, even large enough for the amount of water that would need to be pumped out daily? How long would it need to sit or undergo treatment to improve its health margins? Would these practices be practical or cost effective to expect from a foreign company primarily in pursuit of profit?

Increased Fire Risk

Of utmost concern is the effect of de-watering upon current and future **fire risk.** Won't removing and disposing of over a million gallons per day of our precious ground water thoroughly dry out surrounding lands and vegetation, potentially killing off trees still taxed and trying to recover from drought and bark beetle infestation? Won't we be creating ever-drier tinderbox conditions? Please insure the draft EIR considers the de-watering *as an ongoing proposition*; continuous over the next 80 years. The draft EIR should address the loss of so much ground water *over time;* looking at individual property owners and the possibility of their wells drying up (how many people likely to be affected? How will this affect property values?) as well as the overall regional land, parks, wildlife corridors and riparian ecosystems affected by this constant removal of water. Even if this does not seem to have an immediate effect; what about after 5 years of this? After ten? Please insure the draft EIR does not only use current temperatures and precipitation patterns, to study the overall effects of de-watering; but also considers future warming scenarios and drought conditions. A wild fire that begins large and hot and unmanageable in the Brunswick basin could ultimately threaten so much more than those of us who live here, just above the Idaho-Maryland mine shaft network.

Paradigm Shift: We've Got to Change the Way We Live…

According to the 2018 Living Planet report (created by a team of over 50 scientists,) humanity has wiped out on average; 60% of the world's biodiversity since 1970. In other words, 60% of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as around 60% of wilderness and habitat. Through our relentless dedication to destructive, extractive, polluting practices prioritizing profit and convenience in the short term, over long-term stewardship, and careful thought about the future; we are actually

in danger of upsetting the web of life and bringing extinction upon ourselves. Can this draft EIR take a tip from indigenous wisdom and think about the effects of this particular proposal upon the county, ***seven generations*** from now?

Our water is more precious than gold; and it is linked to everything and everyone around us. I hope it is a true, deep, and probing report you commission Mr. Kelley.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Maile

Maile Claire McGrew-Fredé
Artist, Librarian, Mom

From: Liz McGuire
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: The Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:20:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt, my name is Elizabeth McGuire, I live on Manion Canyon Rd GV. While the mine people were doing their "thing" behind the fenced off area on Bennett (now no longer) 2 of my next door neighbors and myself felt tremors. My home is built on rock. We all have wells up here. I honestly don't know the ramifications of what could happen but I'd like you to be aware that something "could" happen.
Thank you for taking, I'm sure, a very lot of emails.
Liz McGuire.

From: Paul McMillan
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine concerns
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County, CA

matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I am very concerned about the possible change in zoning that would allow the Idaho-Maryland reopen in a mainly residential area. Below are some of my concerns to be included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR should be in-depth, consider data from a wide variety of sources and agencies, and be un-biased.

Scope and Size of area to be studied

The area to be analyzed should be extensive – not only the immediate area around the surface area of the working mine but extend through the underground mineral area that extends from the Brunswick Basin nearly to the "Y" where Hiway 174 intersects and from Empire Mine/Cedar Ridge to half the airport and a large portion of Greenhorn. Random sampling should extend in another ring around the underground mineral area. The geology and hydrology is connected and what happens in one area could have far reaching effects in another. The same is true for noise, pollution, habitat, etc.

Time line for analysis and review

The time line should reflect our weather patterns with winter rains and near drought in the summer. For example, studying water flow when rain recharge is refilling aquifers is going to have very different results than the same data collected in late summer. The EIR analysis should reflect **all** seasons and be sampled from many sites above and below the ground, in the mineralized area and beyond.

Land Use and Planning - Zoning

Currently the land use is light industrial and I understand that RISE is seeking a variance to ME – Mineral Extraction. The impact of heavy traffic, blasting, noise, pollution and change in water levels and quality would not fit the light industrial zoning now in place in mainly residential areas. *A variance would allow a use that would adversely affect the public health, safety, and/or welfare; the integrity and character of the district; and the utility and value of surrounding property.*

Transportation & Traffic

The congestion that the mining operation will cause because of increased traffic on Brunswick and Bennett will significant. Cal Trans, CHP and traffic engineers should be consulted.
Traffic studies should look at the number of vehicles from mine workers and from hauling waste rock to the dump sites; the noise levels that will increase; the wear and tear to the roadway; and traffic flow of neighborhood people entering and exiting on Brunswick (The only county road that Greenhorn exits to). Who will pay for the road up keep and repairs due to the large increase in traffic. Will it be a taxpayer expense?
Analysis should also look into the safety of transporting explosives to the mine on already busy roads (Hiway 174, Brunswick, Bennett, Hiway 49) and alternatives.

Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Analysis of the impact on air quality in the immediate area of the Brunswick/Bennett area with increase traffic (car exhaust, diesel fumes, particulates) but also the dust and chemicals used in the mining process and the machinery that processes the rock. Current levels should be collected over 4 seasons as well as on going monitoring should the mine re-open.

Hydrology / Water Quality

In-depth study of the underground flow of water, stability, fault systems, re-charge areas is needed. The worst would be for blasting and rock removal to alter the underground water flow and water tables and contaminate and/or drain wells the surrounding area depends on for their water source. Equally disastrous would the extreme amount of water pumped out during “dewatering” and then daily during the life of the mine’s having a negative effect on the water table above the pumped layer again affecting wells. (The Ground water model document relied on new well data and data from 2007 – which is not sufficient nor does it randomly sample enough wells to give a clear picture)

How will pumped water be disposed of? How will be monitored for contaminates? How many chemicals will be monitored? What are current levels (studied over different seasons)? How inclusive will the monitoring be? Who will do the testing, a Rise contractor or an outside consultant at who’s expense?

If the wells are negatively impacted, what provisions are in place to replace water from the lost wells? Much of the underground mineral area is not served by NID. Often in late summer and fall, NID has asked residents to reduce their water use due to drought. Water is already scarce, so what alternative water source will be in place for the residents who no longer have access to clean water from their wells. Currently is appears that only a few homes on Bennett have an identified “what if” solution.

Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

Current habitat near the above ground mining area and extending throughout the

underground mineral area and where the Wolf Creek flows and enters bigger water sheds will need to be analyzed. Should water tables be lowered due changes in underground rock structure due to blasting and pumping water from the mine, that would also affect the extensive vegetation in the area. Our forest habitat that currently struggles in the drought conditions we have been experiencing would be at greater risk of dying. That would impact the animals that depend on it.
For example, parts of Wolf Creek would be enclosed in a conduit so water can be exited in another area of the mine property. How will this loss of riparian area affect the nearby vegetation and the wildlife that come and go to the stream. How will dumping about 1 million gallons of water a day in Wolf Creek impact the nearby riparian areas and surrounding watersheds?

Noise Pollution
What is the current level of noise along different areas of Brunswick and Bennett? How far does it carry into the surrounding areas? What will be the impact of 50 daily round trips of diesel trucks carrying waste rock, of increased traffic from mine employees, from machines processing rock to extract the mineral on noise levels? Will the noise only be during the day (8 to 5) or will extend into the evening and/or be heard 24/7?

Hazards and Hazardous Materials
How will explosives be transported and stored prior to use? What is necessary should an accident occur?
How will blasting alter the underground structures and alter the water tables/water quality? What is known about the fault that runs through the Brunswick property? What other faults, fractures and sands/gravels exist in the underground mineral area and beyond and how will these will be negatively altered due to blasting, rock removal and/or dewatering?
Will minerals such as asbestos be released into the air and/or water?
Fire is always a threat to this area. How will lowering water tables, having less water to support vegetation (causing drier environment with increased fuels) removal of excessive amounts of water from the watershed help reduced wildfire risk?

Aesthetics and Loss of Home Value
Much of the mineralized area is zoned as RA 1.5 and R-1. These residential areas are well established. The people purchasing homes in the RA 1.5 did so for the rural characteristics of the region. Adding noise, pollution, increased traffic is not adding to the property appeal and the residential enjoyment. Analysis of change in home values and the loss of tax value and revenue. People who have invested in the region and chose to make it their home, will have a significant loss of value for future sale of their home or for retirement.

Economic
What are the pros and cons of the mine providing long term stability of the local and regional economy? How many jobs will be provided to local job seekers? How many

are professional level? How many are short terms such as construction of a building? And how many are entry level?
The project document indicated that most high paying jobs are technical and will come from outside the region and probably will not be long term residents. The money will leave the area. Investors will have some income should gold be found in sufficient amounts. What will flow to Nevada County and its agencies? How will it affect the taxes? Who will pay for the increased monitoring of water, air, noise, traffic, road maintenance, habitat?
What kinds of investment will the mine discourage – tourists and related businesses? New home buyers who don't want to have a mine operating in their "backyard"?
New families who are looking for a safe place to raise their families?

Will the mine contribute to road maintenance? Pollution monitoring? Noise abatement?

Ethical
The Rise Mine owner has a history locally of disregarding environmental requirements when exploratory drilling was conducted off Bennett recently. Twice riparian zone set backs were ignored and the company was cited. Noise and vibrations created many complaints and mining was then limited at night so residents could sleep.

There is a history of not protecting habitat and water ways on the Hecate Island in Canada. Extensive damage was done at the Banks Island mine also in Canada. The owner was fined, eventually declared bankruptcy and the $400,000 + reclamation fund didn't begin to mitigate the damage that was done.

Is the risk that this type of damage occurring in Nevada County worth the risk?
The damage can't be "un-done".

Respectfully,

Paul McMillan
14063 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley CA

From: Maddie Medrano
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mining Proposition Concerns
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:17:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Madelynn Medrano
214 Green Mountain Loop
Grass Valley, CA 95945
@maddiemedrano26@gmail.com
(530)648-6492

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I was born and raised in Grass Valley, a resident here my whole life. This county is filled with amazing natural beauty and a great community who wants to protect it. This land already has permanent scars and damage from decades of environmentally destructive mining operations and other development.

I am greatly concerned that this proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine would reignite the history of environmental exploitation in this area. Not to mention the location is incredibly close to Wolf Creek which is an important land mark to the town and to the indegious people of the region.

I am also gravely worried over the fact that a large majority of Nevada county residents rely on well water. Is there any proven guarantee that this will not happen? If it does would you or the county be compensating anyone who is affected by it? Like compensating them for water resources like NID or separate water supplies full cost?

Even though Idaho Maryland is not a very residential area noise and other pollutants could greatly impact this town.

Please don't destroy more of Nevada County's natural beauty just in the promise of more jobs even though the money is going towards a Canadian company. Don't exploit our land for profit. Our little town doesn't want it. Please protect this community that seems to be on the brink of collapse already.

If you have any questions about my concerns please feel free to contact me.
- Sincerely Maddie Medrano

From: jacqueline meehan
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Concerns about the Rise mining project
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 9:21:52 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My name is Jacqueline Meehan. I am a Nevada County farmer and resident. As a community member, as well as someone who lives on the southern part of Wolf Creek, I am strongly opposed to the proposed mining project. I swim in Wolf creek, water my crops with water from Wolf creek, and appreciate the beauty and wildlife of this precious resource daily. I believe this mining project threatens my livelihood, personal heath, and the health of my community (both humans and animals).
There is an abundance of evidence demonstrating that mining of this sort pollutes ground and surface water. It also will
Have impacts on the stores of ground water. In an area that is sensitive to the effects of drought, the pollution and waste of such a precious resource can not be tolerated. Please deeply consider how this project is opposed by the members of this community that you represent.

Thank you for your time, please act with courage and consideration,

Jacqueline Meehan
Farmer at Werewolf Ranch
949 533 8909

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Terry Meekins
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:20 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I want to register my opposition to re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine. I don't think the community realizes the formidable impact the project is going to have on our towns: noise, traffic, wells drying up, environmental degradation, a huge, paved industrial park that will be an eyesore and be blistering hot in the summer. Untold numbers of trees will be cut, and the beautiful cottonwoods and the endangered McNabb cypresses on the sites will be destroyed.

We should reject Rise Gold's entire proposal and leave the old mine alone. It doesn't suit our communities or our values. I hope we don't say yes and then regret our decision when it is too late and Rise has already made a huge mess.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

TJ Meekins, Nevada County resident since 1959.

From: Ziolduh
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:16:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 10th, 2020
Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Ziola Meereiltagh and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek, as well as wildlife residing in the area, and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing. The entirety of this "plan" will be more damaging that it would be good, the ecosystem still has a chance to thrive in this beautiful county and I, as a teenager living here, would love to keep it that way for the next generations to come. The profit will not out-way these damages. I desire that those who have the power to stop this from beginning take into consideration what I, and many other citizens I presume, have to say about what may happen to our town if this happens.
I would like to put it out there that the exploration of this mine through blasting could end in very bad terms regarding landscape considering there is a large fault in the area. It would not only be hazardous, inconvenient and fund-draining; it would also be a very permanent eye-sore on a now so beautiful county. Many of the people here try to be as conscious as possible when it comes to our affect on the land and ecosystems around us, and when you bring everything into account, this project will be considerably wasteful economically and environmentally. The amount of energy that will be put into this plan is just not worth it, considering how much backlash I'm predicting there may be. There will be millions of gallons of water wasted and a vast collection of wildlife will be disturbed and very possibly harmed in the workings of this. I would like to add that one of the things most cherished in this county, our beautiful river, will also be disturbed and quite possibly contaminated drastically.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ziola Meereiltagh
Resident of Nevada County
ziola.meereiltagh@gmail.com

From: Kathleen Meier
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine Proposal
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:13:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kathleen Meier
12906 Long Valley Rd
Penn Valley, CA 95946
kataking57@hotmail.com

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 4 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to the extended water table in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells, creeks, rivers, ponds and water ways that We all depend on to be free of potentially toxic substances. Our water basin could be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those all the farms, ranches, homes, schools and businesses if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of ensuring the safety of each person connected to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to the public to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells and public water resources for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally. These compromises as we know, cannot always be reversed.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Meier

Sent from my iPhone

water. Damage to
ith Trucks That we then
ar.
ncreased rates of breast
, county (131 cases / 100,000
120 per 100,000 in state)
+ cancer deaths (25.8 deaths
. opposed to 19.8 deaths
No known etiology.
able that exposure to
certainly be a reason →
be clarified before

some of my concerns
Please feel free to
t you need Clarification
→

Mr Matt Kelly
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Ave
Nc, Ca
95959

Dear Mr Kelly,
I am writing as I am very
concerned regarding re-opening
this Mine. I understand that
we can add our concerns regarding
the study of the potential impact
of doing so. I see very little
benefit of opening This mine. & lots
of reasons not too. I worry about
the ouput of H_2O into Wolf Creek as they

drain the water. Damage to roads) Hwys with Trucks that we then have to pay for.

We have increased rates of breast cancer in this county (131 cases / 100,000 as opposed to 120 per 100,000 in state,) increased breast cancer deaths (25.8 deaths per 100,000 as opposed to 19.8 deaths per 100,000) & no known etiology. Seems reasonable that exposure to mining could certainly be a reason → Shouldn't this be clarified before proceeding.

This is just some of my concerns I have many. Please feel free to contact me if you need Clarification →

Mr Matt Kelly
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Ave
Nc, Ca
95959

Dear Mr Kelly,

I am writing as I am concerned regarding re- this Mine. I understand we can add our conce the study of the pote of doing so. I see ve benefit of opening This of reasons not too. I wor the ouput of H_2O into wat

Dr Cara Meinholtz
Emergency Room Physician
Sierra Nevada Memorial Hosp.
Cara.meinholtz@gmail.com
530-388-8492



RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Commission

From: Richard J. Melim, P.E. & H. Dolly Melim
12401 Old Mine Road, Grass Valley, CA
530-274-3566 / rmelim@northyuba.net

Subject: Comments regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening proposal & EIR

Mitigation of Residential Impacts

The County can require all the studies and reports they want, but when a project renders someone's home unusable what are they to do? What damage could the project have on surrounding residences?

- Damage and/or contamination of wells
- Settlement of structures from excavation vibrations & blasting

Damage or contamination of wells: our well is 450' deep and draws water from narrow fractures/seams in the rock. Vibration from mining equipment could cause these fractures and seams to collapse and block the flow of water to the well. Pumping the water out of existing shafts could reduce / eliminate pressure on water in the fractures. When a residence loses water, it becomes unusable. What then? There is no time to work through a bureaucracy, fight with a bonding company, and have a bunch of attorneys and courts take years to resolve the issue.

The only responsible mitigation is to have an approved contingency plan ahead of time to restore water immediately; and the plan be funded with a liquid form of funds. Nevada County needs to recall the Darkhorse Project when it considers mitigation funding.

Settlement of structures from excavation-vibrations & blasting: we know from the house above us that some structures are built over existing mining tunnels. That house sunk into one, jacked out of it, and a massive foundation reconstructed. The settlement occurred with no apparent external force. Our area is known as the Old Brunswick Mine and the stamp mill foundation is only a hundred feet from our property line. We still have tailings piles, large water lines, and a door-ed up mine shaft entrance on or adjacent to our parcel. We also have a small sinkhole that opened up a few years ago. Who really knows what blasting and excavation operations at any depth may cause?

We are older people with health issues and cannot be expected to relocate from an uninhabitable residence for an indeterminate time and expense. The urgency of full mitigation of residential area impacts should be responded to as would a chemical spill that was flowing into a natural stream or river. Pre-emergency response plans must be prepared; permits preapproved; costs to implement those plans estimated; and a liquid form of funding identified to readily respond to any material damage to a residential property. It will be irresponsible for the County to allow this project to move forward without these safeguards.

The above doesn't even address the nuisance aspects of the proposed project such as noise, earth tremors from blasting, traffic impacts from transporting materials, and damage to the local roads.

With respect to the latter issue, your Public Works / Road Department engineers should be presenting a report on how loaded trucks impact the structural section of roadbeds. How roadbeds are designed / analyzed based on Equivalent Wheel Loading (EWLs). Where the volume of trucks is calculated over a period of time and, along with other design factors such as subgrade shear strength ("R" value) & drainage, the minimum design structural section for the road is determined. We would like to see the roadbed coring results and design analysis that has been performed to determine the impact the additional truck-volume will have on our local streets. How is this proportional damage being mitigated?

We do not feel this is a NIMBY-type response. Mining in this area is part of the past. However, in the present the highest and best use has given way to residential use. The mining property owners should have protested the residential zoning of the surrounding area, and the creation of residential subdivisions adjacent to their holdings years ago. The County should have done a more responsible job with the General Plan, Zoning, and land use permitting if they were going to allow mining to restart.

Why does Nevada County need to approach this project with every caution? Rise Gold Corporation is an "Exploration Stage Company"; incorporated in the State of Nevada and headquartered in Canada. What does that tell you about their attachment to this project? Most likely they will sell or otherwise transfer the project to an LLC, from god knows where, to open the mine up.

Once again, Nevada County cannot expose the affected residents to the potential impacts of this project without requiring material protection.

August 17, 2020

Richard J Melim
H Dolly Melim

From: Dick
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comments to EIR for Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Project
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:53:19 AM
Attachments: Melim Comments to I-M Mine .docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
Attached are our comments on the above subject project for you to enter into the record.
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Dick & Dolly Melim

Richard J Melim, P.E.
12401 Old Mine Road
Grass Valley, CA
rmelim@northyuba.net
530-274-3566

From: Carol Menaker
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:51:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a resident of Nevada City, I am shocked that County Supervisors would consider the opening of a mining operation in Grass Valley. It would seem that a formal environmental impact study will only tell us what we already know: opening this mine will seriously compromise the quality of life of the residents of Nevada City and Grass Valley. Each and every one of the items listed below should be considered in that study with the intention of demonstrating to the County Board of Supervisors that opening the mines is a bad idea and that no purported benefits that the company may offer are worth it.

Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology / Soil, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards & Hazardous Material, Hydrology / Water Quality, Land Use / Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise • Population / Housing, Public Services Recreation, Transportation & Traffic , Utilities & Service Systems, and Economic Study

There is no comprehensive study that can be conducted that will show that most if not all of these items will be compromised if the mine is permitted to operate. It's your job to make the study bulletproof against the interests of a company that will be the only entity to gain substantially from this mine. Please do your job with diligence and heart.

Carol Menaker
316 Monroe Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 12, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley:

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

This letter is submitted on behalf of the homeowners of the Silk Tassle -Side Hill Circles community located on the north side of Idaho-Maryland Road and just east of the project site. We are writing to express our very serious concerns regarding the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine and submit comments regarding the scope and content of the draft environmental impact report (EIR).

We are long-term residents of the area who appreciate its natural beauty and strive to be good stewards of the land. We are also aware of the legacy of gold mining in this area and the resulting damage that resulted from early mining practices. As you know, many of those impacts remain to this day.

The following are our concerns that we believe need to be addressed in the EIR:

Impact to water wells. Many homes in the area rely on private wells for their water supply. Since wells in this area are fed by fractured bedrock and have relatively low flow rates, it is highly likely that they would be negatively impacted by the proposed dewatering activity. Many wells would be expected to fail completely. Research confirms that the New Brunswick main shaft was connected to the Idaho-Maryland main shaft via a tunnel 2,300 feet below the surface, linking together the total underground infrastructures of both mines. Additionally, research reveals the Glory Hole auxiliary shaft, located on the undeveloped property at the corner of Brunswick and Idaho-Maryland Roads, was drilled to provide additional access to the Idaho-Maryland main shaft that extends eastward for an additional 8,000 feet. That would place the main shaft squarely in line with the residences and water wells of the Silk Tassle-Side Hill Circles neighborhood. It is therefore of the utmost importance that potential impacts to wells in the area be thoroughly investigated, with specific identification of all tunnels, shafts, etc. and effective mitigation measures considered. The EIR should thoroughly analyze:

- Identification of the location and depth of all underground areas (tunnels, shafts, etc.) to be dewatered and their relationship to area wells and other relevant surface features.

- The total number of wells potentially impacted by dewatering and the estimated extent of those impacts, including areas beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights.

- The potential for negative impacts to water quality and the criteria that would be utilized for such a determination (e.g. U.S. EPA Drinking Water Standards).

- The full cost and method of providing an alternate water supply to impacted residents in the event their water supply becomes unstable, polluted or otherwise negatively impacted. This would include identification of alternate sources, availability of those sources and cost of connection, including main extensions, any additional storage and treatment facilities and distribution piping to residential structures.

- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water from an alternate source.

- The cost of properly abandoning / destroying private wells that fail because of dewatering activity.

- The EIR should also address the long-term reliability of any alternate water source for local residents. As you know, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) has considered, and is still considering, building an additional dam on the Bear River in order to address existing concerns regarding adequate water storage capacity. Adding a large number of service connections to NID would substantially increase demand on the local water supply, exacerbating water storage concerns. It is conceivable that mitigation measures to address failed wells could trigger the need for an additional dam.

- **Water Quality.** The EIR should examine impacts resulting from the continuous discharge of water from the mine to South Fork Wolf Creek (or any other receiving body). These would include hydrologic impacts, erosion, discharges of hazardous waste and impacts to wildlife and recreational uses.

- **Traffic Impacts.** The EIR needs to examine traffic impacts and the degradation of local roads from heavy truck traffic.

- **Noise Impacts**. Noise impacts from increased industrial activity and truck traffic need to be examined and any appropriate mitigation measures considered.

- **Air Quality**. The EIR needs to examine impacts to air quality associated with a resumption of mining activity.

- **Scope of the Requested Permit**. The EIR needs to consider a significantly reduced scope of operation for the requested permit. The applicant has proposed to conduct mining activity 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for 80 years. This is a rather astounding and unusual scope for any permitted activity, especially one as potentially destructive as mining.

- **Long-Term Financial Security of the Project.** The EIR needs to examine the financial capacity of the applicant to ensure continued viability of the project and uninterrupted funding for mitigation measures adopted as conditions of approval. Rise Gold Company was formed a few short years ago for the express purpose of providing core samplings from the Brunswick Annex of the Idaho-Maryland mine. This company appears to have no experience in reopening an abandoned mine and subsequently operating the mine successfully. This is especially critical given the fact that the mine itself was closed in 1956 because there were no known remaining reserves.

Should you wish to contact us directly for any clarification, please contact Richard Merrifield at rmerrifieldz@gmail.com. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Richard Merrifield, on behalf of:

Silk Tassle-Side Hill Circles Homeowners, Nevada City, CA 95959

Cc: Greg Wilbur / Peggy Davidson, 12419 Silk Tassle Circle

Gloria Anthony / Steve Valdevisio, 12410 Silk Tassle Circle

Kate Richiger, 12437 Silk Tassle Circle

Ed & Marilyn Arroyo, 12434 Silk Tassle Circle

Rich Bulotti, 12464 Silk Tassle Circle

Roland & Linda Rouda, 11649 Side Hill Circle

Gary & Juliette Nowak, 11668 Side Hill Circle

Richard Merrifield / Laura Ericson, 11630 Side Hill Circle

Eli & Sara Botrell, 11551 Side Hill Circle

Richard & Laurie Whitsel, 11552 Side Hill Circle

Paul & Shelly Andersen, 11524 Side Hill Circle

Gordon Sakaue, 11531 Side Hill Circle

From:	Rick Merrifield
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Peggy Davidson; sierraheritage22@gmail.com; steventroy61@gmail.com; rrichiger@sbcglobal.net; marilyn_arroyo@hotmail.com; godcntry@sbcglobal.net; lolo8888@msn.com; Linda Rouda; Gary & Juliette Nowak; Home; Laura Ericson; Sara Bottrell; Eli Bottrell; lauriewhitsel@comcast.net; spand_01@sbcglobal.net; shellymandersen@gmail.com; gtsakaue@gmail.com
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:58 AM
Attachments:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Comments - signed.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley;

Please see the attached comment letter from the dozen homeowners of the Silk Tassle-Side Hill Circles neighborhood regarding the scope and content of the draft environmental impact report for the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Richard Merrifield

11630 Side Hill Cir, Nevada City, CA 95959
rmerrifieldz@gmail.com
805-705-1029

From:	Hunter Merritt
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Mine permit application
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:20:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley -

My name is Hunter Merritt and I oppose the Tentative decision to permit mining in the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

The damage to the environment is unquestionable and irreversible, and years of mining have proven that the companies do not clean up the areas they mine.

The area in question is much more valuable to the recreation interests and environmental quality from the barely healed earth, scarred from the 100+ years of mining (1866-1955) in the area.

I would like to see an analysis of the area for its potential as open space and recreation area, were a company to invest as much in visitor use infrastructure (trails, bathroom facilities, parking, interpretive signs) as this company proposes to invest in resuming mining. What would the ROI be if someone invested in recreation vs extractive industries?

Thank you for your consideration,

HM
916-873-6253

From: Lou Meyer
To: Matt Kelley; bdofsupervisors
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:21:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal
Mr. Kelley and Nevada County Supervisors,

Please find below a letter from Tony Lauria regarding concerns about the Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening. I share his concerns and I, also would like you to investigate these issues thoroughly, before making any decisions on this matter. I trust that you will recognize the irreversible impact that this project would have on this community and the lack of any positive gain to Nevada County. Thank you for your compassionate efforts and application of common sense.

Regards,

Lou Meyer
Grass Valley

Please read Tony's letter, below:

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.
The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.
It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated

with this proposal.
Analysis and Reports necessary:
1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.
2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.
3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and

on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.

Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water,

daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and

inspire tourism?
These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.
This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making its profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.
Will the Rise Company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value?
How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which have occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?
There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.
As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?
Tony Lauria

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP

396 HAYES STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
T: (415) 552-7272 F: (415) 552-5816
www.smwlaw.com

ELLISON FOLK
Attorney
Folk@smwlaw.com

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Re: Comments on Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelley:

On behalf of Community Environmental Advocates Foundation ("CEA Foundation"), we write to provide comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project ("IMM Project" or "Project").

The Project involves the reopening and expansion of a large-scale gold mining operation, with gold mineralization processing and underground mining proposed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week under an 80-year permit. NOP p. 2. Project facilities and operations would span two separate project sites, the Brunswick Industrial Site and the Centennial Industrial Site, both of which are located in close proximity to the City of Grass Valley, and the Project would entail mining of 2,585 subsurface acres to which the applicant holds mineral rights. NOP p. 1. The NOP lists many potentially significant probable environmental effects from the Project, including but not limited to impacts to air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, public services and utilities, transportation, and wildfire. NOP p. 11.

Given the large scale of the Project, its location in close proximity to existing residential and other land uses, and the inherent dangers and environmental harms associated with underground mining activities, there is a great deal at stake for the surrounding community. The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts of the IMM Project. In the EIR for the Project, the County must provide detailed analysis about the Project's environmental impacts for both the public and for decision makers; evaluate alternatives to the proposed Project; and consider any and all potentially feasible mitigation measures to lessen or avoid the Project's significant impacts.

Informed decision-making and informed public participation are fundamental purposes of the CEQA process. *See Union of Med. Marijuana Patients, Inc. v City of San Diego* (2019) 7 Cal. 5th 1171, 1184-1185; *California Bldg. Indus. Ass'n v Bay Area Air Quality Mgmt. Dist.* (2015) 62 Cal. 4th 369, 381; *Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of University of California* (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376, 404. The public must have a meaningful opportunity to comment on a draft EIR. *See Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of University of California* (1993) 6 Cal.4th 1112, 1120, 1129. Informed decision-making and meaningful public input will only be possible if the EIR comprehensively discloses and rigorously evaluates the Project's environmental impacts, potential mitigation measures and Project alternatives as required by CEQA. Following are specific comments relating to the scope of the EIR and the impacts that it must address.

Project Description and Setting Information

One of CEQA's fundamental requirements is that an EIR contain an accurate and complete project description. *See County of Inyo v. City of Los Angeles* (1977) 71 Cal. App. 3d 18; *see also* 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15124 ("CEQA Guidelines"). A clear and comprehensive project description is essential for meaningful public review. Without it, the public cannot be assured that the environmental impacts of the entire Project have been considered in the EIR.

Here, the NOP improperly excludes the proposed cleanup of the Centennial site from the scope of the Project's environmental review, contending that Rise Gold's cleanup of contamination on the site pursuant to a voluntary agreement with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is separate from the Project. NOP p. 5. The NOP does not list any regulatory approvals from DTSC among the approvals required for the Project. NOP pp. 9-11. However, the cleanup of the Centennial site, subject to a DTSC-approved Remedial Action Plan, is a necessary prerequisite to the other components of the IMM Project: neither the Project's proposed use of the Centennial site as a dumping area for engineered fill nor the site's eventual reclamation for other uses will be possible unless the cleanup is completed. The Preliminary Endangerment Assessment submitted to DTSC contemplates that engineered fill from the IMM Project may be used to cap the site as part of the Centennial cleanup, but existing contamination at the site must be remediated first. The EIR cannot merely *assume* that the proposed Centennial cleanup will be completed.

Based on recent testing, DTSC has determined that contaminated mine tailings at the Centennial site contain lead, arsenic, nickel, and mercury at hazardous levels. The Project proposes to use the Centennial site for disposal of mine waste rock and tailings as "engineered fill" over a 44-acre area. However, the NOP acknowledges that "the majority of the Centennial Industrial Site currently cannot be developed due to unstable soils and/or contamination." NOP p. 5. Project documents indicate that existing mine tailings on the site are not structurally adequate to support the proposed dumping of fill, so they must be excavated before the dumping can take place. *See* Centennial Industrial Site Geotechnical Report. The tailings may need to be

removed and then remixed with other aggregates before they would be stable enough to build upon as planned. The applicant has not yet indicated what procedures will be used to remediate the contaminated tailings before new fill from the Project operations can be deposited.

Where two actions are integrally related or where one project is conditioned on another project, they must both be considered together in an EIR. *See, e.g., Nelson v County of Kern* (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 252; *Tuolumne County Citizens for Responsible Growth, Inc. v City of Sonora* (2007) 155 Cal.App.4th 1214. Piecemeal environmental review that breaks up projects into smaller pieces to evade a complete analysis is not permitted under CEQA. *See Christward Ministry v Superior Court* (1986) 184 Cal.App.3d 180, 193; *Bozung v LAFCO* (1975) 13 Cal.3d 263, 283. The IMM Project EIR should evaluate the cleanup of the Centennial site as an integral part of the Project.

The DEIR must also include a thorough description of the Project's environmental setting. An EIR's description of a project's environmental setting crucially provides "the baseline physical conditions by which a lead agency determines whether an impact is significant." CEQA Guidelines § 15125(a). "Without a determination and description of the existing physical conditions on the property at the start of the environmental review process, the EIR cannot provide a meaningful assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposed project." *Save Our Peninsula Committee v. Monterey Cnty. Bd. of Supervisors* (2001) 87 Cal.App.4th 99, 119. The DEIR must describe the close proximity of Wolf Creek to both the Brunswick and Centennial sites, as well as the Project's location relative to the City of Grass Valley and existing land uses in the area, including residential uses. The Brunswick site is surrounded on all sides by low-density residential development. Land Use Technical Study p. 2. The EIR must fully disclose the exposure of these surrounding land uses to Project impacts.

Alternatives

CEQA requires that an EIR analyze a range of reasonable alternatives to the project. The alternatives must feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives while avoiding or substantially lessening the project's environmental impacts. *See* Public Resources Code § 21100(b)(4); *see also* CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(a). The CEQA Guidelines state that the selection and discussion of alternatives should foster informed decision-making and informed public participation. *See* CEQA Guidelines § 15126(d)(5). The NOP notes that the EIR will include an analysis of alternatives to the proposed project, consistent with the CEQA Guidelines, but gives no indication as to what alternatives may be considered. NOP p. 11. In addition to a "No Project" alternative in which the mine is not reopened, the EIR must also include alternatives that entail a smaller Project size, alternative locations for the aboveground mining facilities proposed for the Brunswick site, and alternative locations for the dumping of waste rock and tailings from the mine.

Analysis of the Project's Probable Environmental Effects

An EIR must provide a degree of analysis and detail about environmental impacts that will enable decisionmakers to make intelligent judgments in light of the environmental consequences of their decisions. CEQA Guidelines §15151; *Kings County Farm Bureau v. City of Hanford* (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 692. To this end, the lead agency must make a good faith effort at full disclosure of environmental impacts. Both the public and decisionmakers need to fully understand the implications of the choices that are presented related to the project, mitigation measures, and alternatives. *Laurel Heights Improvement Ass'n v. Regents of University of California* (1988) 6 Cal.4th 1112, 1123.

The NOP states that the DEIR will address the Project's effects on air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, geology, soils, and mineral resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and population and housing, noise, public services, utilities and service systems, transportation and wildfire. NOP p. 11. CEQA requires that the DEIR fully disclose and rigorously analyze Project impacts in each of these areas, some of which are discussed below.

Air Quality

The EIR must comprehensively identify and analyze each source of emissions generated by the IMM Project which would impact air quality, including tailpipe emissions from trucks, heavy equipment and other vehicle traffic. The Project would result in a constant flow of heavy truck traffic, up to 100 round trips per day, 7 days per week, and 170 daily vehicle trips by mine employees on weekdays. Project Description p. 22, NOP p. 8. The EIR must consider the air quality impacts of fuel burned by these vehicles, taking into account total vehicle miles travelled (VMT) on trips to and from the Project site as well as emissions at the site. The Project description also notes that heavy equipment on the site will burn diesel fuel, and that the Project will include a large diesel-fired generator. Project Description pp. 9, 15, 19-20. The EIR must evaluate the air quality effects of this diesel fuel combustion at the Project site. The EIR must also analyze impacts to air quality caused by airborne dust from drilling, detonation of explosives, grading, hauling, and aboveground processing of mine waste and gold. The project description notes that extensive dust suppression measures will be required (Project Description p. 20), and the EIR must evaluate the effectiveness of those measures.

The EIR must pay particular attention to the Project's emissions of criteria air pollutants. The Project's air quality technical report concludes that "[d]uring construction and operations, daily unmitigated emissions of ROG, NOx, and PM10 would be potentially significant (Level A or B) according to the NSAQMD [Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District] significance criteria." Air Quality and GHG Emissions Analysis Technical Report p. v. The technical report notes that "[a]ccording to NSAQMD guidance, emissions exceeding the Level A significance threshold would contribute to existing nonattainment conditions and may also

interfere with the region's ability to maintain ambient air quality standards if no mitigation is implemented." *Id*. The EIR must rigorously evaluate these impacts and analyze the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

The EIR must describe existing air quality in Nevada County and consider the cumulative effect of the Project's air quality impacts together with other air pollution sources in the region. Nevada County is a designated nonattainment area for the California ambient air quality standards for PM10 and ozone. Air Quality and GHG Emissions Analysis Technical Report p. 16. The western portion of Nevada County is also a designated nonattainment area for the federal ozone standard. *Id*. It will therefore be especially important that the DEIR contain a thorough analysis of the Project's cumulative impacts to air quality.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The EIR must thoroughly evaluate the IMM Project's impacts on water quality and hydrology, including whether the IMM would result in the violation of any water quality standards, result in substantial new amounts of polluted runoff, deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge.

The Project likely poses substantial risks to water quality in Wolf Creek and other watercourses. The NOP indicates that Project facilities would be constructed in close proximity to South Fork Wolf Creek at the Brunswick site, and that dumping of mine waste and other Project operations on both the Brunswick and Centennial sites would also occur close to South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek respectively. NOP pp. 2, 7, 17-19 (Figs. 5-7). The NOP notes that the Project would require County approval of development within the required 100-foot setback from the high water mark of existing perennial streams, 100 feet from all Wetlands and Riparian Areas and 50 feet from the high water mark of Intermittent Streams. NOP p. 9. The Project would also require the County to approve development within the required 100-foot setback of a 100-year floodplain for Wolf Creek. NOP p. 10. However, the EIR may not rely on any of these regulatory approvals to conclude that water quality impacts would be less than significant.

Dumping and grading of waste rock and tailings in large piles of "engineered fill" in close proximity to Wolf Creek and South Fork Wolf Creek poses substantial erosion risks, which may further exacerbate stormwater runoff issues and impact water quality. The Project would require the County to approve development within areas of slopes that are in excess of 30% or in areas determined to have highly erodible soils, pursuant to the County Land Use and Development Code. NOP p. 10.

The Project would require dewatering of currently-flooded underground mine workings, which are likely to contain contaminated mine tailings, as well as continuous dewatering during mine operations. The NOP indicates that approximately 2,500 acre-feet of groundwater would be pumped from the underground mine workings over a six-month period and deposited into an

existing clay-lined settling pond for water treatment, which has a capacity of only 40 acre-feet. NOP p. 3. The NOP indicates that the Project would include a water treatment plant adjacent to the existing pond on the Brunswick site, and that wastewater from the treatment plant would be discharged directly into South Fork Wolf Creek via an aboveground pipe. NOP p. 2.

The DEIR must comprehensively evaluate the potential water quality impacts of these activities, including the potential for leakage from the clay-lined settling pond, the adequacy of the proposed water treatment plant in treating contaminated water pumped from the mine, potential contamination of Wolf Creek and South Fork Wolf Creek from the dumping of mine waste on adjacent fill sites, and the environmental effects of wastewater discharge into South Fork Wolf Creek, which may be exacerbated by seasonal variations in water levels. Notably, Wolf Creek is used for water transport by the Nevada Irrigation District (NID), contributing to large seasonal changes in water flow. The EIR must determine whether the Project would violate any water quality standards, and must consider the Project's cumulative effects on water quality together with other development.

The EIR must also analyze the Project's effects on groundwater levels. The Project would consume an estimated 123,000 gallons of groundwater per day. Project Description p. 20. The EIR should consider the potential effects of this consumption on groundwater recharge and long-term groundwater supplies, taking into account seasonal variation in water levels.

Noise

The EIR must consider the Project's likely noise impacts over its 80-year lifespan. The NOP states that for the duration of the Project's 80-year permit, mining operations and aboveground gold processing operations will take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and that trucks will haul fill and gold concentrate from the site between 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM, 7 days a week. NOP pp. 2, 8, Table 4. It also indicates that grading and compaction of rock fill using heavy equipment will occur 7 days a week at the Centennial and Brunswick sites until the fill dumping areas on both sites are at capacity. *Id*. The NOP also notes that the Project will routinely detonate explosives including ammonia nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) and packaged or bulk emulsion explosives. NOP pp. 3-4. The EIR must carefully analyze the impacts of the noise generated by all Project activities, and the effects on nearby sensitive receptors, including homes in nearby residential areas such as the residential zones surrounding the Brunswick site.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy

Project documents indicate that Project operations would produce approximately 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per year, including fuel for equipment, electricity, and other operational uses. Air Quality and GHG Emissions Analysis Technical Report pp. 73-74. The DEIR must adequately analyze how the increase in Project-generated GHG emissions would contribute to climate change. This analysis is particularly important

because existing conditions are such that we have already exceeded the capacity of the atmosphere to absorb additional GHG emissions without risking catastrophic and irreversible consequences. Therefore, even seemingly small additions of GHG emissions into the atmosphere must be considered cumulatively considerable. *See Communities for a Better Environment v. Cal. Resources Agency* (2002) 103 Cal.App.4th 98, 120 ("[T]he greater the existing environmental problems are, the lower the threshold for treating a project's contribution to cumulative impacts as significant."); *see also Center for Biological Diversity v. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (9th Cir. 2007) 508 F.3d 508, 550 ("[W]e cannot afford to ignore even modest contributions to global warming.").

To this end, the DEIR must also specifically analyze how the Project would comply with AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which requires the State of California to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels no later than 2020. In addition, the DEIR must analyze the project's consistency with Executive Order (EO) S-3-05 which calls for reducing GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and EO B-30-15, signed by the Governor in 2015, which establishes an interim target to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. It will be critical that the mitigation measures for the Project ensure that GHG emissions are reduced to less than significant levels.

The EIR must also analyze the Project's energy consumption. As noted above, Project operations will require extensive consumption of diesel fuel to power trucks and heavy machinery. *See* Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report, Appendix A. The project description also states that the Project will have a total connected electricity load of approximately 10 megawatts (MW) and a net electricity load of 6 MW, with backup power provided by four diesel generators with a combined 6 MW capacity. Project Description p. 20. The Project's electricity utilization is estimated at 42,757,000 Kilowatt-Hours (KWH) per year. *See* Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report, Appendix A, "Utility-Provided Electricity for Facility." This is equivalent to the electric usage of about 5000 houses. The EIR must comprehensively evaluate the environmental impacts of this energy consumption.

Biological Resources

The Project is likely to cause extensive impacts to biological resources, which must be carefully analyzed in the EIR. The NOP indicates that the Project will disturb 104 acres of the 175-acre combined site area, and will include construction of Project facilities, grading and fill of mine waste, and Project operations in close proximity to Wolf Creek, whose riparian area contains sensitive special-status plant species. NOP p. 2. As discussed below, the Project would also likely have substantial water quality impacts due to the discharge of wastewater from the mine into South Fork Wolf Creek, which could further impact aquatic and riparian habitat and wildlife species.

The EIR must comprehensively analyze the Project's impacts on biological resources, as well as the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts together with other development in the area. This analysis will be essential to development of effective mitigation measures to ensure that impacts on biological resources will be fully offset. This detailed analysis must be prepared by a qualified, independent biologist. The biological resources study must be based on surveys and detailed field studies that are completed at appropriate times of the year for each species potentially in the area. The DEIR must also include wetland delineations to the extent they have been completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mitigation measures for impacts to biological resources should be supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The EIR may not defer development of mitigation measures until after Project approval.

Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources

The EIR must comprehensively evaluate Project impacts on geology and soils. The Project will require the disturbance of existing contaminated soil and mine tailings at the Centennial site. As discussed above, the NOP improperly excludes analysis of the Centennial cleanup from the scope of the EIR. The NOP must also address the potential for soil contamination or instability that may result from the dumping of newly-excavated mine waste in piles of "engineered fill" on the Centennial and Brunswick sites. The NOP suggests that the Project may present substantial soil erosion risks. The Project would require the County to approve development within areas of slopes that are in excess of 30% or in areas determined to have highly erodible soils, pursuant to the County Land Use & Development Code. NOP p. 10.

The EIR must also rigorously analyze potential geological impacts resulting from subsurface tunneling and mining activities. The Project will entail underground tunneling and mining of the 2,585 subsurface acres to which the applicant holds mineral rights, which will involve the use of powerful explosives to continuously expand the tunnel network. NOP pp. 3-4. The EIR must evaluate the potential for tunneling and detonation of explosives to cause ground tremors, earthquakes, fractures, subsidence, collapse, and other seismic and geological changes.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The Project will entail the extensive use, transportation and storage of hazardous materials, and will also disturb existing hazardous materials at the Project sites. It is essential that the DEIR comprehensively analyze these impacts and their potential effects on the surrounding community. As noted above, the Project will require the disturbance of existing contaminated mine tailings at the Centennial site, which DTSC has determined contain hazardous levels of arsenic, lead, nickel, and mercury. Large quantities of explosives, including ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate and Fuel Oil), and Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion, will be regularly transported to the site and stored onsite until they are detonated in the mine. NOP pp. 3-4. Diesel fuel will also be

stored onsite in a 30,000 gallon aboveground storage tank (NOP p. 6), and hazardous chemicals will be stored and utilized for processing the gold.

The NOP notes that the Project would require development within a Seismic Hazard Zone and Earthquake Fault Line, and thus requires County approval pursuant to the County Land Use and Development Code. NOP p. 10. The DEIR must evaluate the potential hazards that could occur in the event of an earthquake, including the possibility of subsidence or collapse of underground mining tunnels, including the 73-mile network of existing tunnels as well as newly constructed tunnels. Because the Project's 2,585 acres of subsurface mining rights extend far beyond the surface sites, the EIR must consider potential earthquake-related risks across all of this area, and not only at the Brunswick and Centennial sites.

Land Use and Housing

The DEIR must evaluate the Project's consistency with existing and proposed Nevada County land use planning and policy documents and land use regulations. The NOP indicates that the Project would require the County to rezone the Brunswick Industrial Site from Light Industrial (M1) with Site Performance Combining District (SP) to Light Industrial (M1) with Mineral Extraction Combining District (M1-ME) to allow for surface mining facilities related to the underground mining operations. NOP p. 9. The DEIR must analyze the potential effects of this rezoning and its consistency with the County's General Plan and other policy documents.

The DEIR's land use analysis must also consider the Project's consistency with existing and proposed City of Grass Valley land use planning. The Project proposes to reclaim the Centennial and Brunswick sites and grade "engineered fill" on the sites so that those areas would be "suitable for future industrial uses" following the closure of the mine, as permitted by the County's current industrial zoning of the site. NOP pp. 8-10. The NOP indicates that a majority of the aboveground facilities and structures would remain to support future post-mining industrial uses. NOP p. 8. However, because the Project sites are located within the City of Grass Valley's Sphere of Influence, the EIR must consider the possibility that the City may annex the sites, and must evaluate the Project's compatibility with potential future City-zoned land uses in the area, including non-industrial uses. Nevada County General Plan Policy 1.8.3 requires the County to consider future City zoning in spheres of influence, providing that "[w]ithin the City/Town spheres of influence, the Nevada County General Plan Land Use Maps will generally reflect the City's/Town's General Plan land use mapping."

The Project's Land Use Technical Study notes that the Centennial Industrial Site is adjacent to the Grass Valley city limits and within the City's near-term annexation timeline, while a portion of the Brunswick site is located in the City's long-term annexation timeline. Land Use Technical Study p. 1. While the County has zoned the sites as industrial, the City of Grass Valley's prezoning has designated those areas for non-industrial uses, including business park and urban medium-density residential. (Notably, the Brunswick site is surrounded on all sides by

low-density residential development. Land Use Technical Study p. 2.) Thus, if the Project sites are annexed, industrial development at the sites may be inconsistent with future City zoning, a possibility which the EIR must address. The Project should not preclude the City's intended future uses of the sites for less intensive, non-industrial purposes. This would impede Nevada County General Plan Policy 1.8.3, which provides that "the County's Plan will not preclude implementation of the City's/Town's Plan by providing for a significantly more intensive land use than the City's/Town's Plan." The EIR must consider whether the cleanup of the Centennial site (pursuant to the applicant's agreement with DTSC) and the ultimate reclamation of the Centennial and Brunswick sites should meet a higher standard that would make the sites suitable for non-industrial land uses, including business park and urban medium-density residential uses. If the Centennial cleanup plan does not decontaminate the site to a sufficient level to allow business park or urban medium-density residential uses, further land use study should be conducted and changes in land use designation should be approved before implementing a cleanup plan to "industrial" standards.

Public Services and Utilities

The DEIR must analyze the Project's demand for all essential public services, including police, fire, and emergency response services, and for utilities including water and electricity. In addition, the DEIR must analyze the cumulative demand for these services, utilities and facilities.

The DEIR must include a comprehensive water supply assessment that takes into account Project impacts on water service utilities and water supplies. The Project would purchase up to 5,700 gallons per day of potable water from the Nevada Irrigation District to serve facilities at the Brunswick site and up to 42,000 gallons of water per day for operations at the Centennial Site. Project Description p. 20. The Project also proposes to extend the existing Nevada Irrigation District potable water pipeline for over a mile along East Bennett Road to provide water supply to residences whose existing water wells may be affected by the mining operations, thus further increasing demand for public water service. NOP p. 7; Project Description p. 16. The DEIR must consider the capacity of existing service providers to serve Project water demand as well as additional residential customers who would connect to the extended water pipeline.

The DEIR must also evaluate the Project's likely need for and impact on emergency services, considering the likelihood and potential frequency of accidents or other emergencies at the Project site. Project documents indicate that the Project staff will include a mine-rescue team, Project Description p. 22, but the EIR must consider the limitations of this team and the potential need for outside emergency responders. It must provide information about the current levels of service and response times for fire, police and emergency services in the area. A detailed analysis of Project and cumulative development demands must be included in order to determine whether there will be a need for expansion of services. Where expansion of services would have environmental impacts, the DEIR must analyze those impacts as well.

Transportation and Traffic

The DEIR must thoroughly evaluate the Project's impacts on transportation and traffic, including emergency access. The Project would result in a constant flow of heavy truck traffic between the Centennial and Brunswick sites, as well as other truck traffic hauling mine waste and gold from the site and vehicle traffic generated by mine employees. Waste rock and tailings from the mine would be transported along local roads by trucks making up to 100 round trips per day, 14 hours per day, 7 days per week. Project Description p. 22, NOP p. 8. Employee vehicle traffic at the Brunswick site would generate over 170 trips per day on weekdays. Project Description p. 21. The EIR must consider the effects of Project-generated truck and vehicle traffic on road safety, traffic congestion, vehicle miles travelled, and emergency access. Under CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and not level of service is now generally considered the most appropriate measure of transportation and traffic impacts. The EIR must also analyze the effect of truck trips and other vehicle trips generated by the Project on the Project's air quality impacts and total GHG emissions (discussed above).

Wildfire

It will be imperative that the DEIR comprehensively address the Project's potential impacts on wildland fire risk, fire service response and evacuation. Because the Project would require the permanent storage of highly flammable materials at the site, including explosives, diesel and chemicals, it will be especially important for the EIR to evaluate the potential for wildfire ignition originating at the site. The EIR must evaluate the ability of fire protection services to respond to fires that may occur at the site, and must consider the effectiveness and limitations of fire suppression equipment or features proposed as part of the Project. The EIR must also evaluate the feasibility of evacuation from the Project site in the event of wildfire, and the potential cumulative effect of Project-generated traffic in contributing to traffic congestion on public roads during a wildfire evacuation.

Aesthetics and Visual Resources

The NOP omits aesthetics and visual resources from the list of "probable environmental effects" that will be analyzed in the EIR. However, the Project's structures and regraded areas of will reach a substantial height and will likely be visible from public roadways. The Project would require a variance to existing building height limits to allow for the construction of several structures up to a height of 165 feet in zones where the existing height limit is 45 feet. NOP p. 9. "Engineered fill" deposited on the Centennial site would reach a height of 80 to 90 feet above the existing grade. NOP p. 4. The DEIR must analyze the impacts of the proposed Project on aesthetics, including views of the site from surrounding roadways. This analysis must include clear graphics showing pre- and post-Project visual conditions.

Cumulative Impacts

The EIR must analyze the cumulative impacts of the Project in combination with the effects of other past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area. CEQA Guidelines §§ 15130(a), 15065(c). Projects currently under environmental review clearly qualify as reasonably probable future projects to be considered in a cumulative impact analysis. *See San Franciscans for Reasonable Growth v. City & County of San Francisco* (1984) 151 Cal.App.3d 61, 74 n.13. In addition, projects anticipated beyond the near future should be analyzed for their cumulative effect if they are reasonably foreseeable. *See Bozung v. Local Agency Formation Comm'n* (1975) 13 Cal.3d 263, 284. Therefore, even if the cleanup of existing contamination at the Centennial site is not considered part of the IMM Project and is considered a separate project, the combined effects of the Project and the Centennial cleanup must be considered in the EIR's cumulative impacts analysis.

Conclusion

The proposed Project is likely to have substantial environmental impacts, including impacts on air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials, water quality, land use, noise, public services, traffic, and wildfire. In light of these myriad environmental issues, the large scale of the Project, and its close proximity to existing residential and other land uses, it is essential that the EIR rigorously and comprehensively assess the Project. The County must provide detailed analysis of the Project's environmental impacts, evaluate alternatives to the proposed Project, and consider any and all potentially feasible mitigation measures to lessen or avoid the Project's significant impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please place Community Environmental Advocates Foundation and this office on the notice list for this Project and keep us informed of the release of the DEIR as well as all notices, hearings, staff reports, briefings, meetings, and other events related to the Project. Please send all relevant information to:

Ralph Silberstein
Community Environmental Advocates Foundation
P.O. Box 972
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
ralphasil@gmail.com

Ellison Folk
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
396 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Folk@smwlaw.com

Very truly yours,

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP

Ellison Folk
Patrick Woolsey

cc: Community Environmental Advocates Foundation

1273589.10

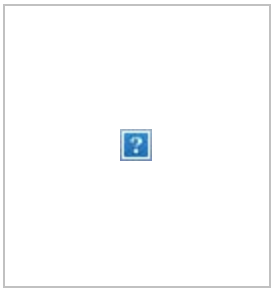
From: Jennifer Miao
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: Ellison Folk; Patrick Woolsey
Subject: Comments on Notice of Preparation of EIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:12:06 PM
Attachments: IMM NOP Comment Letter - 8-17-20.PDF

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Attached please find the **Comments on Notice of Preparation of EIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project** on behalf of the Community Environmental Advocates Foundation. Please confirm receipt of this letter.

Best,
Jen



Jennifer Miao
Legal Secretary
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
396 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA 94102-4421
p: 415/552-7272 x238 |
www.smwlaw.com | A San Francisco Green Business

-----Original Message-----
From: K M <kathiedirect@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:42 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am very concerned about the Idaho Maryland Mine reopening so close to local residents homes. It is very upsetting to know that our county would allow this to happen, impacting the quality of life and every day living of the people who live by the mine. Not only will the road be overloaded with heavy trucks all day and night, but the noise, the impact on the local well water, the environmental

concerns, as well as the drop in value of local residents homes are all very concerning. No one will want to live near the mine! Also, the company itself who wants to reopen the mine is another concern as they have already had several violations. Wouldn't they be on their best behavior to demonstrate they are worthy of upholding rules and regulations? The fact they they have violated rules even before the actual mine has opened is a huge issue. Please think about the quality of life our county wants to offer to residents and the lasting impact on our environment. Please do NOT open the mine!
Thank you,
Kathie Michaelides
18319 Blue Tent School Rd.
Nevada City, Ca 95959

From: robin@the-milams.com
To: Matt Kelley; Planning
Subject: Rise Gold Mine - We oppose
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:53:08 PM
Attachments: RiseGold Accountability signed Tom and Robin Milam.pdf
RiseGold EIR signed Tom and Robin Milam.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Brian Foss, Planning Director

We are asking you to stop the proposed dewatering and reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Do not recommend rezoning and do not recommend the Rise Gold Corporation to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

We have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine and are adamantly opposed to the mine reopening. We are both long time Nevada County residents and homeowners off Lost Lake and Greenhorn Roads.

The potential for a disastrous environmental impact stems from all aspects of the mine operations. Gold and mineral mining is a "dirty" industry that creates toxic waste and has a legacy of environmental contamination. Locally we understand the risk. We note the Centennial site requires cleanup of historical tailings and Lost Lake/Banner Lava Cap is an EPA Superfund site.

Furthermore, the Idaho-Maryland mine tunnels have been filled with water for almost 80 years and will require millions of gallons of continual dewatering. Water is our most critical life sustaining resource. It is a more valuable resource than gold. Reopening the mine poses a host of critical risks not the least of which is the impact to local and regional water in the face of a future in which water is becoming ever more precious.

We have attached two letters outlining our concerns and questions.

1. The first letter addresses questions about Rise Gold's commitment and accountability to our community. Given the history of Rise Gold's leadership, the only realistic conclusion is that our community has no assurance that in the face of irreparable harm, Rise Gold Corp will maintain responsibility and accountability to our community and ecosystems. In fact, we need to expect them to walk away which would leave our community ill equipped to handle the mess they abandoned.
2. The second letter raises questions for the Environmental Impact Report. Dewatering a mine will WASTE millions of gallons of water a day over for a decade or more. Why would any community do that when we are already dealing with water and watershed concerns that are projected to only continue to worsen. Why what we ask our local

water district to backfill for wasted precious water? We need NID focused on ensuring the health of our greater watershed, not attempting to backfill for water being pumped at rates proposed.

What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative – potentially disastrous impacts for our community and our greater watershed in both the short term and longer term. The only potential upsides being profit for the corporation (most of which will NOT stay in our community) and a questionable short-term profit for Nevada County. The long-term irreparable impact risk does not justify potential short-term revenues.

This proposal carries with it a high probability that if this mine runs into devastating impacts, Rise Gold will fold up and walk away leaving us and our beloved community bearing the brunt.

Please STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW and do not approve proposed rezoning or reopening of this mine.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Tom and Robin Milam

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EACH SUPERVISOR (5)

Tom and Robin Milam
530 263-1483 • robin@the-milams.com
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 14, 2020

Heidi Hall, District 1

Board of Supervisors, Nevada County
Grass Valley City Council
Matt Kelley, the Senior Planner of Nevada County

Subject: Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine - Accountability

We have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine and are adamantly opposed to the mine reopening. We are both long time Nevada County residents and homeowners off Lost Lake and Greenhorn Rd.

The potential for a disastrous environmental impact stems from all aspects of the mine operations. Gold and mineral mining is a "dirty" industry that creates toxic waste and has a legacy of environmental contamination. Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine poses a host of critical risks including accountability of the mining corporation.

This letter raises questions about **Rise Gold's long-term accountability** considering their history.

1. **How can our community be assured that Rise Gold/Rise Grass Valley assumes the FULL responsibility, accountability, and cost of preventing and mitigating a wide range of issues both identifiable now and the unknown?**

   a. **What vested interest does Rise Gold have in our Community?**

   Rise Gold Corp (formerly Rise Resources, Inc.) is an exploration-stage mining company incorporated in the state of Nevada, USA and is headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The company's CEO is Benjamin Mossman, a Canadian mining engineer. The company's principal asset is the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine purchased in January of 2017.

   Rise Grass Valley is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rise Gold Corp, also incorporated in the state of Nevada. Formed in December 2016, it is the named applicant for the permit application.

   This tiered corporate structure and Canadian headquarters raises questions about whether Rise Gold has a vested interest in our community. In the event of failing financial performance or an environmental disaster, are they prepared to maintain a long-term investment and accountability in our community? Their historical track record suggests not.

   b. **Should a mine failure or major contamination occur, what will prevent Rise Gold from declaring bankruptcy, dissolving the Rice Grass Valley entity, and abandoning our community as CEO Benjamin Mossman did with Banks Island Gold Mine?**

   The fact that the Centennial site needs contamination clean up after all these decades plus our own local Lost Lake / Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site are prominent reminders that failures do occur here at home. Furthermore, the Banks Island Gold Mine disaster is indicative of Benjamin Mossman's propensity to walk away when the going gets tough. Consider these actions taken under Benjamin Mossman's leadership:

   - Mining company's former president fined $15,000 for violating environmental legislation https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications/mining-company-former-president-fined-violating-environmental-legislation.html

Prince Rupert, British Columbia, CA – January 9, 2019, Environment and Climate Change Canada
On December 6, 2018, Benjamin Mossman, former president and CEO of Banks Island Gold Ltd., was ordered to pay a combined penalty of $15,000, in the Provincial Court of British Columbia, for violations of federal and provincial legislation. On July 13, 2018, Mossman was found guilty of one violation of the *Fisheries Act* ($7,500) and one violation of the provincial *Environmental Management Act* ($7,500).

On July 9, 2015, Environment and Climate Change Canada enforcement officers conducted a joint inspection on Banks Island with British Columbia's Conservation Officer Service; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. During the inspection, officers found evidence that Banks Island Gold Ltd. was discharging mine effluent into an unnamed creek and into Englishman Slough, both fish-bearing bodies of water. Mossman failed to notify any regulatory agencies of this issue, and, as a result, he was charged for and subsequently convicted of failing to notify a fishery officer or other designated person as required by the *Fisheries Act*.

- **GOLD: Banks Island files for bankruptcy** http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/news/gold-banks-island-files-for-bankruptcy/

  Vancouver, British Columbia, CA – January 11, 2016 by Canadian Mining Journal
  Banks Island Gold has filed for bankruptcy protection because it can no longer meet its obligations as they become due. D. Manning & Associations will act as trustee. Benjamin W. Mossman will remain president, CEO, and the sole director of the company. The rest of the board has resigned.

  Banks Island put its Yellow Giant project 120 km south of Prince Rupert on care and maintenance July 31, 2015. Commercial production was declared at the mine in January 2015.

  More information about the Yellow Giant project is posted at BanksIslandGold.com. [Note, this site no longer exists.]

The only realistic conclusion is that our community has no assurance that in the face of irreparable harm, Rise Gold Corp will maintain responsibility and accountability. In fact, we need to expect them to walk away which would leave our community ill equipped to handle the mess they abandoned.

In conclusion

What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative – potentially disastrous impacts for our community in both the short term and longer term. The only potential upsides being profit for the corporation (most of which will NOT stay in our community) and a questionable short-term profit for Nevada County. The long-term irreparable impact risk does not justify potential short-term revenues.

This proposal carries with it a high probability that if this mine runs into devastating impacts, Rise Gold will fold up and walk away leaving us and our beloved community bearing the brunt.

Please STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW and do not approve the reopening of this mine.

Most sincerely,

Tom and Robin Milam

Tom and Robin Milam
530 263-1483 • robin@the-milams.com
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 14, 2020

Heidi Hall, District 1

Board of Supervisors, Nevada County
Grass Valley City Council
Matt Kelley, the Senior Planner of Nevada County

Subject: Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Environmental Impact Report

We have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine and are adamantly opposed to the mine reopening. We are both long time Nevada County residents and homeowners off Lost Lake and Greenhorn Rd.

The potential for a disastrous environmental impact stems from all aspects of the mine operations. Gold and mineral mining is a "dirty" industry that creates toxic waste and has a legacy of environmental contamination. Locally we note the Centennial site requires cleanup of historical tailings and Lost Lake/Banner Lava Cap is an EPA Superfund site.

Furthermore, the Idaho-Maryland mine tunnels have been filled with water for almost 80 years and will require millions of gallons of continual dewatering. Water is our most critical life sustaining resource. It is a more valuable resource than gold. Reopening the mine poses a host of critical risks not the least of which is the impact to local and regional water in the face of a future in which water is becoming ever more precious.

This letter addresses questions relative to the **Environmental Impact Report.**

1. **From an EIR standpoint, all these areas and more need to be tested and clearly assessed:**
   - Poor air quality related to mining, waste rock and tailings removal, increased truck traffic, etc.
   - Pollution of our local creeks from mine water. The proposed treatment of water coming from the mine and increased flows will change and therefore endanger the natural habitat of Wolf Creek and beyond. Treatment of the water does not mitigate the impact to the natural habitat.
   - Greenhouse gas emissions generated by the tremendous amounts of energy used to extract tons of rock from depths of 5000 to 10,000 feet below surface level and pulverize them to extract the ore.
   - Noise pollution and vibration levels related to mining excavation/explosives, mineral processing, waste removal, traffic, etc.
   - Clean up of the current Centennial site and safe, effective ongoing cleanup of all mine operations and related sites estimated to be 1500 tons of waste rock and tailings removed a day.

2. **Without dewatering, what tests can be done to determine the stability of the mine shafts throughout the tunnels and thus the safety aspects of dewatering?**
   Testing water toxicity of the current state of the mine will reveal a set of diluted water numbers. Without dewatering, tests cannot reflect the residue levels of toxicity occurring from seepage, etc. after millions of gallons of water have been removed. Nor will Rise Gold know the stability of the tunnels until that point.

   What happens if after dewatering, the toxicity levels are too high and/or the tunnels are not stable? At that point damage to the habitat and potential damage to local wells will have already occurred.

3. **What will happen to our wells several years after the mine is in operation? Why would you consider pumping millions of gallons of water per day from our local underground aquifers for 11 years and then expect NID to provide water for those homes and properties whose wells cease to produce or are fouled?**
   - Rise Gold and NID have identified a small area around the site which is much too small a boundary.
   - Given the expanse of mining tunnels throughout our region (as demonstrated by the tunnel model on display at Empire Mine), what is the full potential impact to private wells in the area?

- Our home is less than 3 miles from the mine site. Our well is 630 feet with only a few gallons per minute. Many of our neighbors' wells are also already low performing.
- A dry well significantly devalues one's property and puts the onus for a new water source on the owner.
- Our home is beyond the range that NID has suggested they could provide water.
- Even if NID could extend its water systems infrastructure, what will be the cost/burden to NID's available water sources and the unknown impact of changing climate conditions? Who will pay for the infrastructure needed to expand NID's service?

4. **What will be the impact to our broader local watershed ecosystem? How can the EIR accurately assess the longer-term impact of 11 years dewatering millions of gallons of water per day.**
   As a community, we have been grappling with the projected impact of climate change and the unpredictable future snowpack will have on the watershed of Western Nevada County including surface and subsurface aquifers. As such, water is becoming an ever more precious resource. Disease, drought, and other watershed related issues have fueled major fire threats. The initial and continued dewatering of the mine will further stress our beautiful ecosystem and poses an unknown threat to local wells.

   We need NID focused on ensuring the health of our greater watershed, not attempting to backfill for water being pumped at rates proposed.

5. **What will be the impact to the Bennett Street Grasslands Preserve?**
   The Bennett Street Grasslands Preserve is a 7.64-acre Open Space Conservation Easement just below the Brunswick site and is bisected by South Wolf Creek. The preserve is owned by California State Parks and was a joint project of Bear Yuba Land Trust, State Parks and The Nature Conservancy. A small local treasure, the site hosts very large madrones, cottonwoods, and prime habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Birds, bears and small mammals frequent the meadows. Stands of native grasses and forbs cover the open meadows.

6. **What do traffic studies include with respect to a major fire disaster and evacuation in the Greenhorn/East Bennett/Brunswick area in addition to day to day impacts?**
   Fire season is upon us and our Firewise Communities are working actively with local officials to define evacuation plans and routes. In the event of evacuation, Greenhorn Road will be a seriously impacted. In a firestorm emergency, we could have over 1 thousand residents evacuating out Greenhorn to Brunswick. We are already extremely concerned about the number of vehicles that will be exiting that route. Add 250 employees of the mine and their trucks, it could exacerbate an extremely dangerous bottleneck.

In conclusion

What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative – potentially disastrous impacts for our community and our greater watershed in both the short term and longer term. The only potential upsides being profit for the corporation (most of which will NOT stay in our community) and a questionable short-term profit for Nevada County. The long-term irreparable impact risk does not justify potential short-term revenues.

This proposal carries with it a high probability that if this mine runs into devastating impacts, Rise Gold will fold up and walk away leaving us and our beloved community bearing the brunt.

Please STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW and do not approve proposed rezoning or reopening of this mine.

Most sincerely,

Tom and Robin Milam

From:	Joyce Miller
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Public Comment on the Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Planning Department
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, California 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you in advance for reading this. I emailed you once before about a planned development in my neighborhood, and I appreciated your thorough and prompt reply.

I'm writing you today to express my concerns about the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. I've lived in Grass Valley for more than 20 years. My husband is a fifth-generation resident of Nevada County. As a child, he heard the stamp mill at the Empire Mine from his house and played with his friends in tailing piles that are now being remediated for toxic chemicals. I believe it would be catastrophic if mining returned to this area.

Although I have a long list of concerns that I would like to see studied in the EIR, I'm primarily worried about water and air quality, noise, aesthetics, property values and the tourist economy. People are attracted to this area both as visitors and residents because of its beautiful forests and waterways. Both will be threatened by this project in ways that cannot be foreseen. We are already looking at fighting our way back from the damage wrought by the coronavirus pandemic; adding this mine to the mix will exacerbate the hit our county has taken.

I'm particularly concerned about the effect on our watershed. As I understand it, the plan is for millions of gallons of formerly contaminated water to be pumped into Wolf Creek. This would have to continue for decades for the mine to operate, and there is no telling how it will affect the creek, not to mention homeowners' wells. It is irresponsible to approve this project without a comprehensive and independent study of the effect on local water issues. It is not enough to use Rise Gold's submitted study, even after independent review.

I'm also concerned about the effect on air quality. I understand that arsenic and mercury are just two of the byproducts of this kind of mining. Our air quality in Nevada County is already poor due to high ozone levels. Who will want to visit an area where everyone is at risk for breathing toxic chemicals?

Gold mining is a determinative part of our county's history, but it should stay in the past. The environmental impacts of this project are not outweighed by the potential for a few jobs and filling the coffers of Rise Gold and its investors.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller
12247 Polaris Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95949

-----Original Message-----
From: Sue Miller <sierrasue@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: No to the Rise Gold Mine Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My husband and I live on Banner Mountain, and are adamantly opposed to the reopening of the mine. Water, noise, traffic, are all factors in our opposition.

The people of Nevada County would be much better served if you focused on developing alternative means of energy for the area.

Richard L. Miller
Susan A. Miller
11255 Banner Mine Way
Nevada City, CA

From: Carlyle Miller <carlyleholmes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Please Oppose Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I'm writing to urge you to please oppose the reopening of the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine. We in this county are already living with a devastating impact from past mining projects. From water pollution to dropping well levels to the increased incidence of cancers in our county, we are struggling to overcome this deadly legacy. Please do not take us back in

time on any progress we have made on these issues since the mine originally closed.

Sincerely,

Carlyle Miller
23 year Nevada County Resident
609 Redbud Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

From: Margie Milroy
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine impact
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:54 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

As a very concerned citizen of Nevada County I am terrified, perplexed and saddened at the proposed RISE Gold plans for opening the Idaho-Maryland mine. It will offer little to no positive contribution to our beautiful communities here in the Sierra Nevada foothills while imposing a slew of negative impacts on environmental and the quality of life here.

The following are among significant reasons to deny the reopening;

Water. I understand that toxic materials will be discharged into Wolf Creek at about 2500 gallons per minute until the mine is drained (flood stage for the creek) followed by 850 gallons per minute into Wolf Creek.

Earth. One million cubic yards of mining tailings would be deposited on the Centennial Industrial site located very close to my family's home.

Pollution. Because mining is a resource-intensive industry it will contribute to the carbon dioxide emissions world wide as well as locally. The daily estimated 25 metric tons of CO2 released into the atmosphere for producing the cement required to backfill the proposed mine plus operations that would use up to 12,000 fuel per day would release another 120 metric tons of CO2 contributing to polluting the earth's atmosphere.

These are just a few of the impacts that I know will degrade my choice of home in Nevada City.

Gold mining was a boon to growth in the beginning of settling this area, and then its impact grew to devastating proportions as any study of local history will testify. It seems the foothills have significantly recovered the environmental destruction. Please listen to the citizens who love living here and stop this travesty.

Thank you for considering the right thing to do.

Marjorie Milroy
11039 Miners Place
Nevada City, CA
--
Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: Susan Mincks <scmincks@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposed to Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am stronaly opposed to re-openina the Idaho-Marvland Gold Mine. The Canadian mining company; RISE Gold, proposes to reopen a long closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley, CA.

I am certain that Grass Valley and all of Nevada County will be better off in both the short term and the lona term WITHOUT the minina project. It is simply unacceptable to approve a project that would further increase air, noise, traffic and dust generated by the mine.

This project will:

- significantly and unavoidably increase local air pollution;

- increase noise, traffic and dust;
- drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality;
- inflict incessant blasting on the community;
- severely impact residential property values if they change the zoning from residential to industrial

My husband and I moved to Grass Valley seven years ago from Roseville because we wanted to be in the mountains, small community atmosphere, and more rural area. Then the county approves a "light industrial" facility at the corners of Greenhorn and Brunswick, which happens to be right next door to us! For three years now, we have had major dust and equipment noise from this construction site that starts at 6:00 am and continues all day. I can't imagine what a 24/7 operation would be like, with blasting, trucks coming and going at all hours of the day and night, hauling away dirt and rocks. This will severely impact our already congested little town!

Our community has the capacity, resources, knowledge and wisdom to create permanent, sustainable 21st century jobs and to stimulate the local economy in ways that will not negatively impact the health of our community. I wholeheartedly support bringing high technology jobs, alternative fuel R&D, solar cell development and other 21st century jobs into our area.

I watched the video of Benjamin Mossman, CEO of Rise Mine, speaking to investors in May of 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sInx2b268I. There is no mention of fractures and faults in the geologic description. Groundwater flow is dominated by these fractures, and a good hydro geologist will report this. There must be a NEW and updated Hydrology report done for ANY biased reports already submitted by Rise. I request that the county gets an **updated hydrology report** and that you look into the impacts mentioned above. I ask the Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to **REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the site, the project plan and any and all other applications for this purpose.**

Sincerely,

Susan Mincks
scmincks@gmail.com
530-274-1254

.

From: John Mincks <johndmincks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: John Mincks <johndmincks@gmail.com>
Subject: Idaho Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed the mine opening. I can not believe you would ever consider this. This will create alot of problems. With well water, traffic, Sink holes. Just a terrible idea. I live right at Burnswick and Greenhorn Road. Please do not do this.

John Mincks

12894 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
530 274 1254

From: John Mincks
To: Matt Kelley
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:05 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every prospective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

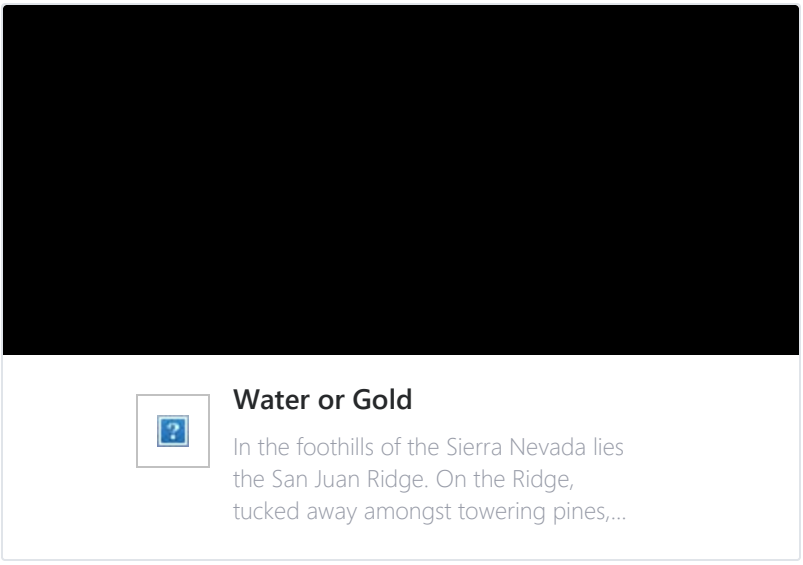
Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage

for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: Water or Gold



This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

John Mincks
12894 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

-----Original Message-----
From: Katie Minor <kminor8@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:06 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: kminor8@gmail.com
Subject: Rise gold

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,
As a Nevada county resident I would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposed mining operation at the Idaho-Maryland mine. I am not an environmental expert but I have seen the

horrible destruction mining has had on our beautiful county. I cannot believe that mining 24 hours a day, moving rock and dumping huge amounts of water into South Wolfe Creek can be done without causing major damage to our environment. No amount of Gold is worth forever ruining our remaining natural Habitats.

Sincerely,
Kathleen A. Minor
18033 Jayhawk Drive
Penn Valley, ca. 95946

916-919-0329

From:	Maureen Miranda
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	bdofsupsyoervusirs@co.nevada.ca.us
Subject:	Stop the mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:57 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aug 16 , 2020

Nevada Co. Planning Dept.

Matt Kelley Senior Planner

CC: Board of Supervisor

CC: Cea NC. org

To Whom it may concern:

I Am AGAINST the RE-OPPENING of the IDAHO MARYLAND MINE.

We have been residents of Grass Valley, living off Greenhorn Rd for the past 40 years. We vehemently oppose the proposal to open the Idaho Maryland Mine, that is being spearheaded by Ben Mossman of Rise Gold Co.

We believe that the consideration of this mine, if granted would have devastating and catastrophic effects on this community.

The environmental affects it would have on our water, atmosphere and wildlife, through the emissions of chemicals in the mining processes, would result in the contamination of ground water, surface water and soil. The atmosphere would have significant detrimental effect on human & animal health.

Statistically mining kills and injures more workers than any industry, nearly 15, 000 per year. There are estimations of 47,000 abandon mines spread throughout every county in CA, leaving the land decimated, abandoned and contaminated.

Mining is currently responsible for 4-7 percent of greenhouse gases.

Consider the impact of radioactive gases such as radon being emitted from the sludge in the tailing pond.

Other concerns, would be the possibility of sink holes and earthquakes.

"Mining accounts for the high number of human induced earthquakes worldwide.

The removal of the earth can cause instability, leading to sudden collapses that trigger earthquakes". National Geographic 2017.

On the other hand, tectonic earthquakes can collapse mine openings and tunnels with weak infrastructure. Mining would lower the water table causing the overlying rock and soil to collapse.

As is well known, sink holes are appearing more frequently each winter in Nevada county and Brunswick Rd. had a massive sink hole last winter. It was sheer luck that no one was injured.

How is it that Mr. Ben Mossman, CEO of Rise Gold Co. was able to acquire permits and reinitiate this mining project with no investigation of his previous business history?

Records show that he abandoned a mining project in Canada, and filed bankruptcy. He has 35 violations and fines, according to the Canadian Fisheries Environmental Management and Water Acts.

Mr. Mossman has already shown his disdain & disregard for this community by not complying with the Timber Harvest Plans rules, and regulations? Mr. Mossman also ignored riparian set back requirements for streams in Nevada County at his

East Bennett project.

This horrendous plan of reopening this mine with all the detrimental potential damage is unthinkable and unacceptable.

Property values in the vicinity of East Bennett, Brunswick, Idaho Maryland and Greenhorn will decrease and , What if we should have a fire disaster such as the devasting fire in Paradise, California.

No Water would be available. Traffic congestion including road damage are also major issues as well.

This proposal with all the toxic chemicals, the explosive materials being trucked, shipped and stored, is simply an accident waiting to happen.

PLEASE Stop the carnage that the re-opening of this mine will bring to this community.

Thank you for attention to this very important matter.

Deborah Shriver

Maureen Miranda

mozophoto1@yahoo.com

From: Selene Mitlyng <smselene@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:08 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, Matt,

The proposal only adds 312 jobs to the local economy (that's in the

proposal itself.) We do need local jobs but this level of disruption to all the people who live in the area (I don't but I sympathize with them.) is not worth 312 jobs. And that is to say nothing about the environmental impact and the constant noise and traffic that this project will create.

I strongly oppose this crazy project. It will wreck the whole area.

Thank you, Selene Mitlyng 530-264-8344

From: Pamela
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:28:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt, I apologize that I just found out about the possible reopening the mine. Is there any opportunity to submit public statements? I hope so. Right now, I see so much cooperation in our community. I think that we have to consider that people, in out community, that have fragile health, in the midst, of Covid, that exposure to silica dust will worsen both adults and children that have lung problem, (asthma, COPD, cystic fibrosis, to name a few). Right now, as a community, dealing with a pandemic. That's creating a lot of confusion and uncertainty.
If you get the chance to call me at (530-477-8673, or 530-263-6495), I appreciate your time!
Thanks, Pamela Montgomery

Sent from my iPhone

From: Krisha Montmorency
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Concern over proposed mining operations
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:35:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I write as a concerned citizen regarding the possibility of reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine. My husband and I are residents of Nevada City, and we visit Grass Valley regularly for shopping, to see friends, and attend events (when not in a pandemic!).

We are very opposed to the reopening of the mine. We are quite concerned about the environmental impact and unforeseen, long-term consequences of pumping out groundwater from 70 miles of abandoned tunnels into Wolf Creek above ground. By logic alone, a creek is not designed to suddenly have an extra 3.6 million gallons of water dumped into it daily. Plus, given that the original, 19th-century mining operations were conducted long before environmental conservation was a consideration, it's highly likely that the toxic chemicals used above ground have leeched into the soil and groundwater that will be removed and then deposited into the creek. Arsenic, cyanide, and mercury are still detectable in Deer Creek in Nevada City 60+ years after the closure of adjacent mining operations.

On a wider scale, California has already witnessed the problems that happen at the surface when groundwater is removed. The watering of crops in the Central Valley for several years using groundwater during the recent drought caused land above to become unstable and collapse in some areas. Why would we potentially do this to ourselves? Additionally, we are all well-aware that we live in a fire risk area. Removing vast amounts of moisture over time from our environment seems counterproductive to protecting our land and property. Groundwater is a natural occurrence in the Sierra foothills and should remain that way.

Additionally, we are concerned about the constant noise, traffic, and air quality. 24/7 excavation operations will mean that large trucks will be moving 1,500 tons of rock during approximately 100 round trips per day to dump sites, from 6:00 am - 10:00 pm. The resulting dust will no doubt contain the remnants of toxic chemicals from past mining operations. It is also estimated that mining operations will produce around 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. This is the pollution equivalent of suddenly adding 1,944 cars to our low-population area (epa.gov greenhouse gas calculator). This is awful and unacceptable.

This in turn will have a strong and negative effect on property values. Anyone living near the mine entrance will see their home values and lifelong investments plummet quickly. No one will want to live next to a property that gives off the roar of loud trucks from the crack of dawn, or hear any mining operations above or below ground, or produce the amount of pollution described above. I would expect that property values in Grass Valley overall will go down. Not good.

Another area of concern for us is the approximately 300 jobs that the mine will create is too small to create an economic benefit large enough to offset the loss of those property values.

Grass Valley and Nevada City have a combined population of approximately 16,000 residents. 300 jobs is only 0.03% of the population. It is estimated that most of these jobs will need to be recruited from outside of our area, so locals will largely not benefit. A 0.03% increase of the population is probably not enough to create a noticeable and systematic economic boom, either; i.e. increase in business in nearby restaurants, hotels, shops, etc. Besides, the people that will make the most money from all the extracted gold are the mine owners. They are not even an American company. Asking our community to accept huge amounts of noise, pollution, property value loss, and long term environmental impacts for little local economic benefit makes no sense.

I also wonder what potential tourists or weekenders will think. Will they want to visit a town that has an active mine, with all the associated noise and traffic? Would you? Probably not. I can see hoteliers, the local wineries, and other businesses that benefit from tourism being upset about this mining proposal as well.

Finally, I do not trust the CEO of Rise Gold to be honest with the community about his mining operations. Mr. Mossman has at least two environmental complaints against him from the Canadian government (see the May 15 article in The Union). That does not bode well for him to obey the laws here, either.

Our area has not been a mining or industrial area for decades. The recent advertisements placed in The Union by Rise Gold are attempts to paint a romantic picture of an era that is long gone. I can see straight through this propaganda, and I trust that you can as well. As a community, we have moved on. People live in and visit our idyllic area for its natural beauty, clear mountain air, lifestyle, the charms of Nevada City and Grass Valley, and proximity to Sacramento, the Bay Area, and the High Sierras. I would rather see Grass Valley and Nevada City invest in economic ventures that do not ruin our environment or property values for years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please vote against the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine to preserve our community and its future.

Regards,
Krisha Montmorency & Gabriel Sakakeeny
Nevada City Residents

Thomas Mooers

438 Kate Hayes Street, CA 95945 (530) 277-3524 tommooers@gmail.com

August 17, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Deliverd by email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please accept these brief comments on behalf of myself and my family regarding the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

We live on nearby Kate Hayes Street in Grass Valley; our youngest child attends school at Union Hill – about 0.5 miles from the proposed mining site.

The mine project would be wildly inconsistent with the County's General Plan and the vision it establishes.

On the first page of the General Plan we read that, "The County, in response to key issues affecting the County's quality of life, has established four central themes which articulate the vision for the development of the County."

The mine project, however, would be a direct threat to each one of those central themes:

1. "Fostering a rural quality of life;"
2. "Sustaining a quality environment;"
3. "Development of a strong diversified, sustainable local economy;" and
4. "Planned land use patterns will determine the level of public services appropriate to the character, economy and environment of each region."

Fostering a rural quality of life?
The project would introduce industrial uses and impacts to a quiet rural area.

Sustaining a quality environment?
The project would increase air pollution, threaten local watersheds, and destroy wildlife habitat.

Development of a strong diversified, sustainable local economy?
The project would hamper our ability to attract strong, "diversified" employees – the jobs of Nevada County's future; threatening, not developing, the long term health of our local economy.

Planned land use patterns will determine the level of public services appropriate to the character, economy and environment of each region?
The project is inconsistent with the "character, economy, and environment" of its region; modern, industrial mining operations have no place in the area's small town environment – characterized by residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and woodlands.

If the County further processes this misguided application, any adequate environmental review must include detailed, public assessment of the proposal's consistency with the County General Plan, as well as impacts on key local issues, with particular attention to surrounding neighborhoods and schools:

1. Aesthetics and Scenic Resources;
2. Air Quality and Public Health;
3. Open Space and Wildlife Habitat;
4. Recreation Opportunities and nearby State Parks;
5. Water Quality;
6. Transportation and Traffic;
7. Noise; and
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Cumulative Impacts on Climate Change.

Sincerely,



From:	Tom Mooers
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:17:53 PM
Attachments:	20 08 17 Thomas Mooers Letter re Mine NOP.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please accept the attached letter.

From: artofdavidmooney@aol.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:04:10 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley

My wife and I moved to this area twelve years ago to escape the overcrowding and unhealthy environment of the city (San Diego). We are extremely worried about the negative potential of allowing the Idaho-Maryland mine to be reopened, with it's many threats to the environment, including pollution of groundwater, traffic, and noise. I also wonder about the less-advertised light pollution caused by a 24-hour industrial project.

I hope the Environmental Impact Report does a responsible, thorough analysis of the possibility of groundwater pollution and a realistic assessment of the costs of supplying usable water to the residents in the area and along the entire watershed leading down the mountains to San Francisco. As with the hydraulic mining disaster of the 1800's, the environmental effects and the resulting lawsuits will not be simply local.

You should also investigate the threat to property values caused by traffic, noise, and light pollution and the costs of fully compensating homeowners.

Sincerely
David Mooney
Diane Nichols
14495 Manion Canyon Road
Grass Valley CA 95945

From: listeninghere <listeninghere@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Grass Valley Mine considerations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Brian, Planning Department, & Grass Valley Gold Mine involved parties,

NO, is this Nevada City resident's vote on reopening active mining. There is myriad research on human health and environmental damages from mining. New active mining is the LAST thing Nevada County needs or can even tolerate. It's egregious that active mining is even

being considered.

It's clear that pollution is a strong contributor to Covid-19 illness and deaths as credible research around the world has demonstrated. Planet cell life is being pushed to look for survival options as pollutant levels rise in our land, air, and water. A virulent virus is just one of the catastrophic results. Population density, agricultural pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and other air, water, and soil pollutions from a variety of sources are all contributing to the destabilization of human and environmental health.

Please stop any present plans to even consider reopening active mining that would send chemically treated water, soil, air, or debris into our environment. Nevada County needs to slow growth and recognize the valuable assets we have are largely dominated by our lack of density, our clean air, and recovering water and soil that is struggling to recover from the old mining damage that scared and poisoned our soil for a century or more to come.

Please consider whatever action is in your power to move toward more environmental protection for our community.

Thank you,

B. Moore
Gracie Road,
Nevada City, CA 95959
ListeningHere@gmail.com

From:	Bob Mora
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:59 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

TO: Matt Kelly, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

FROM: Robert Mora

11683 Alta Vista Ave.

Grass Valley, CA. 95945

Re: Development of Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelly;

I have been a resident and home owner in Nevada county since 1967 and have seen the county develop from a sleepy town to a culturally thriving small city, at least until the recent covid crisis. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine for a number of reasons.

1. The environmental costs: dust,noise, de-watering of the mine, trucks running 24 hrs. per day,rock crushing,etc.

2. Benefits for a few, costs for the rest of us. We are still paying for the mining of 100 years ago. Just a couple weeks ago there was an article in the Union newspaper about cleaning up at the Empire Mine paid for by who else, the taxpayers.

3. Our beautiful culture rich community. Our community has a rich arts scene; music, films, festivals, and other events that attract people to the area which is not compatible with a 24/7 mining operation. I urge the planning commission to vote NO on the opening of the Idaho Maryland mine.

Bob Mora
Third Degree Blues Band
http://www.thirddegreebluesband.com
bob@thirddegreebluesband.com
530-272-4595

From:	Bob Morgan
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Pros and Cons of the Rise Gold"s Project
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:38 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for considering the Rise Gold's project. I understand that you have to strike a balance from the much needed infusion of cash for the county and the potential environmental impact of an 80 year 24/7 mining project.

I realize that mining is huge historic foundation for our community. Even Nevada Union High School supports the heritage by calling the teams the Miners. I believe hard rock mining should be viewed as the past not the future of Nevada County.

The water and mineral impact is too great to deal with for the next 80 years and beyond. Nevada county households run on ground water and it is not possible to determine the massive effective of 80 years of dewatering shafts on the hydraulic infrastructure. I am sure that some county planner in the Dakotas believed fracking would have minimal impact on the water and mineral tables. Please visualize the impact over several hundred years rather than the term of your employment with this county.

Please review the injuries and one death that occurred at the 16:1 mine in the Alleghany Pike region recently. The company even attempted to side step having Workers Compensation Insurance by making the workers owners on paper. People suffered lifelong injuries as well as loss of life in the last 20 years without compensation. The 16:1 mine was in a constant fight to keep the operation running verses the mounting environmental violations.

Please physically visit the super fund sites of Banner Mines, Lost Lake, Empire Mine and Allison Ranch. The Rise Gold's project may dwarf the impact due to utilization of machinery and potential toxic practices not invented when the mines were closed. The mining practices of past did not realize that arsenic and mercury toxicity would contaminate lakes, rivers and streams for thousands of years with their practice. It is impossible to predict the negative effects of new technology on our delicate environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

--
Bob Morgan

From: NANCY MORRIS
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No Way - Please no Gold Mining Ops in our area anymore
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I lived for over 20 years in Marin County where there was a similar site (quarry in that case) with blasting noise day and night, huge trucks clogging the roadway, dirt and grime and diesel fumes along the streets/roadways. Right in a nice area of San Rafael, but the quarry been there, apparently, PRIOR to all the development. Not to mention what mining would do to our wells and waterways!

Please don't let that happen to our lovely area.

Thank you,
Nancy A. Morris
224 South Church St.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Rosemary Motz
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine project
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Rosemary Motz and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing. The truck traffic will detrementally affect our small roads and endanger neighborhoods.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Motz
Resident of Nevada County
remotz@yahoo.com

From: Christine Mulvey
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: re Proposed Idaho Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:49:31 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I write to submit for your consideration the reasons for my strong objection to the proposed Idaho Maryland Gold Mine in Nevada County. This mine makes absolutely no sense for anyone other than the corporation interested in developing it: Rise Gold Corp.

Nevada County is a perfect example of a Boom and Bust region that has over the last number of decades worked hard to recover its environment, its economy and the vibrancy of its community. The last thing we need is another mine that will re-pollute our environment and rivers, threaten our water supply, destroy open land, reduce the values of our property and fill our days with heavy traffic, traffic disturbance, loud noise and tons of tailings being dumped. And for what? A paltry amount of ore, a small number of jobs and whatever profit is made to be taken out of our community. It makes no sense at all.

The Environmental Assessment states that the project will involve toxic waste and potentially hazardous materials, more than 3,500,000 gallons of water a DAY are to be pumped for dewatering, existing streams will be interfered through the discharge of chemically contaminated waters, animals and plants, including rare/endangered species will be impacted negatively and there will be significant light pollution These factors alone are sufficient in my view to reject the proposed mine. As a property owner on Banner Mountain I know how insecure and fragile our aquifer is. A mine such as this truly threatens the supply of water to all the homes in the Brunswick, Banner Mountain and surrounding areas.

Our community is under enough economic stress at present with the virus and its impact on local businesses. The EA itself states that this development will not lead to economic growth for our community. Our best hope for economic recovery and future economic prosperity lies in the peace, beauty and attractiveness of our environment which can attract both new residents and significant numbers of tourists.

I call on you to ensure that full examination of all the above likely impacts of this mine on surface water, aquifers, land, air and community are fully and independently assessed. I urge you then to act in the interests of those of us who live in and who love this community, to protect our waters, guard against the destruction of our environment, and stand for the continuing prosperity of our economy and the existing quality of our lives by rejecting this proposed development completely.

Sincerely,
Cris Mulvey

Cris Mulvey

10559 Bragg Ave.,
Grass Valley,
Ca 95945

Ph: 530-955-5799

Contemplative moments are an act of resistance to a world that judges our value by our productivity and achievements rather than who we are.

RECEIVED
AUG 6 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Shelley and Joe Murdock
10481 Banner Mine Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 3, 2020

Board of Supervisor Members
C/O Clerk of the Board
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

Do you remember the Aesop Fable about the goose that laid golden eggs? The goose laid a golden egg every day but instead of enjoying this gift, the farmer became greedy and killed the goose expecting to recover numerous golden eggs. But when he opened up the goose, there was nothing there but goose guts. If the Risegold Mine is approved, it will be a reenactment of the goose and the golden egg in Nevada County.

Promises of golden eggs to come, in the form of jobs and tax revenue, are just enticements to get you to kill the goose for Risegold's enrichment. The Nevada City/Grass Valley is a wonderful "golden egg" with natural beauty, clean air, and friendly people. Heavy industry has no place here and will destroy the community and surrounding environment.

We are retirees who show our appreciation for our community in every way possible: local spending; volunteering; donating money and goods; and even adopting a stray dog. We are not unique. Almost everyone in our neighborhood makes similar contributions and more. The many friends we have made are equally generous with their time and money because we love our current community.

If the mine is approved and begins operations, the community will lose the support of most all the people we have been so fortunate to know in our time here. Those of us with the means will move elsewhere. Those unable to do so will live here in misery.

Please do not kill the goose to attempt to extract promised golden eggs. It didn't work for the farmer in the Aesop fable and it won't work for Nevada County.

Sincerely,

Shelley Murdock

Joe Murdock

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

August 7,2020

Matt Kelley- By Certified Mail & Regular Mail & Email.

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please Consider this Response to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application. ("Project"). We reside at 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959.

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which if permitted would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City, Nevada County and in its neighboring counties.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas, and fuel.
15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exists sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.

19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, including but not limited to, neighboring County agricultural communities.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State and local routes, roadways, and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley, including but not limited to, those traveled by local school bus routes.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

From: maryannemurphyesq <themislaw@protonmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: RISE GOLD- NOP Response/Murphy Response

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see the attached Response to NOP

Murphy Law Firm
336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 802-5313

direct (408) 921-2338

This communication is confidential and intended for the recipient only. I

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

Sierra Nevada Group/Sierra Club

Mother Lode Chapter
Post Office Box 1042, Nevada City, CA 95959

August 10, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner By Regular Mail & Email.

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste.170

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: Rise Gold

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please consider this the response by Sierra Nevada Group of the Sierra Club, comprised of 1400 members residing in Nevada, Yuba, Sierra and part of Sutter County, to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application ("Project").

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which, if permitted, would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities ' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures for each area of review.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in unincorporated and incorporated, Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences, including but not limited to, in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential Impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential Impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed and/or used for food growth and/or production.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas and fuel.

15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties including, but not limited to, Agricultural land used to grow and produce food.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exist sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential Impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.
19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State routes and roadways and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Z. Murphy

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

Conservation Committee

Cc: Nevada County BOS

From:	maryannemurphyesq
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Richard Thomas; bdofsupervisors
Subject:	Rise Gold NOP Response by The Sierra Club
Date:	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:37:39 AM
Attachments:	Final SC Rise NOP response 8_20 (1)F.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley, please find enclosed the The Sierra Nevada Group/Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter, response to NOP regarding Rise Gold's Application dated August 10, 2020. Thank you.

Maryanne Murphy
direct (408) 921-2338

This communication is confidential and intended for the recipient only.

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

From: maryanne murphy <themislaw@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Watch "Water or Gold" on Vimeo

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr.Kelley, I apologize for the typos in my communication to you below.
I am referring to the Gold mining application not labeled " Good".

Begin forwarded message:

From: maryanne murphy <themislaw@me.com>

Date: August 2, 2020 at 3:06:09 PM PDT
To: Matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
Subject: Watch "Water or Gold" on Vimeo

Watch "Water or Gold" on Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/120747168?ref=em-share

Mr. Kelley, it was my pleasure to speak with you very briefly about the proposed Idaho Maryland Good Mining Application. I am attaching a video of past contamination to a community because of gold mining in Nevada County. With this type of activity it is not a matter of "if" water contamination will occur it is a mater of "when". I do not see the benefit to us as citizens in having to address this risk.

I live at 13268 Woodstock Dr, Nevada City CA 95959. I wonder why we have not received input requests from the County about the EIR. The proposal for the Gold mining shows mineral boundaries that cover a wide range past The Greenhorn Area, and the issues of noise pollution habitat displacement, air pollution, water contamination treatment and runoff, land disturbance and rehabilitation is just 1/4 mile up from where I live. This is not to mention impact to regularly traveled streets such as Brunswick and Idaho Maryland. I also wonder if the developers who Plan residential developments at Brunswick Basin, which I understand has been approved, have received a letter from the County for input regarding the Plan.

In any event, here are my own immediate general reasons why the application is not feasible.

In this instance, the company is putting on a public relations video for investment purposes saying it will be easy to pass through the application.

Without Adequate public input and careful study of how its mitigation plan is not feasible along with other studied impacts of the plan, it just might.

The County must do its unbiased job, and not just accept the company's analysis that justifies its application, by doing an analysis and making a decision under the CEQA process.

I am onboard to oppose the application because I believe this is wrong for the residential and business communities of our area. Returning to an industrial gold mining community is not an option for me as it has failed us environmentally, doesn't offer economic progress for us as a community, and will offer few jobs by a foreign company located in Nevada that is funded by east coast investors.

..Totally for a few at the significant expense and personal sacrifice, safety, and risk for 2 major communities that already left gold mining a long time ago as a way of life. Our NID must be finding this difficult to comprehend. I am not shy in saying, that's a lot for us to handle.

80 years for this type of operation isn't a drop in the bucket it is a generational change that is permanent. A permanent change to our water system and services

that support it, land stability, air quality, quiet enjoyment of our lands, and lifestyle, and characterization of a community that seeks to be progressive and productive, not in political ideology do I mean, but in lifestyle, education, tourism, and in wanting a safe and reasonably priced value added place to live predominantly based on small businesses and a homespun atmosphere, recreation and a wholesome sustainable farm culture and life.

Do you all remember Paul Simon and his song " in my little town" don't go back there.

Best to you,
Maryanne Z Murphy Esq.
and Realtor #02004246

-----Original Message-----
From: maryanne murphy <themislaw@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Watch “Water or Gold” on Vimeo

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Watch “Water or Gold” on Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/120747168?ref=em-share

Mr. Kelley, it was my pleasure to speak with you very briefly about the proposed Idaho Maryland Good Mining Application. I am attaching a video of past contamination to a community because of

gold mining in Nevada County. With this type of activity it is not a matter of “if” water contamination will occur it is a mater of “when”. I do not see the benefit to us as citizens in having to address this risk.

I live at 13268 Woodstock Dr, Nevada City CA 95959. I wonder why we have not received input requests from the County about the EIR. The proposal for the Gold mining shows mineral boundaries that cover a wide range past The Greenhorn Area, and the issues of noise pollution habitat displacement, air pollution, water contamination treatment and runoff, land disturbance and rehabilitation is just 1/4 mile up from where I live. This is not to mention impact to regularly traveled streets such as Brunswick and Idaho Maryland. I also wonder if the developers who Plan residential developments at Brunswick Basin, which I understand has been approved, have received a letter from the County for input regarding the Plan.

In any event, here are my own immediate general reasons why the application is not feasible.

In this instance, the company is putting on a public relations video for investment purposes saying it will be easy to pass through the application.

Without Adequate public input and careful study of how its mitigation plan is not feasible along with other studied impacts of the plan, it just might.

The County must do its unbiased job, and not just accept the company’s analysis that justifies its application, by doing an analysis and making a decision under the CEQA process.

I am onboard to oppose the application because I believe this is wrong for the residential and business communities of our area. Returning to an industrial gold mining community is not an option for me as it has failed us environmentally, doesn’t offer economic progress for us as a community, and will offer few jobs by a foreign company located in Nevada that is funded by east coast investors.

..Totally for a few at the significant expense and personal sacrifice, safety, and risk for 2 major communities that already left gold mining a long time ago as a way of life. Our NID must be finding this difficult to comprehend. I am not shy in saying, that’s a lot for us to handle.

80 years for this type of operation isn’t a drop in the bucket it is a generational change that is permanent. A permanent change to our water system and services that support it, land stability, air quality, quiet enjoyment of our lands, and lifestyle, and characterization of a community that seeks to be progressive and productive, not in political ideology do I mean, but in lifestyle, education, tourism, and in wanting a safe and reasonably priced value added place to live predominantly based on small businesses and a homespun atmosphere, recreation and a wholesome sustainable farm culture and life.

Do you all remember Paul Simon and his song “ in my little town” don’t go back there.

Best to you,

Maryanne Z Murphy Esq.
and Realtor #02004246

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

August 10,2020

Matt Kelley- By Regular Mail and Email

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: The County's Zoning Process Referencing the Rise Gold application.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for your response to my question about the zoning process in general in light of the current Rise Gold application.

We understand from you that the Project's application for rezoning is based on a claim that this is nothing more than a conversion from the existing Light Industrial (M1) with Site Performance combining District (SP) zoning for the Project site to Light Industrial with Mineral Extraction Combining District (M1-ME) zoning.

However, all that either of these M1 zonings would allow is "surface mining". Even the briefest review of the Project's description very clearly shows that the Project's purpose and operations are for "subsurface mining". Further, the extensive plans for buildings and heavy equipment for the Project may not even be allowed under a properly submitted Heavy Industrial (M2) application.

As a result, separate and apart from the EIR process, we submit that the rezoning application filed for the Project is improper on its face. That is at least one reason why we requested information on the County's process for challenging a rezoning application.

Please send us the requested information about this process as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Maryanne Z. Murphy

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Heidi Hall, BOS

From:	maryannemurphyesq
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Planning; bdofsupervisors
Subject:	RE: From MMurphy/ Murphy Law Firm-Request for Information from the County re: RISE GOLD
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 2:13:07 PM
Attachments:	Rise gold zoning letter to Kelley 8.10.2020.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find my letter dated 8/10/2020 attached.
Maryanne Murphy
Murphy Law Firm
336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C
Grass Valley, CA 95945

direct (408) 921-2338

This communication is confidential and intended for the recipient only.

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

------- Original Message -------
On Monday, August 10, 2020 12:01 PM, Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

> Good Morning Ms. Murphy:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis as well as your Public Records Request and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> For your Public Records Request, if you could please clarify which Planned Development projects within unincorporated Nevada City you would like to receive copies of that will assist us in retrieving the correct records. If you could also please clarify if you are requesting copies of recent Use Permits and Development Permits and if so, which development projects you would like to request records of along with the year they were approved, that would assist us in retrieving the correct records as well. If you an Address or Assessor Parcel Number of a particular parcel or parcels that you are interested in viewing the records of, that would assist us in retrieving the correct records as well. If you would like, you may submit the public records request online through the County Website at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/1681/Public-

Record-Requests.

The project as proposed includes a Rezone application to rezone the parcels located at the Brunswick Industrial Site from Light Industrial (M1) with Site Performance Combining District (SP) to Light Industrial (M1) with Mineral Extraction Combining District (M1-ME). Pursuant to Nevada County Land Use and Development Code, Section L-II 3.21, subsurface mining is allowed in all base zoning districts, subject to the approval of a Use Permit. As required, pursuant Nevada County Land Use and Development Code, Section L-II 2.7.3, the purpose of all the ME Combining District is to allow or surface mining and for public awareness of the potential for surface mining to occur where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposit are likely present. As part of the submitted application, the project does not include a request to rezone the subject project site from Light Industrial (M1) to Heavy Industrial (M2). To rezone the subject project site from M1 to M2 it would require the submission of an additional rezone application from the applicant to be included as part of the proposed project, however, as proposed, the project would be consistent with the M1-ME Zoning District based on the allowed uses within both the M1 Zoning District and the ME Combining District, subject to the approval of a Conditional Use Permit.

Below is a link to the M1 and M2 Zoning Districts as well as the ME Combining District and Subsurface Mining.

Land Use and Development Code – Section L-II 2.5 – Industrial Districts.

http://qcode.us/codes/nevadacounty/view.php?topic=3-ii-2-l__6&frames=on

Land Use and Development Code – Section L-II 2.7.3 – Mineral Extraction Combining District (ME)

http://qcode.us/codes/nevadacounty/view.php?topic=3-ii-2-l__11&frames=on

Land Use and Development Code – Section L-II 3.21 – Subsurface Mining

http://qcode.us/codes/nevadacounty/view.php?topic=3-ii-3-l__24&frames=on

We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-

From: maryannemurphyesq <themislaw@protonmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: From MMurphy/ Murphy Law Firm-Request for Information from the County re: RISE GOLD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lj7ZhKB_cGc Here is another utube video by Rise Gold which says not only is the Gold fine but so are the deciders, because this is private land and Nevada county controls its use and only 3 of 5 Supervisors need to approve him getting lots of money for his private land. He intentionally leaves out the reason why Gold mining stopped in this area, the complete devastation to water and land to be found that reached far beyond its immediate area.

Mr. Kelley, what is the process for changing the zoning laws so that the zoning where Rise Gold is located goes from light to heavy industrial.

I don't see any reference to the County's zoning process for any matter on the County's site. In a time of COVID because most are sheltering, having this information readily available to the public would be an expectation without the need to fill out paper or walk to the County building to speak

with someone.

Would you kindly let me know if there has been any disposition regarding zoning? on the Rise Gold project. Is there a public hearing scheduled for this issue.

I also want to know the name of each planned development that has been approved in unincorporated Nevada City and the name of the each developer and its contact information on file with the County.

Please consider this my Request for Information. I am happy to speak with /County counsel about the zoning process.

Call or text me at 408 921-2338. I appreciate your immediate attention to the above.

cc: Brian Foss/Heidi Hall

Murphy Law Firm

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 802-5313

direct (408) 921-2338

This communication is confidential and intended for the recipient only.

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

August 17,2020

Matt Kelley- By Delivery & Email

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

On August 7, 2020, we wrote to you about our response to the NOP. Please consider this additional writing in conjunction to that writing on August 7, 2020, a copy of which is attached.

While Rise Gold Corp. has been promoting its gold mine operations, federal and state regulatory agencies apparently weighed in on the polluted tailings that cover most of its 56.4-acre site.

There has been truly little public disclosure of this contaminated site including by Rise Gold in submitting its plan. Rise Gold apparently and reportedly entered into a contract with the California Department of Toxic Substance Control ("DTSC") on August 13, 2019 to clean up its site. See the Enclosed DTSC update dated 5/28/20. This had the effect of deferring any EPA agency from intervening on behalf of we all as taxpayers. Instead, the agreement apparently with the State is to voluntary clean-up the site known as the Centennial site and be responsible for the entire remediation process which will be overseen by DTSC.

Yet, we are unaware of any steps taken by Rise Gold to meet its obligations. Instead, it seeks a use permit at considerable expense and resources being spent to address its conditional use permit for its mining operations. Instead, it waives a carrot at the Board of Supervisors to grant the use permit, then it will clean up its site I would presume.

I think that it is imperative that the Board and the Planning Department immediately address this misuse of the County's processes. What should be happening is that the conditional permit process should be on hold until the owner of the land can in fact clean up the toxic site.

Otherwise, as we see it, the permit cannot be granted with the right review under the EIR because the land will not be its final condition to scientifically address the potential impacts and feasibility of any changes.

As I understand it from the Department of Toxic Substances Control, ("DTSC") there is only a draft of an agreement between it and Rise Gold Corp. that is currently under review. This would apparently address, among other things, arsenic, cyanide, lead, mercury, and nickel already present from past mining efforts at the site.

As we both know, amalgamation with mercury, chlorination with gas under high temperature and cyanide in solution and leaching, are just of the few methods of extraction of gold in this area.

In Rise Gold's Application, it does not define, other than the use of sulfide, the chemical processes that it intends to use. For this reason also, the permit application cannot be addressed sufficiently to determine the environmental impacts and mitigating circumstances from the mining operations when the very chemicals and processes used are not defined.

Further complicating the issue is the zoning issue as well as Rise Gold Corp.'s plan to force immediately adjacent property owners to get rid of its well supply of water. This amounts to a "taking" of one's property that believe is unlawful. It would seem to me that rezoning for purposes of this project should be a public process and not simply a plan by one property owner that should be reviewed.

We therefore demand that the County stop its procedure for going forward with granting a conditional permit. We also demand a rezoning process that is clearing defined by the County and given public review.

Given the significant and potential effects of this project on area development, neighborhoods and property values, and other key elements that sustain our lives should an accident occur, public hearings on the permit process as well as the zoning process demand public hearings where all people, regardless of income or digital access, can attend.

We, like others in this County, have had to wait in line for a variety of government functions. Rise Gold Corp, as a private landowner can wait its turn as well.

Whether or not the County agrees with our demands, we understand that it is our responsibility to timely submit these issues to the County as they relate to the NOP. We also therefore request that you review the following while incorporating those areas of review in our 8/7/2020 letter to you:

1. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter in light of the existing condition of the Centennial site, including but not limited to, its geotechnical condition and soils before any clean-up having been completed and approved by the DTSC and/or EPA.
2. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter in light of the existing condition of the Centennial site, including but not limited to, its geotechnical condition and soils assuming that clean-up is completed and approved by the DTSC and/or EPA.

3. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter by using an entire and complete list of defined substances and chemical processes that Rise Gold will use in its mining operations, including but not limited to, amalgamation with mercy, chlorination with gas under high temperature, and cyanide in solution and leaching.
4. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter relating to toxic minerals, including but not limited to, lead, sulfides, arsenic and chlorides, that otherwise would appear likely to be released into the environment.

Sincerely yours,

Maryanne Z Murphy, Esq.

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Enclosed: letter dated 8/7/2020

DTSC update Preliminary Engagement Assessment 5/18/20

Proof of service by Delivery of this Letter to Mr. Kelly

Cc: Ms. Hall, Board of Supervisors.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
ENVIROSTOR

CENTENNIAL M-1 PROPERTY (60000716)

SIGN UP

SOUTH OF IDAHO-MARYLAND ROAD AND NORTH OF EAST BENNETT ROAD
GRASS VALLEY, CA 95959
NEVADA COUNTY
SITE TYPE: VOLUNTARY CLEANUP

PROJECT MANAGER:
SUPERVISOR:
OFFICE:

CENSUS TRACT:
CALENVIROSCREEN PERCENTILE SCORE:

Summary | Activities | Site/Facility Docs | Map | Related Sites | CalEnviroScreen

Site Information

CLEANUP STATUS
ACTIVE AS OF 3/6/2019

SITE TYPE: VOLUNTARY CLEANUP
NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST: NO
ACRES: 56.5 ACRES
APN: 09-550-32, 09-550-37, 09-550-38, 09-550-39, 09-550-40, 09-560-36, 0955032000, 0955037000, 0955038000, 0955039000, 0955040000, 0956036000
CLEANUP OVERSIGHT AGENCIES:
DTSC - SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM - LEAD AGENCY
NEVADA COUNTY

ENVIROSTOR ID: 60000716
SITE CODE: 102370, 102393, 101918
SPECIAL PROGRAM: VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM
FUNDING: SITE PROPONENT
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT: 01
SENATE DISTRICT: 01

Regulatory Profile

PAST USE(S) THAT CAUSED CONTAMINATION
MINE

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN
ARSENIC
CYANIDE (FREE)
LEAD
MERCURY (ELEMENTAL)
NICKEL

POTENTIAL MEDIA AFFECTED
SOIL

Site History

The site is located at 10344 Centennial Drive, Grass Valley, Nevada County, California and consists of Nevada County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 09-550-32, 37, 3 560-36, and is approximately 56.5 acres. Prior to 1851 the Site is presumed to have been unused and unimproved. In 1851 the Idaho-Maryland Mine was discovered and the Site from 1862 to 1956. Since 1956 the site has remained dormant despite several attempts to re-open the mine. Based upon information from existing documents, mi mine tailings are present throughout much of the property. Results of sampling that has been completed to date indicates that the soil at the site contains lead, arsenic, nic maximum concentrations of 35,111 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), 3010 mg/kg, 2100 mg/kg, and 41 mg/kg, respectively. These concentrations are above background ar hazardous waste levels.

In 2019 a new PP gained ownership of the Site and expressed interest in completing a VCA on the property. DTSC attended a multi-agency meeting with the new PP that Nevada City on March 14, 2019. A Site walk was also conducted on this date. A draft VCA was sent to the PP on March 29, 2019 and the Final Standard Voluntary Agree on 9/3/2019. DTSC received a draft Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) Report on December 16, 2019 and provided comments on March 9, 2020. A Draft Fina received by DTSC on 5/18/2020 and this document is currently under review. (Updated 5/18/2020)

Note: See DTSC Site Code 101505 (Idaho Maryland Mine Property, EnviroStor ID 29100007) for PA/SI activities for the Idaho Maryland Mine.

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

August 7,2020

Matt Kelley- By Certified Mail & Regular Mail & Email.

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please Consider this Response to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application. ("Project"). We reside at 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959.

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which if permitted would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City, Nevada County and in its neighboring counties.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas, and fuel.
15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exists sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.

19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, including but not limited to, neighboring County agricultural communities.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State and local routes, roadways, and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley, including but not limited to, those traveled by local school bus routes.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

Proof of Service

1. At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age.
2. My residence address is 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959
3. **On August 17, 2020, I delivered the following documents to Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner, c/o Nevada County Planning Department, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959:**

   Letter by Maryanne Z Murphy, Esq & David J. Murphy, Esq dated 8/17/2020 and enclosed documents (8/7/2020 by Maryanne Z Murphy, Esq & David J. Murphy, Esq. Dated 8/7/2020 to Matt Kelly, Senior Planner, Nevada County Planning Department 950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170, Nevada City, CA 95959.

   Proof of Service by Delivery dated 8/17/2020

   DTSC update Preliminary Engagement Assessment 5/18/2020.

4. The documents were delivered by personally delivering the documents to the person at the address listed in item 3 above; or by leaving the documents at the department or office in an envelope clearly labeled to clearly identify to whom it is to be delivered as addressed above by (1) leaving the envelope with a receptionist or an individual in charge of the department or office; (2) or if there was no person in the office or department with whom the papers could be left, by leaving them in a conspicuous place in the department or office between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm in the evening.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 17th day of August 2020 at Nevada City, CA 95959.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

From: maryannemurphyesq
To: Matt Kelley; bdofsupervisors
Subject: Rise Gold Application
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 8:02:38 AM
Attachments: img014.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

See attached pdf.
cc: Heidi Hall, BOS
Thank you, Maryanne Murphy

Murphy Law Firm
336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 802-5313
direct (408) 921-2338

This communication is confidential and intended for the recipient only. It is also protected by attorney -work product and client privileges under California law.

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EACH SUPERVISOR RECD

July 25, 2020

Board of Supervisors
Nevada County
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Members of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

With this letter to you, I am strongly protesting the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Grass Valley, Inc., or for that matter...any mining company.

After reviewing documents and comments on the proposed reopening of the mine, it is clear to me that the land surrounding the mine sites, as well as our community in total would experience severe negative repercussions should this mine be put back into operation.

There would be huge increases in noise pollution, light pollution, ground pollution, water pollution, damage to roads and our local highways, residential and business wells going dry, etc., etc., etc. Given the type of day-to-day mining operations, blasting fumes could severely impact the health of many residents, not only in adjacent properties, but throughout the county.

Given the hours and types of planned operations over the course of decades, the quality of our life here could be degraded to the point of irreparable damage. When people's wells run dry, health deteriorates due to air pollution, the peace and silence eroded by constant blasting, animal life disappearing, this precious and beautiful area could become a location where very few people would want or even be able to live.

Reopening this mine, now or in the future, would be massive mistake.

I urge all of you to deny Rise GV, Inc.'s application to reopen Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Murray

Barbara C. Murray
12354 Hoppy Hollow Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Date: August 4, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

From: Barry W. Myers, Resident of Nevada County, CA
(Home Phone: 530-477-8206)
(Email: bwmyers7@gmail.com)

Re: **Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by RISE GOLD Grass Valley**

After reviewing Nevada County's Notice of Preparation (NOP), I, as a Nevada County resident, have the following seven (7) concerns and need for additional information & data regarding the significant environmental and economic impacts of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by RISE GOLD**. I request that each of these concerns and need for additional information & data be included and addressed in the County's upcoming Environmental Impact Report (EIR):**

1. **Economic Impact Study**: Nevada County residents need to see, review and collectively discuss with Nevada County governmental leadership the results of an independent, third party comprehensive economic **cost-benefit analysis** written study of RISE GOLD's proposed mining operation over the entire life of all mining activities. For example:

    a. *What will be the economic and environmental impact to Nevada County during, and arising out of, the proposed 80-year permit period of underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine?*

    b. *What is RISE GOLD's financial viability and track-record? What evidence is there that it is financially strong and able to perform each of the environmental plans, representations and other promises contained in its Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal?*

    c. *How will Nevada County be protected if RISE GOLD does not meet its obligations to the community? Will there be effective, demonstrable guarantees, such as 100 percent performance bonds, regarding timely remediation and environmental clean-up of the mining site, among other performance metrics?*

    d. **Note: Put the requirement of a full, independent environmental and economic cost-benefit analysis study into the EIR.**

2. **Public Hearings**: Nevada County residents need additional public hearings and better communication by Nevada County government to review this project's impact on the community and the anticipated scope of the EIR. To date there has only been one public hearing, held as a virtual webinar. As Nevada County leadership is aware, not everyone in Nevada County has access to nor adequate internet broadband to attend or view virtual webinars and ensuing video recordings.

a. *Is there any overriding justification for why Nevada County government could not extend the timeline by 45 days to allow for additional, timely communication and ensuing public input and comment?*

b. *What is Nevada County's plan to hold additional and timely public hearings for decision making on this project during its pendency?*

c. ***NOTE: Put requirement of a sufficient number of public hearings (with adequate public notice and multiple channels of communication) into the EIR to allow Nevada County Residents real opportunity to discuss, review and weigh in on EIR data and findings.***

3. **Noise Hazards**: Address and drill down on the noise hazards and their related environmental effects on the community arising out of 24 hours/7 days per week underground exploration/mining and above ground facility operations and gold mineralization processing and 16 hours/7 days per week for 80 years. (See Table 4 of the NOP on page 8).

    a. *How do we know what the environmental impact of these noise hazards will be on Nevada County residents? What data is there?*

    b. *What assumptions are being made?*

    c. *Has it been studied? If so, by whom and what were the results of the study?*

    d. ***Note: Put the noise hazard study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

4. **Traffic Hazards**: Address and drill down on the traffic hazards to the community and the related environmental effects on residents arising out of off-site large truck hauling of gold concentrate and engineered fill in large haul trucks 16 hours/7 days per week, plus freight deliveries to Brunswick Industrial Site 12 hours/day. (See Table 4 of the NOP on page 8)

    a. *How do we know what the environmental impact of these traffic hazards will be on Nevada County residents? What actual data is there?*

    b. *What assumptions are being made?*

    c. *Has it been studied? If so, by whom and what were the results of the study?*

    d. ***Note: Put the traffic hazard study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

5. **Environmental Cleanup Work at the Centennial Industrial Site**:

    a. Is it acceptable that such work be "voluntary" and not mandatory? (See page 7 of NOP).

    b. Could Nevada County require RISE GOLD to first complete the environmental cleanup work at the Centennial Industrial Site, before, they can commence mining exploration and operations at the Brunswick Industrial Site? **Put that requirement into the EIR.**

c. *Alternatively, could Nevada County require RISE GOLD to post a 100% environmental clean-up performance bond prior to any mining exploration or operation?* **Put that requirement into the EIR.**

d. Note: Mining operators' history throughout California, and more particularly, Nevada County, is littered with failed promises to start, let alone, complete environmental clean-up work. Nevada County needs to be proactive on this issue with a timely, enforceable, financial remedy/solution.

6. **Water Quality**:

a. Water Treatment Plant at Brunswick Industrial Site: Address and drill-down on the proposed "water treatment plant that will use an above ground pipe to convey treated water from the water treatment facility to a discharge point at South Fork Wolf Creek. (See page 2 of the NOP).

i. *How will the water quality from the Water Treatment Plan that is discharged into the South Fork of Wolf Creek be assured?*

ii. *Has any third party examined RISE GOLD's plan/proposal regarding this?*

iii. Note: Include the requirement that an outside, objective, qualified third-party assessment of the water treatment plan **be put into the EIR** and conducted with the results timely communicated and shared with the public & residents of Nevada County.

b. **Dewatering**: Address and drill-down on the proposed solution for dewatering/treating the ground water that is present in the "underground workings", i.e., old tunnels, etc.

i. *What are the arsenic levels in the ground water? Has it been tested? Adequately?*

ii. *How will it be removed/treated?*

iii. *Does the dewatering proposed plan (page 3 of the NOP) safely and adequately protect the environment?*

iv. *Has RISE GOLD's proposed plan or solution been vetted and tested by an outside, objective, qualified third-party engineering firm? If so, what were the results?*

v. Note: Include the requirement that an outside, objective, qualified third-party assessment of the dewatering plan, and arsenic levels, **be put into the EIR** and conducted with the results timely communicated and shared with the public & residents of Nevada County.

7. **<u>Underground Explosives</u>**: Address and drill down on how **explosives** are going to be transported to the mining site, moved, and **stored underground**. (See pages 3-4 of NOP.)

    a. *How secure are the explosive magazines that RISE GOLD proposes to use? What's the plan?*

    b. *What amount/volume of explosives will be placed underground? For how long?*

    c. *Has an outside expert been retained to analyze the plan for underground explosives?*

    d. *What is the possible danger to others, including miners/employees and nonemployees/public?*

    e. ***<u>Note</u>: Put an underground explosives study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

Respectively Submitted,

Barry W. Myers
12465 Oak Circle
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	David Myers and Stephanie Wells
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 8:54:25 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry. As residents and landowners, we are adding our voices to those deeply concerned with the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. The long-term economic and environmental future of the area should not be sacrificed for the short-term gain of a corporation.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (Underground Flow) & Hydrology (Above Ground Flow)

We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.

The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning

The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home

adjacent to a potential “heavy” industrial site. The underground operations are also “heavy” industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy Truck/Equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.

This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed.

Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.

Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund Clean Up Site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable Asbestos in Serpentine Rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality In/Outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project.

The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues. Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the Area

Impacts on the aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the

same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168 This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

David Myers & Stephanie Wells

Quail Pointe Lane, Grass Valley 95945

From: Barry Myers <bwmyers7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: BWM Comment Letter re Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by RISE GOLD
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date: August 4, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

From: Barry W. Myers, Resident of Nevada County, CA
(Home Phone: 530-477-8206)
(Email: bwmyers7@gmail.com)

Re: **Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by RISE GOLD Grass Valley**

After reviewing Nevada County's Notice of Preparation (NOP), I, as a Nevada County resident, have the following seven (7) concerns and need for additional information & data regarding the significant environmental and economic impacts of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by RISE GOLD**. I request that each of these concerns and need for additional information & data be included and addressed in the County's upcoming Environmental Impact Report (EIR):**

1. **Economic Impact Study**: Nevada County residents need to see, review and collectively discuss with Nevada County governmental leadership the results of an independent, third party comprehensive economic **cost-benefit analysis** written study of RISE GOLD's proposed mining operation over the entire life of all mining activities. For example:

    a. *What will be the economic and environmental impact to Nevada County during, and arising out of, the proposed 80-year permit period of underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine?*

    b. *What is RISE GOLD's financial viability and track-record? What evidence is there that it*

is financially strong and able to perform each of the environmental plans, representations and other promises contained in its Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal?

c. *How will Nevada County be protected if RISE GOLD does not meet its obligations to the community? Will there be effective, demonstrable guarantees, such as 100 percent performance bonds, regarding timely remediation and environmental clean-up of the mining site, among other performance metrics?*

d. **Note: Put the requirement of a full, independent environmental and economic cost-benefit analysis study into the EIR.**

2. **Public Hearings**: Nevada County residents need additional public hearings and better communication by Nevada County government to review this project's impact on the community and the anticipated scope of the EIR. To date there has only been one public hearing, held as a virtual webinar. As Nevada County leadership is aware, not everyone in Nevada County has access to nor adequate internet broadband to attend or view virtual webinars and ensuing video recordings.

   a. *Is there any overriding justification for why Nevada County government could not extend the timeline by 45 days to allow for additional, timely communication and ensuing public input and comment?*

   b. *What is Nevada County's plan to hold additional and timely public hearings for decision making on this project during its pendency?*

   c. ***NOTE: Put requirement of a sufficient number of public hearings (with adequate public notice and multiple channels of communication) into the EIR to allow Nevada County Residents real opportunity to discuss, review and weigh in on EIR data and findings.***

3. **Noise Hazards**: Address and drill down on the noise hazards and their related environmental effects on the community arising out of 24 hours/7 days per week underground exploration/mining and above ground facility operations and gold mineralization processing and 16 hours/7 days per week for 80 years. (See Table 4 of the NOP on page 8).

   a. *How do we know what the environmental impact of these noise hazards will be on Nevada County residents? What data is there?*

   b. *What assumptions are being made?*

   c. *Has it been studied? If so, by whom and what were the results of the study?*

   d. ***Note: Put the noise hazard study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

4. **Traffic Hazards**: Address and drill down on the traffic hazards to the community and the

related environmental effects on residents arising out of off-site large truck hauling of gold concentrate and engineered fill in large haul trucks 16 hours/7 days per week, plus freight deliveries to Brunswick Industrial Site 12 hours/day. (See Table 4 of the NOP on page 8)

a. *How do we know what the environmental impact of these traffic hazards will be on Nevada County residents? What actual data is there?*

b. *What assumptions are being made?*

c. *Has it been studied? If so, by whom and what were the results of the study?*

d. ***Note: Put the traffic hazard study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

5. **Environmental Cleanup Work at the Centennial Industrial Site**:

a. Is it acceptable that such work be "voluntary" and not mandatory? (See page 7 of NOP).

b. Could Nevada County require RISE GOLD to first complete the environmental cleanup work at the Centennial Industrial Site, before, they can commence mining exploration and operations at the Brunswick Industrial Site? **Put that requirement into the EIR.**

c. *Alternatively, could Nevada County require RISE GOLD to post a 100% environmental clean-up performance bond prior to any mining exploration or operation?* **Put that requirement into the EIR.**

d. Note: Mining operators' history throughout California, and more particularly, Nevada County, is littered with failed promises to start, let alone, complete environmental clean-up work. Nevada County needs to be proactive on this issue with a timely, enforceable, financial remedy/solution.

6. **Water Quality**:

a. Water Treatment Plant at Brunswick Industrial Site: Address and drill-down on the proposed "water treatment plant that will use an above ground pipe to convey treated water from the water treatment facility to a discharge point at South Fork Wolf Creek. (See page 2 of the NOP).

i. *How will the water quality from the Water Treatment Plan that is discharged into the South Fork of Wolf Creek be assured?*

ii. *Has any third party examined RISE GOLD's plan/proposal regarding this?*

iii. Note: Include the requirement that an outside, objective, qualified third-party assessment of the water treatment plan **be put into the EIR** and conducted with the results timely communicated and shared with the public

& residents of Nevada County.

b. **Dewatering**: Address and drill-down on the proposed solution for dewatering/treating the ground water that is present in the "underground workings", i.e., old tunnels, etc.

   i. *What are the arsenic levels in the ground water? Has it been tested? Adequately?*

   ii. *How will it be removed/treated?*

   iii. *Does the dewatering proposed plan (page 3 of the NOP) safely and adequately protect the environment?*

   iv. *Has RISE GOLD's proposed plan or solution been vetted and tested by an outside, objective, qualified third-party engineering firm? If so, what were the results?*

   v. Note: Include the requirement that an outside, objective, qualified third-party assessment of the dewatering plan, and arsenic levels, **be put into the EIR** and conducted with the results timely communicated and shared with the public & residents of Nevada County.

7. **Underground Explosives**: Address and drill down on how **explosives** are going to be transported to the mining site, moved, and **stored underground**. (See pages 3-4 of NOP.)

   a. *How secure are the explosive magazines that RISE GOLD proposes to use? What's the plan?*

   b. *What amount/volume of explosives will be placed underground? For how long?*

   c. *Has an outside expert been retained to analyze the plan for underground explosives?*

   d. *What is the possible danger to others, including miners/employees and nonemployees/public?*

   e. ***Note: Put an underground explosives study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

Respectively Submitted,

Barry W. Myers
12465 Oak Circle
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Sarah Myrenton
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine EIR
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:32:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident(off lower colfax rd) for the better part of 25 years. I have 2 children under two and limited time for formulating emails, so please forgive the is amended form letter. it is not indicative of my level of concern, it is simply all I have time for at the moment.

I am very concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

-The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

-The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

-The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

-The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

-A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I'm also very concerned about the impact to wildlife, soil biology and private property concerns. This is a small town that is already extremely short on affordable housing, no matter how it's done this mine will make the immediate vicinity undesirable and unsuitable for further housing, annexing off a large area close to both NC and GV which could otherwise serve as new housing. 80 years is a long time.

I urge you to careful consider and research the damage this mine could do. We are stewards of this land, and our focus should be on improving the community and the natural environments we live in, not profits to a large corporation that does not even call this area home.

Forgive me again for any errors or sloppiness in writing, I just wanted to add our families voice to this community concern.

Sincerely,

Sarah Myrenton and family

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

RECEIVED
JUL 27 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keifer
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

COMMISSIONER
Marshall McKay
Wintun

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain Apache

COMMISSIONER
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie
Chumash

COMMISSIONER
[**Vacant**]

COMMISSIONER
[**Vacant**]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

July 20, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: 2020070378, Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Nevada County

Dear Mr. Kelley:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP), Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) or Early Consultation for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code §21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code §21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, §15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code §21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 5064 subd.(a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines §15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources within the area of potential effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code §21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.2). Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation, a notice of negative declaration, or a mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements.** If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. §800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments.

Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.

AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project: Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:

- **a.** A brief description of the project.
- **b.** The lead agency contact information.
- **c.** Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d)).
- **d.** A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21073).

2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration.or Environmental Impact Report. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1(b)).

- **a.** For purposes of AB 52; "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code §65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (b)).

3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:

- **a.** Alternatives to the project.
- **b.** Recommended mitigation measures.
- **c.** Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).

4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:

- **a.** Type of environmental review necessary.
- **b.** Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
- **c.** Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
- **d.** If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).

5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code §6254 (r) and §6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (c)(1)).

6. Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document: If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:

- **a.** Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
- **b.** Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (b)).

7. Conclusion of Consultation: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:

a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or

b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (b)).

8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (a)).

9. Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code §21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (e)).

10. Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:

a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:

i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.

ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.

b. Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:

i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.

ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.

iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.

c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.

d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code §21084.3 (b)).

e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code §815.3 (c)).

f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code §5097.991).

11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An Environmental Impact Report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:

a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2.

b. The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.

c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (d)).

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf

SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code §65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf.

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

1. Tribal Consultation: If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code §65352.3 (a)(2)).
2. No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation. There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
3. Confidentiality: Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code §65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code §5097.9 and §5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code §65352.3 (b)).
4. Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation: Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
    a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
    b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/.

NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
    a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
    b. If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
    c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
    d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
    a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.
    b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.

3. Contact the NAHC for:
   a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
   b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.

4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
   a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
   b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
   c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Nancy.Gonzalez-Lopez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez
Cultural Resources Analyst

cc: State Clearinghouse

From:	Scott Nance
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 4:32:31 PM
Attachments:	Idaho-Maryland Project issues Scott and Betty Nance.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley

Attached is a .pdf of our comments on the proposed Idaho-Maryland Project. Our comments were also sent by paper mail to your office, but because we have noticed significant delays in USPS mail in the past few months we are also sending this copy my email.

Thank You

Scott and Betty Nance

From: Joan Naszady <jnaszady@forestcharter.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Public comment on proposed mining

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This project appears too risky in so many ways. There is still so much unmitigated damage to the environment in this area from previous mining. Degrading the environment further with noise, air, water, and soil pollution is a risk we should not take.

From: Nora Nausbaum <noraroberta@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 7:04 PM
To: LAFCO <LAFCO@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: opposition to proposed mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am very opposed to the application for a mine at Brunswick and Bennett. Despite assurances from the corporation, there will be increased truck traffic and potential poisoning of our air, water and land. Nevada County is still negatively affected by mining operations of the 1800s. We have not fully cleaned up from those days. Because a corporation's top priority is to make money, human values of clean air, water and land - and no increased traffic - will take a back burner.

They talk of jobs, but how many in our county would qualify for specialized mining work. There are better, healthier ways to help people who need jobs.

Nora Nausbaum
Bill Douglass
15631 Lower Colfax road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 798-9585

From: Nora Nausbaum <noraroberta@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 7:05 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: opposition to proposed mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am very opposed to the application for a mine at Brunswick and Bennett. Despite assurances from the corporation, there will be increased truck traffic and potential poisoning of our air, water and land. Nevada County is still negatively affected by mining operations of the 1800s. We have not fully cleaned up from those days. Because a corporation's top priority is to make money, human values of clean air, water and land - and no increased traffic - will take a back

burner.

They talk of jobs, but how many in our county would qualify for specialized mining work. There are better, healthier ways to help people who need jobs.

Nora Nausbaum
Bill Douglass
15631 Lower Colfax road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 798-9585

From: Geoffrey Nelson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine EIR Scoping
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:54:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello - as a Grass Valley resident, I would like to request that the following be analyzed in the upcoming EIR for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine:

Hydrology - The reopening of ths mine has the potential to produce significant soil and water contamination, including contamination of the source of drinking water for thousands of households. What are the sources of water used in the mining process and where and how will waste water be dumped/treated, and how will this drawing and dumping of water disturb subsurface existing hazardous waste (contamination) that has been undisturbed for decades. What practices, monitoring and safeguards will be put in place to prevent infiltration, seepage, and freeing of currently undisturbed underground hazardous soil and water contaminants. I have heard that water used in the mining process may be dumped into South Fork Wolf Creek, which runs through the nearby Bennet Street Grasslands, home to rare and endangered species of migratory birds (including Yellow-Breasted Chat, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher).

Transportation - Extensive additional truck traffic would potentially be created on Bennett Road, with noise levels and increased traffic causing impacts to nearby publicly-enjoyed Empire Mine State Park, neighbors, birds, and areas with sensitive flora species. What resources, equipment and personnel will need to be transported to/from the site, and who will bear the physical burden of their road damage, pollution emissions, and other impacts vs. where revenues from the project will likely flow (e.g.; out of state, or out of the U.S.).

Thank you for your consideration,

Geoffrey Nelson
119 King Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Ingrid Nelson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposing the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:27:15 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada City resident for the past 15 years. I am very concerned about the possible reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. We are still recovering from the past poisons and toxins in our soil and from years past. Why are we moving backwards? Don't put small profits ahead of the health of our citizens and the environment.

Sincerely,
Ingrid Nelson

MYRTLE + MARJORAM
Ingrid Nelson
114 Cottage Street Nevada City, CA 95959
415.608.5569
www.myrtleandmarjoram.com

From: Joe Nelson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: RISE Canada and proposed mining project.
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:17:29 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image003.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Matt,

It is time to stand up and resist the urge to bend and flex to the whim of RISE. The benefits this mine will bring into our community do not exist, and will be so greatly outweighed by all of the concerns and negative impacts that will come with this project. The environmental impacts alone are cause for grave alarm, as we have spent so many years working on repairing and preserving our local environment. PLEASE KEEP THIS PROJECT FROM DESTROYING OUR COMMUNITY!! We need advocacy for the community. Well's and the water table are at risk! Local sound and air pollution will be a concern. There is NO good reason, why this project should go forward.

PLEASE HELP OUR COMMUNITY BY SAYING "NO!" TO RISE'S PROJECT!!!

Joe Nelson
Project Manager C-46/C-10
Sustainable Energy Group Inc., A California Corporation
CSL# 868816
www.SustainableEnergyGroup.com
530-273-4422 (Office)
530-217-8385 (Cell)

SEG_logo_color_horiz_web

Follow us!

From: Menkin Nelson <menkin@latitudemanagement.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposition to - Rise Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am very opposed to this mine project. When is the comment review period for it?

https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley

--
Sincerely,

Menkin Nelson
925-354-0077



From: Menkin Nelson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: EIR considerations - Rise Grass Valely
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:40:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for all that information Matt!

I would like to request the following issues be addressed in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report.

In light of the repercussions of the San Juan mine several years back, we all know that there is a large risk that this mine can dewater or contaminate wells. The Company (Rise Grass Valley) must be able to prove that no residential or commercial wells shall be disturbed. The evidence presented should be reviewed by several independent agencies including but not limited to: The Water Quality Control Board, Geo-Tech, Geo-Hydrologist, Hydrologist, Geologist. Mapping of all subsurface existing waterways, well locations and rock fissures should be documented for the entire area encompassing the mineral rights, as well as any fissure or waterway being followed to its completion to prevent pulls and contaminations offsite, through existing subsurface pathways connected to the site(s).

Additionally, The Company should guarantee fresh, clean, readily available water for any resident/business whose water quality gets disturbed. Numerous parcels, who are at risk of having their water quality affected, are currently undergoing a biological mitigation process for previously disturbed habitat and watering new growth with non-contaminated water is essential to a full recovery for any mitigation project.

The stringent noise ordinance of Nevada County would be relaxed if the zoning for this project was re-designated as mining. The proposed facility and all associated equipment, heavy machinery, truck traffic and employee traffic should undergo a noise analysis to verify the expected decibel output. The information provided by the noise analysis shall be used to consider the effects on sensitive habitat as well as surrounding residents. Numerous studies show that continued 'white noise' have detrimental health concerns, explaining and justifying the noise ordinances in place. The consideration for the noise shall also encompass underground noise and roadway vibrations.

Both forks of Wolf Creek, upstream and downstream of the two sites, should be monitored monthly for toxins and heavy metals for a minimum of two years prior to the operation of the mine. This input is required to understand the baseline of the creeks flows and have an accurate comparison for future monitoring.

The Company should additionally be held responsible for the cleanup of Wolf Creek as contaminates become evident over the two year monitoring period prior to the operation of the mine, per the Clean Waters Act. All monitoring and reporting results therefore must be made public record to verify the progress of removing existing contaminates. The forks of Wolf Creek should be verified as non-contaminated for a minimum period of one year prior to operating the mine to enable concise data during

the mine operations.

The Company is stating that their process of mixing the existing area known as Centennial Site with new tailings will additionally 'clean up' previous toxins. For accurate consideration of this, numerous soils samples around the site should be taken and recorded monthly for a minimum of two years. The rainfall and dry months are known to bring material to the surface that could not be fully monitored with annual checks. The Company shall also be held responsible for removing or reducing all toxic chemicals within the site they currently are responsible for.

Additionally, The Company should be required to prove that their process of dumping new tailings on the Centennial Site will not increase the contaminates or toxins on site. Tailings should be tested daily, at a minimum, and everytime they are removed from a new 25' section of earth. Previous mining deposits include numerous contaminants, including but not limited to, mercury, arsenic, manganese and heavy metals. The deposits vary throughout the existing tunnels as well as through natural formation within the earth so there is no accurate way to read the soil for an entire site. Regularly spaced, 25 feet in all directions including elevation changes, sample tests will allow us to evaluate the potential waste rock prior to extraction. The data of each sample test can be used to calculate the method of tailings disposal and furthermore prove that the Centennial Site will not become more harmful to either the South Fork of the Wolf Creek watershed or the residents who conduct daily commerce at the businesses along the property line.

The proposal does not address tailing disposal after the initial 11 year period. The community should have a guarantee that these tailings will not be dumped illegally and will not be extracted prior to arranging a disposal contract for the entire 80 years of the project.

The following species have been found within the two sites listed on the proposal. A full biological mitigation plan addressing the total amount of plants/animals disturbed would require a minimum of a two year, weekly, monitoring process to accurately count the species throughout their migrations, spawning and seasonal cycles.

Fremontodendron decumbens: Federally listed: Endangered
black rail: state listed Threatened
yellow-legged frogs: state listed Threatened
western pond turtles, coast horned lizards, and the finger rush

Risks to the environment are staggering and there is no guarantee that when Rise Grass Valley collapses they will not file bankruptcy and leave the environmental damage unaddressed. It is an obligation of the governing agencies to have a plan for the cost of a full reclamation in place prior to the operations of the mine. The citizens of California should not be left to clean up the damage with tax dollars on what is already considered a 'SuperFund' legacy mine but has not been fully funded for cleanup. A Surety bond for the highest potential closure and reclamation costs should be required by both the State and Nevada County. (I have attached a draft of reclamation costs that may want to be considered in addition to California's already existing standards on how to calculate the closure and reclamation costs of mining.) https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=94070

The current proposal includes insufficient settling ponds. There is no research found that

substantiates what is proposed shall be sufficient for the quantities of water the project is projecting to discharge. A full study should be concluded for the course of a year, with varying amounts of natural output along both affected branches of Wolf Creek considered.

Additionally the effectiveness of settling ponds with no liner, only a porous clay and permeable floor shall be expanded upon in detail, as well as a plan in place for removing and treating the clay lining the proposed pond.

The waterflow of both branches of Wolf Creek along the parcels proposed are home to numerous types of protected wildlife as well as the tributaries they feed into. The standard flows should be monitored over a minimum of two years, then the projected discharge rates in addition to the standard flows should be calculated. That data can then be used to compile biological studies along Wolf Creek, the Feather River, the Bear River, the Sacramento River and any additional reservoirs or tributaries that will feel an effect of the increased flow, to guarantee that any protected or endangered species shall have mitigation measures in place prior to operation of the mine.

These are just a few of the concerns, as in this email I am trying to focus on the Environmental Impact Review only.

Needless to say the visual and audio impacts would not only affect the community but would also impact the tourism industry that is the lifeblood of our community and already struggling amidst this pandemic. But I'll save these concerns for another comment period :)

Thank you for your considerations in reading this email and moving forward with the evaluation of this project proposal.

Sincerely, Menkin

On Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 5:25 PM Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

> Good Afternoon Menkin:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project:
> https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating

the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Menkin Nelson <menkin@latitudemanagement.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposition to - Rise Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am very opposed to this mine project. When is the comment review period for it?

https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley

--

Sincerely,

Menkin Nelson

925-354-0077



--

Sincerely,

Menkin Nelson
925-354-0077

From: Oliver Nelson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Environmental Impact of Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:28:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I am the son of Allison Nelson, a local bird biologist who studies the wildlife directly abreast to the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The proposed reopening of this mine would cause serious disruptions and damage to her scientific surveys.

The increased pollution and noise from the nearby operation would likely drive birds from their habitats, an already scarce terrain for certain species inhabiting the Bennett Street Grasslands. The runoff from the mine being dumped into the creek could damage the surrounding wildlife with the metals deposited as well as harm the fauna already in the creek.

In conclusion, the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine would have a severe environmental impact on an incredibly delicate habitat. I urge you to prevent the reopening of the mine and avoid the harm it will cause.

Sincerely,
Oliver Nelson

-----Original Message-----
From: Rebekah Nelson-Voorhees <rebekahvoorhees@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it concerns,

As a life long resident of the foothills I've seen what happens, Tuolumne County has made the mistake thinking Gold Mines were the future. In the 1980s the Harvard mine was re-opened and

gold prices were skyrocketing, the Goldmine sits as an ugly eyesore as the failure it was, abandoned by the Canadian company that had taken it over. The company never followed through and made the hillsides look like they used to as agreed. They pulled up their equipment and left town! All the community members lost their jobs and the project was an absolute failure.Please do your homework! Look beyond the dollar signs and understand what we will face for decades to come in this community because of the greed of gold.

Keep your mind open to what is happening now, with companies like Telestream , what Grass Valley Group gave to our community was incredible. Let's keep moving in that direction, let's bring in tech companies and intelligent people and the arts. Not greedy Gold miners!

Sincerely, Rebekah Nelson-Voorhees

Rebekah Nelson-Voorhees

From: Mikhel
To: Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: NO to Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:39:21 PM
Attachments: NO to Idaho-Maryland Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read the attached document in regards to the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Thank you,
Mikhel Neshat
530.615.7532

From: Missy Neville
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Comments
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:13:41 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Matt Kelley,

I'm writing as a concerned community member about the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I am a resident of Grass Valley and have owned a home off of Greenhorn road for the past three years. I am extremely concerned that the county is even considering this proposal to reopen the mine. I love this area and have decided to raise a family here because of the peace and quiet as well as teaching my newborn son about the benefits of nature and how to respect the land and our natural resources. I understand that this area was once a profitable mine, but the times and space have drastically changed and this area is now residential rather than industrial. The noise pollution of the area if the mine were to reopen would destroy the quiet space we currently call home. I am also extremely concerned about the environmental impacts of the mine, especially the water quality of wolf creek. This mine could also impact groundwater and our well supply. If that were to happen, we would have to move, and the property value would decrease significantly, leaving us in a tough financial situation. Can we clean up what is already an incredibly contaminated area and put it to better use rather than increasing the problem? There must be a different solution. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my concerns. Please oppose the reopening of the mine.

Best,

Missy Neville
12835 Rodriguez Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945
missy222@gmail.com
612-581-1023

From: Aubrey Niles <kaubreyn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:31 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Aubrey Niles** <kaubreyn@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 12, 2020 at 11:26 AM
Subject: RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal
To: <matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: <bdofspuervisors@ca.nevada.ca.us>

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,
I am writing to you today to inform you of my views on this proposal and to offer you some well documented facts about the impact previous mining endeavors has had on the physical, mental, emotional and financial health of our beautiful community. We should be able to learn from our mistakes and preserve the beautiful, peaceful and pollution-free nature that supports our lives in our region.

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)

We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.

The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning

The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.

This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that

must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still

highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of

these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Karen Aubrey Niles
10437 Mackinac Ct
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-273-0128

From:	Andrea Niosi
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:03:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Andrea Niosi
11777 Tulane Drive
Nevada City, CA 95959
aeniosi@gmail.com
415-717-7303

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada City resident for 7 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
- The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Andrea Niosi

--

"Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself." John Dewey

Andrea Niosi
415.717.7303

From:	Lisa Nowlain
To:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org; Matt Kelley
Subject:	Public comment: Environmental Scoping of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 8:11:17 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

As the mother of a two year-old on Banner Mountain, I already have concerns about local water and soil quality. The impact of mining in our area is historically very fraught, and it is always in the back of my mind when my child is playing outside. I live just 100 yards from Wolf Creek, upstream of where the discharge would be.

Already, Nevada County experiences poor air quality. I am concerned that an industrial project of this size would greatly reduce our air quality.

The Nisenan tribe has already experienced erasure through federal termination. Their cultural heritage needs protection, and their voice should be listened to on environmental issues such as this.

I also worry about noise in my community. The hours of operation are alarming.

Lastly, climate change is a real and pressing issue. A new mine's greenhouse gas emissions are greatly concerning.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lisa Nowlain
415-596-1269

--
MLIS
www.lisanowlain.com

From: Marilyn Nyborg
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: The old mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:15:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are STILL living with the destruction and toxins from the last mining era, not to mention the slaughter and rape of the Natives.

But times have changed of course, technology has improved. It will still require: 24 hours of digging and noise. Our new technology will allow big trucks rolling over Bennett and Brunswick 7 days a week, eventually wearing out the roads they roll on.
And the costs of repaving and repairing those roads.

I am suspicious of the country when big profits are on the line. Yes, profitable to those who do not live here or close to the mine. Unaffected by the noise, the increased population who will work there. Looks great from afar!

I have had the impression elected officials would listen to the voices of the people. The people are screaming about this proposal. We don't want this mine. Will you continue to overrule the citizens?

Please listen to the majority. Thank you,

Marilyn Nyborg
14480 Craig Lane
Grass Valley

From: Marilyn Nyborg <Marilyn@nydow.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 9:02 PM
To: LAFCO <LAFCO@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Gold digging

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Have we NOT learned anything from the previous era of mining? Trees were cut down to burn for domestic and industrial purposes and to build the huge mining infrastructure that was firmly in place by the 1870s. ...The earth was dug

into desolation and later hosed out so that some landscapes—notably the **Malakoff Diggins and San Juan Ridge near Nevada City—are still erosive badlands of mostly bare earth.**
But most of all, the streams and rivers were devastated. The myriad waterways of the Sierra Nevada were turned into so much plumbing, to be detoured, dammed, redirected into sluices high above the landscape, filled with debris and toxins. Water as an industrial agent was paramount, and water as a source of life for fish, riparian creatures, downstream drinkers, farmers, and future generations was ignored.
We are STILL cleaning up the toxins and damage….do we want to do that again?

Stop Grass Valley Gold Mining Sign the Petition. Stop Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening in Grass Valley
Grass Valley City Council, Nevada County Bd. of Supervisors

The Idaho Maryland Mine Corporation (IMMC) proposes to reopen a long closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley, CA. The health impacts associated with reopening this mine far outweigh any possible benefit.

This project will:

* significantly and unavoidably increase local air pollution;
* increase noise, traffic and dust;
* drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality;
* inflict incessant blasting on the community, which will likely force several high-tech companies to relocate;
* increase Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons
* create real potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, and others.

From: Itara O"Connell
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine questions
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:17:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

What should be included is the water situation in the mine (I've heard estimates of 5,000 gallons a day to a million gallons a day). In the event of a drought and/or flooding, how will that effect the environment 20 years from now, 40 years from now.

Perhaps an underground tunnel needs to be built for all the trucks so they are not clogging our small roads. Not only the trucks coming and going every ten minutes but empolyee cars- 200 -300 a day? How will that effect the flow in our small town.

I understand studying the noise of the blasting and drilling, but what about the noise of trucks and noise of processing the ore?

Since mining companies tend to go bankrupt, what kind of insurance can the company pay- like an escrow account should they abandon the project.

There is a claim of 324 jobs, what are the qualifications?

In the past, homes have actually fallen into a mine cavern. what is being done to prevent that from happening? will the existing air shafts stay or will new ones be built? Airshafts have caused sink holes.

What dust will be on the ore when it is transported and what will happen to the dust when being dumped on Whispering Pines.

What will happen in the event of a mine collapse? will Rise Corp have its own hospital?

How does Rise Gold Corp plan to desguise it's buildings and operation to fit into the GV ambiance.

Itara O'Connell
19960 Sunshine Charlie Dr.
Grass Valley CA 95945

From: Itara O"Connell
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: comment
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:15:27 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

What will the air quality be like once mining begins?How will the neighbors be affected?
Thanks,
Itara O'Connell
19960 Sunshine Charlie Dr.
GV CA 95945

From: Itara O"Connell
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Scoping
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:31:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To mitigate traffic, why don’t you transport the ore underground to whispering pines instead of using the roads?
Itara O’Connell
Sent from my iPhone

From: Itara O'Connell <to.itara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Can we get a financial statement of this company and how they have behaved in the past. Are they truthful? Do they do what they say they are going to do? What do we do if they don't. Who is Ben Mossaman? is he reliable, honest? Do American laws apply to out of the country businesses or do they have immunity?
Thans Itara O'Connell, 19960 Sunshine Charlie Dr. Grass Valley CA 95945

From: Linda OKay <leokkay@att.net>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Notice of Preparation Comment - Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are submitting our "comments" before the August 17, 2020 deadline. There would be many negative impact results from this crazy proposal by Rise Grass Valley. I can't imagine why county planners haven't cancelled their request based on environmental impact alone before proceeding to this point. The public, neighbors, and citizens of Nevada County are against this intrusion from a large foreign corporation trying to make a profit at the expense of our peaceful lifestyle.

Once again, there are many reasons to deny Rise Gold's proposals, but we have listed the three most important to

the surrounding property owners:

1) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week operations causing noise and pollution for the next **80** years.

2) Up to 100 20 ton truckloads of engineered fill per day.

3) Mining sites are more compatible with remote desert locations, not right in the middle of residential family homes. No doubt our property values would suffer the consequences. No one wants mining operations next door---would you?

Jim & Linda O'Kay

Matt Kelly, August 12, 2020
Senior Planner
County of Nevada, Planning Agency, Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Nevada County with comments on the contents of the draft Environmental Impact Report.

According to the plans filed with the county, the main mine access and processing facilities will be located at the 119 acre New Brunswick site, at the corner of Brunswick and East Bennett Roads. Operations will also utilize the 56 acre Centennial site on Idaho-Maryland Road west of Centennial Drive to dispose of mine waste.[1] The Rise Grass Valley, a Canadian Company, plans to develop the site, in preparation for potential mining operations.

I. Noise and Local Air Pollution: At the Centennial site, an area of 44 acres will be built up with “engineered fill” to depths of up to 70 feet, eventually forming a 37 acre graded surface that may be utilized for future development. Similarly, the mine waste dumped at the Brunswick Road site will eventually cover an area of 31 acres and be built up as much as 90 feet to form a 21 acre graded area for possible future industrial uses. The trucks will be loaded with rock with a front-end loader. Hauling will take place 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM, 7 days a week. After the rock is dumped, it will be graded and compacted 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM, 7 days a week, using bulldozers, graders, and rolling compactors. [2] This activity will take place continuously for 11 years or until both build-up areas are maximized. After that, mine waste materials will have to be hauled out via Brunswick Road to Glenbrook Basin in order to access Hwy 49 for transport to sites not yet identified. If residents can hear cars on Bennett street and Brunswick road, then they will surely hear the estimated 200 trucks per day every day, for 14 hours. This item should be addressed fully in the EIR, including diesel noise and emissions, quality of life impacts on the seniors in the area, and their ability to walk to and from the store, with the continuous traffic and diesel fumes.

IIA. Ground Water: The hydrology study indicates only a few wells are at risk. There needs to be a section included in the EIR that thoroughly evaluates the reduced ground water in the area, due to current drought conditions, and future drought estimates, and giving full consideration of the amount of water not only needed to suffice planned growth in the area, but to also provide the necessary water that will be needed to fight fires. The EIR should also include a section to address the wells of the residents that do not want to be included in the new potable water line. If they do not wan to be added to this line, will their wells continue to run at the current flow,

and will these wells sustain the current quality of water once the work has started, and continues 80 years from now.

IIB. Additionally, ground water sampling indicates concentrations of manganese and iron that will exceed state of CA standards (pg 16 of the Project Description Draft). The precipitated iron and manganese would be removed every 10 years. The EIR should address the implications of allowing the iron and manganese to remain for such a long period of time and include the implications of further ground water contamination potential. The project proposal does not address what will be done with the iron and manganese after each 10 year interval. This also needs to be addressed in the EIR.

III. Employment: Of the 300 proposed jobs the mine will create, the documents filed with the county indicate that one hundred will be filled from local sources. The other 200 require specialized mining technical skills, which is not an abundant skill set for our area. Please include a section in the EIR that fully addresses a clear picture of the potential jobs that will be created, and how many of those will be filled by area residents, and of those, how many are sustainable, beyond the development of the site.

IV. Housing: The housing market in the area is very tight at present. The added demand from 200 outside workers looking for housing could further complicate competition for rentals, which could raise the cost of rental housing across the area. Please include the impacts that could require further housing needs and further construction in the area.

V. Energy Use and GHG Emissions: In terms of energy use, the permit application estimates a PG&E power net load of 6000 Kilowatts (KW). Planned diesel backup power generation capacity is 6000 KW. Electricity utilization is estimated at 42,757,000 Kilowatt-Hours (KWH) per year.[3] This is equivalent to the electric use of about 5000 houses.[4] Full operations of the mine, including fuel for equipment, electricity, and other operational uses are estimated to produce around 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.[5] How will Rise mitigate the continuous annual emissions. Please include and address this issue in the EIR. The EIR should also address the implications of the Public Service Power Shutoff (PSPS) that are due to occur every year during fire season. The EIR should also address the potential for the site to consider additional self generation to address the PSPS, and the implications to the environment should Rise Grass Valley install electricity generation, such as addition diesel or natural gas generators.

VI. Chemicals and Waste – Mine Development: Cement, explosives, diesel, and various other chemicals will be regularly transported to the site and stored. Explosives will include ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate and Fuel Oil), and Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion. Up to 28,000 lbs. of explosives will be stored onsite underground.[6] . Pg 17 of the Project Description Draft indicates explosions using the ammonia nitrate fuel oil will be used to improve and create additional tunneling.

And further describes the tunneling construction will continue throughout the mine area at all times during the life of the mine. This could go on for the next 80 years. Please include in the EIR the potential implications of this tunneling activity, the current stability of the undersurface geology and how Rise Grass Valley can mitigate and potential for sink holes, such as the recent sink holes at Liberty Motors in Grass Valley in January of 2017.

VII. Sink Holes and Wolf Creek: As mentioned above, there is potential for sink holes in this area, due to previous mining activity. The EIR should include a discussion on the potential for further sink holes down stream of the project site, considering the tunneling that will occur well into the future, and the increased discharge of wastewater to be deposited into Wolf Creek.

VIII. Habitat Loss: Please include a section in the EIR that fully discusses the potential habitat loss that will occur when replacing large areas of forested woodlands with barren gravel fill.

[1] Project application documents may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents—Rise-Grass-Valley . Unless noted, see Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Description, Nov 2019; https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/31023/Applicants-Project-Description
[2] Noise and Vibration Analysis, Table 9, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/30467/Noise-and-Vibration-Study-Report
[3]Air Quality and greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Feb 2020, pgs 73-74, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/33583/Air-Quality-and-GHG-Report—ADDED-392020
[4] Average energy usage per CA residence = 667 KWH / month = ~8000 KWH / year. https://www.electricchoice.com/blog/electricity-on-average-do-homes/
IMM will use equivalent to 42,757,000 / 8000 = 5344 houses.
[5] Ibid [3]
[6] Environmental Factors of Blasting Report for the Proposed Idaho-Maryland Gold Project, Sept 27, 2019, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/30457/Environmental-Factors-of-Blasting-Report
Jan 21, 2020 – Facing EPA Superfund Designation, RISE Gold Compelled To Cleanup Existing Idaho-Maryland Mine Tailings

Sincerely,
Claudia Orlando

From: Claudia Orlando
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Comments IM Mine Rise Grass Valley
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:30:01 PM
Attachments: Matt Kelly-Rise.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon Matt,

My comments on the proposed draft Environmental Impact Report are attached. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Claudia Orlando

From: Paula Orloff
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Mine Application
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Nevada County Planning Department:
I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine. There are serious questions about the impact of dewatering and dumping the water. This could affect the quantity and quantity of wells and the quality of Wolf creek where the dumping is planned. In addition, tunnels could collapse from dewatering and from earth moving which could cause serious damage at ground level to structures and infrastructure. All of these water impacts should be independently studied, and the company should have legally binding liability for any of these water problems.

Similar independent studies should be done on traffic, noise and air pollution from removal of waste rocks and on the actual local jobs created and whether they would be living wage jobs. In like manner the company should have legally binding liability if the assessment of jobs and noise and air pollution does not meet their stated targets. If these assessment protocols are not met and if Rise Gold is not held legally accountable and liable for the aforementioned health, safety and job standards, the mine should not proceed. Please thoroughly assess this project with the highest priority given to the character, well being and appeal of our community for tourists and present and future residents.
Thank you,
Paula Orloff 12466 Valley View Rd,
Nevada City , Calif. 95959
530 272 7019

-----Original Message-----
From: Pamela Osgood <pamelaosgood@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: reopening the mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

Sorry i clicked the send button before I signed my name to my email just now to express my

opposition to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine.

Sincerely,

Pamela Osgood
13234 Ridge Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

pamelaosgood@att.net

-----Original Message-----
From: Pamela Osgood <pamelaosgood@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: reopening the mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I am a resident and voter in Nevada County, residing in Grass Valley. I am writing you now to let you know of my strong opposition to the proposal to reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine. I think it

would be and environmental disaster. I hope you will take into consideration what local citizens think about this proposed project. In fact, I don't know anyone who is in favor of opening the mine.

From: renateotto@sbcglobal.net <renateotto@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Notice of Preparation Comments: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

For the past 30 years we have lived on Diamond Court which sits directly atop the old Idaho-Maryland
mine. As such, we're at Ground Zero for this project. Our property still has visible scars left over from historic mining operations including tailings, abandoned air shafts, and large high-pressure pipes (thanks

to Newmont Mining).

This is our third go-around with a junior Canadian company trying to reopen the mine. Our primary concern has always been the dewatering impact on our well. As a result, we participated in local domestic well monitoring programs for 15 years. We have large baseline of data that establishes that
our well level does not fluctuate seasonally. It is a highly reliable well with pristine water.

However, in the 2008 EIR to reopen the mine, Todd Engineering placed our well in the high risk group
for dewatering. In fact, the ***Hydrogeologic Assessment*** listed our well as the third most at-risk well. It is
likely that our well will fail as a result of the dewatering process. That is the conclusion of the Todd Engineering study. As a result, it is imperative that the applicant arrange to have permanent NID water
infrastructure in place that's ready for immediate hook-up for high risk wells. This must be done prior to
the beginning of the dewatering process. The applicant must also provide adequate financial bonding
and a detailed plan for rapidly connecting well owners to NID water. The recent fire related PG&E outages gave well owners a painful lesson of what it's like to go for days without water. With proper mitigation, this is an entirely avoidable situation.

This project has clear winners and losers. The junior mining company from Canada is a winner. It may
even produce a few more local jobs (though most experience miners will come from outside the area).
The losers are the hundreds of home owners around the mine. If this project is approved, noise, pollution, traffic, dewatered wells, and plunging real estate values are in our future.

The applicant promises a clean mining operation. "Clean mining" is an oxymoron. Mining is one of the
most environmentally destructive human activities. Nevada County has endless examples of the environmental damage caused by gold mining. There are better alternatives for this land use than starting another toxic legacy.

The most troubling aspect of this project is the lack of a modern vision from our local leaders. Reopening the mine is a radical experiment that will transform a beautiful, rural neighborhood into an
industrial nightmare. In the state of California, operating a gold mine in a residential area is unprecedented. The applicant is essentially proposing dropping a 24x7 "rock crushing plant" into a peaceful neighborhood. This is outrageous.

The gold rush had its day, and there's a romanticized notion of the 49ers that is baked into our local culture. The reality is that gold mining was an environmental disaster that Nevada County is still

battling. Are we doomed to repeat history? Perhaps it's time for our local leaders to step aside and make room for those who have a modern 21st century vision of the future –a vision that has a greener,
friendlier relationship with the environment and one which is good for the community and for business.

This is not that project.

Jim & Renate Otto
14069 Diamond Court
Grass Valley

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Re: Nevada County Idaho-Maryland Mine NOP Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Kelley:

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) respectfully submits comments and recommendations for the initial scoping process in response to Nevada County's (County) Notice of Preparation as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for Rise Gold Corporation's (Rise Gold) proposed re-opening of Idaho-Maryland Mine (Project or Mine). We request that these comments be received regarding the substance and process of the environmental review process, the potential impacts of an active gold mine on our watersheds and community, and the scope of the resulting Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) document as compliant with CEQA.

For summary, the main points of the comments are as follows:

a) Impacts to Water and Biological Resources
b) Climate Change Concerns
c) Fiscal and Aesthetic Concerns

SYRCL was disappointed that the public was not given the opportunity to provide oral comment at an NOP scoping meeting. We were also disappointed that the County limited the opportunity for engagement in the scoping process to 30 days, especially given the COVID-19 emergency and scale of potential impacts from the proposed Project. Robust public engagement is vital to truly assess the environmental impacts of this Mine to our community and precious waterways. In light of those circumstances, SYRCL requests that the County and Rise Gold Corporation produce a comprehensive DEIR that addresses the public's concerns.

Introduction

SYRCL was founded in 1983 by grassroots activists determined to protect the South Yuba River from dams. Ultimately, SYRCL won permanent protections for 39 miles of the South Yuba River under California's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Today, SYRCL is the central hub of community activism to protect, restore, and celebrate the Yuba River watershed. With 37 years

of achievements, 3,500 members and 1,300 active volunteers, SYRCL is doing great things for the Yuba and Bear River watersheds. Some of our work includes restoring wild salmon populations, meadow restoration, and inspiring activism across the globe with our environmental film festival.

SYRCL is committed to advocating for long-term solutions for sustainable water management in the Yuba River watershed, especially in light of the climate crisis.[1] The negative environmental impacts of gold mining range from water, soil, and air pollution to large-scale seismic instability. In California, outdated and ineffective land management strategies and the impacts of climate change have further exacerbated the historical environmental impacts of mining. Each of the important potential environmental issues are explored in more detail in the comments. SYRCL is watch dogging the Project due to negative mining impacts within the Yuba and Bear River watersheds from past operations and therefore has concerns about future mining activities.

SYRCL encourages the County to utilize the wealth of community and organizational resources during this environmental review process, and welcomes additional consultation.

I. Impacts to Water and Biological Resources

A. Legacy Mining Water Quality Impacts

First and foremost, SYRCL is concerned that the operation of a re-opened gold mine will exacerbate the legacy mining impacts that still persist throughout the Yuba and Bear River watersheds.

The mercury lost to the environment during the hydraulic mining era still persists in the Sierra Nevada, including the Bear River. Unfortunately, due to use of mercury in hydraulic mining, loss of mercury during the Gold Rush was estimated to be 10 to 30 percent per season,[2] totaling about 10,000,000 pounds across California.[3]

Today, hundreds of abandoned hydraulic mine sites remain, leaving thousands of acres of largely barren soil contaminated with mercury and exposed during large storms. Many parts of the Yuba and Bear River watersheds are listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listed for mercury contamination, including the confluence of Wolf Creek and Bear River, downstream of the Project.[4] During rain events, these areas are highly susceptible to surface erosion, creating highly turbid run-off that contributes elevated levels of metals and sediments to our headwater tributary streams.

---

[1] *See* South Yuba River Citizens League Strategic Plan, 2019-2023. https://yubariver.org/about/strategic-action-plan/

[2] Bowie, A.J. 1905. A practical treatise on hydraulic mining in California: New York, Van Nostrand, p. 313.

[3] Churchhill, R.K.. 2000. Contributions of mercury to California's environment from mercury and gold mining activities; Insights from the historical record, in Extended abstracts for the U.S. EPA sponsored meeting, Assessing and Managing Mercury from Historic and Current Mining Activities, November 28-30, 2000, San Francisco, Calif., p. 33-36 and S35-S48.

[4] *See* 33 U.S. Code § 1313 (d).

Here, depending on the extent of the stream work and construction disturbance, this Project could not only increase sedimentation and erosion, but depending on timeline of construction and storm events, also disturb contaminated land. Land and tunnel disturbance could increase exposure to mercury, arsenic, and other heavy metals that are not properly remediated, which will then go down Wolf Creek. Wolf Creek flows into Bear River below Combie Reservoir, and that section of the Bear River is listed under 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for mercury impairment. Low levels of mercury can bioaccumulate to dangerously high levels in top predatory fish, posing a health concern for the watershed as well as our community.[5]

Therefore, SYRCL requests the County answer the following questions in the DEIR:

- Will the project operations exacerbate legacy mining impacts that already exist within and around the proposed project?
- How will Rise Gold mitigate for legacy mining impacts before, during and after project operations cease in 80 years?

SYRCL recently completed two reports as part of work that was funded by the Consumnes American Bear Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Group in partnership with The Sierra Fund and funded by California Department of Water Resources and The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment.[6] Additionally, California's Legislative Analyst Office recently issued a report entitled "Improving California's Response to the Environmental and Safety Hazards Caused by Abandoned Mines."[7] This report underscores the lasting expense and danger of mines that are developed without adequate planning and financial resources for reclamation. We encourage the County to consult these reports when analyzing potential environmental impacts from this Project in the DEIR.

B. Project Operation Water Quality Impacts

SYRCL is also concerned gold mining operations will have severe impacts on surface water resources within and around the project area. SYRCL requests the County answer the following questions in the DEIR:

- Why is Rise Gold using Ammonium Nitrate as an explosive in operations?
- Are there any other alternative methods for gold extraction that have less impact on the environment?

[5] Fleck JA, Alpers CN, Marvin-DiPasquale M, Hothem RL, Wright SA, Ellett K, Beaulieu E, Agee JL, Kakouros E, Kieu LH, Eberl DD, Blum AE, May JT. 2011. The Effects of Sediment and Mercury Mobilization in the South Yuba River and Humbug Creek Confluence Area, Nevada County, California: Concentrations, Speciation, and Environmental Fate—Part 1: Field Characterization: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2010-1325A, 104 p. http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2010/1325A/

[6] *See* Ronning, K.F., R. Hutchinson. 2018. Mercury and Suspended Sediment in Spring and Shady Creeks: Present Day Impacts from Abandoned Mines; Ronning, K.F., R. Hutchinson. 2018. Scotchman Creek Watershed Assessment: A Focus on Abandoned Mine Impacts.

[7] *See* The California Legislative Analyst Office. https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4258

- How will Rise Gold mitigate for any contamination that may result from using the Ammonium Nitrate compound, both to air and water?[8]
- Dewatering of the mine will dramatically increase flows year-round to Wolf Creek. How will Rise Gold mitigate for those impacts to the riparian area in addition to the required setbacks?
- Additionally, toxic piles of mine waste from project operations may increase stormwater impacts to other surface water tributaries in the region.[9] How will Rise Gold mitigate these impacts?
- Will there be impacts to recreation in the region due to project operations? Current recreation that occurs in the project area include but are not limited to: whitewater rafting, tubing, hiking and mountain biking.

C. Water Quality Impacts to Groundwater

Sustainable water management is an important and crucial goal for this community, especially because it is depends on unregulated groundwater resources for drinking water and agricultural production. Therefore, excessive and ongoing groundwater withdrawals through the dewatering process can damage the unstable fractured granite groundwater reserves that lie beneath Nevada County.[10] Additionally, groundwater and surface water are hydrologically connected in the Yuba and Bear River watersheds. SYRCL requests that this review process consider and mitigate damage caused by overpumping in a sensitive groundwater region that provides drinking and agricultural water in this community, and give special attention to any impacts to the surface water resources.

Furthermore, Rise Gold is dependent on the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) for an unknown supply of raw water for mining operations. NID is currently taking a step towards sustainable water management by updating their Raw Water Master Plan (RWMP), which dictates the management of the main source of untreated water needed for agricultural production. It will be very difficult to obtain accurate estimates of the hydrology for this region or determine accurate water demand if there is a sudden increase in industrial usage in the Bear River watershed.

SYRCL requests the County answer the following questions in the DEIR:

- How many community members will lose access to groundwater and will have to switch to water supplied by NID? How will Rise Gold mitigate for that switch in water resources to individual residents, NID and any other associated environmental impacts?
- What is the extent of the contamination in the existing flooded mine tunnels, and what will the water treatment consist of?
- How will dewatering the tunnels impact surface stability?

[8] Ammonia nitrate is highly explosive and since it will be released into air and water from processing both ammonia and nitrate, will likely result in increased nutrient levels in Wolf Creek. Algal blooms, fish kills, deoxygenated water, and other aspects of accelerated eutrophication result from increased nutrient loading.
[9] NOP, pg. 4, "approximately 500 tons per day (182,500 tons per year) of barren rock" excavated and in piles.
[10] For more information, please coordinate with the West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the Yuba Groundwater Sustainability Council, amid developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans that require water management strategies between groundwater and interconnected surface water sources, such as the Yuba and Bear rivers.

- Is the clay lined treatment pond sufficient to keep the contaminated water withdrawn underground from contaminating the site and nearby riparian areas?
- How many community members in the Wolf Creek region downstream that may be impacted by the increased flows from the "treated" groundwater?
- What are the downstream impacts to the mining operations? Wolf Creek is an important tributary to the Bear, which flows eventually to the San Francisco Bay Delta. How will Rise Gold mitigate for those larger downstream impacts?

In order to assess the most accurate impacts to groundwater resources from the Mine, SYRCL recommends the County hire a hydrogeologist to obtain a robust understanding of the groundwater resources in the County's jurisdiction.

D. Impacts to Biological Resources

SYRCL strongly encourages the County to include impacts on "Biological Resources" in the DEIR, and was disappointed to not see any potential impacts to sensitive species in the NOP. Mining operations may impact native sensitive and threatened species in the Bear River watershed. Sensitive species potentially impacted by degraded water quality or less water available in the ecosystem are the Foothill Yellow Legged Frog, Western Pond Turtle, California Horned Lizard, Western Ridged Mussel, River Otter, Beaver, and Osprey.

Additionally, threatened local species that may be affected are the Layne's ragwort, Vernal pool fairy shrimp, Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, California red-legged frog, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, steelhead, Chinook salmon and North American green sturgeon. A number of these species rely on the Bear River watershed for critical habitat that allows the continued survival of their species. Fish species are particularly affected because they are vulnerable to low flows, increased sedimentation and toxic contamination. Additionally, soil erosion also increases fine-sediment in streams, damaging spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, such as the local spring-run Chinook salmon.

SYRCL hopes to see all potential harms to Biological Resources assessed in the DEIR.

II. Climate Change Concerns

SYRCL has concerns that the re-opening of the Mine will make our community and watersheds more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, rather than improve regional adaptation and resilience.

The NOP indicates that mining will begin with diamond drilling and ammonia nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) to create a series of tunnels and shafts to get to the gold, once the initial dewatering process is complete. Specifically, "[t]he project applicant has approximately 2,585 acres of underground mineral rights, as shown in Figure 2, which would be available for mining as part of the proposed project. The location, size, and depth of new underground workings would depend on surface and underground drilling and mineral testing."[11] This is a much larger impact scope

[11] NOP, pg. 4.

than the "disturbed" surface area of 200 acres, and therefore SYRCL is concerned that the Project will impact the seismic stability of our community in unknown ways.

In addition, SYRCL is concerned about the new development, air quality, greenhouse gas emission, energy usage and seismic impacts of the Project. In addition to the water discharges and mine waste, the NOP states that

> "[m]ine development in nonmineralized "barren" rock (i.e., non-gold bearing) is expected to result in the production of *approximately 500 tons per day (182,500 tons per year)* of barren rock. The barren rock would be transported from the tunnel face to the mineshaft (using electric or diesel-powered load/haul/dump vehicles, rail cars, and/or conveyors) to underground rock bins located adjacent to the shaft. The rock would then be loaded into the shaft skips, hoisted to the surface, and dropped into one of the compartments of the concrete silo located on the surface. The barren rock will then be transported by trucks on the surface for use as engineered fill."[12]

SYRCL requests that the County answer the following questions in the DEIR:

- How will the new developments for the Mine impact the open space in the Brunswick Basin?
- How will Rise Gold mitigate the negative air quality impacts from both the increase in greenhouse gas emissions[13] and mining operations?
- How will Rise Gold mitigate for the increase in energy usage due to mining operations?
- Will the California Department of Toxic Substances Control plan to consolidate and "cap the contaminated soils" at the Centennial Site be a complete remediation of the site?
- Will the cleanup of the Centennial site be completed before mining operations are allowed to begin?[14]
- What are the details of the clean up plan for the Centennial site?
- The Centennial Industrial Site has "unstable soils" in addition to contamination. How is Rise Gold planning to address this issue?

III. Fiscal and Aesthetic Concerns

SYRCL believes that the re-opening of such a large gold mine in Grass Valley may negatively impact the rural character of our community, and therefore is a threat to the social and fiscal foundation of the community that SYRCL is dedicated to serve and unite. Therefore, SYRCL formally requests the County include a robust economic study in the DEIR.

Additionally, SYRCL request the County answer the following questions in the DEIR:

- What is Rise Gold's fiscal plan to pay for continued remediation of the project after the 80 years of operation?

[12] NOP, pg. 4.
[13] *See* Air Quality and greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Feb 2020, pgs 73-74, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/33583/Air-Quality-and-GHG-Report—ADDED-392020
[14] NOP, pg. 7.

- What is Rise Gold's plan to house any new employees that are required to operate the Mine that are not already housed in the community?[15]
- What is Rise Gold's plan to mitigate the Mine's severe aesthetic impacts to the rural character of the Brunswick Basin and downtown Grass Valley?

Conclusion

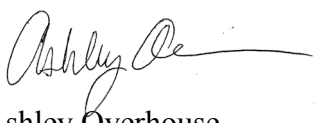
In closing, we appreciate the County's time and dedication to a robust environmental review of this Project. Our community needs a thorough evaluation of overarching environmental impacts from past and proposed future gold mining operations.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate during the study period. For coordination, clarification or discussion of any matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Melinda Booth, or River Policy Manager, Ashley Overhouse, by email or phone (530-265-5961).

Sincerely,



Melinda Booth
Executive Director
melinda@yubariver.org



Ashley Overhouse
River Policy Manager
ashley@yubariver.org

[15] The application to re-operate the Idaho-Maryland mine states that 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of those jobs, 242 jobs are specialized technical positions likely taken by people recruited from outside the area. The remaining jobs, truck transport of mine waste, and mineral processing, could provide approximately 70 jobs for current local residents.

From: Ashley Overhouse <ashley@yubariver.org>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: melinda@yubariver.org; Traci Sheehan <traci.sheehan@gmail.com>
Subject: SYRCL Idaho-Maryland Mine NOP Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please find attached the comments of the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) in response to the County's Notice of Preparation as required by CEQA for the proposed reoperation of Rise Gold Corporation's Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Best,
Ashley Overhouse

Ashley Overhouse, J.D., LL.M.

River Policy Manager

South Yuba River Citizens League

Preferred pronouns: she, her, hers

313 Railroad Ave Suite 101, Nevada City, CA 95959

During the COVID-19 Shelter in Place, please call: (408) 472-4522 ashley@yubariver.org

Confidentiality notice: This message may be privileged or otherwise protected by work product or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail, permanently delete it from your system, and do not disclose its contents to anyone. Thank you.

From:	Julia Park Tracey
To:	Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Reconsidering the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:19:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly, We are new to Grass Valley; we just bought our home in January. Like many others in the area, we were drawn to this community because of the natural beauty and important history of the town.
We are concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. We are concerned that the Environmental Impact Report will not accurately include the local impact of noise and runoff; the length of contract is absurd (80 years is too long for anyone to hold onto anything). The community should have much more say in the matter.
We are concerned that there will be little positive impact on the community but much negative impact. Is there no way to stop this industrial disaster from taking place? Has this been well and truly studied? Or has this been rubber stamped and we citizens are only going to have to deal with the noise, pollution, and waste to come?

Please reconsider allowing this mine to reopen. Sincerely, Patrick and Julia Tracey
109 Carpenter St.
GV

Julia Park Tracey
journalist | author | editrix
poet laureate emeritus
historical fiction | literary nonfiction

Facebook www.facebook.com/juliaparktracey
Twitter @juliaparktracey
Instagram @juliaparktracey

From: Mike Pasner <mrpasner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:44 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This mine must be stopped. Draining water thousands of feet deep and then flooding Wolf Creek. Truck traffic 24 hr.s a day. It was stopped 8 years ago for good reason. You / we must not allow permits. A full on gold mine within the city limits of a tourist town. Thanks Mike Pasner Indian Springs Organic Farm

--

Mike Pasner
Home/Office: 530 432 3755
mrpasner@gmail.com
Indian Springs Organic Farm
Indian Springs Organic Farm on Facebook
Request to join our ISOF email list
Safe Ditches website
Safe Ditches on Facebook
Request to join our Safe Ditches email list for updates

From:	Janet Peake
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:13:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
I have been a resident of Nevada County for 29 years. I have lived off of Greenhorn Road for 26 years. I moved here from the Bay Area because of the beautiful forested country. The main attraction for me is the wonderful quietness of our community, away from city noise and lights. And like others, I love the Yuba River, and the music and arts our community offers. I have invested my life in a business and a home in this community.

I am very concerned that the county is considering any kind of proposal to take us back into the industrial era and opening the Idaho Maryland Mine. While Greenhorn road feels like country, there are a lot of houses in this area. We all rely on well water. The scope of draining the mine is so vast, it is of huge concern to me and many of my neighbors that our wells will be negatively impacted. The EIR needs to study how many wells' water production and quality could be reduced, both within the mineral rights area of the mine and far beyond those boundaries.

The EIR should also analyze:

- Noise pollution in the greater surrounding area. Especially at night. The main beauty of living here is the wonderful quiet at night. In the summer, I can sit outside at night and just hear crickets. Any noise above that is unacceptable.

- Light pollution. We live in the country where it is dark at night. We look up and see the stars and the Milky Way. We don't see lights through the trees. The mine is proposing to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Lights would be on at night. The report needs to analyze light pollution from operations.

- Traffic - road & car damage - Large trucks transporting waste rock from one site to the other! What traffic will that add to the area, damage to our roads and to cars traveling on the roads with them - rocks flying out and hitting cars - I can see it now!!!!

- Water pollution in Wolf Creek. What effects would pumping mine water into Wolf Creek have on the creek's water quality?

- Effect on wildlife and habitat in and around the mine's two sites as well as downstream.

- Effect on the soil in and around the mine's two sites as well as downstream.

- Recreation - how will the mine effect the overall feeling of our clean country living that tourists love and admire?

- Hazardous Materials

- Air Pollution

- Disruption to the land and water around the mine's two sites in regards to any historical and cultural artifacts or potential artifacts.

- Agriculture and forestry - effect of mine operations on other and existing industries

Thank you for your time in considering my concerns. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at this email address or at (530) 913-7378.

Sincerely,

Janet Peake
12074 Dogwood Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: maura pearlstein
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:29:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Maura Pearlstein and I have been a local resident for the past 3 years. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the possible reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I've read that there can be blasting 24 hours a day/7 days a week. This will obviously deteriorate the air quality from fumes of increased trucks traffic and crushing of rock. 9,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year is projected to be emitted from the mine. Our town should be on the forefront of climate change, not moving backwards. We unfortunately have a dependence on tourism, which will suffer. The minimal jobs that may be created are not worth these steep and long lasting prices. I ask that you please reconsider.

Sincerely,
Maura Pearlstein
526 Ivy St
Grass Valley

From: Jon Brown <mikolouise924@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Notification re: Rise Gold deadline

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been made aware that some Grass Valley residents received a letter of notification about the upcoming meeting regarding the Rise Gold mining proposal. I am a resident living four miles from the proposed mining operation and haven't received any notification in regards to this meeting or the deadline to submit comments.

I would certainly hope that the persons put into the position of safekeeping and bettering our community would see to it that the citizens they govern are made well aware of such an impactful issue's deadline.

If the whole of the community hasn't been informed, I plead that you will now see to it that ALL the residents of Nevada County be notified and heard. We ALL have the right to try to preserve our amazing community, the fact that this deadline feels "hidden" tells me that the county officials aren't looking out for our best interests. I'm hoping to be proven wrong!

Sincerely,

Joanna Pedroncelli
16753 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley

From: jacquelinemaxine
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: methylmercury
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:03 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I'm writing because I learned about methylmercury from Sierra College Earth Science College Professor Frank DeCourten.

From https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ca-water/science/mercury?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects
"Mercury occurs in several different forms, the most important of which is methylmercury. Methylmercury is the form most readily incorporated into biological tissues and most toxic to humans. Methylmercury accumulates and biomagnifies in the food chain, reaching highest concentrations in predatory fish such as bass and other species which are prized by anglers. **Numerous water bodies in California have fish-consumption advisories because of mercury contamination from historical mining.** The USGS has collected data and conducted studies in the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, Trinity County, in the Bear, Yuba, and American River watersheds in the Sierra Nevada, and other areas throughout the U.S. On the basis of USGS studies and other recent work, a better understanding is emerging of mercury distribution, ongoing transport, transformation processes, and the extent of biological uptake in areas affected by historical gold mining. This information has been used extensively by federal, state, and local agencies responsible for resource management and public health in California."

And from https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/558194c3e4b023124e8f0b10 who asked the questions - 1. How has mercury bioaccumulation in the Bay changed over time? And, 2. Can we attribute the observed variation in bioaccumulation over time to different anthropogenic sources of mercury? With the answer to the second question being YES.
"San Francisco Bay, California is considered a mercury-impaired watershed. Elevated concentrations of mercury are found in water and sediment as well as fish and estuarine birds. **Sources of mercury to the watershed since 1845 include sediment-associated mercury from mercury mining, mercury losses from gold amalgamation activities in mines of the Sierra Nevada**, aerial deposition of mercury from global and regional emissions to air, and the direct discharge of mercury to Bay waters associated with the urbanization and industrialization of the estuary. We assessed historical trends in mercury bioaccumulation by measuring mercury concentrations in feathers of the endangered California Ridgway's rail (formerly California Clapper Rail) using museum specimens. We developed a structural equation model to attribute variation in historical mercury bioaccumulation

in rails to sources of mercury, and estimated the toxicological consequences of extreme mercury exposure to rails from known correlations between feather and blood mercury concentrations."

And from the SWRCB-
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/mercury/reservoirs/docs/factsheet.pdf
"Mercury is a heavy metal that is poisonous in very small amounts. Infants, young children, and women of childbearing age are most at risk. **It is known to cause brain damage as well as kidney and lung problems in humans and wildlife.** To begin to address this widespread mercury contamination, the Water Boards are developing a multi-part program that will focus first on mercury in California's reservoirs. There are currently 74 reservoirs identified as impaired and that number is expected to increase substantially as more data are collected."

Because of the deadly consequences of methylmercury on our environment, I'm concerned about the possibility of reopening mining operations at Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Thank you,
Jacqueline Peigare

From:	Jane Pelton
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	NOP re: proposal by Rise Grass Valley to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Grass Valley
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:19:07 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

In order to properly assess the impacts associated with re-opening the old Idaho Maryland Mine in Grass Valley, please make sure that the following issues are addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the IMM project:

1) Full and complete analysis of the geology and hydrologic features of our watershed by independent hydrologists, including: a) identification of underground faults and fractures; b) the effects of perpetual de-watering on re-charge throughout the whole of the project area; c) the effects of perpetual de-watering on surface soils, trees, vegetation, and wildlife habitat; d) the effects of perpetual de-watering on wells throughout the whole ~2600 acres of the underground project area; e) risks of subsidence/sink holes under homes and roads throughout the whole ~2600 acres of the underground project area; f) the impacts to South Fork Wolf Creek and its riparian areas in all seasons; and g) how setbacks for both perennial and seasonal streams will be protected.

2) Comprehensive and independent analysis of both short and long-term risks to groundwater quality in connection with the Rise plan to contaminate the mined tunnels with cement paste.

3) Complete detailed description of the plan to treat the water pumped out of the mine tunnels, and drainage from the mine in perpetuity.

4) Complete detailed water monitoring plan to ensure that: a) the treated water feeding into Wolf Creek does not contain mining contaminants; b) a specific plan of action for when it does; and c) immediate stop work enforcement when (not if) mining contaminants are released into Wolf Creek.

5) Specific information about the types of equipment, fuels and chemicals that will be used in all phases of the proposed mining operation including: a) how explosives, fuels, and chemicals will be securely stored; b) a specific plan of action for when, inevitably, accidents occur; and c) immediate stop work enforcement when they do.

6) Full and complete description of how directional/slant drilling will be conducted, and how mineral boundaries will be enforced.

7) Stipulate that the Centennial superfund site be cleaned up as the

first order of business, before any de-watering or rock hauling is done from the New Brunswick site so that Rise cannot stockpile new mine waste at the New Brunswick site.

8) Full and complete independent analysis of diminished air quality from diesel exhaust, explosives, and dust from crushed rock and soil that is likely contaminated with naturally occurring arsenic and asbestos.

9) Comprehensive and independent analysis/quantification of greenhouse gas emissions for all phases of the mining operation.

10) Comprehensive and independent analysis of the cumulative effects of noise from mine blasting, trucks, and heavy equipment along with other construction projects in the area.

11) Comprehensive and independent analysis of impacts to Grass Valley traffic from large trucks carrying waste rock and supplies, including: a) the design of safe and rapid evacuation routes in the event of fire; and b) the costs for road maintenance and repairs.

12) Analysis of impacts to Grass Valley public services – fire, medical, police, City.

13) Comparative analysis of economic impacts (projected costs of boom/bust mining vs. no mine alternative) including an assessment of diminished property values in the vicinity of this massive mine, probable loss of tourism due to truck traffic, air and noise pollution, public health impacts, and probable loss and/or inability to attract new businesses.

14) Comprehensive and independent analysis of Rise track record and finances: a) does this mining junior have the financial capability to honor its promises to Nevada County; b) can Rise post a bond large enough to make whole residents who may be harmed by their activities *and* cover the County's cleanup costs when gold prices drop and investors disappear, and Rise blows town like the last Canadian junior (Emgold).

Grass Valley *was* a mining town, and the scars from that era are still visible today. So-called "modern" mining, with its heavy equipment vs. gold pans, is no panacea. It should be abundantly clear to *everyone* by now that gold mining is a dirty, destructive, accident-prone industry. County planners should prepare for the worst and not be lulled by the rosy scenarios put forward by Ben Mossman, who disregards the fact that hard rock gold mining in a populated region that is surrounded on all sides by homes, businesses, and schools, is in no way compatible with the community that Grass Valley has become.

Sincerely,

Don and Jane Pelton

Grass Valley, CA

From: Peter Perkins-Flop House Creations
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine Proposal
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for taking my email. As a long-time (34 year) resident of this area, 17 of those at my current residence off of Meadow Drive, I have seen many changes on the Highway 174 corridor. The current, devastating "improvements" on 174 itself, similar to those made almost 30 years ago along that same roadway, give me pause to wonder about the implications of a resumed, expanded, heavy-equipment based gold mining operation along Brunswick Road. I believe this mining operation would be similarly devastating to the area, both topographically (I understand it is an underground mining operation, but it will come with extensive surface workings), hydrologically, aesthetically, and perhaps most elusive yet pervasive, psychologically, to our community.

As a 4th year volunteer at the Empire Mine, I regularly discuss the effects that gold mining had on the environment very close to the Idaho-Maryland site. Years ago I hiked the old Hardrock Trail through the center of the Empire grounds, before that area was condemned for hopeless cyanide contamination. The incomprehensibly large volume of contaminated groundwater that is held at depth at the Empire (arsenic leading the list of contaminants) proved overwhelming to the Magenta reclamation project attempted a number of years ago along Empire Street below the visitor's center. Should the Idaho-Maryland complex corrupt the integrity of the Empire workings, what would the implications be in terms of handling this toxic groundwater? Will they be equipped to handle this? How? This is one of many questions that I have regarding practical mine safety and environmental health.

Then there is traffic. Brunswick is a main corridor for local commerce. How would the mined material be transported? Where would it be processed? What about noise pollution, air pollution, visual pollution? It is bad enough that the corner of Greenhorn and Brunswick has been dominated by a (what, mini storage facility?) and now there will be a working mine across the way? It just seems untenable and a poor idea.

I will leave it here as I believe you can register this letter as a "No" or "Negative" in terms of my feelings as a taxpayer and resident to this mining proposal.

Again, I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Perkins
12640 Greenfields Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-273-5067

--
Peter Perkins
Flop House Creations
1-530-273-5067
www.flophousecreations.com
flophousecreations.etsy.com

From: dr p
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:01:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

KC Chapman & Daniel Perkins

11046 Juanita Ct.
Grass Valley, CA, 95949
singlesocksonly@gmail.com
805-458-4000

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We have been Grass Valley residents for 6 years. We were drawn to Nevada County because of its beautiful woods, rivers, and creeks.

We are concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are our requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the

boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The proposed mines impact on our creek, riparian zones and subterranean groundwater.

o The effect of greenhouse gas emissions on our community.

o The ramifications of noise and increased traffic on Brunswick Rd. and Whispering Pines Blvd.

o The preservation of the historical and archaeological Nisenan land.

We would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

KC Chapman & Daniel Perkins

From: Phil Perrin
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland proposed operation
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir,
My name is
Phil perrin
We live at 19069 Jones Ridge Rd. Grass Valley Ca 95945.
I have a major concern regarding the draining of the mine shafts during the operation of the mine especially as they are proposing pumping a huge volume of water from the mines into a nearby river and that is ground water. I'm not a hydrologist but seems like we would be replenishing that volume of ground water from the very ground water above the mine operation that we depend on to continue living in the Jones ridge area directly above the proposed new mine operation. At the very least a new EIR should address the possibility that they will run our ground (or wherever our water comes from) water layer dry and what they propose to correct the problem.
I look forward to your early address of this possible life altering activity to our continued use of this beautiful forestland.
Get Outlook for iOS

From: Sharon Perrin <sperrin39@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine water

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

What is going to happen to our well water? I live off Greenhorn

From:	Christine Peterson
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org; cpluv2hike@hotmail.com; cap5214@yahoo.com
Subject:	re: Idaho-Maryland Mine Notice of Preparation of DEIR
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 2:22:10 PM
Attachments:	image002.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

And this should concern everyone in the County! I grew up on Cedar Ridge Drive and used to sled down the hill at the end of the road (winter) and hike in the area (summer/fall). I now live on Towle Lane (off of Woodrose Way) which is located directly across from the main gate of the mine site. My husband & I have lived in the house more than 20 years and look forward to retiring here.

The information provided in the NOP is quite disturbing. The thought of this mine operating 24/7 is hard to comprehend let alone express in words the impact to our quality life in what is currently a very lovely, quiet neighborhood.

I'm including a link here (https://vimeo.com/120747168) that I really hope everyone involved in this process takes the time to view. I want the issues raised in this video to be addressed in it's relation to what is being proposed at Idaho-Maryland Mine. Even though this happened almost 30 years ago I feel it is very relevant to what is happening today.

I was told that I should ask specific questions in my letter and not just lament the "loss of quality of life" in the area, so here are just a few:

What guarantees are being made that will protect every household that is currently receiving water via a well that their wells will not be impacted by the mine's practices?

Brunswick Road had a structural failure in the winter of 2016 right in front of the Mine property…it was closed to through traffic in the summer of 2017 for massive repairs. What will the impact of resumed underground blasting & tunneling have on our roadways as well as the massive amounts of increased heavy truck traffic?

What types of chemicals are being used in the de-mineralization process and what safe guards are in effect for handling transporation and possible hazardous spills that could impact nearby neighborhoods? The same question in regards to the materials used for underground blasting?

What financial protections are being put in place in the event of a catastrophic event that may result in the loss of our homes? Is Rise Gold willing to put, let's just say a Billion Dollars aside, to cover the costs of loss of home values, medical expenses for conditions caused by living so close to a toxic site, costs of future on-site accidents that result in toxic spills or toxic exposures that deem our area uninhabitable?

I know the history of our county and our state is tied to the discovery of gold and mining; but times have changed. The future of our county lies in protecting and enhancing the natural beauty and charm of our area. People come to this area and tour historic sites, such as Empire Mine & Malakoff Diggings, so how about making the Idaho-Maryland mine site a state park?

Thank you.

Christine Peterson

HR/Payroll/Finance Specialist
Hospice of the Foothills
530-274-5190





We need your support. Please make your gift today!
https://hospiceofthefoothills.thankyou4caring.org/donation

CONFIDENTIAL: This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are the property of Hospice of the Foothills; are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom this e-mail is addressed. If you are not one of the named recipients or otherwise have reason to believe that you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete this message from your computer. Any other use, retention, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited.

Justin Pfaffinger
12757 Leaf Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945
pfaffdog@gmail.com
(530) 913-5259

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing in opposition to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have been a resident of Nevada County since 1986. Listed below are three main reasons why I am in opposition to the mine, please consider these and reply.

1) Potential for the contamination of any waters, including Wolf Creek and the contamination of the water supply to our well. As I'm sure you are quite aware, the Lava Cap Mine off of Lava Cap Rd in Nevada County released in 1997 levels of arsenic so high into the Little Clipper Creek, that it contaminated the creek, Lost Lake, shallow groundwater and all wells in it's watershed. The Lava Cap Mine as the crow flies is likely no more than 3 miles from the Idaho-Maryland site at Brunswick and East Bennett. To this day, Lost Lake is deemed unsafe to swim in, as the soil at it's bottom and shores is contaminated with arsenic, and construction of piped-in water for all homes affected has yet to be completed. In the meantime, families are forced to use water-treatment systems in their homes to try to provide safe drinking water. In 2018, twenty-one (21) years following the initial contamination, a Superfund of $32,000,000 was finally approved for the cleanup of Little Clipper Creek and Lost Lake, however, the funds have yet to be used and no cleanup has been accomplished. This Superfund is federal money, tax-payer dollars, and I would like to know if the residents of California are willing to pay for more potential mining mishaps like this. It seems to me that funds of such magnitude should be on a voter's ballot before even entertaining this mining operation. If the much smaller Loma Rica Mine can have a mishap that costs $32,000,000 to cleanup, is the anticipated $72,000,000 of gold to be found in the Idaho Maryland Mine worth searching for? $72,000,000 of gold quickly pales in comparison to not just the costs of cleanups but the lives of families that could be destroyed as result of contaminated water. If it's been 23 years since the Lava Cap Mine spill and still nothing has properly been cleaned, that's 23 winters where the contaminated soils of Little Clipper Creek and Lost Lake have continued to be flushed downstream. Has Rollins Lake been evaluated for potential contaminants as result of the Lava Cap Mine? Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine is too risky, we do not want to make national headlines for contaminating the Wolf Creek which flows into the Bear River which flows into the Sacramento River and on into the San Francisco Bay. Is Nevada County ready to give an accounting for why we willingly reopened a mine that resulted in the contamination of such a complex water system? Surely we didn't anticipate a mishap, but it'll be our responsibility, and it would be a

tragedy at the least. The residents of San Francisco and every other resident along the watersheds of the above mentioned waterways need to be informed of the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine and that the mine will be pumping water from the mine directly into a creek that ultimately contributes to their water supply. All of these residents are entitled to this information as well as the right to vote on such an operation and I would like to know if they will be included in the discussions and decision making process of whether or not to open the Idaho Maryland Mine? To what degree will Rise Gold be held responsible for the contamination of any waterway/watershed/well? What doctor's bills will Rise Gold pay for any individual adversely affected by the operation of reopening and keeping open the Mine? I would imagine that the pockets of Rise Gold are not deep enough to cover even a fraction of the potential costs of water clean-up, well restoration, or doctor's bills, so who will pay for all of this? This tax-payer demands a vote and demands that all potentially affected residents of California have a vote.

2) Potential for the reduction in water from my well as measured in gallons per minute (GPM). If there is the potential for ANY reduction in the GPM of water from my well, then I do not want the Idaho-Maryland Mine to reopen. I don't just want to be protected from a well drying up, I want protection from a well that drops in production. If Rise Gold says that it will provide NID water when my well dries up, does that mean that Rise Gold can wait until my well is producing literally nothing before it does anything to get me more water? If it's not waiting until it runs dry, then at what GPM will Rise Gold step in to restore my water supply? My well currently produces 23 gallons per minute, and I bought my property for that reason. Other than from natural causes, I will not tolerate a reduction in my well production. I have solar on my home that completely covers our electrical demands too, including our electricity-driven well pump, so technically I don't pay anything to get water currently. Obviously that came at a price with installing solar, so if that benefit of water-money savings goes away, I would expect compensation for my solar panel and installation fees, which I believe was close to $26,000. If I have a well that dries up and NID water has to be piped in, I want a contract that has Rise Gold or Nevada County paying in full for all the water bills of NID water equivalent to the amount that we use currently for drinking and irrigation, and I want the water bills to be paid as well for any future home buyer of my property so that when I go to sell my home the value of the property having solar is maintained.

3) Reduction in home values. I want a home and property value assessment to be made prior to reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine and should the value of that assessment drop with the reopening of the mine, the difference of assessed values be paid out directly by Rise Gold immediately, with or without the sale of the home. The home values for Grass Valley will plummet, it will absolutely destroy the attraction of new families to the area,

> our town will become an outdated mining town, stuck in the economies of the past that can't be innovative enough to bring in industries that will carry us into the future. Our young family will certainly move to a town that understands that there was once a time for mining like this, but that time is gone, we must be more progressive than that.

There are so many other concerns with the reopening of the mine, but I know that you are receiving countless other letters addressing those other concerns. Please feel free to call me with any questions or clarifications that you may have with the three above mentioned concerns.

Sincerely,

Justin Pfaffinger

From:	Justin Pfaffinger
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:17:18 PM
Attachments:	Rise Gold.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Mr. Kelley,

Please find attached a word document which details some of my concerns for the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Thank you.

-Justin

--

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." - Proverbs 3:3

JUSTIN M. PFAFFINGER, DDS

Family Group Practice
216 S. Pine Street
Nevada City, CA. 95959
(530) 265-5815

Kayla Pfaffinger
12757 Leaf Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945
kaylapfaffinger@gmail.com
(530) 913-3149

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to urge you to not reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Nevada County. I was born in Nevada County in the early 1980's. Having lived in multiple other California counties for higher education for near 10 years, my husband and I made the choice to return to Nevada County to raise our 3 children and pursue the lifestyle that we enjoyed growing up here. We love Nevada County and the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine would unfortunately cause us to have to move due to our proximity to the mine.

Due to my concerns with the proposed reopening of the mine, I would like to request that the following items be included and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report:

- Water – This is an important one for our family as we are less than one mile from the mine. We bought our house knowing that we were on a well that pumps 23 gallons per minute, which is sufficient for our family's needs. We have solar on our house, which allows our well pump to operate for free, giving us free water. We do not want treated water pumped to our house, and we certainly would not want to pay for it.
    - Will wells dry up? Will the water become contaminated?
    - What will happen if our well isn't as full, if our gallons per minute decreases?
    - What compensation would we receive if our well dried up or GPM slowed?
    - What constitutes "compromised" water quality and what remediation will be available for homeowners?
    - Environmental studies need to be performed analyzing the increased risks of wildfires in our area due to the mines operations. Will the mines use of the water in our area dry out our local forests? We already are not able to get regular fire insurance and pay high premiums for the California Fair Plan due to wildfire risk.

- Property Values – With the risk of wells drying up, noise pollution, greenhouse gas pollution, and increased traffic, our home values are sure to plummet the minute the mine gets approval to reopen.
    - Extensive economic studies need to be done to determine the financial effects of the mine reopening.

    - Will homeowners be compensated if their home is unsellable due to the fault of the mine, for example, if the well is dried up or contaminated?
    - Will homeowners be compensated if our home values plummet due to the mines reopening?

- Noise - Although they state that noise will be minimum, this is not going to be the case with mining taking place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with tons of rock waste removed from the mine daily.
    - Further noise studies need to be performed to assess actual nuisance to local homeowners.
    - This is a residential area; we should be able to drive to school and back without feeling like we are driving through a construction zone daily, with loud noise. Again, we would have to move.

- Greenhouse Gas – We moved back from Los Angeles and chose Nevada County to raise our children in due to the beauty, nature, and the CLEAN air. The projected 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year is detrimental to not only our local county, but our world.
    - Further environmental studies need to be performed to analyze the short and long-term effects of the mining operations on not just Nevada County, but California, the US, and our World.

- Traffic – We chose Greenhorn due to its wonderful location to town and our children's school. We did not want the traffic of any of the local highways and wanted a safe commute to work and school. If large, heavy, trucks are making up to 100 round trips per day, 7 days a week, that is going to be a very large change and inconvenience for residents.
    - Further studies need to be conducted to analyze the impact on locals, who chose their home locations based on a safe, minimal commute.
    - Is the mine worth the accidents that will surely happen with years and years of these heavy construction trucks driving around town daily?

- Explosives -
    - Further studies need to be conducted on the possible ramifications of up to 28,000 lbs. of explosives being stored onsite underground.
    - Is this safe?
    - If there were an accident, how many lives would be lost? How many homes would be destroyed? And is the mining corporation ready to pay for all of those homes and lives lost?

- Jobs – The few supporters of the mine state that this would be great for our local economy, providing tons of new jobs. However, the application states that 312 jobs would be created, 242 of which are specialized technical

positions most likely taken by people recruited from outside the area. The remaining 72 jobs "could" provide jobs for current local residents.

- Further economic studies need to be done to determine the positive impact (if any) for Nevada County. These should include the projected amount of current residents who WILL move away if the mine is reopened.

Again, I strongly urge you to not reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine. We, along with countless other residents of Nevada County, chose to buy our house here to raise our children and live in the peace and quiet, with fresh well water, that we grew up with.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kayla Pfaffinger

From:	Kayla Pfaffinger
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:12:07 PM
Attachments:	Kayla Pfaffinger - Idaho Maryland Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
Please see the attached word document regarding the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.
Thank you,
Kayla Pfaffinger

From:	Suze Pfaffinger
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Frank Pfaffinger; Suze Pfaffinger
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine reopening by Rise Corp.
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:46:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

8/16/20

Dear Matt,

We definitely oppose the reopening of the mine as our objections are the same as the prior time when there was talk of reopening the mine. We have heard the explosions of mining operations in the county that occur many miles away- longer than the 31/2 miles away from the Idaho Maryland Mine. We also object to the fact that the water in the wells was not considered last time until we brought up of the fact that de-watering the mine will have a direct negative affect on all the wells such as ours on Greenhorn& surrounding roads off Greenhorn as we have one of their shafts directly under our property. As we have been told by water companies in the area that if they de-water that shaft that it could affect our well as water always seeks the lowest point which is the shaft in the mine. Therefore if it were emptied our well water could seek the lowest point which could dry up our well. There isn't any provision in their proposal to cover properties like ours.

Also we use Brunswick everyday as it is the main road to our work, shopping, schools, etc. & to have hundreds of trucks on the road everyday would be a traffic hazard & danger especially during winter with snow on the road, not to mention the pollution from all the truck engines everyday for 11 years.

We would appreciate a response from you in regards to this matter along with dates of meeting for public comments to be heard.

Sincerely,

Suze & Frank Pfaffinger
12323 Hoppy Hollow Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530)913-3911

From: Marcy Pierce <marcypierce@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I live on Partridge Road in Grass Valley. I purchased my home nearly 3 years ago. I chose this area because of its natural beauty and peacefulness. I am very concerned about the possibility of the Idaho Maryland Mine being re-opened and destroying the very elements that led me to choose this location. There are many issues that concern me. The ones that concern

me the most and that I would like to know more about are listed below.

- Noise. According to the Note of Preparation, the mine would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This would create constant noise to the surrounding areas impacting human and wildlife. I would like to know how noise will be controlled and how far away the sound will travel.
- Environmental. The area surrounding the mine location is very beautiful. How will the use of water and toxic disposal impact the vegetation and how far will the impact extend?
- Traffic. East Bennett and Brunswick Roads are a beautiful and convenient way to get to town without using the freeway. How would travel on these roads be effected by the mine?
- Property value. The issues above will impact the value of our properties. As we all know, property value in the area has already fallen due to wild fire risk. With a functioning mine causing noise disturbance and destroying the beauty of the local environment, how much more will property value fall?

I appreciate your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,
Marcella Pierce

From: Genna Pieri
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: For our grandchildren
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:27:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to ask that you protect our beautiful home here in the foothills. The proposed mine comes on the wings of so many other traumatic events of 2020 and can not be allowed to happen. Please call for and utilize all environmental studies available . The environmental and community impact would break the heart and soul of this community. I hope you help turn the tide of this devastating time in history by standing for nature, for community, for peace and beauty. Thank you, Genna Pieri

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner, Nevada County Planning Dept. August 17, 2020
Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine - Rise Gold, Grass Valley
Fr: Nancy Piette, Homeowner, 10679 Bragg Ave, Grass Valley CA 95945
CC: Heidi Hall, District 1 Supervisor

Dear Mr. Kelley:
I have many concerns about the possible development and re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. I have lived at the address above since 1991, and in the general area since 1983. I request that the EIR fully address the issues below.

Increased noise from mine operation.
There are many homes close to the mine site. The EIR should accurately estimate the decibel amounts of 24/7 mine operation for residents within a radius where mine sounds would be potentially heard.

Increased traffic and traffic noise near the mine and in the community.
The EIR should analyze the increased amount of truck and car traffic on area streets, including the estimated decibel amount of noise generated by such traffic.

Potential Adverse Environmental Effects of Dewatering the Mine
I request that the EIR address current water quality and toxicity of water now present in the mine shafts. How would removed water be "cleaned", and where would "cleaned" water be put? Where would toxins be put? How does mine dewatering affect the stability of land and homes above the old mine tunnels? How does dewatering affect wells in the vicinity? Rise should pay for current well water analysis for potability, metals, and toxins. If the mine is approved, Rise should pay for annual water analysis of the same wells. Could sinkholes spontaneously arise? How probable is it that homes/buildings could collapse into dewatered tunnels? The EIR should present full analysis of these issues.

Financial Impact on Homeowners within 1.5 mile radius of the mine
Based on noise, traffic, and well effects data, how would property values be affected and be compensated for?

Financial Impacts on the Local Community
Would a working mine bring jobs to the community, or would workers likely need to be imported? Does the community have enough housing if workers are imported to a possible mine? Will mine workers be paid a "living wage" in order to afford local housing and services? A full breakdown of likely financial benefits and/or costs to Nevada County should be included in the EIR.

At this time I am opposed to Rise Gold re-opening the mine, since I think the above concerns will be very difficult or impossible to mitigate. Thank you for your detailed work and thoughtful consideration of this proposed project.

Sincerely, Nancy Piette

From:	Nancy Piette
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Heidi Hall
Subject:	Proposed Rise Gold Development of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:55:12 PM
Attachments:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Letter.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
My concerns and questions for the EIR on the proposed Rise Gold development are stated in the attached document. Thank you for your work on this important issue.
Sincerely, Nancy Piette

-----Original Message-----
From: Natina Pistone <natinamaria@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:01 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: The opening of the mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing this letter in regards to the reopening of the gold mine at Idaho Maryland I am a homeowner for 15 years and a lifelong citizen of Nevada County. I am extremely entirely against this project for many reasons first and foremost the possibility that the surrounding homes lose their water and wells will dry up I live within 5 miles and I may not be affected but I would want someone

to fight for me if I happen to live close enough to where it would impact my water and who's to say it won't. There is also the tailings and the poison to Extract gold. This will destroy our beautiful pristine community in ways we can't even begin to imagine please do not allow this Canadian company to come in and Destroy our environment. I've watched Canadian companies come into beautiful little towns in Mexico and absolutely destroy them they have no regard for the environment or the people who live there. Thank you Natina Pistone

Sent from my iPhone

From: Marjorie Plog <margiesportmassage@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: RISE Gold Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Fwd: RISE Gold Mine
From: Marjorie Plog <margiesportmassage@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020, 9:56 AM
To: Marjorie Plog <margiesportmassage@yahoo.com>
CC:

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: RISE Gold Mine
From: Marjorie Plog <margiesportmassage@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020, 12:00 PM
To: Matt Kelly <matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us>
CC:

Mr Matt Kelly
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept
Maidu Ln Nevada City,Ca 95959
Re: Re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine

I am a home owner within five blocks of the Idaho Maryland round about intersection. These are my concerns :

•The proposed traffic increase of a hundred trucks daily to my neighborhood is excessive. The round about,off and on entering/exits onto East Main St and Hwy 49/20 are currently overwhelmed during certain times a day.

•There is limited safety with drivers IGNORING the existing stop signs and speeds.Adding 100 trucks is almost impossible to imagine how it would be horrible.

•The industry presence & pressures would ruin our downtown ambience and tourism draw.

• My only fire escape route from my house near Broadview and Washington Street is East Main and Idaho Maryland.If traffic is near capacity now,the increase of Rise Mine would be a extreme danger.

•The increased noise and air pollution from traffic will be a direct decreased affect of peace,health and happiness of my neighborhood.

•The "de water" of the mine operating is a uncertainty & unnecessary deterioration of the community residences on well water supply.

Please do not approve this project.Thank you for your service.

Marjorie Plog
103 Bawden Ave

Grass Valley,Ca 95945
(530)274-2421
margiesportmassage@yahoo.com

Jessica A. Pollatsek
146 Martin Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
sangitbhumika@gmail.com
(831) 419-1358

August 17, 2020

Mr. Kelley,

As a resident of Nevada County who lives near the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project, I have numerous grave concerns regarding the impacts that the proposed mine would pose to the surrounding area. I ask that the questions outlined below be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report. My concerns include :

HEALTH :

- How will the noise and vibration of underground blasting, conveyer and head frame operation, mine compressor, processing plant, generator, hoist, all operating 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week, adversely effect the physical and mental health of nearby residents, especially those with compromised health, including those, like myself, with seizure disorders? What measures will be taken to minimize these effects?

- What will be the adverse health effects of the noise and vibration of outdoor truck loading and hauling of rock 16 hours a day/ 7 days a week? What measures will be taken to minimize these health risks?

- What might be the adverse health effects of the light pollution created by the 24 hr/ day operations of the facilities on nearby residents? Will it impact the ability of residents to get 8 hours of sleep every night? What measures will be taken to minimize these risks?

- What may be the adverse health effects on local residents of air pollution caused by increased levels of potentially toxic dust and vehicle emissions from the hauling truck operations, which are estimated to be 100 round trips a day between the two operation sites, hauling hundreds of tons of rock for 16 hours a day? What measures will be taken to minimize these risks?

- What may be the adverse health effects on local residents of air pollution caused by the 24 hour a day ventilation of the air from the underground mine operations, which may include many toxic elements from the minerals being unearthed, as well as the toxic explosive compounds, including bulk emulsion explosives and Ammonia Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO), being stored and used to blast through rock and earth to extract soil, rock and minerals? What measures will be taken to minimize these effects?

- What might be the adverse health effects on residents of air pollution resulting from the dewatering process, which involves removing 2,500 gallons of water per minute from new and existing mine tunnels and pumping it to an above-ground, outdoor settling pond as part of the waste water treatment process. This waste water contains toxic elements from former and current mining operations. How much toxic gas might be released into our local air as the water sits in this outdoor settling pond? What measures will be taken to minimize these risks?

- What may be the adverse health effects to residents caused by extraction of toxic minerals and storage of same on a site one mile from downtown Grass Valley? How might tailings piles, which can contain: Arsenic; Cobalt; Barium; Mercury; Thallium; Chromium; Copper; Lead; Zinc; Cyanide; Vanadium and Nickel, present health dangers to residents? What measures will be taken to mitigate these dangers?

SAFETY :

- What may be the threats to public safety of the ongoing transportation, storage and use of bulk emulsion explosives and Ammonia Nitrate Fuel Oil explosive for purposes of underground excavation within a Seismic Hazard Zone? What are the potential risks to the public of uncontrolled or accidental explosions and/or earthquakes caused by mining operations? What measures will be taken to minimize these threats?

- What may be the negative effects on public safety of the enormous increase in large truck traffic, carrying hundreds of tons daily of potentially toxic 'engineered fill', in the areas adjacent to and near the sites? What measures will be taken to minimize these potentially dangerous effects?

- What dangers are presented by the ongoing transportation on our local roads of toxic and highly explosive compounds to the mining site? What measures will be taken to minimize these dangers?

- What safety hazards will the increase in heavy truck traffic pose to resident motorists on our local roads, especially in conditions of inclement weather? What measures will be taken to minimize these hazards?

ENVIRONMENT and OTHER :

- What might be the negative effects to the local environment from underground tunneling and potentially opening up old tunnels which might create sinkholes? What danger would these create and what measures will be taken to minimize this risk?

- What potential increase in fire risk to the area may be caused by the enormous amount of electric power consumed by the operations and what measures will be taken to minimize this risk?

- What is the potential water pollution danger involved with the discharge of treated waste water into Wolf Creek? How will the amount of toxins in the waste water be monitored?

- How can the mine operators be sure that the capacity of the outdoor 'settling' pond will not be exceeded by the amount of waste water pumped out of the mine during the dewatering process? What procedures will be in place to mitigate the damage caused by such an incident?

- What damage may be inflicted on local underground hydrology by the unearthing of toxic minerals during the dewatering process and what measures will be taken to prevent this damage?

- What may be the negative effects on local wildlife of the constant noise, vibrations, toxic

fumes and 24 hour light incursion into their environment? What measures will be taken to address these potential negative effects?

- What potential environmental effects will have a negative impact on the tourism industry that is so important to the livelihoods of so many of our local residents? Will the effects of water, air and noise pollution, as well as the unsightliness of the mine sites, and the increase of industrial traffic lead to a decrease in tourism to our area? What steps will be taken to minimize these risks?

These are probably only a few of the important issues that should be addressed by the Environmental Impact Report. I implore you to see that these concerns are addressed in the EIR and I thank you for your attention and dedication to preserving the vitality and beauty of our beloved Nevada County.

Thank you,

Jessica A. Pollatsek

From: Margaret Powers
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:34:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My name is Margaret Berliner Powers, and I am writing this letter to urge you to reconsider this very risky "opportunity". My family has lived at 12803 MacBoyle Way for the past 61 years, and this project will affect our family home forever.

We have already been impacted by the light industrial park located on Greenhorn road. Basically the land was cleared of all vegetation, and the construction vehicles sit there unattended. The wildlife in that area (deer, bobcats, squirrels, birds) have all been displaced.

Our home has a well, and I know that our water source will likely be contaminated if this project begins, and will not recover in my grandchildren's lifetime. Who is that serving? A company based in Canada? Also, the tailings will become the tourist attraction as they are in Tanzania, because they are so unsightly that you really have to see them to believe them! Is that what we want for our beautiful county? Now on to the noise and the vibrations caused by mining, when my parents bought their home they had no idea that it would become part of the "industrial park". We wake up before the sun rises to the noise coming from the airport. We have come to accept them, but I will be very disappointed if the Environmental Impact Statement does not closely consider that the homes affected by this project will lose more than just value to their homes, they will lose the quality of life we have come to love about Nevada County.

Thank you for your consideration,
Margaret Berliner Powers

Sent from my iPad

From: Powers, Ragan
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold proposal
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 8:37:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I am the son-in-law of Harold and Maryann Berliner. Mr. Berliner was the District Attorney of Nevada County for many years. He is survived by Maryann and eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Berliner came to Nevada City in the 1950s - their home is on Macboyle Way, which is very close to the industrial site at Bennett and Brunswick Roads. I am writing this note on behalf of Mrs. Berliner.

There are many questions and concerns about the proposed project, including the following:

First, many coal and other manufacturing companies throughout the western United States have gone bankrupt in recent years. They leave behind substantial cleanup liabilities, even though owners took out large profits over the course of many decades. While the companies promised to cleanup and restore the land (as Rise apparently promises), bankruptcy allows the companies to effectively walk away from their obligations.

What irrevocable third party guaranties or other financial guaranties does Rise propose to provide to assure its cleanup obligations? Note that Rise is a Canadian company and therefore is not subject to US bankruptcy laws. It could file bankruptcy in Canada and leave US creditors with no recourse.

Second, as I understand it, Rise proposes to run large trucks over state and county roads on a continuous basis, which will undoubtedly cause substantial degradation to current infrastructure, and would require significant upgrades to infrastructure. What provisions are being made to require Rise to pay for the required improvements?

Third, gold mining produces toxic waste. If one travels to Johannesburg, South Africa, there are large piles of mining slag. Water leaching through the slag is polluting ground water. What provisions will be made to insure that Rise's operations do not cause ground water contamination and to pay for mitigation if it in fact occurs. What financial guaranties will be provided to residents who rely on well water for their drinking water?

Fourth, what are the true economic benefits to Nevada County of the proposed operations, after all the mitigation costs are considered, e.g., infrastructure, noise, water and air pollution?

Ragan Powers
Sent from mobile device

From:	Sarah Powers
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 9:20:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My name is Sarah Berliner Powers, and I am writing this letter to plead with you to reconsider the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

Reading through the project memorandum, it is evident that it is necessary for this proposal to be further evaluated. Failing to do so could have serious and grave consequences to the community, ecology, and economy surrounding it.

- Community: The report notes in very brief detail of the jobs that will be created from the project. A total of 312 direct employees will be hired for the project.
    - What health and safety measures will be taken into account to protect these hard workers and their families? What costs will be associated with this? It is very well documented that miners have adverse health outcomes due to the severe work environments they are exposed to and are not compensated commensurately to their and their families risks. I request that you provide a detailed explanation of the steps you plan to take in protecting these workers and their descendants.
    - What health and safety measures will be taken to ensure that the water and air pollution created by this project will not adversely affect the surrounding community? What costs will be associated with this? How will you compensate residents for the higher cost of water? How will you compensate residents for treating well water? What constitutes a "compromised" water quality? Too many times we have seen communities adversely impacted by projects such as these. This project lacks any commitment that safety precautions will be taken to protect our community members.
- Ecology: In reviewing the report, I did not see any suggestion for how wildlife or ecology of the region would be preserved and protected.
    - My family has lived on adjacent land for over 60 years. Our grandparents and great grandparents chose this land to settle for the promise of living in a beautiful country. We are fortunate to wake up and observe wildlife existing and thriving all around us. By opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine, this wildlife may forever be displaced and their habitats ruined. I am concerned by:
        - Dewatering: This part of the project proposal is incredibly unnerving. The waterway that you are proposing to dewater into will have sweeping implications for not just Nevada County, but also beyond. And, communities feel this impact for generations. Take Flint, MI or Johannesburg, South Africa. These are just two of many communities that are forever handicapped by objectively short term projects that benefit the few and often remote individuals. What infrastructure will be in place to

contain the pollution? What upfront protections will be secured for our community to compensate for this level of risk you are imposing?

- Aboveground facilities construction and operations: With the exposure of minerals and toxic materials, what happens to the disrupted land, the animals that feed on it, and the materials that run off of it? The proposed project won't be contained to the acreage you are proposing but will leak well beyond the site. How will you and what equipment will you use to protect and mitigate this risk?
- Underground Mining: Where specifically will this mining occur? You note that it will happen 24/7. What ramifications will this have on the surrounding ecology and community? This long term and constant disruption will inevitable alter the ecology of the region and perhaps eliminate the beauty of the surrounding environment forever.
- Industrial Pad Development: The proposal suggests that this would serve as a dump site. Our family has a history of severe asthma. How will the air pollution be mitigated to the point that our community members who are not directly involved with the project experience no consequences? How will the project compensate for these long term healthcare costs?
- Potable Water Pipeline: As we have seen with many pipelines in the past, there are pollutants that enter them and cause short and long term health consequences for the innocent. Our family relies on our well and our well water here at Brunswick. I would like to understand how the well will be impacted by this proposal and how our quality of water would be ensured for well beyond the end of the project. Even if the project completes after 80 years, our drinking water will be susceptible to harm for many years after. Please see comments above under community regarding these concerns as well.
- Other operational details: The proposal briefly describes "other" operations that have equally grave consequences if handled inappropriately. In particular, the fuel and lighting suggested in the proposal has no suggestion of safety measures that will be taken. As we all know in the region, and in particular with the current Jones fire, and flammable materials need heightened security and safety precautions to be taken. PG&E did not take such precautions, which instigated the devastating Paradise fire last year. The impact of this fire has had severe consequences. Subjecting Nevada County to this type of tragedy due to the mine would far outweigh any benefit earned from it. What type of fire insurance will be in place for the immediate and surrounding community at risk to potential fires created by the mining site?

- Economy: Nevada County has had a incredible rise in tourism in the recent years. This tourism may be adversely impacted by reopening the mine. Any short term benefit of the mine could be far outweighed by the long term economic transition in progress. Additionally, with recent migration of residents from San Francisco to the Sierras, enabled by more people working remotely, has and will continue to increase property prices as well as expanding the tourism industry in the areas. Reopening the mine would surely stunt this growth. I request further evaluation of the economic impact the introduction of the Mine would have on the communities.

As a third generation of residents of this area, I inherently have an emotional investment in making sure we can protect this land. But, the greater tragedy of passing this proposal would

reach far beyond my family to innocent community members and animals for generations to come. There are too many examples of projects like this having negative community, ecology, and economic implications that far outweigh the short term gains.

I appreciate your consideration of the above concerns, and I eagerly await your response.

Best,

Sarah

Sarah Powers
206.349.8467

From: Ean Murphy
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: questions about Idaho Maryland mine proposal
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:57:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I moved back to Grass Valley last year because I remember fondly the natural untouched beauty of the area.

Not only am I concerned about the usual things - noise, traffic, etc., but I'm deeply worried about the lasting environmental impact of such a project. Drinking water in the area is still negatively affected by the previous mining efforts from a hundred years ago. I've heard one should not stray from the path at the Empire Mine trails as the dust one might kick up may contain heavy metals.

Has a comprehensive environmental impact study been done? What are the assurances that if something seeps into the water table that there will be alternatives provided to the NID or our well water? What will ensure air and soil quality?

Please carefully consider before destroying the resources and health of our community!

Thank you.

With regards,

Mr & Mrs Price Murphy

From: Catherine Prudhomme
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise mine plans
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:06:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I am a third-generation citizen of Nevada County. My grandfather moved his young family here in 1934, bought a house on Broad Street and set up a business at a lumber mill. He was among the founders of the Rotary Club in Nevada City. I lived here in my early childhood and young adulthood. I eventually moved back in 2001, to care for my mother, who lived here from age 13 to her passing in 2009. My family has deep ties to the land and to the community. This is a precious place, with many people who care deeply for the health of this land and for the survival of its citizens.

I am writing in opposition to the plans by the Rise mining company to re-open the mine in Grass Valley. I know you are receiving numerous documents regarding concerns for the opening of the mine, and I don't intend to repeat those details here. However, I would like to voice my strong opposition to these plans. Hasn't our community and this land suffered enough from the effects of mining? Please stand with the community in opposition to this development.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Prudhomme
441 Broad Street
Nevada City

From:	Louis T. Quaintance
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine draft EIR
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 7:30:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Louis Quaintance and Jean Matsuno August 11, 2020
10777 Banner Mine Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We are residents of Nevada City, and live in the Forest Knolls neighborhood.

We are very concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. The negative consequences of reopening the mine will outweigh any potential gains for our community, especially for those of us who live close to the mine.

How extensive will mine tunnels go under neighborhoods such as Forest Knolls? How will this impact our properties? How will homeowners be compensated for damage and loss of property value due to these tunnels?

A huge increase of traffic along Brunswick and Idaho Maryland Roads, with noxious fumes and non-stop traffic noise, will have an immediate and lasting impact on the quality of life of our community. How will homeowners be compensated for the loss of value of our properties due to this huge increase in noise and air pollution? Breathing clean air and hearing the sounds of nature are integral to the natural beauty we enjoy here in Nevada County.

How will water and soil quality be maintained? How will the Mine clear existing tunnels of contaminated water and remove toxic materials before sending the treated water into Wolf Creek? What is the plan for effective treatment of contaminated water and soil outside of the Mine? Although we do not depend on a well, there are many homeowners whose wells may be compromised. How will they be compensated for their loss of usable water? What are the plans for safe disposal of contaminated mine tailings?

Does the company have a plan to mitigate the huge amounts of carbon dioxide emissions generated by mine?

All environmental costs should be borne by Rise Grass Valley, Inc., not by our community.

We hope that all our concerns are fully addressed in the draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Louis Quaintance and Jean Matsuno

Virginia Ware Quinan

19149 Penn Valley Drive

P.O. Box 2155

Penn Valley, CA 95946

virginiawq@gmail.com

530 320 3966

Dear Mr. Kelly,

My son and I recently purchase a home in Grass Valley. Since I plan on spending my remaining days in the home, I am extremely concerned how the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine will affect my environment.

The mine is about a mile upriver of my new house and will be putting its toxic waste water into Wolf Creek which runs through my back yard. It could exacerbate my flooding risk in high water events. They will be drilling under my house for gold and using tons of TNT every day. I understand they will also be trucking mine tailings to a site close by and building an artificial fill depository.

This is really unacceptable.

Has the EIR done any studies for air and water qualities? Environmental impact? If so, what were the results?

What is the history and reputation of the company proposing the reopening of the mine?

This is too lovely an area to be destroyed by a money hungry corporation. We still see evidence of the damage caused by earlier mining activity. Please stop this.

Sincerely,

Virginia Ware Quinan

From:	Virginia Quinan
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Fwd: Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 2:34:14 PM
Attachments:	Idaho-Maryland Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Virginia Quinan** <virginiawq@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Aug 15, 2020 at 12:13 PM
Subject: Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
To: <MattKelly@co.nevada.ca.us>

August 15, 2020

Virginia Ware Quinan

19149 Penn Valley Drive (P.O. Box 2155)

Penn Valley, CA 95946

virginiawq@gmail.com

530 320 3966

Dear Mr. Kelly,

My son and I recently purchased a home in Grass Valley. Since I plan on spending my remaining days in the home, I am extremely concerned how the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine will affect my environment.

The mine is about a mile upriver of my new house and will be putting its toxic waste water into Wolf Creek which runs through my back yard. It could exacerbate my flooding risk in high water events. They will be drilling under my house for gold and using tons of TNT every day. I understand they will also be trucking mine tailings to a site close by and building an artificial fill depository.

This is really unacceptable.

Has the EIR done any studies for air and water qualities? Environmental impact? If so, what were the results?

What is the history and reputation of the company proposing the reopening of the mine?

This is too lovely an area to be destroyed by a money hungry corporation. We still see evidence of the damage caused by earlier mining activity. Please stop this.

Sincerely,

Virginia Ware Quinan

Cc: CEA
The Union

From: Ari Rampy
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine proposal is not what I want in my hometown
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:23:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,
Reopening a mine?!?! Please no. Please please please no. There are so many things about this that I am not ok with, but just to name a few: the pollution of air and water quality - I have asthma and already struggle to breathe, the increased truck traffic when our county is already getting overrun with an increasing population, the deforestation and increased greenhouse gases when our earth is struggling so damn hard to survive, and the noise level of a blast and drill situation 24/7 - Idaho-Maryland is in sight and sound range from my home and I live here so I can hear nature, not invasive mining activities. Please don't do this to our community.
Thank you for reading our concerns,
Ari Rampy

From: Noam Rappaport
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 3:10:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 3 years and live on the edge of the proposed mining area. I was drawn to this town because of its natural beauty, and its quiet and healthy environment as a place to raise my child. I live on Silver Way and enjoy the quiet of the trails in Empire Mine Park every day. I would be devastated to all of a sudden be living next to the noise and fumes of a mine and all the trucking involved.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. . The EIR should further analyze:

oThe air and noise pollution caused by all mining including trucking in and out of the mine and transport of tailings.

oThe impact on traffic.

oThe impact on property values.

oThis is one of the best areas in the state for Mountain Biking many people here and several of the trails cut right through that area. How would that impact the draw to the area?

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Sincerely,

Noam Rappaport

10482 Silver Way

Grass Valley, California, 95945

--
www.noamrappaport.com

From: Evan Rashby
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Reclamation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:16:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Evan Rashby and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.
Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Evan Rashby
Resident of Nevada County
erashby@gmail.com

From:	elenarayo
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Please don"t let the mine reopen
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 4:42:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley

This letter is to express most strongly that we, and many others with whom we have spoken, do not want the Idaho Maryland mine to be reopened.

Among the many detriments, we consider the noise pollution, the traffic pollution, the poisoning and irreversible contamination of ground water all inevitable in the mine operation to be factors that no circumstances can justify.

There will be very few, if any, benefits to our community by allowing this corporation or any other to strip resources, including groundwater and well water, from our local area. Instead, not only ourselves but many future generations will be left to clean up the mess. Haven't we learned anything over the past 100 years?

Please do not allow this project. Our community is fragile enough without adding to the burden on the neighbors and where we all live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Saul and Elena Rayo

Nevada City

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From:	Lisa Redfern
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Lisa Redfern; Gary Frankel
Subject:	Redfern | Frankel response to Reopening Idaho-Maryland Mine 8-16-20
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 6:34:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner Nevada County Planning Department 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959-8617 email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: EIR study priorities for re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

A recent Legislative Analyst Office report states that the cost to cleanup environmental contamination affecting ground and surface waters, vegetation, soils and air quality from California's Abandoned Mine Lands amounts to billions. - 8/4/20

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We have been Nevada County tax contributors since the early to mid 1990's. We settled here because of the community's natural beauty, art and food culture, availability of affordable housing, and historic building preservation. Our teen-age son was born at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. We've operated a local business and worked remotely for Silicon Valley companies.

Our top Environmental Impact Report areas of study would include;

High Tech Job Loss

Nevada County currently supports a sizable community of high tech workers. Gary, like many of the local tech companies, located a team of professionals here in the 90s because of the area's natural beauty and proximity to outdoor activities.

Many of these jobs are not tied to a facility. Workers can easily leave if their environment becomes non-hospitable. In 2010, a number of high tech businesses located in Whispering Pines publicly stated that the mining and drilling would drive them to leave. There's no reason to think it will be any different this time. Companies that go away over things like this don't come back. So, ANY economic analysis of this has to take into account the loss of jobs and income to the county that will be the inevitable result.

CO_2 Emissions

Costs of purchasing, operating, and maintaining municipal Carbon dioxide scrubbing systems.

Dewatering

Cost of perpetual water delivery (incurred 1. By the mining company and 2. By Nevada County if #1 defaults) to affected parcels with dry wells for as long as the current owners live there + paying fair market value to decedents with the County taking over the property there-after.

Community Health

Long-term health impact studies and a commitment to pay for life-long treatment, as well as paying for life-long health care costs for children born in affected households.

Toxic Tailings

Instigating an Abandoned Mine Site EPA Cleanup plan + creating funds to implement remediation and/or strengthen local groups already involved with study and remediation efforts.

Noise Pollution

Cost for investing in and maintaining a fleet of electric-powered trucks.

The COVID pandemic has done us a great favor of laying bare federal, state, and municipal consequences of short-sighted planning and decision making on public and economic community health.

Nevada County watershed history - at the epicenter of California mining land abuse - has also taught us the long-range value of prioritizing healthy ecosystems and mandating human behavior that supports them.

After the Idaho-Maryland mine re-opening issue is rejected again, perhaps the time and money investment in the EIR study will result in community job development that clearly aligns with long-range contemporary Nevada County and global health values.

Sincerely,

Lisa Redfern & Gary Frankel 8/16/20

Lisa Redfern | Redfern Studio & Following Deer Creek & Gary Frankel | Salesforce
12141 Lowhills Road., Nevada City, CA 95959 | (530) 470-0416

--
"Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe." ~ H.G. Wells

Lisa Redfern

(530) 470-0416 hm (Frankel|Redfern)
(530) 559-4367 cell|txt
Books | Creative Services
Deer Creek study project

From: John Reeder
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Concerns regarding Idaho-Maryland mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 12:38:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department 8/15/20

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My wife and I have been Nevada County residents since 1980, and we have great concern regarding the mine re-opening question. We live near the Idaho-Maryland mine site, and our main concerns are about hydrology, traffic, and noise considerations.

It's our understanding that the de-watering of the mine will have unpredictable but negative impact on local wells. If this is the case, there should be no reasonable justification to proceed with this project.

The negative impacts of traffic and noise from mine operations are obvious and significant. And again, negatives of this magnitude would seem to clearly outweigh any potential for positive impact to our county and community.

Taken together, the constellation of obvious and grossly negative impacts on Nevada County residents' lives and property values should argue against any further consideration of permitting re-opening of Idaho-Maryland mine.

Sincerely,
John and Gwendy Reeder
12677 Jack Pine Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Susan
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:44:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a very concerned citizen, please do not reopen the mine, there is still damage from the last time, and going to be more.

Mother earth has had enough raping of her natural resources.

Thank you, very much,
Susan Reuter

From: Ashlyn Rhodes
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment on Reopening Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:19:09 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

I'm writing to you in regards to the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, as I read in The Union that public comment on this project must be submitted before August 17th.

As someone born and raised in this community, I'm strongly against reopening the mine for 3 main reasons, which I will list below as clearly as I can.

1) Environment.
My chief concern in regards to the reopening of this mine is the environmental impact it will have in our community. It is impossible to have 0 impact on the environment while operating a mine, and I feel no amount of gold we could pull from our earth would ever justify the blatant destruction we would wrought in the process.
Trees would be cut down, thousands of tons of rock and soil moved, and waterways would undoubtedly become contaminated by these operations, as you can see by taking a brief stroll through other areas impacted by mining, such as Empire Mine or Malakoff Diggins State Parks.
It is difficult, if not outright impossible, for us to fully grasp the long-term environmental impacts of such an activity, as the variables are many, and interact with each other in ways even scientists can't fully understand until it's too late. An action that seems basic and straightforward can have devastating effects that last for generations, and that is a risk I am not willing to take with our community.

2) Noise/Traffic.
One of the best things about living in such a secluded community is the ability to enjoy peace and quiet, as well as the beautiful scenery. The noise of heavy machinery and detonations will not just be an annoyance to locals-- it could scare off wildlife in the area, which would in turn impact our forests, which would inevitably impact our people.
We also value the small size of our community very highly-- Nevada County residents have fought loud and hard against big box stores and other capitalist expansions in our community in order to keep our small town charm. The reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine would impact not just the amount of traffic, but also the flow, resulting in the need to expand or rework local roadways, which would, in turn, have yet more far-reaching environmental impacts for our community.

3) Economy.
Mining is a tough and brutal job, that requires those doing the hard, dangerous physical labor be paid very little in order for the mine to turn a profit. Any jobs created by the reopening of the mine would be fraught with peril (both immediate and delayed), and any profits from the mine would immediately leave our community to return to the owning company's coffers in Canada.

I hope that other members of our community speak out against the reopening of this mine, as the detrimental impacts to our community and our land would far outstrip any benefits we would see.

Thank you for your time.

--Ashlyn Rhodes

From:	Mercedes Ricciardi
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Mercedes Ricciardi
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine - comment letter
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a resident of Penn Valley for over 12 years. Although I am not a resident of Grass Valley, my family spends a great deal of time in the Grass Valley area and my children have attended Grass Valley Charter School for the past 8 years. Like many others in this area, my husband and I were drawn here from the Bay Area because of its incredible natural beauty, strong sense of community, and slower pace of life.

We are deeply concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine being located close to where our children attend school, play sports, and spend time with friends. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report regarding impact to air quality in the area. The EIR should analyze the impact the mine will have on air quality to our local community and beyond.

o Airborne pollution from gold mining frequently contains heavy metals such as mercury, a potential and serious health hazard for anyone exposed. How will this be dealt with?

o Large trucks will be needed for transportation of ore continuously, producing large amounts of emissions and greenhouse gases into our environment. How will this be addressed?

o Earth moving equipment needed for digging mine shafts or stripping topsoil produces substantial amounts of dust and airborne particles that can further reduce air quality. Our community often deals already with poor air quality given the increase in large scale fires. How will our community be able to withstand even more?

The impact on air quality is only one of a variety of pollution types that gold mining creates including soil and water pollution. I understand that the high value of gold has made it a prime target of mining operations, but at what cost are we as a community willing to pay to allow this mine to operate here - our children, our health, our community? We must not let this happen here!

Please choose to protect our community and our children by not allowing it here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Ricciardi

14377 Kick Back Lane

Penn Valley, CA

mercedesric@gmail.com

650-799-2763

From: Jess Riegel
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 3:27:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I am very concerned that the Idaho-Maryland mine may re-open. I live on Wolf Creek. The environmental impact on our water is my chief concern. Please halt this project. Thank you for serving our community.

Sincerely,

Jess Riegel

From: Larry Rieger <rieger65@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Larry Rieger and I live at 13026 Madrona Leaf Ct, Grass Valley, CA 95945. My property is up hill from the mine. My well may be affected from dewatering the mine along with continual pumping out ground water in the future. If I loose my well or the wells output in gallons per minute I will sue the county, the mining operation and anyone else involved in allowing this project to be reopened. Im also concerned about the noise 24/7 and air pollution. I worked at the Bohemia mill and we were constantly hearing from neighbors with

just 8 hours of operation. There is no benefits to the residents of Nevada County having this out of country dirty polluter in our community. Maybe the county is more concerned about there tax receipts than they are in our communities health and well fair. Do you want that noise waterstealing gross polluter next to your resistance? In addition, giving the residents only two weeks for comment on something this outrageous when we are locked up at home is terrible on your part. I will also forward my comments to Dan Miller.

From:	Lauran Bloom
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Dan Miller; Heidi Hall; assemblymenber.Dahle@assembly.ca.gov; sneator.dahle@senate.ca.gov
Subject:	Don"t reopen Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

As homeowners in Grass Valley we would like to express our concerns regarding the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine based on the permit application by the Rise Gold Corporation.

The reopening of the mine will negatively impact the community in the following areas:

1. Location - The proposed re-opening, with its buildings that require multiple variances, is proposed in an established residential area. Not to mention it is very close to a school that is for children kindergarten through 8th grade. The mine wants to operate 24 hours a day. They will be blasting, dumping and hauling tons of rock from 6a - 10p. Residents will be unable to open their windows or enjoy the great outdoors due to the noise. The noise will make it difficult for the school to conduct classes. In addition they are not sure which way the wind will carry the dust and particles. Would you want your child inhaling this during recess?

2. Health and wellness. As noted, the proposed mine will be dumping and hauling tons of fill rock contains asbestos and silica each day. Once asbestos particles become airborne you have the danger of them being inhaled and causing Mesothelioma - a fatal asbestos lung cancer. We have no idea which way the wind will take these particles. While you may think this is just another “ambulance chaser” legal action - having watched a relative die from this disease and gasp for their last breath due to asbestos exposure at work - I can assure you this disease is no joke. This company will be exposing all our residents to this toxin. The company has also said the rocks and dirt hauled out can be used for local constructions projects. Really - what construction project is going to accept contaminated fill?

3. Water - They propose to pump out over one million gallons of ground water per day. When ground water from aquifers was depleted in Santa Clara county, they saw the ground sink as much as 13 feet in some area making the area unstable and causing damage to structures, roads and even dams. in addition depletion of ground water can impact peoples wells and make it harder for them to reach water as the water table will be lower. Many here are dependent on wells as their primary source of water. This depletion can also cause residents increased costs for treatment as the depletion of surface water can impact the quality of the remaining water. How will the depletion of water impact the health of our forests? We are already in a high risk fire area and have difficulty getting fire insurance. Any depletion of water will only make this worse.

The “treated” water will be pumped into Deer Creek. How will that affect that ecosystem? We have all see the holding ponds at the Empire Mine trying to make the water useable again and the disaster that is Lost Lake. Can we afford another Super-Fund site?

4. Economic Impact - Can we afford to lose tourism? I believe that is our number one industry. Who will want to visit our charming towns with the noise and pollution of a mine 24/7? Our restaurants and merchants are already suffering form the PSPS shut downs and the COVID SIP. In addition, many people come for our beautiful outdoor spaces that will become impacted with carbon monoxide and other gasses from the increased traffic of the trucks on the roads. And those roads will need constant repair. Can we afford that? Who will want to come hike/bike/swim in an area that will have dangerous polluted air and water contaminated with toxins.
It will also devastate the real estate market. Who will want to live here?

In closing, there is no guarantee these mines will be profitable. This is a foreign company who has had issues with

not living up to their commitments. Who will be left holding the bag when for example the price of gold drops and they decide this project is not longer viable? Or, when the residents start getting sick from tainted ground water and polluted air? The damage will be done and they will be long gone. They are not the first who have tried this. Short term gains do not offset long term costs.

Sincerely,

Lauran and Cy Rinck
Grass Valley

From:	Keri Rinne
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on the Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Preparation
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Keri Rinne
16532 Hillaire Rd.
Rough and Ready, CA 95975
Keri.rinne@gmail.com
530-575-1365

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada County resident (first in Grass Valley and now in Rough and Ready) for more than a decade. I grew up in nearby Meadow Vista, and after living in other areas and traveling abroad, I came back here to settle down and raise a family. The area's natural beauty and care for its ecosystems and communities were a big draw for me.

I am very concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I have included below some requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report that is being undertaken.

The EIR should analyze:

- The total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system (if NID could even accommodate additional customers, which is not a guarantee) or providing a separate water supply.
- The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the ongoing price of water, which can reasonably be expected to increase each year (as a customer of NID, I have experienced increases in my water costs every year).
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80-year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.
- A complete analysis of air quality impacts that includes any dust produced by mining activities (including that related vehicular movement) as well as exhaust produced by vehicles
- A full analysis of climate change-related impacts caused by an increase in vehicular emissions as well as increases in electricity uses and other activities related to mine

operations
- A full analysis of impacts to terrestrial and aquatic biological resources, not just on the site but also downstream and within any hydrologically linked areas in the watershed
- A full review of cultural resources, including tribal resources, and engagement and involvement of local tribal leaders and community members
- The costs--including the long-term impacts--of contaminated mining tailings
- Full analysis of impacts to vegetation and wildlife on the site and adjacent areas

Ultimately, I hope that the County will realize the high likelihood of damage posed by such resource extraction---which the region has experienced intensively in the past and the wide-ranging negative impacts of which our communities and landscape are still feeling---is *not worth* any short-lived economic benefits that might drive such a proposal.

Sincerely,
Keri Rinne

Keri Rinne
keri.rinne@gmail.com
m: 530.575.1365

From: Marcy Risque
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Concern about potential ID-MD mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 2:51:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

It has been brought to my attention through a concerned friend, a resident of Grass Valley, that there is a proposal to renew the operations of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I am also a resident and have lived in the area for over 16 years.

Here are my main concerns re potential negative impacts from the mine:

- A very strong possibility of ground water contamination of local wells and also of Wolf Creek, which runs the length of Idaho-Maryland

- A reduction of air quality due to an increase of fossil-fuel machinery (extractors, cranes, trucks etc.) which pours more CO2 into the air

- An increase in noise pollution from the afore-mentioned machinery

The adverse environmental impacts of mining in my view, heavily outweigh any profits the City of GV might collect in the form of permits, taxation, regulatory fees and whatever other methods the City may have of benefitting from such a plan.

Sincerely,

Marcy Risque
Concerned Citizen
13804 Moonshine Rd.
Camptonville CA 95922
marcy@sierrayoga.net

From:	Don Rivenes
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho maryland NOP comments
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 4:47:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
Please respond that this message has been received.

August 16, 2020
RE: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Senior Planner Matt Kelley
Nevada County Project Planner
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

The Sierra Foothills Audubon Society's mission is to educate ourselves and others to the variety and beauty of our natural environment and protect our wildlife and natural places. We are located in Nevada County and have over 1,000 members in Nevada County, Placer County and Yuba County.

We are writing in response to the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.
The NOP stated that the following issue areas will be addressed in the EIR:
• Air Quality
• Biological Resources
• Greenhouse Gas Emissions
• Energy
• Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
• Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
• Hazards and Hazardous Materials
• Hydrology and Water Quality
• Land Use and Population and Housing
• Noise
• Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems
• Transportation
• Wildfire

Though each of these areas is important and undoubtedly will be addressed by others, we want to comment on air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, energy, and noise that directly affect our mission.

Air Quality

Nevada County is out of compliance with air quality standards on many days of the year. We ask that the EIR address the impact of the large number of trucks and gasoline cars that would be part of the ongoing operation of the mine. In a study of air pollution impacts on avian species via inhalation exposure and associated outcomes (Olivia V Sanderfoot and Tracey Holloway 2017 Environ. Res. Lett. 12 083002), respiratory illness was the most frequent problem found in the review, followed by increased stress levels, poor immune systems, reduced reproductive success, population declines, and more.

If there will be any economic impact on the surrounding area due to the air quality impacts of the mine operation, then the EIR must analyze and disclose that economic impact in order to determine whether business closures, vacancies and resulting urban decay may result from that economic impact.

Biological Resources

Sierra Foothills Audubon has been supporting a bird banding study since 2018 at the Bennett Street Grasslands banding station within 1/2 mile from the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine. The water used in the mining process would be dumped into South Fork Wolf Creek, which runs through the banding meadow. Extensive additional truck traffic would potentially be created on Bennett Road, with noise levels and increased traffic causing impacts to birds, and areas with sensitive flora species affected. Yellow-Breasted Chat, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher are all species of special concern or endangered and have been detected or captured at the Bennett Street Grasslands, which is part of the Empire Mine State Historic Park.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Audubon recently released a new scientific report, Survival by Degrees, showing that 64 percent (389 out of 604) of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change. In the West, we're already dealing with a multi-decade historic drought and longer, more intense fire seasons. Climate change threatens western water resources and some researchers are calling our new reality "aridification." Overall, the West has experienced increases in the severity and length of droughts over the past 50 years, taking a toll on water supplies.

The Biological Resources Assessment Report includes the biological results of the background research, reconnaissance-level biological surveys, data analysis, and impact assessment for the Centennial Industrial Site on special-status species. That included the California Black Rail (very low probability in the Centennial area) and Cooper's Hawk (low suitable habitat). However, as the Audubon report points out, climate change can affect many bird species and could force them to become special-status species.

We would like the EIR to address the impact of the mine on climate change particularly on air quality, dewatering of the area, CO_2 emissions from truck and auto travel and the resulting impact on humans and migrating and local bird life.

Energy

Nevada County recently adopted an Energy Action Plan. It calls for a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for electricity use and a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas use by 2035. Approving the Idaho-Maryland mine with its huge production of greenhouse gas emissions from trucks, auto and cement use would be a major offset to the goals of the County. Asking residents to cut down their use of electricity and natural gas while greatly adding to GHG emissions with the

mine would be highly counter-productive.
Grass Valley also recently adopted an Energy Action Plan. It calls for a 36% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for electricity use and a 29% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas use by 2035. The Idaho- Maryland mine is in the Sphere of Influence of Grass Valley and is a short distance from the Brunswick shopping area. Again, approving the Idaho-Maryland mine with its huge production of greenhouse gas emissions from trucks, autos and cement use would be a major offset to the goals of the City of Grass Valley. Asking Grass Valley residents to cut down their use of electricity and natural gas while greatly adding to GHG emissions with the mine would be highly counter-productive.

Noise

We ask that the effect of project noise on nearby residents as well as its impacts on wildlife in the area be carefully considered. In a study published in the January, 2016 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers found that adults and nestlings of three bird species including the Western Bluebird showed multiple signs of chronic stress caused by noise pollution, including skewed stress hormone levels, possibly due to increased anxiety, distraction and hypervigilance.

Cumulative Impacts

A standard response to development plans has been as follows: “The City of Grass Valley has not conducted a greenhouse gas emissions inventory or adopted a Climate Action Plan, performance standards, or a GHG efficiency metric. However, the Grass Valley 2020 General Plan includes numerous goals, policies, and programs which, if implemented, will reduce Grass Valley's impacts on global climate change and reduce the threats associated with global climate change to the City.
The NSAQMD has not adopted thresholds of significance for GHG emissions. Additionally, *California Air Resources Board (CARB)* has not yet adopted any tools to measure the impact of a project on global warming. Due to the nature of global climate change, it is not anticipated that a single project would have a substantial impact on global climate change. Although it is possible to estimate a projects CO2 emission, it is not possible to determine whether or how an individual project's relatively small incremental contribution might translate into physical effects on the environment.”

At the same time, the State of California has issued directives that require compliance with new standards for reducing climate change, realizing each county’s contribution is needed to reach the goals.

We ask that the cumulative impacts of projects such as the Mine be considered by the County in determining the validity of a project. Even if the EIR falls back on inadequate responses such as above, we would ask that the County consider the health and environmental impacts of this project on the community compared to the minimal, if any, benefits to the community. Gold shipped to India or China does not benefit the citizens of Nevada County.

Conclusion

One key takeaway is that if we reduce emissions by 2050 and hold warming to 1.5 C,

we expect 38 percent of the bird species would come off the climate vulnerable list.

What are the best ways to help birds (and people) in the West?

- Increase reliability of our water supply (now and in the future);
- Support clean energy measures at the local, state, and federal levels;
- Restore and protect priority habitats;
- Manage water comprehensively with an understanding of the connections between surface water and groundwater, and more.

Donald L Rivenes
Conservation Chair
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
rivenes@sbcglobal.net
(530) 477-7502

.
-

From: Vicki Roberts
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine.
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:53 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a resident and property owner in Cedar Ridge I'am concerned about the re- opening of the mine. We own our home on Curry Dr. and have lived there almost thirty years. We are a little further than a stone's throw away from the mine site thru the forest behind our home. 24 hour a day seven days a week operation of trucks, loaders, pumps, compactors, and countless other pieces equipment sounds like a noisy, life disrupting thing for all of us who live nearby. I remember the days when the mill operated there. Loaders, log trucks, reverse beepers and so on, all night long. Quite noisy.

Not to mention the fact that it would likely have an adverse effect on the value of our home. I hope you folks think long and hard on the subject of re-opening this mine with an 80 year permit. After all, who is going to keep an eye on these guy's when we are gone.

Thanks for your consideration.

Dan Roberts
12330 Curry Dr.
Cedar Ridge Ca. 95924

From: Rebecca Robles <beccar1r6@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Letter to Matt Kelley > Regarding Idaho- Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corp.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you!

Rebecca Robles
Mobile: 408/394-9370

Rebecca Robles
12975 Mink Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945
408-394-9370
Beccar1r6@hotmail.com

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My name is Rebecca Robles and I am writing this letter to oppose the opening of the former Idaho- Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corp. My home is very close to the border of the mine property, I live at 12975 Mink Court which will be significantly impacted if mining operations commence.

The fact that mining operations have ceased in other areas due to various hazardous health, environmental and noise impacts should halt this consideration in the first place. Our county and its residents should not have to experience a repeat of history, with an industry proven to do more overall harm, then benefit from any financial gains presented.

My concerns with the mine operations are listed below:

- Health Concerns – Air Contaminants such as Silica Dust, Asbestos
  The proposed level of mining operation will essentially be a full-time construction site which will expose the air to many contaminants. One main factor of living in Grass Valley and within Nevada County is the fact that we have fresh air, nature and we are far away from any pollution. The appeal for residents and tourists/visitors is to come experience hiking trails and the beautiful outdoors we offer in this town.

    - Silica Dust – This dust is present in the airborne particles of sand and rock. The mining operations will expose an extensive amount of dust particles into the air. The exposure to Silica dust can cause a lung disease called Silicosis. The reality is that with this newly introduced exposure residents, including myself and neighbors I care about can become ill to the point of death in just a few weeks after exposure to high levels of this dust. The blasting, loading, dumping, hammering, cutting, drilling of rock or sand will cause toxic clouds of Silica dust.

    - Asbestos – Excavations, mining will expose asbestos from the rock if operations commence. The simple inhalation of asbestos will lead to serious illness such as lung cancer, Mesothelioma and Asbestosis.

    - How will this exposure be controlled to prevent such health hazards and what types of mitigation will be presented if such health impacts develop within the communities?

- Well Water – Primary concerns are wells potentially turning dry as a result of mining operations and water being contaminated with newly introduced particles.

- Traffic and Noise - After air pollution, noise and traffic will affect the health of our community, including wildlife. Traffic noise is heavily linked to stress-related health problems such as high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease. It can also be a major cause, not only of hearing loss, but also learning problems in children and sleep disturbance. Mining operations can be predicted to exceeded safe noise levels limits within the mine and nearby

residential area. Additionally, animals will choose to nest away from the noise, leaving their accustomed habitat and altering our ecosystem as a result. Allowing the noise will drastically impact the animal world and our human world which will diminishes the quality of life for all!

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the reopening of the Idaho- Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corp.

Thank you for your genuine consideration and time!

Rebecca Robles
Beccar1r6@hotmail.com
408-394-9370



From:	Sandra Rockman
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	giacalonetony@gmail.com
Subject:	Concern about the new Rise Gold mine
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:26 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Kelley, My husband and I have lived here for well over 40 years and have seen mining companies come and go in that time.
I think that the concerns we have read about and discussed with other community members over neighborhood noise, pollution of nearby wells, Wolf Creek and other waterways are serious enough to stop the plan for this mine at this time and in the future.
Please have the County consider a “NO” for on Rise Gold Mining.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Sandra Rockman and Anthony Giacalone

Sandra Rockman
Home 530-265-6514
Cell 530-277-6514

From: Renee Rodman
To: Matt Kelley; bdofsupervisors
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine!
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:30:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

8/13/2020

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Ave.

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

To Nevada Co. Board of Supervisors and Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

This letter concerns the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine by Rise Gold.?? My concerns are as follows:

*The dewatering of the existing mine workings and the hydrologic threat that it poses to domestic/residential wells, the impact on existing waterways/creeks, and the negative impact on water quality.

*The creation of new underground mine workings which will require drilling and blasting that may result in the destabilization of rock fissures that are currently providing water to wells.

*The processing of gold mineralization and rock will cause noise and air pollution in nearby residential areas.

*The placement of engineered fill that is unstable will require utilization of compaction equipment and that in turn will create more noise pollution and ground disturbance.

*The export of fill will create traffic and noise problems and the idea that the fill will support local construction projects is ludicrous, particularly at this time in our unstable economy.

*The limited construction of a potable water pipeline to residences ONLY on a portion of East Bennet is narrow in scope!?? The real impact could be damaging for miles.?? A bond would have to be floated and NID would have to address the water needs-is NID prepared to take this on??? Residences could go without water for years!

*Identified wells on the Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis Report, particularly Section 4.2.2.3 and Table 4-4 appears narrow in scope.?? Once again many wells outside the defined areas in this report could be effected and even a slight drawdown of one??? s well water is significant, especially in drought years.

*The reports use qualifying verbiage such as ???predicted, largely confined, average, base flow rates, light-industrial, etc.??? is that verbiage being used meant to minimize Rise Gold??? s responsibility when damage occurs?

*The damaging effect on home values will be incalculable. Home values will drop overnight

by hundreds of thousands of dollars.?? Tax revenue will be impacted.

We have lived in Nevada County for 50 years and love this community, however, in speaking with many of our neighbors, between the fire danger and rising home owner insurance costs, Rise Gold will be the last straw that will force us to move.

Please consider your current tax paying residents as your most important asset, not Rise Gold!

??

Thank you,

Renee Rodman And Jack Favour

14274 Wilder Lane

Grass Valley 95945

530-271-7419

From:	G R
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Comment Letter
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 9:10:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Gianna Roederer
11536 Harvest Hill Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 4, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing because I am opposed to the Idaho-Maryland Mining project. I am concerned about the well-being of myself, my family, the community and the ecosystem.

I want the environmental impact report to pay attention to these things:

- Air quality: The air quality is already poor here in Grass Valley because of fires and the mining will only make it worse.The dust will make it so that my siblings and I won't be able to be outside for as long.
- Traffic: The increased traffic of a 24/7 mining operation might increase the amount of crashes, dangerous roads, and longer waits.
- Hydrology: We only use well water and there is a risk of losing all of that water as they suck up all the water in the ground before they start mining.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The mine will emit greenhouse gases, worsening our problem with climate change.

- Aesthetics: I heard that they will be constructing a six story tall building. That might decrease the price of houses around the building and wherever you can see it.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,
Gianna Roederer

From: Elizabeth Herald
To: Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: Re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:41 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Elizabeth Rogers
P.O. Box 2144
Penn Valley, CA 95946
OurWorldsWater@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am a life long Water Steward deeply invested in protecting the integrity of our shared Watershed for all life within the natural system.

I have been a Penn Valley resident for 6 years. Like so many others in this Watershed, I am drawn to this area because of its unmatched natural beauty of the Yuba River, and the remarkably compassionate, conscientious community with a firm commitment to a high quality of life for all residents. I live downstream from this mine and my grandchildren swim in the Yuba.

I strongly object to the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. The potential long and short term adverse impact and consequences to the environment, our water quality, and the overall peace of the community are too great to approve the permit for this project. And certainly, as a representative of all the residents of Nevada County, you are tasked and required to give this proposal the highest degree of consideration and analysis on the behalf of your constituents.

Mining companies always promise the highest safety and mitigation as they are seeking to gain permission to destroy a Watershed for gold, yet there is no way to mitigate the damage to our precious source Water. When you extract gold, you have to destroy the Water structure of the area. There is no way to get around this. Again and again, the mining companies' safety measures fail and thus fail to protect Source Water and the inhabitants of an area are always the ones who suffer the consequenses.

All that said, below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to the extended water table in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells, creeks, rivers, ponds and waterways that we all depend on to be free of potentially toxic substances. Our water basin will be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area, regard. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those all the farms, ranches, homes, schools, and businesses if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
- The full cost of ensuring the long term health and safety of each person connected to this Watershed system.
- The full cost of remediation to the public to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

- The full cost of treating private wells and public water resources for the full 80-year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally. These compromises as we know, cannot always be reversed.
- A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well-owner remediation.
- Full WHOLE SYSTEM analysis of the potential impact on ALL LIFE, not just human life - extensively examining the impacts of increased toxins, noise pollution, and traffic, along with long and short term degradation to our quality of life and the integrity of our precious source Water.

I'd be glad to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Rogers

From: Glenna Rogers
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:06:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Grass Valley.

I live less than 2 miles from the mine. Re-opening the mine will case our property values to go down and noise and air pollution to increase. Opening a mine so near the city limits is a bad idea.

Thank you

Glenna Rogers
12100 Dogwood Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(510) 363-6120

Who is Peter **Marrone**, the real owner of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, and who are the surrogates he uses to impose his will?

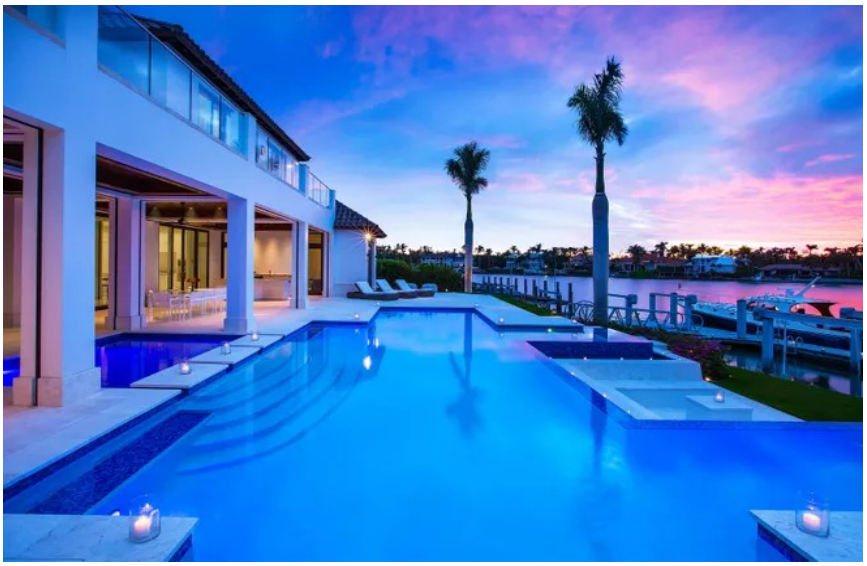
Non mi rompere i marroni! - Don't break my balls!

The word ***marrone*** can also refer to the large and savoury *chestnut* found in Italy. It is from this meaning that we also get the slang term ***marrone***, referring to a man's *testicles*.



10th Highest-paidCEO in Canada
Total Compensation, including shares and options: $12,416,999
Base Salary: $1,285,098
Bonus: $4,310,636
Claim to fame: Marrone abandoned investment banking in 2003 to start up Yamana Gold with just 12 employees. By 2011, he was the highest paid CEO in the gold sector. Not too shabby. [1]

Naples, Florida home owned by CEO of gold mine hits the market for nearly $20 million



Here is how Mr. Marrone thinks --

> " There is always a risk of political unrest in any jurisdiction. You can see protests across the world, from Hong Kong to Paris. Clearly, in many societies a dislocation has occurred and there is a disparity that people want addressed. In Chile, many feel that the fabric of the social safety network needs to be strengthened. But it won't impact mining because Chileans realize just how

much the sector provides for the country. It pays better wages and higher taxes than most other sectors. As a result, there is no real demand from elected politicians or the general public for structural mining reform in Chile. In fact, Chileans are keen to protect the goose that lays the golden eggs..."

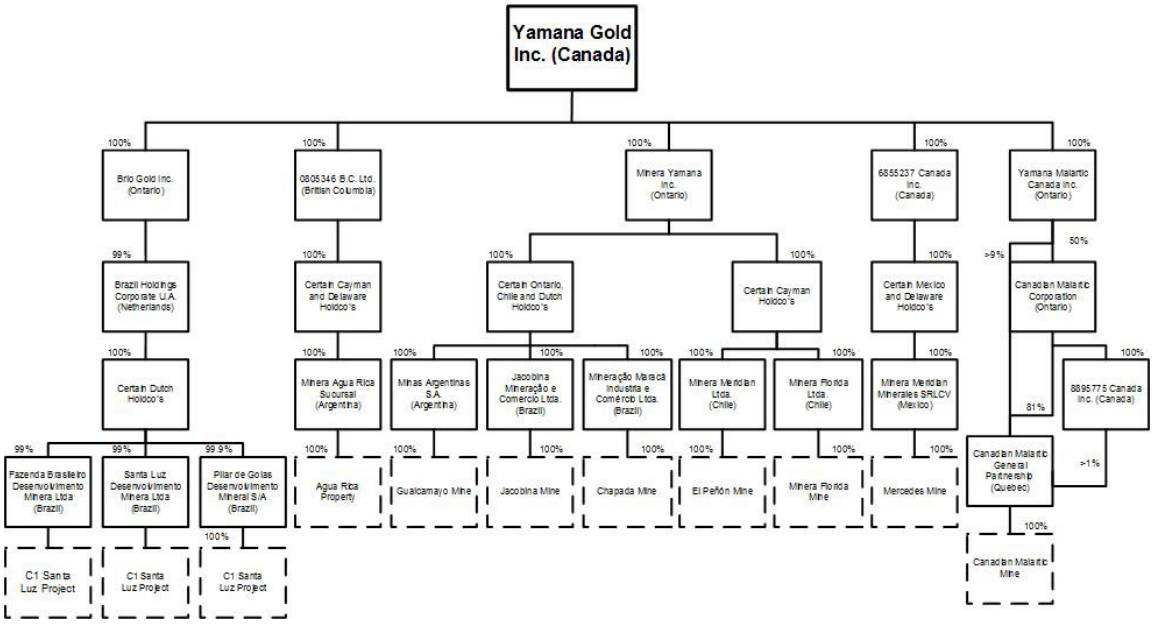
Here is how one of his local surrogates, mayor of Andalgala, Jose Perea, thinks --



"if it is necessary we would kill the people maintaining the blockade against Agua Rica." [2]

The front man for Yamana, Ben Mossman (a man convicted of crimes against the environment) brags to investors that only 3 Board of Supervisor's votes are needed to permit this mine and there are not many places in the world where you can permit "a MAJOR DISCHARGE FROM A MINE in less that 9 months".

Do we really want this octopus of economic corruption ensnaring our community?



From:	Michael Rogers
To:	wolf@wolfcreekalliance.org; Matt Kelley; info@yubariver.org; info@bylt.org; info@sierrafund.org
Subject:	Who is Peter Marrone?
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:11:02 AM
Attachments:	Marrone.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Non mi rompere i marroni!

Here is a flyer that raises some concerning issues about Yamana Gold (the true owner of the Idaho Maryland Mine) and their actions in South America and other jurisdictions, and how they deal with local governments, which I thought might interest you.

Share as you see fit.

Michael Rogers

PS My house is in the floodplain of Wolf Creek which will receive the 500 gallons a minute of mine waste discharge.

From: Michael Rogers
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposition to Yamana Gold Project
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find attached my letter in strong opposition to the Idaho-Maryland Mine project of Yamana Gold Inc.

Michael Rogers

115 Colfax Ave East

Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 16, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed mining project on the Idaho-Maryland property. This particular site is now in the middle of a suburban neighborhood that is whole inappropriate for this heavy industrial project.

My main concern is the impact on the Wolf Creek drainage. I own a home on an unmitigated

floodplain in the Hills Flat area of the City of Grass Valley and Wolf Creek passed thru my property. It is my understanding that this area has experienced flooding in the past where the storm drains, instead of draining into the creek, bubble up out of the grate and spill large volumes of water out onto a city street, with no curbs and demonstrated inadequate drainage. If the design of the storm system cannot handle the existing water flow, what will be the impacts of an additional 500 gallons per minute into that drainage 24/7/365 rain or shine?

Mr. Mossman has bragged to investors that “there are not many places in the world where you can permit "a MAJOR DISCHARGE FROM A MINE in less that 9 months”. Perhaps there are good, solid, legal reasons why this is the case. Do we really want to be the exception to the prudent standards of the world, as per Mr. Mossman's own assessment?

I am also extremely concerned about the historic actions of both Mr. Mossman and Yamana Gold, the true owner of the mine. In South America, Yamana has a record of backing extreme actions against those who would oppose their will, by employing (literally) local surrogates and political figures to push thru projects opposed by large numbers of citizens of the communities where their operations are located. They do not seem to be good neighbors as demonstrated by Mr. Mossman's convictions for flouting agreements and regulations.

Please do not allow this project to happen in our beautiful town.

With hope and determination,

Michael Rogers

From: Nancy Taylor Rojo <nancytrojo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read my attached letter.
Thank you,
Nancy Rojo

From: Nancy Taylor Rojo <nancytrojo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 7:41 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: opposition to Idaho Maryland Mine reopening proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Nancy Rojo August 9, 2020
17150 Greenhorn Road (mailing: P.O. Box 47, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924)
Grass Valley, CA 95945

nancytrojo@gmail.com
530-274-7336

Dear Nevada County Supervisors,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 16 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its natural beauty, climate, and retirement amenities. We have been landowners since 2015, owning 3 adjoining parcels that have 5 permitted wells; but now, only 2 function since water dried up in 3 of them. Our properties are within 5 miles of the Idaho Maryland Mine site. We built our dream home in 2016, according to county code and were content to know we would live our remaining time on earth, in the peace and quiet of our beautiful surroundings. The proposed opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine would destroy our investment and quality of life. Water is our main concern since without it, we could not live here.

Below are my requests for analysis to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

- A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Also affecting what is most important to us is:

- Noise and vibration. We know sound carries great distance, so how far can blasting and rock crushing be heard?

- Air quality and carbon emissions from the trucking. How much particulate matter (asbestos) and carbon would be released into the already unhealthy air quality of Grass Valley?

I do not want any reopening of any mining operations, new or old, that would cause us to suffer not only quality of life, but affect our legacy to our children by diminishing the value of our property.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rojo

Nancy Rojo
17150 Greenhorn Road (mailing: P.O. Box 47, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924)
Grass Valley, CA 95945

nancytrojo@gmail.com
530-274-7336

August 9, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 16 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its natural beauty, climate, and retirement amenities. We have been landowners since 2015, owning 3 adjoining parcels that have 5 permitted wells; but now, only 2 function since water dried up in 3 of them. Our properties are within 5 miles of the Idaho Maryland Mine site. We built our dream home in 2016, according to county code and were content to know we would live our remaining time on earth, in the peace and quiet of our beautiful surroundings. The proposed opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine would destroy our investment and quality of life. Water is our main concern since without it, we could not live here.

Below are my requests for analysis to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Also affecting what is most important to us is:

- Noise and vibration. We know sound carries great distance, so how far can blasting and rock crushing be heard?
- Air quality and carbon emissions from the trucking. How much particulate matter (asbestos) and carbon would be released into the already unhealthy air quality of Grass Valley?

I do not want any reopening of any mining operations, new or old, that would cause us to suffer not only quality of life, but affect our legacy to our children by diminishing the value of our property.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rojo

From:	Marama
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:25:58 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Peter Roloff, Mara Barnett
22241 Purdon Rd.
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We have been Nevada county residents for 2 years and we hoped to buy our house and land here. If this mine project goes through we will leave the area. Like many others in the area, We were drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

Obviously, we are deeply concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are our requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Below are a few more of the issues we sincerely hope you understand the need to address fully in the EIR.

- Agriculture and Forestry impacts
- Air Quality
- Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Material• Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- True and verified noise impact on Population/Housing
- Public Services Recreation
- Transportation & Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Economic Study

We would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Peter Roloff, Mara Barnett

From:	Risa & Rob Roseman
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Public Comments Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine.
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:11 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Risa J Roseman
245 N Auburn St.
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
rrzenrose@gmail.com
530-613-4408

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner, Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us phone:
530-265-1222 option 2

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I moved to Grass Valley in 2006 with my husband and our two young children. We live downtown and appreciate the ability to walk downtown, to schools and to Empire Mine.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analysis to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

The EIR should analyze:
o Impact to air quality within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should analyze the particulate accumulation in the air added by the increase in truck exhaust moving the waste rock.

o Impact to air quality within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should analyze potential increase in Spare the Air Days due to particulate and Ozone due to truck traffic and other mining equipment. Specific details to be included for each type of machinery, vehicle and equipment that uses fossil fuel, including heating and cooling of office and any other facilities involved in the mining process.

o Impact of noise pollution and the quality of life due to increased noise and vibration (from use of explosives/mine operations) due to truck and equipment at the mine and surrounding area. EIR should include specific analysis of increase in noise pollution compared to existing noise levels in the area of the mine operations and surrounding residential and businesses enterprises. EIR should analyze noise from use of truck brakes on downhill sections of road

within the area of the mine and transport within surrounding neighborhoods as waste is transported to varying sites of the mine which are not adjacent to one another. EIR should analyze the distance (miles) noise from mine and truck movement from the mine area to surrounding neighborhoods. IE will I hear the mine operations at my home on N Auburn Street?

o Impact of traffic on the towns surrounding the mine. The EIR should analyze the effect of adding 100 + truck trips to the existing traffic in the Brunswick and Grass Valley areas surrounding the mine.

o Impact on road quality and maintenance in the areas surrounding the mine. The EIR should analyze the effect of adding 100 + truck trips to the existing road structures in the Brunswick and Grass Valley areas surrounding the mine and hwy 49.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
Risa J Roseman

From: H. Michael Ross
To: William Wauters; Matt Kelley; Steve Baker; Traci Van Thull
Subject: RE: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 9:09:20 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I don't know everyone on this list. However, the proposal to repurpose legacy mining excavations, surface and subsurface, may actually lead the community to a more resilient and sustainable action than no action or an action to resume mining activities. Thus, it may be considered among the viable alternatives required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A first level feasibility study should be conducted to understand the community short and long term benefits or liabilities in regards to economics and employment as compared to the proposed mining project.

H. Michael Ross, PE

From: William Wauters <williamwauters@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:10 PM
To: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us; Steve Baker <stevebaker@operationunite.co>; Traci Van Thull <traci.sheehan@gmail.com>; Michael Ross <hmichaelross@live.com>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

Nevada County Authorities;
All of the 100's of miles of abandoned, flooded mines in the Grass Valley/Nevada City areas should be considered important Ground Water Reservoirs as the State is now regulating elsewhere.
They are extensively used already by many for well water recharged from the surface. Maps already exist for many.
These could be further developed by NID or the cities for seasonal ditch water storage, perhaps using some as water transfer tunnels to serve new areas in our upcoming drought scenarios.
Man made wetlands count legally as wetlands.
The Salton Sea was a man made mistake and adopted as needed by the State.
These man made Ground Water Reservoirs should have the same respect, not depleted and poisoned for out of country greed.
William Wauters, Auburn, Cal.

8/17/20

Matt Kelly
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Email: matt Kelly@co.nevada.ca.us
Phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Subject: Notice of Preparation in connection with the Environmental Impact Report concerning reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Hi Matt,

I'm writing to strenuously voice my dismay and utter bewilderment over the prospect that Rise Grass Valley's audacious Idaho-Maryland mine re-opening project proposal would merit consideration from local government, given the enormous and quite possibly disastrous environmental impact consequences that would very likely endanger our community for decades, practically decimating our cultural values and quality of life.

Along with my family, I came to this community in 2014, and—as with many here, I'm guessing—I felt lulled and enchanted by its mesmerizing beauty and way of life. Almost as a nightly ritual as dusk, I find myself ambling down a familiar lane close to home to marvel quietly at the incalculable beauty of the place. Historically, even though I've seen myself as a somewhat reclusive, apolitical figure in the community, remaining neutral presently—in the face of the almost assaultive nature of an outside, profit driven interest threatening the wellbeing of the area--feels just impossible to consider. Based on impressions gathered from research on this issue, I'm finding it difficult to adopt a posture of disinterested objectivism while citing my concerns—especially in light of Rise's Corp's history of indifference regarding environmental protection practices (see below). Research on impact implications regarding this proposal left me feeling politically aroused, so at this juncture I would like to proceed with a discussion in connection with

impact concerns delineated in various environmental impact categories noted below.

Air Quality

Removal of 1000 tons of ore along with 500 tons of non-gold bearing rock are projected daily, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week followed by transporting this material to local dump sites via haul truck roundtrip runs from 6 AM – 10 PM. Following dumping, significant spikes in noise and dust are anticipated from compacting activity involving bulldozers, graders, and compactors. Dust from these operations is likely to contain asbestos, lead, and arsenic from massive tailings that have to be remediated first. Additionally, anticipated daily use of close to a ton of ammonia nitrate fuel oil and 257 blast detonators will create prolific asbestos and silica dust fumes into our air along with other chemical and physical contaminants.

What level of evidenced-based consensus science would assure high-probability containment of these impacts? These possible exposure hazards need very thorough analysis.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In addition to four industrial-size backup diesel generators, exhaust from daily use of diesel trucks, bulldozers, graders, and compactors will greatly increase greenhouse gas emissions. Daily production of cement used to make 500 tons of backfill paste will translate to an estimated release of 55,000 pounds of CO2 daily—roughly the equivalent to CO2 generated by over 1600 cars. By some calculations, mine operations, including fuel for equipment and electricity, is estimated to produce 9000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Is this impact on any level acceptable?

Hazards and Hazardous Material

California's Department of Toxic Substance Control prepared a site cleanup work plan detailing the degree of contamination removal required to remediate

270,000 cubic yards of legacy tailings at the former Idaho-Maryland Mine site. Cleanup cost projections for this project run between $13 - $135 million, and questions remain whether Rise Grass Valley's current and future financial solvency will allow for adequate response to this issue.

Explosives will include 28,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil stored onsite underground. Facing an EPA Superfund designation, Rise was compelled to agree to clean up existing mine tailings and entered into a cleanup contract with the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). DTSC determined that hazardous levels of lead, arsenic, nickel, and mercury contamination are present at the mine operation's 56 acre Centennial Site—running to depths ranging from 2 to 20 feet. Disclosure of safe removal procedures relating to contaminated legacy tailings should be sought before an anticipated 1.6 million tons of new waste rock and tailings from mine operations can be deposited over the course of 11 years at both the Brunswick and Centennial sites.

My concern here is for an open, public process, and full disclosure re: current and future physical and chemical site hazards.

Project Plan Integrity/Transparency

To date, Rise hasn't complied with basic county land use regulations. CalFire has issued two citations for removal of a healthy stand of trees without the required Time Harvest Plan. Also, construction of an equipment storage pad near South Fork Wolf Creek neglected to observe the 100 foot setback requirement established by the county. Further encroachment violations led the county to require Rise to file a *Management Plan* to remove logs and clean up the worst of the thrashed non-disturbance zone. Further neglect led the county to demand a second, much more comprehensive, Management Plan. A year in the making, these and other transgressions (continuous exploratory equipment impacts involving loud noise and bright lights) resulted in many neighborhood complaints lodged with the sheriff's department.

As past president of Banks Island Gold Limited in Canada, Benjamin Mossman (Rise Gold's current CEO) was cited and fined for 2 environmental pollution

violations. The company ended in bankruptcy following cancellation of its $420,000 security bond by Canada's Ministry of Energy and Mines. How can we trust the integrity of a company run by a person with a previous history of unethical business practices? Doesn't it call into question whether preservation of community interests and safety will receive equal priority to maximizing profits by this entity? (Please recall the specious assurances given by Siskon Mine management in 1995 regarding measures to protect the underground water supply affecting well-water residents in the area. As may be recalled, this project went disastrously.)

Hydrology/Water Quality

Multi-directional exploratory equipment operated by Rise completed 16 months of mile deep exploration without county or state oversight. Could local aquifers and water wells have been affected? Advance studies and guarantees should be considered to protect local residents from potential well failure and well-water degradation. Specifically, the necessity for advance installation of costly water mains and NID service lines should also be contemplated to address this possible negative impact.

Geology/Soils

Miles of tunnels containing heavily polluted water have to be dewatered and continuously treated to meet California standards. Ongoing discharge of such a large volume of water means putting South Fork Wolk Creek at flood stage.

Rise's assurances that wells won't go dry and that "the (mining) project would not have any significant impact on our groundwater supplies" feels like empty rhetoric and leaves unanswered the question relating to how dewatering millions of gallons of ground water a day might impact our trees, possibly further drying them out and escalating the fire danger in a community already severely challenged as a very high fire hazard zone.

Are the benefits of the mine worth the potential risk to Wolf Creek residents and our community?

Land Use Planning

As noted above, extensive bulldozing, grading, and compactor equipment will be used to form a mountain of gravel covering 44 acres up to 70 feet high at the Centennial Drive site, with a similar effort undertaken at the southern portion of the New Brunswick site, covering massive acreage up to 90 feet high. These operations are projected to run for at least 11 years.

Grass Valley designated the Idaho-Maryland site as *Business Park and Urban Median Density Residential*, but Rise Gold intends to get this changed to *Industrial.* Given the housing shortage, and considering anticipated development of hundreds of homes at Loma Rica Ranch just beyond the site, the fate of current and future homeowners in the area is thrown into utter turmoil. If the proposed Dorsey Marketplace is approved, the 172 units of the high end apartments will be built directly above and looking down on this dusty, noisy gravel operation. By sticking with the Grass Valley General Plan and not allowing this area to be rezoned, the area could become a walking housing and business park community at this close-to-downtown location—one of the few places left in Grass Valley where this kind of infill development can take place.

Noise/Population/Housing

I was incredulous reading the story of a local community member forced to move from his home next door to the New Brunswick site because of unbearable noise. His home property value will undoubtedly suffer. Rise's noise study promises ongoing noise produced by mine operations will be "less than significant," but, given this community member's experience to date with this issue, this claim seems specious at best. My concern here is how can it be fair to ask a current homeowner's quality of life interests to be sacrificed in order to favor outside mining interests? This issue represents an ethical breech, in my opinion.

Residential Property Values

Residents in the area are concerned about the impact of mining operations on their neighborhoods, quality of life, and home values. Proposed buildup of mine waste on the main Brunswick site back up to rural residential neighborhoods

where people have settled seeking peace and quiet in the natural settings amongst the trees. Mining operations will undoubtedly have psychologically disruptive and dismantling impacts on their lives. Once again, I ask this question: it ethically fair to ask residents of our community to accommodate possibly nefarious, outside interests—to the detriment of their own well being?

Residential Property Values

If resumption of mining activity is sanctioned, I have concerns eroding property values together with the prospect of environmental contamination will the take Grass Valley and Nevada off the map as places to live and recreate.

Thanks for inviting and considering these comments.

Roland Rouda
11649 Side Hill Circle
Nevada City, CA 95959
Lolo8888@msn.com
415 388-3006

From:	Roland Rouda
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Fw: Notice of Preparation in connection with the Environmental Impact Report concerning reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:55:04 PM
Attachments:	8.17.20 Letter of Concern Regarding Reopening the Maryland-Idaho Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Roland Rouda
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:51 PM
To: matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us <matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: lolo8888@msn.com <lolo8888@msn.com>
Subject: Notice of Preparation in connection with the Environmental Impact Report concerning reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Matt,

Please see attachment...

Thanks

From: brittany roussel
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine proposal
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:45:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

My name is Brittany Roussel. I have lived in Nevada County now for a year and a half. I currently live right on Wolf Creek off of Dog Bar, where I enjoy the healthy wildlife dailey. This land, this town, this home I live in has captivated me all the way from across the country, and where I am choosing to build my life and raise a family. I deeply value what I have found here, and deeply care to preserve the health and wellness of how far this place has come from the damages that were done from the past, to the land.

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)

We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.

The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry.

There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning

The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.

This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed. As well as these vehicles will carry heavy explosives within them.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.

Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it’s a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a

report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and

analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168

This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Thank you for your care and consideration of the concerened citizens of this county,

Brittany Roussel

From: Marian Rudzynski <marian@rudzyn.ski>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My pregnant wife and I have purchased property adjacent to Brunswick Rd this march and moved here with the intention of eventually retiring here, even though we are in our early 30s. A huge commitment.

Out of hundreds of potential destinations across the continental US, we chose Grass Valley because it seemed the most promising, mostly rural, small town that was on its way to become a haven for modern tech workers looking to escape the big city. Great investments in infrastructure, such as the coming fiber optic internet were a huge draw to us.

We've recently learned of the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine and are very concerned. It will inevitably, immediately, devalue all adjacent properties and lower the general enjoyment of this beautiful area.

If this mine were active when we were considering areas to move to, it would have very likely resulted in us choosing a different destination.

We can't really see how this reopening would be beneficial to the community, at all. We'd be trading quiet enjoyment of an area that might well be on its way to become a leader in providing remote workers with a lifestyle that can not be had in many other places, for less than 100 local jobs, pollution and noise.

Please, do not approve this proposal.

Marian & Koi Rudzynski
13620 Bass Trail (Near Burma/Brunswick)

From: Marian Rudzynski <marian@rudzyn.ski>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open

attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My pregnant wife and I have purchased property adjacent to Brunswick Rd this march and moved here with the intention of eventually retiring here, even though we are in our early 30s. A huge commitment.

Out of hundreds of potential destinations across the continental US, we chose Grass Valley because it seemed the most promising, mostly rural, small town that was on its way to become a haven for modern tech workers looking to escape the big city. Great investments in infrastructure, such as the coming fiber optic internet were a huge draw to us.

We've recently learned of the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine and are very concerned. It will inevitably, immediately, devalue all adjacent properties and lower the general enjoyment of this beautiful area.

If this mine were active when we were considering areas to move to, it would have very likely resulted in us choosing a different destination.

We can't really see how this reopening would be beneficial to the community, at all. We'd be trading quiet enjoyment of an area that might well be on its way to become a leader in providing remote workers with a lifestyle that can not be had in many other places, for less than 100 local jobs, pollution and noise.

Please, do not approve this proposal.

Marian & Koi Rudzynski
13620 Bass Trail (Near Burma/Brunswick)

From: Pamela Ruth
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: My submitted comment letter 8.13.20
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:17:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Kelley,

I dropped off my letter this morning into the 'Planning Department' box in the lobby and would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt sent to me via email to pruth12@att.net at your convenience. There was also a question included at the end plus I have another: approximately how many comment letters have you received to date via email, mail and drop-off?

Thank you

Pamela Ruth

PAMELA RUTH **CA License #01354434**

PO Box 342 Cedar Ridge CA 95924 530-272-3017 pruth12@att.net

August 13, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
From: Pamela Ruth
RE: Proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

Mr. Kelley,

I emphatically oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine due to the toxic, environmental impacts on our lives, businesses and economy in this quiet, rural community. As stated in your notice letter, "The proposed project would reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine **over an 80-year permit period** with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration/mining **to operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during full operations**." The following are a few of the reasons for my concern and objection:

1) Extraordinary Noise Pollution and Ground Vibration due to rock grinding, compaction, blasting, tunneling and haul trucks adversely impacting our roads and quiet of the surrounding areas.
2) Mine tailings dumped by haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day, at the southern end of the Brunswick Site near and behind homes on Mink Court, Elk Lane, Brunswick Drive, Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver Road; and off Whispering Pines at the Centennial Site off Idaho Maryland Road along the edge of Wolf Creek. Dust from these operations is likely to contain asbestos, lead and arsenic from the massive amounts of tailings which must first be remediated.
3) To reinitiate this mine, the area would also need to be dewatered which entails pumping water from the old mine, treating the water to remove toxic chemicals then discharging it into little Wolf Creek. It seems doubtful the owners could guarantee ALL toxins are removed. Proposed discharge rates are approximately 2500 gallons per minute OR, 3,600,000 gallons per day, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek until the mine is drained. Then, after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send approximately 850 gallons per minute OR, 1,224,000 gallons per day for the life of the project into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from re-filling with water. There is also the potential for negatively impacting local water quality resources and threatening privately owned wells. Contaminates mobilizing in tunnels and waterways with increased discharge can absolutely impact water quality problems as well.
4) In addition to four industrial-size back-up diesel generators, the exhaust created from the daily use of diesel trucks, bull dozers, graders and compactors will greatly increase greenhouse gases.

5) A seriously damaging drop in property values will occur for both residential and commercial properties surrounding the industrial complex and beyond.
6) The application to reinitiate the Idaho Maryland Mine states 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of these jobs, 242 are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from **outside the area.** This would leave the remaining balance of only 70 jobs available to local residents which poses a question: would there be locals with the specific skills to fill those specific requirements for those jobs?
7) A potential decrease in tourism dollars could also impact our economy. According to a report by Visit California with help from market research firm, Dean Runyan Associates on May 7, 2019, "Tourism has generated millions of dollars for Nevada County. In 2018 alone, the county saw over $361 million in total visitor spending, $114.7 million in the food service industry and 3,770 jobs generated to accommodate for tourism. During that same year, county tourism created $31.6 million in local and state receipts."
8) No local public revenue would come to our community from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by employees of the mine. The State of California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of approximately $1,500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise, Inc. **None of this fee would come to Nevada County to remediate the toxic impacts of this proposed operation**. Public benefit from hard rock mining is extremely insignificant while the Public burden is **enormous**.

Gold is extracted and goes away as lucrative profit for the mine owners while traffic, noise, environmental, serious health effects and other quality-of-life impacts are left to the affected community to deal with. Previous attempts to revive the gold mine in the 1950's, 1980's and 2010 have all fallen short due to financial complications AND community pushback.

What would be cause for county denial/rejection of the development and reinitiation process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine?

Thank you,

Pamela Ruth

From:	Pamela Ruth
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine concerns and comments
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 2:20:46 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine comment letter response to county 8.13.20.doc

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I dropped off my letter at the county building into the 'Planning Department ' in-box on Thursday morning 8/13/20, but have no idea if you received so, attached is a copy for your review.
Thank you for your consideration,
Pamela Ruth

From: Pat Rutter <utterone7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:40 PM
To: MOP - Pat Rutter <utterone7@yahoo.com>; Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise GV Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Mr. Kelley,

We were informed about the mine project. We are off Greenhorn, up 3mi. from Brunswick.

This doesn't seem a sound idea...esp. for those who live right around that area. Many

properties will
be effected unduly. We're not sure of the exact purpose of Rice's opening the mine....but I just have
one suggestion.

We spoke of a 'visitor center' for that area rather than the construction planned to pump, dig, impacting water with possible draining of wells....any blasting, pollutions of many kinds, etc. is devastating. It could draw in many people using the facility for maybe, trails, Picnic Areas, History lectures, engaging more with the community than blowing up the joint.

The opposition is a menace to the area, traffic congestion, detours, not to mention the contamination on many levels....esp. our water, the most valuable asset here. Please consider this idea for the ways & means to a better environment for all. We know $$$ are always the big
interests for these companies....but please see the upside for hundreds living here and enjoying the 'Visitor Center' as a more friendly proposition.

Thanks for your time,
Pat & Ray Rutter

From: Sheerlie Ryngler
To: Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: Concerns over proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:38:52 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am writing to express my grave concern over the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine, which I understand will be expanded to 3,000 acres of underground mines, further disturbing approximately 200 acres above ground in a last forested outpost. I feel this will be a devastation to our peaceful community, causing environmental degradation that may irrevocably compromise the safety, beauty, and peace of the already delicate and still-healing lands we love.

How can we trust a foreign company to ENSURE our non-exposure to hazardous materials and the protection of our lands, when they are not required to receive permits from, or consult with, the BLM and USFS? I am concerned about how this would affect our soil quality, especially during times when it is increasingly imperative to be able to grow nutrient-rich food locally. I am concerned about air quality and pollution; we are in the midst of a viral pandemic that compromises our lungs and residents of this area do not need an additional compounding factor (considering the effects on air quality from wildfires). On that note, I am concerned about how this mine would potentially increase wildfire risk in our area, directly or indirectly by further harming the natural balance of our environment.

I am concerned about how this affects the tribal cultural resources of the local Nisenan, and if they have at all been consulted in this process (in my eyes: mandatory). I am additionally concerned about the noise pollution that this mine would cause; I understand that off-site transportation would occur 24 hours per day for the next 80 years. This mine would destroy local residents' quality of life, degrade the value of property, and disrupt the local economy by, among other reasons, infringing upon tourism. All, by the way, without generating worthwhile economic revenue back into our own community.

I look forward to hearing your response to these concerns and passing them forward to the relevant overseeing bodies, if there even are any in this dubious private enterprise.

Thank you,
Sheerlie Ryngler
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-334-5353
Sryngler@gmail.com

From: Raina Sacksteder
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opinion on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley,

My name is Raina Sacksteder and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Raina Sacksteder
Resident of Nevada County

From: Jessica Salcido
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: NO Idaho-Maryland Mine Reclaimation
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:34:52 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Senior Planner Matt Kelley,

My name is Jessica Salcido, a resident of Nevada County, and I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. I have reviewed the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, and I oppose this project. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way.This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth it.
Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jessica Salcido
A resident of Nevada County

From: Alicia Salvato
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Sue Hoek; Richard Anderson; Env.Health; Health Officer; duanestrawser@gmail.com; erin4nevadacity@gmail.com; davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com; danielafornevadacity@gmail.com; fleming.douglass@gmail.com
Subject: Idaho Maryland Gold Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:07 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

- Senior Planner, Matt Kelley, August 14, 2020

Please know that I am completely opposed to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine, the Canadian mining company, RISE Gold, proposes to reopen a long closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley.

The health impacts and environment impacts associated with reopening this mine far outweigh any possible benefit.

In a Nutshell:

- Home Values will Plummet!
- Water Contamination will abound!
- Mining will take place 24 hours a day!
- Noise, traffic and dust will be unbearable!
- Large Trucks hauling rock will take place from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm!
- Sure 242 Jobs but they'll go to people OUTSIDE our area!
- Air Quality will degrade!
- Increased Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons!
- Drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality. South Wolf Creek should not be treated like a storm drain!
- Inflict incessant blasting on the surrounding community, which will likely force home owners (if they could even sell) and high-tech companies to relocate!
- Create real potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, and others.

One would think that with all of the valid negative impacts stated above a NO VOTE would be eminent!

It is simply unacceptable to approve this project a mining project that would further increase air pollution in our community. We are all also deeply concerned about the noise, traffic and dust generated by the mine; the de-watering that could drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact their water quality; the blasting vibrations that could force local high-tech companies to leave our area; the significant increase in Green House Gas emissions and the potential of contamination from the toxic materials used in the mine, which include cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid!

Our community is currently suffering from the toxic legacy of past gold mining in the area, including polluted watersheds, Superfund cleanup sites, and contaminated water from the Magenta Drain in Grass Valley, and at Grizzly Hill School in North San Juan. We do not want to add additional mining related impacts to our community for years into the future. Much of the Centennial site, near Spring Hill and Idaho Maryland drives, is either too unstable to build on or contaminated with arsenic from past mine tailings.

I am certain that Nevada County will be far better off in both the short term and the long term without the Rise project so I ask the Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the IMM site, the project plan and any and all other

applications for this purpose.

This mine project will ruin Nevada County now and for years to come.

PLEASE vote NO on this toxic project!

Sincerely,

Alicia Salvato, 2nd generation native to Nevada County

From: Alicia Salvato
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold/ Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Senior Planner, Matt Kelley, August 14, 2020

Please know that I am completely opposed to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine, the Canadian mining company, RISE Gold, proposes to reopen a long closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley.

The health impacts and environment impacts associated with reopening this mine far outweigh any possible benefit.

In a Nutshell:

- Home Values will Plummet!
- Water Contamination will abound!
- Mining will take place 24 hours a day!
- Noise, traffic and dust will be unbearable!
- Large Trucks hauling rock will take place from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm!
- Sure 242 Jobs but they'll go to people OUTSIDE our area!
- Air Quality will degrade!
- Increased Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons!
- Drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality. South Wolf Creek should not be treated like a storm drain!
- Inflict incessant blasting on the surrounding community, which will likely force home owners (if they could even sell) and high-tech companies to relocate!
- Create real potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, and others.

One would think that with all of the valid negative impacts stated above a NO VOTE would be eminent!

It is simply unacceptable to approve this project a mining project that would further increase air pollution in our community. We are all also deeply concerned about the noise, traffic and dust generated by the mine; the de-watering that could drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact their water quality; the blasting vibrations that could force local high-tech companies to leave our area; the significant increase in Green House Gas emissions and the potential of contamination from the toxic materials used in the mine, which include cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid!

Our community is currently suffering from the toxic legacy of past gold mining in the area, including polluted watersheds, Superfund cleanup sites, and contaminated water from the Magenta Drain in Grass Valley, and at Grizzly Hill School in North San Juan. We do not want to add additional mining related impacts to our community for years into the future. Much of the Centennial site, near Spring Hill and Idaho Maryland drives, is either too unstable to build on or contaminated with arsenic from past mine tailings.

I am certain that Nevada County will be far better off in both the short term and the long term without the Rise project so I ask the Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the IMM site, the project plan and any and all other applications for this purpose.

This mine project will ruin Nevada County now and for years to come.

PLEASE vote NO on this toxic project!

Sincerely,

Alicia Salvato, 2nd generation native to Nevada County

-----Original Message-----
From: amedeoessentials@gmail.com <amedeoessentials@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:55 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Reopening of mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Matt,
I am writing to let you know I strongly oppose the opening of any mine in our area.
The earth is still healing from all the gold mine destruction that occurred here so long ago.
Frankly I am appalled that our county would even consider this, in this day and age, of climate change and all that is going on in our world.

My friend passed this on to me a few days ago and I am Seriously upset by this.
The dewatering pump-out of all the water in the area will render neighboring properties unsalable and worthless. 2500 gallons per minute of pump out for 6 months. That will destroy everything in this area. Also, drilling will happen 24/7 for 80 years.Could this be true! Can you imagine listening to the rumble underground all night long...and having no clean water?
Please do not allow this in our county all for the sake of finding more gold in our area!
Sincerely,
Shelley M. Salvatore

Sent from my iPad

From: Rick Sanger <ranger@mountainpathpress.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rick Sanger
132 Conaway Ave
Grass Valley
530 559 8171
ranger@mountainpathpress.com

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 20 years. I value natural beauty, the health of the environment and the lower levels of "hussle and hassle" than that found in larger communities.

I am very concerned about the environmental and social COST of the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. In historical terms, The total value of gold mined is surpassed by the overall cost of obtaining, and cleaning up after the mining process. Then why continue to mine gold? Because the burden of the costs is typically born by the public (after companies disappear or go bankrupt) and the profits remain private….

See THIS ARTICLE about the "cost" of gold

> This, he explains, makes the energy required to mine that gold—and the waste and pollution produced in the process—proportionally greater and greater. In other words, dirty gold is only getting dirtier. What's more, gold that cannot be traced back to some level of deforestation, air and watershed pollution, and human injury and death is virtually nonexistent, according to Septoff.

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

- Surface contamination (as seen in empire state mine and mitigation efforts there "Costs to clean up the Empire Mine alone have easily topped $10 million in the last few years."
- Water contamination (as with magenta drain in Grass Valley)
- Traffic congestion
- Increased traffic Noise
- Decreased air quality (from traffic and processing)
- Increased greenhouse gases (from energy use)
- Decreased beauty of local scenery (our community having more of an "industrial" feel, thus decreasing property value and attraction to visitors and residents)
- Noise propagated through solid rock into local residences
- Assurance that company will be held responsible and able to pay for unpredicted environmental impacts.

I firmly believe that this project will DEVALUE our community, and will in no way benefit it. Why invite more pollution when the pollution from the past has not, and likely cannot be dealt with?

Sincerely,

Rick Sanger

From: Glorya Sapp <gloryawaken2love@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:20 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mining in Grass Valley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a resident of this community I am against any mining being done, especially the proposed mining project along Brunswick, Idaho Maryland and Greenhorn and Bennett. This would cause much harm to the already stretched water source in our community especially to those whom have wells. This is also hazardous to the environment and would cause much pollution, noise and unrest. In addition destroying the earth and stealing it's natural resources for greed to fiil the pockets of unconscious power driven individuals, is a man made karma which can

already be attested to climate change happening all over the world. Who are the deep pocket individuals who want to bring catastrophic harm to this community? Every person involved should be exposed to the public.

This proposed project would be so harmful to our health and as landowners values to our property and homes would be at risk.

We will stand against the raping of the earth just like the Dakota Pipeline.

You are proposing a Hiroshima act upon this community unleashing unknown toxins, poisons, and diseases.

We do not want this contamination on any level operating here from Rise Gold. This is a beautiful, peaceful and spiritually rich conscious driven community working in harmony with the environment not destroying it.

We addimently oppose this mining project!!!!!!!

Respectfully Submitted
Brenda J. Sapp (Glorya)
12406 Gayle Lane
Nevada City CA 95959

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County

Via email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the draft EIR. This is letter is from a group of avid Nevada County cyclists with varying interests in the project to include:

-Living within the subsurface boundary

-Living within a mile or two from the mine

-Cycling on Brunswick, Bennett, Greenhorn Roads and the nearby area.

We are long-term residents that have raised children here and remain here because of family, the natural beauty, and the myriad of outdoor activities available, including cycling.

We request the following questions and issues be addressed in the scope of the EIR.

- **Dewatering the mine and associated impacts**

The full impacts of dewatering the groundwater and ultimately discharging water to Wolf Creek need to be fully identified and studied including:

- Impacts on wells in the subsurface area and those in close proximity (much more than 500 feet) to the subsurface area. Impacts include the possibility and probability of dewatering wells, contaminating wells, and the length of time these wells will be impacted.
- Impacts on the surrounding forest and associated ecosystem including the subsurface area and ecologically connected systems. The eco system should include plants, animals, insects, reptiles, and birds. (Forests are often dependent on ground water.
- The project proposes significant, year-round discharges to Wolf Creek. What will be the impact to the Wolf creek ecological system, including terrestrial and aquatic resources for the next 80 years. Will the project cause additional erosion and/or sediments in Wolf Creek? Will additional sediment be released into or by

the creek due to the large amounts of water added to the creek? How will this impact the achievement of TMDL (total maximum daily load) limits for the creek?

- What toxic materials, contaminates, and heavy metals are in the existing tunnels? Which ones are in the mine ground water? What process will be used to monitor the water being removed from the tunnels? What additional contaminants may be introduced by further dewatering?

- California legislation provides authorities and guidance for local agencies to develop sustainable groundwater management plans and implement the plans to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions in their areas of jurisdiction. According to scientific research, "*Groundwater provides late-summer flow for many rivers and can create cool water upwelling critical for aquatic species during high temperatures, and groundwater is the only water source for springs and subterranean ecosystems which harbor a distinct and poorly understood fauna. Therefore, groundwater is an important factor in maintaining the ecological integrity of some ecosystems. Groundwater dependent ecosystems as terrestrial, aquatic, and coastal ecosystems that require access to, replenishment or benefit from, or otherwise rely on subsurface stores of water to function or persist.*[1]"

  The project EIR should fully identify the extent that homes, businesses, and the ecosystem are dependent on the dewatered groundwater for drinking water, replenishing surface water, feed springs, and the maintain the integrity of the terrestrial ecosystem.

- **Air Quality**

The EIR needs to identify the amount, length of time, of air pollution and emissions generated by all aspects of the project, including truck exhaust from hauling waste and tailings, discharges related to energy use and from back up generators, employee transportation, and particulate matter from rock crushing? How will these emissions impact Nevada County's ability to meet the 8-hour ozone standard? How will air quality be monitored? The scope should include how the project impacts achieving the California Ambient Air Quality (CAAQ) standards

Air emissions and pollution travels based on a variety of factors. Modeling and projects should be robust and identify areas impacted particularly those with a sensitive population including the Union Hill elementary school, churches, day care facilities and other public places to include the entirety of the Empire Mine State Park, a highly used

[1] Mapping Groundwater for Dependent Ecosystems in California, Howard & Merrifiend, June 23, 2010.

recreational facility for hiking, mountain biking, horse back riding, and other outdoor activities.

- **Geology/Soils**

How will the stability of the land be impacted due to frequent blasting? How will "ground vibrations" be monitored? What will be the impact on the ground stability throughout the subsurface area, including the airport and industrial complex?

What faults exist in the subsurface area and how might these faults contribute to additional vibrations and property damage?

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

How will project operations, including trucking of mine waste, trucking supply and construction deliveries, and fumes from mine blasting impact or create additional green house gases for the next 80 years?

The EIR should include a study to determine if high emissions will impact the forests, the associated ecosystems (e.g. acid rain), and human health.

- **Hazards & Hazardous Material, Contaminates, Minerals**

What hazardous materials will be used and generated by the project? How will they be stored, transported and disposed of?

What is the type of fumes that will be released from blasting? How will they be monitored and controlled? What areas will they impact considering wind, temperature, and other factors?

What hazardous materials, contaminates and heavy metals will remain on the site with the potential to adversely impact the environment?

Are there naturally occurring minerals, such as arsenic and asbestos, with impacts to humans or the environment that will be disturbed, exposed, otherwise pose a risk as part of the project?

Empire Mine continues to address contamination issues and there are sign warning visitors of lead, arsenic, and mercury still in the area.

- **Land Use/Planning**

What rezoning is required? How will this rezoning impact the current and planned residences in the area? Will this or could this be considered a taking? (See comment in project economics below.)

This is a proposed 80-year permit. As required by CEQA, Rise Gold should submit alternatives to an 80-year permit, including a shorter term permit and a conditional permit.

How will the County monitor permit compliance? How many resources will be dedicated to this, from which departments, and what expertise? Does the County have air quality experts? Water quality? Noise measuring systems? Seismic detection systems? If not, how will the county determine compliance?

- **Noise • Population**

Blasting tunnels, loading trucks, and crushing rock are noisy, dusty operations. How much dust will be created? On windy days, where with the dust be blown? How will compliance with PM 2.5 and PM 10 standards (particulate matter) be determined? Will the project meet standards 24/7?

What noise levels will be generated by all operations from crushing, loading and unloading trucks, the power system, and employee transportation? At what times of the day and which days? How far away will residents hear this noise, including trucks hauling rock down Brunswick and Bennett (initially) and later down Highways 49, 20, and 174? What will be the impact on the residents and businesses alike?

How will the EIR scope address the impacts on blasting, even if below the damage threshold?

- **Public Services Recreation**

Important and highly visited recreation areas are nearby including the Union Hill portion of Empire Mine, Empire Mine itself (West of 174) and Wolf Creek. The Empire Mine Park boundary is less than a mile from the Mine itself and appears to butt up against the project subsurface boundary. Will Union Hill or Empire Mine recreation areas be impacted by air emissions from trucking or the project operations? Will there be additional noise or vibrations from blasting? The Wolf Creek trail is a new, important, and highly visited trail. How will increased flows impact this resource?

- **Transportation & Traffic**

Bennett Street currently provides the safest and most direct pedestrian and cycling route from downtown Grass Valley to the Cedar Ridge area and then to Chicago Park. The

alternative, Highway 174, has heavy truck, school and other traffic and does not have bike lane or an adequate shoulder. How will pedestrians and cyclists be safely accommodated on Bennett, Greenhorn, and Brunswick? What alternatives will the County provide? What are safer alternatives for moving waste than that currently proposed?

Bennett Street is also the main route to access the Greenhorn Road subdivision from central Grass Valley. How will this impact these homeowners ability to access Greenhorn?

The operation will generate up to a hundred truckloads daily, plus deliveries of supplies, explosives, and other materials and employee traffic. This huge increase in traffic will result in potholes, road wear, and accidents. What is the cost and how will this be mitigated? Truck traffic will also substantially increase in nearby counties throughout the life of the project. How will this impact their roads (e.g. Highway 49, Highway 20)?

- **Utilities & Service Systems**

Water supply, the most important utility, will be significantly impacted. What new water systems will need to be installed to supply water for all homes with impacted wells, whether they are dewatered or contaminated? How will draining the groundwater impact future business and housing development which may be dependent on ground water wells?

- **Economic Study**

  - **Impact on Hospitality Industry.** Protecting our beautiful environment and supporting the hospitality industry are not mutually exclusive. Many people are drawn to the area to both work and play because of the beautiful forests, outdoor activities, and charming towns. The impact of a noisy mine with ongoing blasting and loads of truck traffic ½ mile from the Grass Valley City limit needs to be thoughtfully considered. If dewatering impacts our forests, the ability of the area to attract tourists and keep residents is a concern that needs to be studied as part of the EIR. Tourists who come to play stay in our hotels, inns, and campgrounds, eat in our restaurants, and shop at our stores. Will the hospitality industry be adversely impacted?

  - Takings. Rezoning and permitting the project would be government actions that impact private property rights, including loss of private property (wells) and devaluation of property. The cost of restoring these property rights must be fully considered in any economic study. How will dewatering wells impact the water supply for homes within the 1-mile radius of the project subsurface boundary?

- Loud industrial noise, dust, impacted air quality, dry wells, truck traffic, employee traffic and other factors will degrade the value of the homes around the project site and in Grass Valley, Cedar Ridge and the Greenhorn area. How much will the value of homes decline? What will be the overall impact on the housing market in Grass Valley?

- Blasting will cause ground vibrations and people's homes to shake. What limits are being set on ground vibrations to avoid damaging structures above the subsurface area? What happens when blasting limits are exceeded? What happens when damage occurs below blasting limits? Who will be responsible for investigating the damage claim and/or adjusting limits to prevent damage?

- Extensive truck traffic from both hauling rock and waste tailings and delivery of supplies will cause significant wear and tear on County roads. This is likely to cause safety issues for cyclists. Will a cycling lane be added to Bennett? How will increased safety issues be addressed? What will be the cost of keeping the road in good repair? Will this be added to the budget, or will other County roads suffer?

- What is the risk of creating additional sinkholes throughout the subsurface boundaries? How will these be identified and will the homeowners be compensated or will the company address the issue? What will be the requirements for addressing sinkholes that result on private property?

- Will the mine likely pay taxes to the County? If so, how much and when? Will this offset the cost of its operation on county roads, water supply, etc.?

- How will the releases to Wolf Creek impact the operation of the treatment facility downstream? What modifications will need to be made, at what cost, and who will pay for them?

- Historically, mine operations have left toxic impacts, contaminated wells, loss of public property (wells and home values), unsightly waste piles, and ground water contamination. This includes multiple mines throughout the County. If the company fails to have sufficient funds to address these issues, who will pay for them?

Please keep us apprised of the status of this project and promptly informed of all opportunities to comment. We believe it is the public benefit to have virtual public meetings on all aspects of this project, including economic impacts, air quality, water impacts, and public safety.

Sincerely,

Maria Butrico and John Hanrahan, 12828 Lake Wildwood Drive, Penn Valley, CA

mandorla137@gmail.com

Trudy Nye, 14270 Tim Burr Lane, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (Greenhorn area)
Trudyeney@gmail.com

Gail Shierman, 330 Bridge Way, Nevada City, CA 95959, gail_shierman@att.net

Cynthia Swarthout, 845 Morgan Ranch Drive, Grass Valley, 95945
cpswarthout@gmail.com

Katherine Thompson, 10815 Footwall Drive, Grass Valley 95945 (Union Hill area)
Kathompson111@gmail.com

From:	Tony Sauer
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments-Scope of DEIR Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 1:37:34 PM
Attachments:	NCcycleIMMDEIRcmts817.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon Matt,
Please find the attached word document from a group of Nevada County Cyclist, which also concern me deeply.

Onward,
Tony Sauer

>
>

From:	Summer Scanlan
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Opposition to Rise Gold Opening Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 11:18:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm writing in as a property owner in downtown Grass Valley to officially oppose the opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

My home and entire neighborhood and town would be negatively impacted.

Best,

Summer Scanlan
379 Clark Street
Grass Valley, 95944

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jo Ann Schilling
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: EIR for Proposed Reopening of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 27 years. Like many others in the area, my family was drawn to this community by its natural beauty, the serenity of the surrounding foothills, and its colorful history, much of which is centered on gold mining. Unfortunately, a part of that history is the incredible and lasting environmental damage inflicted on this area by mining companies in their past efforts to extract the gold.

I am concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the upcoming Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Of additional concern is the project's potential impact in de-stabilizing ground areas not only in the designated project areas but also adjoining areas through (a) underground explosions designed to clear areas for new tunnels and (b) construction of the tunnels themselves. Additionally, the EIR should consider provisions for safe transportation, storage, and use of proposed explosive materials. To what degree are these materials stable?

The EIR should address the noise and vibration levels attendant to creation of the new mine tunnels, the pumping out of water from existing tunnels, and ongoing mining operations that

would continue 24/7 for decades.

Finally, will the re-opening of the mine deface the appearance of our community, leaving vast surface areas depleted of vegetation and looking like they've been strip mined? (I envision something like the former beautiful meadow across from the Fairgrounds, stripped of grasses and now a barren landscape covered with weed-pocked gravel.)

Thank you for considering the above concerns.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Schilling

13644 Marin Place, Grass Valley, CA 95949

530-274-8452

Email: joannschilling@gmail.com

From: lisaschliff
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: New Mine in Grass Valley
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:26 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I find it hard to believe that the Nevada County Planning Department is even considering an application for mining on Idaho-Maryland Road. Haven't we learned from historical mining records and observations about the disastrous effect mining left in its wake? Malakoff-Diggins is just one of many sites filled with toxins and rusting relics that pollute and mar the natural beauty of the place.

The noise level alone is a major factor in denying this private company the right to mine here. Our quality of life, even if the county and cities enrich their coffers with tax revenues, will suffer anyway.

Please do not allow this ruinous profiteering go forward.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Schliff
Owner, On The Beam Remodeling, Inc.
19002 Dog Bar Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949

From: lisaschliff
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Gold Mining
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings Matt,

I will wait for the environmental impact report to submit my final comments. Initially, I am concerned about the damage that will be done to the ground and the creek, danger to people working in and with the mine, and please bear in mind there could be some very high-intensity noise associated with this activity. All of this degrades the quality of life in the Grass Valley area. Balance that against the enrichment of one company and CEO, and of course tax revenues that Grass Valley and Nevada County will gain.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schliff
19002 Dog Bar Road
Grass Valley, CA

From:	Sophia Schuff
To:	Matt Kelley; bdofsupervisors
Subject:	strongly opposing the Idaho-Maryland mine reopening
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:51:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,
My name is Sophia, and I am a former resident of Grass Valley. I moved from Grass Valley when I was 18 and upon leaving got a degree in Urban Design and a Masters degree in Sustainability Science.
I have always wished to return to Grass Valley, strongly believing that this community served me so well as a young person, it would also be a place I'd like to raise my children and have a family. I am now 30, and that time is coming sooner and sooner every day.

Sadly, I have learned about plans to reopen Idaho-Maryland mine and am shocked and incredibly disappointed. If this mine were to reopen it would be so devastating to the local ecology of Grass Valley, and as a result the economy and mental and physical health of residents. I'm sure you know the science well, which means the planning department just doesn't care. Or if you don't know the science, then you are making a decision against the well-being and resilience of the community you serve.

I hope to one day move back to Grass Valley, and one day soon, but if a plan like this were to go ahead, there is no way I would ever dream of moving back. I am one of hundreds and thousands of educated, aware, and concerned young people who view Grass Valley as a potential home - but not if this gets approved. I urge you to follow science and evidence based data/reasoning and consider the importance of retaining a resilient community.

Below is the letter stating the facts -as i'm sure you have received previously.

Best,
Sophia

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more

precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the

atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our

electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our**

beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

--

Sophia Schuff
Gehl, Urban Anthropologist
+45 92 15 01 02
sophia.schuff@gmail.com

From:	schutt.roger@gmail.com
To:	info@risegoldcorp.com; Matt Kelley
Cc:	Roger Schutt
Subject:	** The Proposed Reopening of The Idaho-Maryland Mine **
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:42:09 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This message is being directed to two (2) parties:

1. Rise Gold Corporation, Grass Valley, CA
2. Mr. Matt Kelley, Nevada County Senior Planner

Tuesday August 11, 2020

Rise Gold Corporation
333 Crown Point Circle (Suite 215)
Grass Valley, California USA 95945

First of all, I find it absurd that I even need to address this silliness, but here goes…

Word has it you're making every effort to turn a rather large area of Western Nevada County, California into a slowly-evolving "Ghost Town."

Re-Working the Idaho-Maryland Mine, eh?

I guess we learn from our past… but only selectively.

Rise Gold, we live quite near your proposed project.
We certainly don't need you to add significantly to our daily anxiety…

Even if this area was NOT threatened annually by massive fire, the current & unwelcome world-wide Virus, an upheaval in our planet's climate / overall health, as well as the currently staggering global economy… and yes, even if we did NOT actually live here… we would still HIGHLY OPPOSE your project.

Folks, you certainly don't meet the definition of "A Good Neighbor."

We'd love it if you would simply leave now and head back over that northern border. We know you will eventually… and if your plans somehow come to fruition, in your wake you'll unfortunately leave those of us still here with all the toxic byproducts of your filthy "money grab."

My friends & neighbors have conducted diligent research into your proposed rape of our area. They previously submitted their suggestions & comments to Nevada County Senior Planner Matt Kelley. I have included their questions & comments below for your review; the list of dangers is quite well-documented. I am also sending a copy of this message to Mr. Kelley, for his edification on this subject.

But I would add this…

You think you've got deep pockets, eh?

Well, just wait 'til all those folks west of us get wind of this. I'm speaking of those living between here and the Pacific Ocean. Especially a certain multitude of urban dwellers nearest the ocean. In fact, anyone & everyone living along the route(s) your contaminated water will be flowing. I don't think you've quite considered them… and I don't assume they'll take too kindly to such pollution. I'd guess their collective "pockets" run a wee bit deeper than yours ever will…

Rise Gold, now is the time to settle up with your current debtors, cut your losses… and head out.

Yes, there's Gold in these hills… but around these parts it's experienced in the form of individual freedoms, and many good friends & neighbors sharing this delightful piece of God's Green Earth.

Please leave us soon… in (relative) Peace.

We wish you well.

Roger Schutt
Grass Valley, California

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Matt Kelley, Nevada County Senior Planner,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property

investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.

Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or

not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168

This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

August 7, 2020

RE: Rise Gold, Idaho-Maryland Mine Notice of Preparation

ATT: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Please include answers to the questions the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening proposal raises. In reviewing the project description, background information, and a hard look at the history of mining in Nevada County and the legacy left behind there are many questions that need to be answered in the CEQA review before this project is allowed to advance beyond the EIR phase.

1. There are two projects seeking approval including the Idaho-Maryland Mine (IMM) reopening and the Centennial Mine clean up. Though they are under separate approval jurisdictions, implementation of both proposed project plans are dependent on both being approved. Centennial Mine is the destination for over one million tons of mine rock extracted from the IMM. Centennial Mine clean up requires massive amount of clean crushed rock to mix and cap the legacy contamination left behind from the last mining operation at that location. Should either project not be approved within the bounds of their current proposals, project descriptions would need to be revised and environmental review would need to start over.

   Question: How will the IMM project address not having the Centennial Mine land as a dumping location for one million tons of crushed rock should the Centennial project not be approved the way it is currently proposed? What would the IMM do with the one million tons of crushed rock if Nevada County conditioned the project to keep all rock at the IMM site?

2. What is the responsibility of mine owners to cleanup legacy contamination on their land and within their mineral rights before any improvement or utilization project is advanced?
3. When does the risk of harm to individual and community resources such as water quality and air quality over ride the rights of land owners to develop their property?
4. What steps can be taken to prevent mining operations from disrupting or contaminating underground water channels that serve local wells?
5. Is there a conflict between the economics of large scale mining and the economics of local tourism when the mine is close to residential, the City of Grass Valley, Rollins Lake, Cedar Ridge, and Wolf Creek?

6. Will an economic study of the impacts of the IMM project on the local and county economy be completed as part of the project review?
7. What will the public services required for project oversight cost on an annual bases, based on historical data from both the industry and Rise Gold past mining operations?
8. If the price of gold drops, at what point will Rise Gold walk away from the project?
9. Will bonds be in required at a sufficient level to complete cleanup and reclamation should Rise Gold suspend operations?
10. Will the IMM project hurt residential values?
11. Will the value of homes within one mile of the IMM project be impacted? Over one mile?
12. Is large scale mining compatible with residential neighborhoods?
13. Are there lessons, mitigations, conditions, or limits required to prevent a repeat of the problems the Siskon Gold Mine caused on the North San Juan Ridge?
14. Should old mines to reopened?
15. How will Wolf Creek be protected from past practices of the Rise Gold management?
16. What conditions are required to prevent legacy contamination from trucks hauling crushed mine rock from IMM to the Centennial Mine location?
17. Will the rock extracted from the IMM be tested for legacy contamination during the course of extraction?
18. During the life of the project will there be independent inspections to insure ongoing compliance with all permits, regulations, and rules?
19. What frequency of inspections do mining operations typically require?
20. Do mining operations in residential areas and close to small towns require higher levels of inspection than remote mining operations?
21. Rather than dumping treated water into Wolf Creek, can Rise Gold work with Nevada Irrigation District to capture the water for community use?
22. How will the EIR consultants screen out of their analysis any romantic mythology associated with Nevada Counties mining history?
23. How will the EIR consultants integrate into their analysis the legacy of contamination and waste left behind by previous mining operations throughout Nevada County to be cleaned up with public funds?

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the CEQA process.

Paul Schwartz

13812 Meadow Drive, Grass Valley CA 95945

530-272-2535

psschwartz@sbcglobal.net

From: psschwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rice Gold Proposal for Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt:
What are the steps for approval of the Rice Gold Idaho Marland Mine project?
Paul

From: Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:01 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>; Alison Lehman <Alison.Lehman@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Traci Sheehan <traci.sheehan@gmail.com>; Greg Thrush <greg.thrush@sierrafund.org>; Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Rise Gold Idaho Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To:
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administration Center 950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us

Please read into the record and submit the written copy to the Board of Supervisors.

The permit application for the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Grass Valley is currently in the scoping phase. I did not see the requirement for an economic study proposed for the review process. This is a difficult omission to understand. Reintroducing a large industrial enterprise into an area that has evolved for almost three decades, since the closure of the saw mill, into a rural residential neighborhood is a high risk land use planning decision. I can't imagine what the upside is that motivates Nevada County leadership to consider this proposal. Is it an increase in local tax revenue? Is it jobs for local residents? Is it purely a right to use private property ideological decision? The downside is easy to see looking no further that the applicants project description. Mining will operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day with some level of impact on area noise, traffic, air quality (dust, fumes, carbon), increase volumes of water pumped into Wolf Creek, impact on 300

plus wells following millions of gallon pumped continually from the ground water and mine shafts, disruption from underground expansion of mine shafts within the mineral rights that may impact 900 homes on the surface, and the impact to real estate values as the area transforms from rural residential to industrial. One obvious way to answer some of the questions is to complete an Economic Study and clearly evaluate how the enterprise would impact the local and regional economy. It would clearly evaluate what resources would stay in the community and what resources would leave. The economic study would illuminate the public sector cost of oversight and mitigation from a historical and current prospective relative to mining enterprises. The economic study would also reveal any redirection of the local economy following approval and implementation of this industrial operation.

I worry about degradation of the quality of life in this part of the county. I worry about the intersection of Brunswick and Bennett during commute hours and who will pay for traffic lights. I worry about our air quality after days of an AQI of over 160 (really unhealthy) documented at the Litton Building air quality testing station. I worry about businesses along Idaho Maryland that detail cars with their shop doors open, sell recreation vehicles in open air parking lots, work in technology development and production requiring clean environments in Whispering Pines Business Park. I worry about the businesses because over a million tons of crushed rock is proposed to be moved from the Idaho Maryland Mine to the Centennial Mine location (corner of Idaho Maryland and Centennial Drive) and mixed into 60 acres of contaminated soils on that site. What will the impact on these businesses be?

In conclusion, the responsible path is to study and reveal the upsides and downsides of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Proposal as thoroughly as possible. This includes a neutral Economic Study of the impacts of the proposal on our community and region.

Sincerely,
Paul Schwartz
13812 Meadow Drive
Grass Valley CA 95945
530-272-2535

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:01 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>; Alison Lehman <Alison.Lehman@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Traci Sheehan <traci.sheehan@gmail.com>; Greg Thrush <greg.thrush@sierrafund.org>; Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Rise Gold Idaho Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To:
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administration Center 950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us

Please read into the record and submit the written copy to the Board of Supervisors.

The permit application for the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Grass Valley is currently in the scoping phase. I did not see the requirement for an economic study proposed for the review process. This is a difficult omission to understand. Reintroducing a large industrial enterprise into an area that has evolved for almost three decades, since the closure of the saw mill, into a rural residential neighborhood is a high risk land use planning decision. I can't imagine what the upside is that motivates Nevada County leadership to consider this proposal. Is it an increase in local tax revenue? Is it jobs for local residents? Is it purely a right to use private property ideological decision? The downside is easy to see looking no further that the applicants project description. Mining will operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day with some level of impact on area noise, traffic, air

quality (dust, fumes, carbon), increase volumes of water pumped into Wolf Creek, impact on 300 plus wells following millions of gallon pumped continually from the ground water and mine shafts, disruption from underground expansion of mine shafts within the mineral rights that may impact 900 homes on the surface, and the impact to real estate values as the area transforms from rural residential to industrial. One obvious way to answer some of the questions is to complete an Economic Study and clearly evaluate how the enterprise would impact the local and regional economy. It would clearly evaluate what resources would stay in the community and what resources would leave. The economic study would illuminate the public sector cost of oversight and mitigation from a historical and current prospective relative to mining enterprises. The economic study would also reveal any redirection of the local economy following approval and implementation of this industrial operation.

I worry about degradation of the quality of life in this part of the county. I worry about the intersection of Brunswick and Bennett during commute hours and who will pay for traffic lights. I worry about our air quality after days of an AQI of over 160 (really unhealthy) documented at the Litton Building air quality testing station. I worry about businesses along Idaho Maryland that detail cars with their shop doors open, sell recreation vehicles in open air parking lots, work in technology development and production requiring clean environments in Whispering Pines Business Park. I worry about the businesses because over a million tons of crushed rock is proposed to be moved from the Idaho Maryland Mine to the Centennial Mine location (corner of Idaho Maryland and Centennial Drive) and mixed into 60 acres of contaminated soils on that site. What will the impact on these businesses be?

In conclusion, the responsible path is to study and reveal the upsides and downsides of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Proposal as thoroughly as possible. This includes a neutral Economic Study of the impacts of the proposal on our community and region.

Sincerely,
Paul Schwartz
13812 Meadow Drive
Grass Valley CA 95945
530-272-2535

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Rise Gold Idaho-Maryland MIne NOP Input

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt:

Please include the attached document as part of the Notice of Preparation package informing the CEQA process for the Rise Gold Idaho Maryland Mine reopening proposal.

Thanks,
Paul Schwartz
13812 Meadow Drive
Grass Valley CA 95945
530-272-2535

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Jennifer scott-lifland <jenrose1961@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:15 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine~

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

My name is Jennifer Scott. I am very alarmed that our community is considering opening up our

precious land to additional ravages of mining.
I don't think I am over-dramatizing this threat...

I did not know much about mining, attitudes, environmental degradation, limited economic bounce and long-term mining pollution
UNTIL my family and I moved here (from LA) in 2008.
I have been mightily "schooled" since arriving here.

This proposed mine's potential 'UNKNOWN' impacts on our water, land, air, and peace of mind are not that hard to figure out...
based on our community's past and very public history of mining and the catastrophic consequences in our area!

Please say NO! To this and any future efforts to take our community BACK DOWN that OLD MESSED UP MINING ROAD.

Please let us find ways to create, explore and invest in healthy and safe ways to protect and enhance our beautiful home.
We refuse to have our land exploited.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Scott, Nevada City
& Jack Lifland, Grass Valley

From: Rona Seabrook
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:36:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

I have lived in Nevada County since 1977. I live in Grass Valley.

You are probably receiving a high number of letters from concerned citizens so I will keep this brief.

I have read the application, documents, FAQ, NOP and viewed the slide show.

My conclusion is that granting permission for the Idaho-Maryland mind is a negligent and reckless thing to do. It does not serve our community or county and will have multiple negative impacts in substantial ways on many levels.

I hope a healthy community decision, which is denial, will be made for now and our future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rona Seabrook
136 Carpenter St.
Grass valley

Board of Directors

Robert Smail
President
Fred Holden
Vice President
Robin Milam
Secretary
Kathryn McCamant
Treasurer

Tim Ackerman
Andy Cassano
Mike Chapel
Terry Hundemer
Letty Litchfield
Robin Milam
Trent Pridemore
Christy Sherr

Erika Seward,
Co-Executive Director,

Erin Tarr,
Co-Executive Director

August 17, 2020

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Grass Valley City Council
Matt Kelley, Senior Planner Nevada County

Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine EIR

At Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT), our mission is to protect and defend the working and natural lands of the Bear and Yuba River Watersheds. The lands under our care range from conservation easements covering thousands of acres of high elevation forests to the ownership of a working cattle ranch on the Bear River and a great diversity of landscapes in between. We believe that long-term planning, with a goal of sustainability and resilience in the face of many unknown climate change impacts, must be at the forefront of all decision making.

One property of significance, the Bennett Street Grasslands, is protected by BYLT through a conservation easement. The 7.64 acres of land sit along East Bennett Street just below the Brunswick site and is bisected by South Wolf Creek. This property is owned in fee title by CA State Parks and was a joint project of BYLT, State Parks and The Nature Conservancy. BYLT has been entrusted to protect the conservation values of the property from outside impacts to whatever extent possible, in perpetuity. A small local treasure, the site hosts very large madrones, cottonwoods, and prime habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Stands of native grasses and forbs cover the open meadows with birds, bears and small mammals frequenting the natural space. Gold Country Avian Studies has been operating a bird banding station at this site for nearly 5 years and has documented the wide diversity of birds that depend on this riparian corridor for survival.

We have reviewed the scoping plan and studies that document the impacts to the Bennett Street Grasslands and Bear and Yuba River Watersheds if the Idaho-Maryland Mine and its proposed operations are approved. The following is an outline of environmental impacts that are of deep concern:

- Water flow impacts to South Fork Wolf Creek and downstream riparian habitat;
- Water quality impacts to South Fork Wolf Creek due to the dewatering of the mine shafts and diversion of mine outflow going into the waterway;
- Air quality impacts from increased greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and an estimated additional offset of 9,000 metric tons of GHG each year;

- Noise and traffic pollution impacts to the wildlife, including bird species, and neighboring human populations due to mining operations that will run 24/7 and include significant trucking on public roads;
- Storage of explosives, diesel fuel and other dangerous chemicals at the site, and;
- Impacts to local wells and aquifers from diversions due to the use of excessive water.

For 30 years, BYLT has safeguarded critical habitats and provided assurances to our community that we will protect the conservation values of the lands we are entrusted with. We implore you to address these areas of concern and the serious implications they may pose on the health and wellbeing of our watersheds and all inhabitants for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Erin Tarr
Co-Executive Director
erin@bylt.org

Erika Seward
Co-Executive Director
erika@bylt.org

From:	erika@bylt.org
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Erin Tarr
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR comments from Bear Yuba Land Trust
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:47:19 PM
Attachments:	celebration of trails.png Rise BOS Letter August 2020.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

On behalf of Bear Yuba Land Trust, I am submitting this letter with our comments and concerns related to the environmental impacts of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Erika

--
Erika Seward
Co-Executive Director
Bear Yuba Land Trust

P.O. Box 1004
Grass Valley, CA 95945
O: 530.272.5994 x 202
M: 785.550.4610

Empower healthy, resilient communities! Support our TRAILS APPEAL today!

Visit BYLT.org | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube

From: Patricia Sharp
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Gold Mine Feedback
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:07 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planner Kelley,
From all that we've learned about the impact mining has on the environment, it's hard to imagine why us residents could possibly endorse reopening a gold mine in our city. Water quality and wells will be affected. We need our precious ground water for the community and healthy forests. More traffic, diminished air quality and noisy trucks all day long. Mining is part of our history, not part of our future. Having a beautiful green serene rural setting, draws vacationers and outdoor enthusiasts. That's what keeps our local economy humming, not promises from the mine owners who come and go. I for one cannot abide by this shortsighted plan with long term consequences to. Who benefits?! Not us residents. We'll will be the ones to pick up the tab for years to come. I vote NO on the Rise Gold plan to reopen.

Sincerely,
Patricia Sharp
312 Marshall St.
Grass Valley, CA

From:	Gordon Shaw
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Rise Gold mine
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir,
I'm writing to express my opinion on the Rise Gold mine project. There are a number of reasons that it should not be approved.

-Grass Valley is not the rural area that it used to be when Gold mines were big here. This area has grown into a spread out residential area. How can you seriously consider allowing operations 24/7 along Brunswick. That should be a non starter right there. Why is it even being considered?
-Job benefits are not for locals, except possibly truck drivers. When the Covid situation is over, our truck drivers will have plenty of jobs without Rise Gold.Rise will need to bring in drivers from Sacramento. That does not help our economy. But we get the noise and pollution.
-The tailings are being used to make future building pads. This should not be considered. But if it is, please take a look at the Hills Flat Lumber building pad. That is the worst eye sore and embarrassment for the county planning to allow such an ugly building pad. The counties job should be to reject proposals that don't blend in with the topography.
-The counties job should be to look out for the benefit of locals, not a foreign company hiring out of area workers to exploit our environment and leave left over mine remnants like the big concrete tower currently on the property. That should be required to be torn down and the area returned to a natural state.

Thanks,

Gordon Shaw
14101 Lee Lane
Nevada City

Gordon Shaw Construction

CA Lic 799707

530-448-1983

From: MICHAEL SHAW
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I am resending this email to you just in case I had sent it before the timeframe for public comments was open. I had sent to out of my concern without knowledge of a window for comments. Thank you again.

I am sure you are inundated daily with email regarding the mine's potential reopening but please take the time to read this. My wife and I are residents of Nevada City and we live on Juniper Drive on Banner Mountain, off of Idaho Maryland Road. The concern of Rise Gold Corp. purchasing the land and attempting to restart mining operations has caused us to lay awake at night thinking of how much negative effect on this area that will have. Our main concerns are the following:

Water Removal from the mine, or dewatering as it is referred to. Per a PG&E hydrologist in the area, the water in the ground on Banner Mountain and the surrounding areas for miles in all directions, comes from Mount Lassen. Tests prove that this is a fact. Another fact about this is that it takes the water about 40 years to arrive here from Mount Lassen. Removing the water from the mine will not only remove the water in the mine but it will eventually remove the water in every single well above the level of the pumps, with the higher elevations being the first to lose water. Not only will the wells dry up but so will the ground. The removal of the water will also remove the hydraulic pressure the water creates in the groundwater. The hydraulic pressure is what drives the water through the millions of small openings allowing it to spread throughout the area. Wells drying up is only part of the unfair equation. The forests will suffer as well. No ground water means only precipitation to irrigate. Tree death and forest health is the larger issue. Bark Beetle, dead and dying trees, forest fires, structure fires are certain to be in the future if the water is removed. There is also the possibility that the mine does not produce the gold at a profitable enough rate and Rise decides to shut down. The one million gallons per day that was removed over a period of 6 months to a year, will never return in our life time. It will take 40 years for it to come back and and refill. By then it will be much too late. The water will disappear for miles in all directions. Not just Banner Mountain, but in Grass Valley as well. The mine goes below the level that the city and its buildings sit upon. Any ground higher than the lowest pump will dry up.

That is the water issue as it relates to the forest and surrounding area. What about the residents? Where will our water come from? There is no other water service in our area. There are numerous homes with no access to NID water currently. Who will install the water infrastructure to these homes and who will be forced to pay for it? Rise Gold Corp? Is NID going to pay for the installation and absorb the costs? I doubt this very much. More likely it could cost each resident tens of thousands of dollars to have water mains and service to their homes installed. We don't have that sort of money to spend on water that we already have. Our property values would drop to zero. We could not sell our home for market value if we wanted to move away. Fire insurance which is already much too high would be even more unaffordable if it was even available. And who knows what else could be in the nasty details of this bad prospect as a result.

Mining Operations is the other big concern to us. As you already know from the environmental reports, noise and vibration from underground blasting, drilling, grinding and mineral removal is a 24/7 operation. I can tell you this, I had relatives that lived on Mill Street in Grass Valley from the early 1920s for the rest of their lives up to the 1980s. They told stories of the constant vibration and rumbling underground along with

earthquake like jolts and shaking from the explosions used for blasting the rock. This was constant and continued until the operations finally ended in the 50s.

Our home is located approximately 2 miles from the big concrete vent located on Bennett Road. We hear traffic on Brunswick Road as it is now. I can't imagine how much noise and pollution will result from 50 to 100 truck loads per day driving from the mine to the location on Idaho Maryland Rd. to dump the waste. The air pollution from the diesel trucks, the noise, from the trucks and from the mine will be horrible. The vent on Bennett Road will spew out tons of Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Asbestos dust, Mercury fumes, Arsenic fumes and dust, heat and other mining exhaust fumes from the mine and its operations. The wind will carry these poisons for miles in every direction, including Grass Valley.

Please do not allow this mine to reopen now or ever again. Protect our health and happiness. Protect the beautiful forest. Please don't be lured into this bad proposition with promises of jobs and other so called benefits.

Thank you for taking moment to read this.

Sincerely,

Michael Shaw
11168 Juniper Dr.
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-460-1979

From: MICHAEL SHAW
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opening the Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:28 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I am sending this email to you just for a second time just in case I had sent it before the timeframe for public comments was open. I had sent to out of my concern without knowledge of a window for comments. Thank you again.

I am sure you are inundated daily with email regarding the mine's potential reopening but please take the time to read this. My wife and I are residents of Nevada City and we live on Juniper Drive on Banner Mountain, off of Idaho Maryland Road. The concern of Rise Gold Corp. purchasing the land and attempting to restart mining operations has caused us to lay awake at night thinking of how much negative effect on this area that will have. Our main concerns are the following:

Water Removal from the mine, or dewatering as it is referred to. Per a PG&E hydrologist in the area, the water in the ground on Banner Mountain and the surrounding areas for miles in all directions, comes from Mount Lassen. Tests prove that this is a fact. Another fact about this is that it takes the water about 40 years to arrive here from Mount Lassen. Removing the water from the mine will not only remove the water in the mine but it will eventually remove the water in every single well above the level of the pumps, with the higher elevations being the first to lose water. Not only will the wells dry up but so will the ground. The removal of the water will also remove the hydraulic pressure the water creates in the groundwater. The hydraulic pressure is what drives the water through the millions of small openings allowing it to spread throughout the area. Wells drying up is only part of the unfair equation. The forests will suffer as well. No ground water means only precipitation to irrigate. Tree death and forest health is the larger issue. Bark Beetle, dead and dying trees, forest fires, structure fires are certain to be in the future if the water is removed. There is also the possibility that the mine does not produce the gold at a profitable enough rate and Rise decides to shut down. The one million gallons per day that was removed over a period of 6 months to a year, will never return in our life time. It will take 40 years for it to come back and and refill. By then it will be much too late. The water will disappear for miles in all directions. Not just Banner Mountain, but in Grass Valley as well. The mine goes below the level that the city and its buildings sit upon. Any ground higher than the lowest pump will dry up.

That is the water issue as it relates to the forest and surrounding area. What about the residents? Where will our water come from? There is no other water service in our area. There are numerous homes with no access to NID water currently. Who will install the water infrastructure to these homes and who will be forced to pay for it? Rise Gold Corp? Is NID going to pay for the installation and absorb the costs? I doubt this very much. More likely it could cost each resident tens of thousands of dollars to have water mains and service to their homes installed. We don't have that sort of money to spend on water that we already have. Our property values would drop to zero. We could not sell our home for market value if we wanted to move away. Fire insurance which is already much too high would be even more unaffordable if it was even available. And who knows what else could be in the nasty details of this bad prospect as a result.

Mining Operations is the other big concern to us. As you already know from the environmental reports,

noise and vibration from underground blasting, drilling, grinding and mineral removal is a 24/7 operation. I can tell you this, I had relatives that lived on Mill Street in Grass Valley from the early 1920s for the rest of their lives up to the 1980s. They told stories of the constant vibration and rumbling underground along with earthquake like jolts and shaking from the explosions used for blasting the rock. This was constant and continued until the operations finally ended in the 50s.

Our home is located approximately 2 miles from the big concrete vent located on Bennett Road. We hear traffic on Brunswick Road as it is now. I can't imagine how much noise and pollution will result from 50 to 100 truck loads per day driving from the mine to the location on Idaho Maryland Rd. to dump the waste. The air pollution from the diesel trucks, the noise, from the trucks and from the mine will be horrible. The vent on Bennett Road will spew out tons of Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Asbestos dust, Mercury fumes, Arsenic fumes and dust, heat and other mining exhaust fumes from the mine and its operations. The wind will carry these poisons for miles in every direction, including Grass Valley.

Please do not allow this mine to reopen now or ever again. Protect our health and happiness. Protect the beautiful forest. Please don't be lured into this bad proposition with promises of jobs and other so called benefits.

Thank you for taking moment to read this.

Sincerely,

Michael Shaw
11168 Juniper Dr.
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-460-1979

From: MICHAEL SHAW <ten9t7mike@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 12:24 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Possibly Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board,

I have to assume that all of you must be overloaded daily with emails and phone calls supporting or rejecting the idea of the mine's potential reopening, but I am asking you to please take the time to read this. My wife and I are residents of Nevada City and we live on Juniper Drive on Banner Mountain, off of Idaho Maryland Road. The concern is of Rise Gold Corp. purchasing the land and attempting to restart mining operations. At first I thought this idea was far fetched had no serious chance of passing. But now it seems to have gathered support. Support, mostly coming from people that it has no negative effects on. The NIMBYs that don't mind if it is only going to effect someone else. This possibility of reopening has caused us to lay awake nights thinking of how much of a negative effect the mine will have in this area. I just wanted to drive home a few points so I will keep it short. Our main concerns are the following:

Water Removal from the mine, or dewatering as it is referred to. Per a PG&E hydrologist in the area, the water in the ground on Banner Mountain and the surrounding areas for miles in all directions, comes from Mount Lassen. Tests prove that this is a fact. Another fact about this is that it takes the water about 40 years to arrive here from Mount Lassen. Removing the water from the mine will not only remove the water in the mine itself, but it will eventually remove the water in every single well above the level of the pumps, with the higher elevations being the first to lose water. Not only will the wells dry up but so will the ground. The removal of the water will also remove the hydraulic pressure the water creates in the groundwater. The hydraulic pressure is what drives the water through the millions of small openings allowing it to spread throughout the area. Wells drying up is only part of the unfair equation. The forests will suffer as well. No ground water means that only precipitation irrigates the forest. Tree death and forest health is the larger issue. Bark Beetle, dead and dying trees, forest fires, structure fires are certain to be in the future if the water is removed. Water is life. There is also the possibility that the mine does not produce the gold at a profitable enough rate and Rise decides to shut down. The one million gallons per day that was removed over a period of 6 months to a year, will never return in our life time. It will take 40 years for it to come back and and refill. By then it will be much too late. The water will disappear for miles in all directions. Not just Banner Mountain, but in Grass Valley as well. The mine goes well below the level that the city and its buildings sit upon. Any ground that is higher than the lowest pump will dry up.

How is it possible to remove Arsenic, Asbestos, Mercury and other minerals and heavy metals from the water at the lower levels of the mine, at a rate of over 1,000,000 gallons per day? That is how fast the water has to be removed to overcome the refill rate and allow the mine to drain. And the lowest level is where the water that will be pumped from, 24/7, forever in order to keep the mine from refilling. This will be pumped into Wolf Creek and down stream to other communities from there.

That is the water issue as it relates to the forest and surrounding area. What about the residents? Where will our water come from? There is no other water service in our area. There are numerous homes with no access to NID water currently. Who will install the water infrastructure to these homes and who will be forced to pay for it? Rise Gold Corp? Is NID going to pay for the installation and absorb the costs? I doubt this very much. More likely it could cost each resident tens of thousands of dollars to have water mains and service to their homes installed. We don't have that sort of money to spend on water that we already have. Our property values would drop to zero. We could not sell our home for market value if we wanted to move away. Fire insurance which is already much too high would be even more unaffordable if it was even available. And who knows what else could be in the nasty details of this bad prospect as a result.

Mining Operations is the other big concern to us. As you already know from the environmental reports, noise and vibration from underground blasting, drilling, grinding and mineral removal is a 24/7 operation. I can tell you this, I had relatives that lived on Mill Street in Grass Valley from the early 1920s for the rest of their lives up to the 1980s. They told stories of the constant vibration and rumbling underground along with earthquake like jolts and shaking from the explosions used for blasting the rock. This was constant and continued until the operations finally ended in the 50s.

Our home is located approximately 2 miles from the big concrete vent located on Bennett Road. We hear traffic on Brunswick Road as it is now. I can't imagine how much noise and pollution will result from 50 to 100 truck loads per day driving from the mine to the location on Idaho Maryland Rd. to dump the waste. The air pollution from the diesel trucks, the noise, from the trucks and from the mine will be horrible. The vent on Bennett Road will spew out tons of Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Asbestos dust, Mercury fumes, Arsenic fumes and dust, heat and other mining exhaust fumes from the mine and its operations. The wind will carry these poisons for miles in every direction, including Grass Valley.

There are so many other related issues that I could go on and on for pages but I am sure you have heard it all before, so I will not include them .

In short, please do not allow this mine to reopen now or ever again. Protect our health, peace of mind, and happiness. Protect our beautiful forests, grass lands and wildlife, too. Please don't be lured into this bad proposition with promises of jobs and other so called benefits. Mining is one of those industries that reeks havoc and permanent damage on everything it touches. It will run over anyone in standing its path. Look back at the history of gold mining, any mineral mining for that matter, and the permanent damage to the environment is has caused throughout the state and other states as well.

Thank you very much for taking moment to read this.

Sincerely,

Michael Shaw
11168 Juniper Dr.
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-460-1979
ten9t7mike@aol.com

From: MICHAEL SHAW <ten9t7mike@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Reopening of Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I am sure you are inundated daily with email regarding the mine's potential reopening but please take the time to read this. My wife and I are residents of Nevada City and we live on Juniper Drive on Banner Mountain, off of Idaho Maryland Road. The concern of Rise Gold Corp. purchasing the land and attempting to restart mining operations has caused us to lay awake at night thinking of how much negative effect on

this area that will have. Our main concerns are the following:

Water Removal from the mine, or dewatering as it is referred to. Per a PG&E hydrologist in the area, the water in the ground on Banner Mountain and the surrounding areas for miles in all directions, comes from Mount Lassen. Tests prove that this is a fact. Another fact about this is that it takes the water about 40 years to arrive here from Mount Lassen. Removing the water from the mine will not only remove the water in the mine but it will eventually remove the water in every single well above the level of the pumps, with the higher elevations being the first to lose water. Not only will the wells dry up but so will the ground. The removal of the water will also remove the hydraulic pressure the water creates in the groundwater. The hydraulic pressure is what drives the water through the millions of small openings allowing it to spread throughout the area. Wells drying up is only part of the unfair equation. The forests will suffer as well. No ground water means only precipitation to irrigate. Tree death and forest health is the larger issue. Bark Beetle, dead and dying trees, forest fires, structure fires are certain to be in the future if the water is removed. There is also the possibility that the mine does not produce the gold at a profitable enough rate and Rise decides to shut down. The one million gallons per day that was removed over a period of 6 months to a year, will never return in our life time. It will take 40 years for it to come back and and refill. By then it will be much too late. The water will disappear for miles in all directions. Not just Banner Mountain, but in Grass Valley as well. The mine goes below the level that the city and its buildings sit upon. Any ground higher than the lowest pump will dry up.

That is the water issue as it relates to the forest and surrounding area. What about the residents? Where will our water come from? There is no other water service in our area. There are numerous homes with no access to NID water currently. Who will install the water infrastructure to these homes and who will be forced to pay for it? Rise Gold Corp? Is NID going to pay for the installation and absorb the costs? I doubt this very much. More likely it could cost each resident tens of thousands of dollars to have water mains and service to their homes installed. We don't have that sort of money to spend on water that we already have. Our property values would drop to zero. We could not sell our home for market value if we wanted to move away. Fire insurance which is already much too high would be even more unaffordable if it was even available. And who knows what else could be in the nasty details of this bad prospect as a result.

Mining Operations is the other big concern to us. As you already know from the environmental reports, noise and vibration from underground blasting, drilling, grinding and mineral removal is a 24/7 operation. I can tell you this, I had relatives that lived on Mill Street in Grass Valley from the early 1920s for the rest of their lives up to the 1980s. They told stories of the constant vibration and rumbling underground along with earthquake like jolts and shaking from the explosions used for blasting the rock. This was constant and continued until the operations finally ended in the 50s.

Our home is located approximately 2 miles from the big concrete vent located on Bennett Road. We hear traffic on Brunswick Road as it is now. I can't imagine how much noise and pollution will result from 50 to 100 truck loads per day driving from the mine to the location on Idaho Maryland Rd. to dump the waste. The air pollution from the diesel trucks, the noise, from the trucks and from the mine will be horrible. The vent on Bennett Road will spew out tons of Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Asbestos dust, Mercury fumes, Arsenic fumes and dust, heat and other mining exhaust fumes from the mine and its operations. The wind will carry these poisons for miles in every direction, including Grass Valley.

Please do not allow this mine to reopen now or ever again. Protect our health and happiness. Protect the beautiful forest. Please don't be lured into this bad proposition with promises of jobs and other so called benefits.

Thank you for taking moment to read this.

Sincerely,

Michael Shaw
11168 Juniper Dr.
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-460-1979

From: Ronda Shaw
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold project
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:51:59 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not allow a big, noisy operation to happen here is this nice area. Allowing trucks day and night everyday along our streets, past residential homes is just not right for this area. This is not a gold mine area like it used to be. Mines should be in rural areas that don't disturb neighbors. The jobs that Rise Gold will create will be for out of area workers. The executive, manager, and engineering jobs will be filled by out of area people from Rise Gold. Even the truck drivers will be coming up from Yuba City and Sacramento. That does not benefit us at all. Yet we get the noise and pollution from trucks all day and night. We also get our land and area exploited and disturbed for the greed of people from another area. The only benefit would be tax dollars in the county. Tax dollars are not as important as the well being of the local community. Rise Gold will take there profit out of state and country. How does that help our community? This project should clearly be rejected.

Ronda Shaw
21294 Leslie Dr
Grass Valley

August 11, 2020

Matt Kelley Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave Ste 170
Nevada City CA 95959

This is in response to the "Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting" I received asking for public input.

Before providing my comments on scoping issues, I am protesting the County's decision to proceed with the Environmental Impact Report process during the COVID-19 restrictions. Since the Doris Foley Library for Historical Research and the California State Library are closed, residents have no opportunity to research the issues historic gold mines have created for our community. The library closure and short comment period severely limits our ability to identify all the issues that might need to be studied.

After reviewing the *Project Description, Noise and Vibration Analysis*, and *Air Quality and Green House Gas Emissions Analysis* submitted by Rise Grass Valley, Inc., I could not find information related to the questions I've listed below. My property borders the Brunswick site so I am very concerned about living next door to an industrial scale mine. Please ensure the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) addresses the following:

1. **What contaminants will be in the air exhausted from the mine shaft; where will the wind carry them; and where will the contaminants come down? What impact on the environment will these contaminants have during the 80 years the mine is expected to be open?**
2. The *Air Quality and Green House Gas Emissions Analysis* (AQGHG) Table 11, although labeled "Underground Blasting and Crushing," lists only the particulate matter that would be emitted from the crushing operation. **How many pounds of particulate matter will be created and exhausted by the blasting**?
3. The AQGHG makes no mention of whether methane might be encountered when blasting in the mine. **If methane is encountered and released how will that impact miners and air quality?**
4. The documents submitted have freight deliveries arriving between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. This means that explosives to be used in the mine will be traveling through Grass Valley during these hours. **How many tons of explosives will be transported and how frequently will they be delivered? Will ammonia nitrate fuel oil, packaged/bulk emulsion explosives and blasting caps be transported together? What plans are in place if one of the trucks carry explosives breaks down in route?**
5. There will be some blasting at the mine every day. **Will the draft EIR contain information about the explosives magazines? How many magazines will there be? How many tons of explosives will be stored? How deep will they be stored? How will explosives be secured? Will the draft EIR contain a disaster plan should the mine's stockpile of ammonia nitrate fuel oil, packaged/bulk emulsion explosives, and blasting caps accidently explode?** (Think Beirut.**)**
6. A good many of us would not have purchased our homes if an industrial-scale gold mine was in the neighborhood and we will not want live near one if the mine is approved. **How will the mine affect the salability and property values of homes near the mine**?
7. I believe the value of our homes will decrease significantly if the mine reopens. **What actions will the Nevada County Assessor's office take to mitigate the loss of value in homes and how Nevada County will make up the loss of property tax?**

8. We are very concerned about the noise the various mine activities will generate. **For example, how loud will the noise generated by the hoist and 335' conveyor be? How loud will the dumping of engineered fill out of the steel beds of haul trucks be?**
9. The *Noise and Vibration Analysis* predicts the noise from the mineral processing activity will be less than the ambient noise level. **Will the draft EIR explain how that is possible?**
10. My house is number 28 shown on Figure 3 (Nearest Sensitive Receptors) of the *Noise and Vibration Analysis*. Table 6 of the same report extrapolated the current baseline nighttime noise at my house as 44 Leq. I have spent over 4,000 nights at my property, so I can safely say that this figure is exaggerated. Except for crickets, occasional cars passing by, or a dog barking (often ours), it's usually quiet. **Will the draft EIR contain more accurate and reliable ambient noise figures?**
11. **Will the draft EIR explain how the non-stop noise will psychologically affect the residents hearing it 24 hours a day, every day of the week?**
12. A gold mine does not produce, repair, distribute, or warehouse any goods or equipment. **Will the draft EIR explain how an industrial-scale gold mine, removing and processing 1500 tons of rock daily, fits the County's definition of light industrial?**
13. At night, 103,347 lumens will light the exterior of the buildings and parking lot**. Will the draft EIR provide a simulation of what the Brunswick site will look like at night? How will nearby neighbors be affected by the nighttime light at the mine?**
14. I live next door to the proposed site and have seen coyotes, bear, deer, foxes, rabbits, owls, hawks, skunks, and raccoons in the forest of the Brunswick site property. **What will be the effect of removing 18 acres of forest habitat? What effect will the constant noise, traffic, nighttime lighting, and depositing of engineered fill have on the wildlife that inhabits the area around the mine site? Will there be an increase in animal-vehicle accidents? What affect will the mine have on seeps and natural springs used as a water source by forest animals. Will my grandchildren and pets be at increased risk because the animals have lost habitat and food supply?**
15. Rise claims that the majority of the 312 jobs that purportedly will be created will go to County residents. **Will the draft EIR provide job descriptions and job qualifications for mine employees to support their claim?**
16. **Will the draft EIR address the increased fire risk of the mine operation caused by the transportation and storing of explosives and blasting caps, the 30,000-gallon and 1,200-gallon above-ground diesel fuel tanks, the C0$_2$ generation, and the withdrawal of millions of gallons of groundwater?**
17. **How many gold mines has Rise Grass Valley successfully operated and for how many years?**

Please provide answers to each of these questions so I can adequately evaluate the draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Michael Shea
PO Box 927
Cedar Ridge CA 95924
mshea49@hotmail.com

From: Mike Shea <mshea49@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:46 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Scoping Letter for Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,

Attached is an electronic copy of the items I want to make sure the Idaho-Maryland Mine draft EIR contains. There may be other concerns as well, but I have run out of time to research them.

I mailed a copy of this letter, but given the problems the Postal Service has had lately, I want to make sure my copy is received, thus this duplication.

Mike Shea

From: Sheldon, Kent
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: bdofsupervisors
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:56:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley & Nevada County Board of Supervisors: I am writing to oppose the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine. This county does not need or want a return to the devastation of the Gold Rush. This will be an environmental and economic disaster for the area. Mining companies are well known for their short sighted tactics and disregard for the environment and the community. This time will be no different. There is no plan on what to do with the water, waste, noise, traffic and toxic mess that this will flood into the community.

My property is located approximately 1 mile from the mine entrance. My property value and quality of life in Nevada County will be greatly diminished if that mine is opened, as my well will likely be impacted. When this happens there will be lawsuits levied on the county for letting this happen. I will be actively be participating in all opposition movements to this mad plundering of our environment for something as fundamentally useless as gold.

_____

Kent Sheldon
15515 Mount Vernon Drive
Grass Valley, CA
+1.530.802.1920 (cell)

From:	Sena Shellenberger
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Concerns re Idaho Maryland Mine Re-opening
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 1:09:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I recently purchased a home in Grass Valley after having been a resident in the area for 2 years. I am excited to raise my family here and plant roots in this beautiful nature wonderland that is the Sierra foothills. Like many others, I'm drawn to this community because of the beauty and ability to live among the trees, with access to clean clear rivers to swim in. In a time where we more than ever need space to heal & reset in nature, this place provides sanctuary to so many.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine - below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.

The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

In addition to these specific concerns around water, I am greatly concerned about how reopening the mine will impact the local ecology & wildlife, noise & pollution, increased traffic/ transportation challenges in the area.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
Sena

11267 Diamond Back Way Grass Valley, CA

--

--
http://medicineofbeinghuman.com
@sena__maria

From: Linda Shores
To: matt.kelly@co.nevada.ca.us; Planning
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine-Rise Grass Valley
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 5:00:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am against the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine because it totally destroys tranquility of the neighborhood our family has been a part of for three generations. Our property is at 11105 Cedar Ridge Drive, which is walking distance to the proposed site and it has been in the family since 1977. It is a quiet residential neighborhood where there is little noise or traffic during the day(only residents), and absolutely no noise at night.

I'm going to keep the list short but below are my basic concerns:

- 24/7 operation and permanent rezoning for industrial use-We did not choose to live so close to a heavy industrial zone. When the lumber mill was there, it created some noise, but not the total disruption a mine will create.
- Noise and pollution-drilling, blasting, rock processing (500 tons a day!), pump operation, and trucks will create too much noise and pollution.
- New structures 165 ft tall- will be an eyesore and create additional pollution.
- Underground exploration-creates a danger of sinkholes, soil contamination...and again noise. How will the mine compensate for damages?!
- The infrastructure , roads, power, etc. does not support such a large 24/7 operation. The two main roads to the location Hwy 174 and Brunswick are only two lane roads and cannot handle the truck traffic coming and going to the site. With the growth in the past 40+ years normal traffic creates backups. It's difficult and dangerous in the rain and snow for cars going down Brunswick, and much worse for trucks...not to mention the cars they may hit!
- Decreased residential property values-No one will want to live so close to an industrial site.

I'm sure there will be studies saying noise and pollution will be "acceptable" levels, but for those of us living next door to the site it will be a constant disruption and danger to our physical health exposing us to hazardous materials, greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

Please put yourself in our shoes when evaluating the proposal. Would you like to have a gold mine as your next door neighbor and have your peace and quiet gone forever?

Thank you for your time,

Linda Shores

11105 Cedar Ridge Dr
PO Box 1074
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

From: Janet Sibley
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 2:55:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

As a resident of Grass Valley, I'm concerned about Rise Gold's plan to reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine, and the impact it will have on our community. My concerns are as follows:

- Potential air and water pollution
- Noise and vibrations caused by the 24/7 operations
- Increased traffic caused by the company's trucks
- The negative effect on the ground water table affecting wells
- Harm to the area landscape

Please consider these concerns when conducting an Environmental Impact Report. The reopening of the mine would yield negative effects to our community and its residents.

Thank you,
Janet Sibley

From: Robin Siegal
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Canadian Mine not worth doing
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:49:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I understand that a Canadien company is planning to re-open a mine in Grass Valley. I strongly urge you to re-consider this project.The mine has potential to drain wells as they will empty millions of gallons of water from beneath Grass Valley. The mine will also require pulverizing rock 24 hours a day contaminating our air. There will be heavy trucks clogging our streets. The destructive impact threatens to destroy our peaceful and healthy quality of life. It is also likely to harm our property values. It's not worth it to us.

Robin Siegal
237 Arcadia Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jonathan Siegal
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:41:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I'd like to add my name to the list of very concerned citizens regarding reopening gold mines in Nevada County.

I don't believe that it makes sense to have gold mines in populated areas. Risk does not outweight benefit.

Much thanks?
,

Jonathan

From: Cindy Siegfried
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine public comment letter
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:42:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning, Matt. Can I ghave you confirn that you received my email dated Aug 10th regarding the mine? Just want to make sure my questions are included. Thank you. Have a good day! Please pass on a hello to our friend Tyler!

Cindy and Pete Siegfried
14602 Greenhorn Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Cindy Siegfried <csiegfried8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: RISE MINING PERMIT --PUBLIC COMMENT ON DEIR, BRUNSWICK ROAD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt:

We have owned our home on property located at 14602 Greenhorn Road since 1994. This parcel is 1.9 miles down Greenhorn Road, from Brunswick Road. Our property contains 1.75 acres with our 1400 square foot home being built in 1974. Assessors Parcel No 06-830-48.

We have several enviornmentalconcerns with the proposed mining development, but our main concern is the potential impact on our well.

In June of 2006, our then-existing well ran dry. That well was approximately 480 feet deep. We hired Tanko Well Drilling Company to drill a new well. The only viable location on the property was about 100 feet from the dry well.

On July 11, 2006, after a week of drilling, water was reached at 1,025 feet, at a rate of about 5 gallons per minute. Yes, 1,025 feet. At a cost of $18,543. We were glad they reached water as we were facing owning a home with no water source.

Since that time, we have been extremely careful in conserving our water usage and protecting our well.

Our concern with the proposed underground development of the mine is the continued protection of our water source. NID is not an option as they do not serve our area of Greenhorn Road. There are no other sites on our property that were suitable for a well.

Our questions are:

1. What plans are in place to ensure protection of our well?

2. What will happen if existing wells are adversely affected by the mining operations?

3. Will scheduled and ongoing monitoring of existing area wells, ours included, occur?

4. What will happen if our well runs dry?

5. If our well is imacted in anyway, such as a decrease in gallons per minute, or should it run dry, will the Mine be responsible for replacing the well?

6. Will the mine be required to replace our water supply?

7. If wells are adversely impacted, would the Mine be required to provide water to us and others by extending NID water supply down Greenhorn Road?

We have other concerns with the mining operations, including noise, traffic, lighting/glare on our residential area... mainky, how will the operations ensure the residential area will not be negatively impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Pete and Cindy Siegfried
14602 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley CA 95945
PH: 530-263-5895
Email: Csiegfried8@gmail.com

303 Washington Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
August 13, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am writing with my concerns about the impacts of the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland mine. I have been a Nevada County resident since 1997 and have learned a lot about the impact of mining in our county, including being a docent at the North Star House. I have also walked many times on the trails of Empire Mine state park. Many of the trails that were open to the public when I first moved here are now off limits because of contaminated soil. So it is with trepidation that I read of a mine re-opening.

I am very concerned about the water needs for a gold mine and how it will impact the local water table. We know that water is one of the most critical resources of a community. With climate change we have faced periods of drought, and longer more serious fire dangers. So reading about a new commercial enterprise with intensive water needs is cause for alarm. I hope your environmental review will consider the water demands of their processing, and include ways to assess the impact on local wells. There is also concern about contamination of the water supply. We need to have a detailed plan for continual water quality assessment. What is the plan if the neighborhood wells are contaminated or depleted? In addition, what will be done with the water currently in the mine shafts, that needs to be pumped out?

I have concerns about the noise and traffic impacts on a large area. How will noise will be measured, what levels are legal, and what happens if the noise is outside of acceptable levels? Similarly how will the increased traffic of the trucks impact the area? What will be done with the tailings that are created?

What penalties are available to the county if there are violations? I have read that this company has violated regulations in other areas, so this is a big concern to me.

I am also worried about the time framework that this mine will be in operation. Not being a renewable resource, how long will it be profitable? I think the county needs to consider what environmental standards need to be met at the future time they close the mine, to address pollution it may leave in its wake.

Though I know economic opportunities are needed in our county, I think the short-term life of this project balanced with possible long term negative effects make it an undesirable project.

Thank you for seeking public input. The community will be closely following this.

Yours truly,

Judy Silberman
judysca303@gmail.com
(530) 798-0385

From: Ralph <ralphasil@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Re: comments for NOP, IMMine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

HI Matt,
In our haste to send it before the power shut down, we left a duplicated section at the end of the doc. If possible, please replace the earlier doc with this one. This corrected version has a "C" at the end of the filename.
Thanks,
Stay safe,
Ralph Silberstein

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 1:41 PM Ralph <ralphasil@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi Matt,
> Please accept the attached comments. Please acknowledge receipt.
> Boy, I bet your inbox is busy!
> Best,
> Ralph

Community Environmental Advocates
FOUNDATION
PO Box 972, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924-0972
www.cea-nc.org / email: info@cea-nc.org

August 17, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Regarding: Notice of Preparation Comments for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Scoping

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please accept these comments on behalf of CEA Foundation regarding the preparation of the Environmental Impact Reportt for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Permit Application.

Aesthetics

An analysis of aesthetics' impacts must be made. All visual impacts must be evaluated.
The project includes 122,000 sq. ft. of structures plainly visible from East Bennett Rd, Brunswick Rd., and from multiple surrounding rural residential neighborhoods. The proposed ore processing facility is 425 feet by 70 feet, and 65 feet high. Construction of "engineered fill" pads on both sites will create the continuous presence of operations that are synonymous to a gravel quarry, involving continuous haul trucks, graders, and compactors working on an ever increasing build up area of engineered fill.
These operations will continue for about 11 years, and ultimately result in a highly visible fill area covering 44 acres at the Centennial site with heights up to 70 feet, and a similar fill area covering 31 acres on the Brunswick site with heights of up to 90 feet. Following that, approximately 70 years of operations will entail trucking mine waste to Hwy 49 via Brunswick Rd.

The removal of woodlands and open space will starkly degrade the aesthetic nature of the area, impacting its rural residential character and diminishing property values. Increased traffic will affect the quality of life.

1. Noise and dust and other impacts must be evaluated on their aesthetic impacts.

The project is in the City of Grass Valley Sphere of Influence.

2. The aesthetic impact must be evaluated with respect to the Grass Valley Development Code and the General Plan.

Over the last few decades the areas surrounding the Idaho Maryland Mine have become predominantly residential.

3. The EIR must evaluate how the reopening of the mine would change the character and trajectory of development in this section of Nevada County.

Agriculture and Forestry

The areas of lower conifer and oak woodlands which will remain outside the direct physical constructs of the project sites will be impacted by light, air pollution, noise, temperature changes, and other impacts.

1. A Forest Restoration and Management Plan should be required to prevent further degradation of these woodlands and to preserve and enhance the native habitat.

2. Ongoing biological monitoring should be conducted in these areas throughout the life of the project.

Air Quality

As evidenced at the Empire Mine State Park, mining and milling operations at the mine left behind a mixture of naturally occurring contaminants (arsenic, lead, cadmium, and other metals) and introduced cyanide and mercury (used in the gold extraction process). Operations produced ore rock and generated tailings and waste rock. Contamination produced by these operations was determined to pose a health hazard to people, wildlife, and area waterways.

Arsenic has been classified as a carcinogen and causes other severe health issues, including thickening skin, pain, nausea, paralysis, and blindness. A legacy of gold mining at Empire Mine and elsewhere is the contamination of mine wastes and associated soils, surface waters, and groundwaters with arsenic (As), mercury (Hg), lead (Pb), and other metals.

Disturbance of materials containing mafic and ultramafic rocks is regulated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD).

1. The presence of naturally occurring contaminants (arsenic, lead, cadmium, and other metals) which arereleased into the air and soil when the mine rock is crushed should be independently investigated and included in the EIR and clearly explained for the public to review.

2. Impacts to the public as well as employees of the mine should be included in the discussion.

Fugitive dust from surface operations will affect air quality. Dust and air pollutants from all sources must be contained.

3. The EIR should analyze all sources of air pollutants.

4. It should specify how these sources of air pollutants will be contained and controlled. These include but are not limited to dust and emissions from truck transport, chemical emissions, equipment emissions and exhaust, odors, emissions from all mining activities on the surface and within the processing facilities and mine tunnels.

Wind, dry conditions, and other circumstances may require cessation of mining operations and surface activities.

5. The EIR must identify and set criteria for managing these conditions.

6. Air quality impacts from all aspects of construction and operations and from the production and transport of materials and equipment produced off site must be evaluated.

7. Air quality impacts from the processing of ore and mining by-products offsite must be evaluated.

8. Emissions due to the other supplemental activities including but not limited to relocation of non-residents for employment, transportation, traffic impacts, construction and operation of utilities and utility services must be evaluated.

9. The effect on air quality of extended activities such as reclamation activities and water treatment operations, must be assessed for their entire lifespan, beyond 80 years.

10)Rise Gold must show how the cumulative effect of small drips and spills during transfer and fueling activities will be prevented from entering into the environment (as happens at gas stations), and contaminating Wolf Creek.
11) All of the above mentioned conditions should be assessed in terms of the range of predicted changes in weather patterns due to global warming.

Biological Resources

The project has potentially significant impacts on biological resources. The majority of the 175 acres being utilized will be disrupted due to construction, grading, engineered fill, and other actions, followed by prolonged ongoing operations, eliminating forested habitat and impacting riparian zones. Noise, air pollution, temperature changes, traffic, light spillage and other impacts will affect wildlife far beyond the project boundaries.

1. Short term and long term impacts on biological resourced must be assessed.

2. Baselines of flora and fauna on both sites and in surrounding areas must be established.

3. In particular, biological impacts in the riparian zone of South Fork Wolf Creek downstream must be established due to significant changes in flow, seasonality impacts, temperature, pH, dissolved solids, and other water quality criteria relevant to aquatic life.

For example, what will be the effect of removing 18 acres of forest habitat? What effect will the constant noise, traffic, nighttime lighting, and depositing of engineered fill have on the wildlife that inhabit the area around the mine site? Will there be an increase in animal-vehicle accidents? What effect will the mine have on seeps and natural springs used as a water source. Will wildlife be forced into neighboring residential areas, creating hazards?

4. Wetlands on both sites must be delineated and project impacts on wildlife assessed.

5. Perennial and seasonal seeps, springs, and creeks must be delineated and project impacts on wildlife assessed.

6. The spring fed pond designated as “clay-lined pond” on the Brunswick site and the marsh and meadow lands below that pond must be evaluated for impacts to the aquatic and avian species.

The South Fork Wolf Creek is a perennial stream that originates on the East side of Brunswick Rd. It is incorrectly classified in the current project descriptions.

7. The riparian habitat along this stream in the reach to the West of Brunswick Rd before it flows into a grated culvert on the Brunswick site must be evaluated.

8. The culverted portion of the stream should be daylighted across the project and afforded 100’ setback protections.

9. The EIR also must include reviews and approvals from CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California State Parks (Regarding impacts to Empire Mine State Park Restoration Areas downstream on South Fork Wolf Creek), and other oversight agencies.

Tribal Cultural Resources

The mine project sites are both located in areas that were probably inhabited by native Nisenan people prior to the arrival of miners and settlers. Despite the fact that the sites are extremely impacted by mining and other activities, it is highly likely that there are undisturbed soils that have remained in place under the overburden of tailings, waste rock, pavement, and fill. These may contain tribal cultural resources from generations of occupancy.

1) An archeological analysis of the area must be conducted in order to determine the degree to which this is a cultural heritage site of the Nisenan people.

2) Careful monitoring of construction and mining related activities must be conducted, especially when excavating native soils.

Geology Soils and Mineral Resources

The project includes dumping of waste rock and tailings into two major, engineered fill pads. Landfills settle as buried materials realign, decompose, and are transported by surface and subsurface flows. Cover integrity is compromised by vegetation, burrowing animals, and depressions that allow surface pooling, etc.

1. The impacts of these must be evaluated.

2. Monitoring of the integrity of the landfill cover must be established.

3. Funding for routine maintenance must be explained.

Approval for the landfill at the Centennial M-1 site requires that Nevada County allow entitlements for development in a Seismic Hazard Zone, and along an Earthquake Fault line. In addition, construction in areas with slopes that exceed 30%, and are comprised of highly erodible soils, is in planning.

4. A full analysis of how the landfill will be designed to prevent seismically induced slope failure must be made.

The applicant has asked for waivers on multiple entitlements.

5. The EIR must respond to each of these waivers and explain on what grounds these waivers will be granted.

6. The EIR must contain options other than these waivers. For example, a reduced slope, or a reduced size of the mine waste piles must be considered. Elimination of onsite dumping must also be considered.

Energy

What happens when there is a power outage?

1. All aspects of operations during a power outage and a power restart must be assessed in terms of emergency power capacity, safety, emergency services, impact on the environment and other impacts.

2. An assessment of these energy impact conditions should be done for short term and long term scenarios.

3. An analysis of how the proposed energy use of the mine impacts the Nevada County Energy Action Plan.

4. The EIR must assess the availability of gas and electric utilities and other utility providers, and their capacity to serve the project.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

Due to global warming and the 80 year scope of the proposed project, the full range of predicted changes in weather patterns and precipitation must be considered in estimating the surface water runoff and storm water management systems, as well as water usage and shortages, fire risks, temperature impacts on water resources and habitat, and all other impacts from climate change.

The following analyses must be included in the EIR with respect to GHG impacts:

1. Air quality and GHG emissions from transportation of materials and equipment.

2. Embedded energy costs, costs due to the production of materials and equipment.

3.All project related activities of employees, non-resident and resident.

4.Emissions due to the relocation of non-residents into the area to fill jobs.

5.Impacts from traffic due to mining operations.

Activities following closure (beyond 80 years) should be assessed, including but not limited to:

6. Emissions from continuing operation of water treatment facilities following mine closure

7. Maintenance and testing of stockpiled materials, monitoring wells, reclamation, etc.

All initial and ongoing supplemental activities should be assessed in terms of energy costs and GHG emissions such as:

8. The provision of new water lines, additional energy costs of water transport, road improvements off site.

9. Emissions from reclamation.

10. Emissions of GHG gases other than CO2.

11. Cumulative impacts must be considered in all GHG sources..

12. California targets for GHG emissions reductions for 2030 and 2050 must be addressed with viable solutions for meeting reductions.

13. Project alternatives in scale, scope, and configuration must be considered as options for addressing GHG emissions over the course of the project lifespan.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

1. The EIR must fully evaluate the potential impacts of accidental release or harm from transport, storage, and utilization of explosives and other hazardous materials.

2. Provisions for general employee health and safety must be considered in all work environments.

3. In particular, risk to health, safety, and lifespan due to mining hazards must be assessed, including the effects of long term exposures, chemicals, fugitive dust, exhaust and other health risks.

4. Wildfire impacts must be assessed. The EIR must evaluate the wildfire risks of facilities and materials, such as fuel storage tanks and chemicals, and how they will be kept from contributing to the existing fire danger at this location.

5. Wildfire evacuation issues must be addressed, as well as emergency response.

6. Safety issues with haul trucks and other mine related traffic must be assessed.

7. Earthquake hazards must be analyzed.

8. Potential hazards from subsidence or collapse of mining tunnels over the 2585 acres of mineral rights must be addressed.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The Geotechnical Report prepared by NV5, submitted by the applicant states that: Index testing of the near-surface soils were performed as part of our soil evaluation in an effort to evaluate corrosion potential. The measured minimum resistivity values indicate that the on-site soil conditions exhibit a “moderate“ risk for corrosion of ferrous metals in contact with the soil or rock. The presence of high acidity, pH of 5.5 or less, in the soil samples is considered corrosive to concrete. Soil with a pH of 5.5 or less can react with the lime in concrete to form soluble reaction products that can easily leach out of the concrete. The result is a more porous, weaker concrete.

1. All soils issues must be investigated as part of the EIR and clearly explained to the public.

California Health and Safety Code Division 20, Section 6.5 defines disposal as:

The abandonment of any waste which may be emitted into the air or discharged into or on any land or waters including groundwaters, or may otherwise enter into the environment creates a disposal site at the mining site. Using sand generated from blasting to refill the tunnels left from previous mining may contaminate groundwater and should be investigated and included in the EIR. Waste rock and tailings that are deposited below the surface in any form (e.g. cemented slurry, crushed rock, etc.) must be investigated and included in the EIR. Underground refilling of past mining tunnels should include continuous quality assurance inspections during placement of backfill, testing of mineral composition to verify conformance with pH ranges deemed acceptable.

The flooded Idaho-Maryland Mine must be dewatered and then a maintenance level of water discharge must be maintained. The initial dewatering will require discharge of 2500 acre-feet of mine water. After about 6 months of operation, the discharge rate will drop to about 1.9 cfs. continuing throughout the lifespan of the 80 year project and beyond that indefinitely. All of this water must be treated to remove contaminants.

The project proposes a treatment facility and a holding pond.

2. The measures that Rise Gold is taking to ensure that the treatment facility will remain fully functional in various probable failure scenarios must be stated.

3. There must be sufficient built-in safeguards and redundancy to protect the environment in the event of failures to the treatment system which must be fully explained

There have been prolonged power outages due to PGE Red alerts, etc. We have had power outages that last over a week in this area.

4. There must be sufficient redundant back-up generation in place to ensure that the water treatment remains fully operational, and these must be completely documented in the EIR

5. An explanation of how the precipitants in the holding pond are being managed must be provided

6. What happens to the outflow and water purification during the times when the pond is being cleaned must be explained.

7. Explaining whether or not there will be a bypass pond available during times when the main pond is not operational due to cleaning, etc, must be noted

8. What will happen to the residue from the pond must be noted

9. What is the estimated frequency for pond cleaning must be noted

10. Full life cycle management of the treatment operation with appropriate safeguards must be evaluated in the EIR.

11. The EIR must address the need for the treatment facility to operate in perpetuity.

12. Will there be a perpetual fund and management system set up for maintaining water quality from the water treatment facility indefinitely? This must be well defined.

Extreme weather changes and capacity must be addressed

13. A detailed explanation of the plans to respond to extreme weather events such that the pond and water treatment facility will remain fully operational must be noted

14. As the mine develops, the rate of discharge may drastically change. How will this be accommodated?

Filtration media upkeep must be addressed.

15. What will be done with the backwash fluids from regeneration of the filtration media? This must be explained.

16.What are the service life projections for the media? This must be explained.

Iron fouling was the reason for elimination of ion exchange as a treatment option. Fouling as a result of iron and manganese oxidation can be an issue with filter media as well.

17. How operations progress should plugging of media by oxidized Fe and Mn occur must be explained

18. The contingency plan for if and when the plugging occurs must be documented

The proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine has significant potential impact on private and public wells. Even with assumptions, predictions and models, it is not possible to know how the geological system will respond to dewatering and from ground water consumption. The EIR must address the potential impacts and concerns.

The means of providing the following aspects of well monitoring must be thoroughly documented in the EIR:

19.Provide well monitoring to private wells, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.

20.Monitoring data must be collected that is current, to establish reliable current baseline conditions, prior to the start of initial dewatering. The well monitoring data from the 2007 Todd report is 13 years old, prior to the drought.

21.Monitoring data must include water quality in the data collection, to establish a quality baseline prior to dewatering.

22. The monitoring program must begin well in advance of initial dewatering, to establish a reliable baseline.

23. There must be an analysis for past drought and possible future drought scenarios and their effect on groundwater and wells for the life of the project, including post-project reclamation and maintenance.

24.There must be an analysis on impacts to wells when the applicant expands and opens up new areas of exploration/mining within its mineral rights boundary

Well Mitigations

25. What are the mitigation measures for impacted wells outside the assumed area of impact? These must be included in the EIR.

26. How will the applicant guarantee a permanent potable water supply to any well that is impacted by the project, in areas where no NID service is available? This guarantee must be thoroughly documented in the EIR.

Well Impact Determinations, Definitions & Timelines

27. A criteria must be established before the project begins, as to what defines and determines an "impacted well". This must be included in the EIR.

28. There needs to be a well mitigation action plan spelled out, in the event of any well being impacted, including a timeline. This must be included in the EIR.

The applicant shall not have to bear the burden of proof to show the cause of negative impacts on an impacted well. Depletion of ground water and/or pollution of ground water as a result of the mining operations can take place at any time during the 80 years of operation and, due to the nature of ground water movement and recharge, may not be evidenced for many years beyond the end of mining operations.

29. How will well owners and future well owners be identified and compensated for losses due to impacts from the mine over this time period? The EIR must include an adequate independent assurance mechanism to identify impacted well owners.

Wells, Community Relations

30. A community relations program mustbe established that provides a direct line of communication between Rise, Nevada County, NID, Grass Valley and the well owners, with specific contacts. This is a complex project and all parties need to have access to information and be able to report. The EIR must include such a program.

Wells, Financial Considerations

31. The EIR must assure that the full costs to each homeowner of all expenses related to the damage to or loss of well quality or capacity shall be borne by the project. This would include but is not limited to restoring homeowners property which may be damaged, the installation and monthly fees of any water service provider, costs due to loss of value of property.

Net Impact on Ground Water and Stream Flows

32. The EIR must analyze the net impacts on ground water, ground water recharge, stream flows and surface flows due to ground water consumption (123,000 gal/day est), initial dewatering and de-watered maintainance flows, evaporation, impervious surfaces, and other potential impacts to the water resources at both sites..

Land Use, Planning, Population, and Housing

1. Some of the area on the Brunswick site in the proposed zoning change is not in the mining resource zone. the EIR must explain how this is being addressed?

The Centennial property is in the near term annexation horizon, and the Brunswick property is in the long term annexation horizon, for the City of Grass Valley.

2. The City's plans and goals must be considered in the EIR. Some of these which must be addressed are:
   The re-alignment of Centennial Drive and Spring Hill Drive into a single intersection
   The Wolf Creek trail along Wolf Creek at the Centennial site
   The City goal of residential infill

Pre-zoning at Brunswick site and proximity to residential
Pre-zoning at Centennial

The project documents list the 56 acre Centennial site as “Industrial” based on the Nevada County zoning classification. The City of Grass Valley has the parcels pre-zoned as Business Park (BP) and Urban Medium Density (UMD), and these parcels are in the City’s Near Term Annexation Horizon. LAFCo lists the properties as BP and UMD also. (LAFCo document https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/14241/Grass-Valley-Sphere-Plan-Update-April-2011-PDF , Grass Valley General Plan map, page 55).

3. The EIR must take the City of GV designation into consideration in reviewing the zoning for the project, and explain the mine’s impact on the designation Note that Nevada County General Plan, Land Use Chapter, Section 1.8 recognizes the City’s planning designations, and that standards used to govern the clean-up activities on that site must comply with the City’s zoning.

4. The EIR must provide justification for the proposed zoning change to M1 rather than M2 for an industrial mining operation.

Nevada County is suffering from a housing shortage. However, the costs of construction have continued to increase, suppressing the construction of new housing due to limited profitability. Realtors in the area of the project have indicated that the market value of housing is being reduced due to the prospect of the Idaho-Maryland Mine re-opening. This will further exacerbate the housing shortage.

5. An economic study must be conducted to determine the impact on housing.

Noise

1. Noise and vibrations from equipment used in transport, dumping, grading, compacting, mixing, and otherwise processing, handling and managing the processing of ore and the disposal of mine products such as waste rock and tailings as engineered fill must be fully assessed in the EIR for noise impacts.

2. Traffic noise must be evaluated in the EIR

3. Given issues to date, continuous long term noise will have significant impact, and mine design should meet standards as per Nevada County General Plan Noise Element, Policy 9.1.2. E. 1. a., b., and c. The EIR must clearly state such compliance with the standards.

4. The health effects of long term lower level noise shall be fully addressed in the EIR

5. Operational hours, changes in operations, and other mitigations should be considered as options for reducing noise impacts. The EIR must clearly provide for these mitigations.

The Brunswick Site and the Centennial Site are currently zoned Light Industrial M1-SP. The Brunswick Site is surrounded on all sides by rural residential property. Rise Gold is asking for a zoning change to

permit mining operations on the Brunswick site. However when two different zonings abut, the maximum allowable sound level is the lower of the two zonings plus 5 dB. Therefore, while changing the zoning of the parcel may allow mining activities to proceed, it will not allow an increase in the noise levels permitted.

Rise Gold mining Operations involve underground blasting, moving 1000 tons of ore daily to the storage silo on the surface, transporting that ore from the silo to the crusher, separating mineralized ore from tailings, trucking concentrated mineralized ore to an outside processing facility, trucking tailings to a disposal site and grading and compacting those tailings to create a building pad for future industrial use. These operations are among the noisiest industrial operations that exist.

The EIR should address the following:

6. Rise gold's claims that blasting will be unnoticable on the surface due to the depth of these activities, is based on calculations of a blast at 500 feet of depth. Rise Gold must address the possibility that further exploration will reveal mineralization at shallower depths or in different acoustic environments and explain how it will mitigate noise and vibration during the entire 80 years of the project.

7. 1000 tons a day of ore will be raised to the surface and stored in the concrete silo on the Brunswick site. This ore will be dumped from the headframe lift onto a steel ramp in the silo 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Rise Gold must address how it will mitigate all related noise from these operations, particularly during the night hours when permitted noise levels are limited to 50 dBA with 65 dBA peaks.

8. Rise Gold proposes to contain the transport of ore from the silo to the crusher, the crushing operation, the separating and concentrating operations and the truck loading operations in a massive, sound attenuating building. Detailed architectural and engineering plans, including the machinery to be in place and the means of monitoring compliance with established limits must be provided. Rise Gold's report must consider different possible scenarios, such as one where, in spite of time and money spent on best efforts, Rise Gold is unable to mitigate noise to the required levels, or one where, a change of equipment in the structure produces an increased outside sound level.

9. Rise Gold proposes to conduct mine wasted disposal operations at both the Centennial site and the Brunswick site, where it will dump, grade and compact 1000 tons a day of waste rock and tailings into building pads for future industrial use. Rise Gold must detail how it plans to mitigate the noise of these operations from impacting business and residential properties at both disposal sites.

10. Transporting 1000 tons of tailings daily by heavy truck on city streets will increase traffic noise levels through residential neighborhoods as well as traffic noise and volume throughout the Brunswick Road neighborhood for the next 80 years, as the haul route for tailings will be down Brunswick to HWY 49 after the Centennial project and Brunswick disposal site are completed. Details of the impact of both sound and traffic volume on the greater Brunswick neighborhood, including the Brunswick/HWY 49 intersection must be studied.

11. Complete analysis of baseline ambient noise at all potentially impacted adjoining properties shall be conducted prior to the start of activities.

12. The study must include how, and with what frequency, compliance with established sound and vibration levels will be monitored.

13. The study must include the procedure for reporting non-compliance with established sound and vibration levels.

14. The study must include how compliance with established sound and vibration levels will be enforced.

15. Although acoustic containment of sounds generated by the transport and milling operations may be successfully accomplished, low frequency ground vibrations and rumblings transmitted through the ground from those operations will impact the adjoining residential properties 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Analysis of the ambient levels and future levels of this vibration must bemade. The study must include how future compliance with applicable standards will be established.
16) Ground vibration transmitted to adjacent residential properties from truckload dumping, grading and compacting has not been addressed. The study must include how future compliance with applicable standards will be established.

17. Underground activities such as drilling, blasting equipment operations, conveying of materials, and back-filling can take place in any location within the mineral rights of the project applicant. These may be directly under residences and businesses and closer to the surface than suggested, taking place up to the legal distance below grade. Potential noise and vibration impacts from these activities must be fully analyzed in the EIR. Variations in rock strata and other variations such as mine adits producing transmission pathways must be considered.

18. Rise Gold must provide a study of the cumulative impacts.

Public Services Utilities and Service Systems

Law enforcement and public services impacts must be considered.

1. Fire equipment and personnel, and additional training must be assessed.

2. Addition impacts on regulatory oversight such as inspections and issue responses must be assessed.

3. Mine rescue teams and training will be needed.

4. The EIR must explain in detail whether or not independent inspectors routinely review the mining operations to insure conformance with all requirements and mandated practices, e.g. OSHA and mining related regulators

5. Levels of water usage and the ability of NID to provide water services to the mine and mining operations should be assessed.

6. Levels of water usage and the ability of NID to provide water services to property owners who may be requiring service due to loss of use of private wells must be determined and documented.

Transportation & Traffic

1. Independently verified traffic analysis must be provided in the EIR, and should include trucking of all waste rock off site when the onsite engineered fill is halted. The following analyses must be recorded in the EIR:

Truck traffic on Brunswick road etc.
Unsafe intersections
Air pollution
Need to include traffic from employees and from cement trucks, etc.
Centennial Drive construction
Wear and tear on roads and associated maintenance and repair costs

Rise Gold projects that up to 1000 tons a day of crushed rock will be loaded into large haul trucks at the Brunswick site and transported to the Centennial site, to elsewhere on the Brunswick site, and later, to unknown destinations. This will be between an average of 50 to 100 truckloads a day, 7 days a week, from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM for 80 years. There will be one heavy truck leaving every 10 to 12 minutes, all day, every day, and one empty truck returning every 10 to 12 minutes, all day, every day. For 80 years.
This will put considerable impact on the road surfaces along the haul routes, and will require a large increase in road maintenance along those routes.

2. Rise Gold must show in the EIR who will pay for the increased workload on maintenance crews.

3. Rise Gold must show in the EIR how it will ensure that such maintenance will be done in a timely manner, such that the quality of the neighborhoods through which the routes pass is not degraded.

4. Rise Gold must prepare a study of the impact on traffic of the disruptions caused by this necessary maintenance.

5. Rise Gold must prepare a study of the increased danger of these heavily loaded trucks traveling on steep hill slopes in winter weather conditions.

6. In addition to the haul truck traffic, Rise Gold will employ more than 300 personnel in two shifts daily on the Brunswick site. Half that number will be arriving and the other half leaving at 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. The EIR must show how this this commute surge will impact the local community who also commute from their residences to work and back.

7. Rise Gold projects an unknown number of truck trips to the Brunswick site to transport fuel oil, diesel fuel, explosives, concrete and other supplies. Rise Gold must prepare a study of what this volume of additional traffic, over and above the haul trucks and the employee commute generates.

8. Residents living along Greenhorn have only one way in and out. Rise Gold must prepare a study showing how the increased traffic from this project at the Brunswick and Greenhorn intersection will affect the ability of Greenhorn residents to travel freely to and from their homes?

Rise Gold Mine Project EIR and DTSC Centennial Cleanup

1. The EIR must evaluate current conditions on the 56 acre “Centennial” site with respect to all impacts from the legacy tailings arising from the former Idaho-Maryland Mine operations and other prior activities. It is not sufficient to state that another agency will perform this task. As reported in a June 12, 2020 Preliminary Endangerment Assessment accepted by the DTSC, approximately 270,000 cubic yards of legacy tailings and mining residue are on the surface of this site with various levels of contamination.

2. Current impacts to groundwater, surface water, seasonal runoff, air quality, surface contamination, and potential impacts from the legacy activities must be evaluated in the EIR, and a plan of action for remediating these must be provided.

It is stated in the Project Description, pg 16, that some of the imported tailings and waste rock will be mixed with the legacy mine waste to achieve the physical characteristics suitable for engineered fill.

3. Integration of these legacy tailings with the new imported mine waste and tailings must be evaluated in the EIR in terms of the chemical composition and contamination levels of both sources as well as their suitability in engineered fill.

4. Phasing of the project must ensure that the complete remediation of the legacy tailings is completed and the Centennial site undergoes reclamation before the mining operations can begin. Documentation to this effect must be provided in the EIR. Otherwise, there is a high level of interdependence between the proposed mine operations and the Centennial site contamination cleanup project being managed by the DTSC. Any proposed phasing of operations would depend upon fulfilling multiple project conditions which are not predictable.

5. The EIR must safeguard the environment by addressing all foreseeable scenarios to assess impacts from the mine project, their impact on the cleanup project, and the reclamation activities that will take place in each scenario. A few examples of these many scenarios which must be addressed include delays in the cleanup project, failure of the mine project to produce adequate materials, early closure of the mine, contamination levels in the mine waste that are unacceptable, financial insolvency before the cleanup is complete, and so forth.

Reclamation

The Department of Conservation review and comment letter, dated August 11, 2020, for the Notice of Preparation of this project indicates that the Reclamation Plan is incomplete: “Division staff will provide comments on the Reclamation Plan for this proposed mining activity once the Division receives the complete Reclamation Plan and any supporting documents along with the statement from the County that certifies the submission as complete and in accordance with PRC Section 2772.1(a)(3)(A-C).”

1. A Reclamation Plan is a “project” under CEQA and must be included and reviewed in the EIR, and must include the “phased reclamation” of the proposed slopes of the mine waste.

2. Because of the inter dependencies, reclamation plans must be developed for each scenario regarding the state of the DTSC Centennial cleanup project and the state of the Idaho-Maryland Mine project, and must be included in the EIR

Economic Impacts

The economic impacts of the project are significant and must be analyzed. The Centennial site lies within the near term annexation horizon area of Grass Valley and is surrounded by local businesses. The southern portion abuts areas designated as Medium Density Housing. The Brunswick site is surrounded by quiet rural residential neighborhoods and is in the long term annexation horizon for Grass Valley. Both sites are effectively “in Grass Valley”. Given the significant impact that one would expect from a project of this magnitude, there has been a wave of concern about the economic and aesthetic impacts that will result from this mine opening.

The region is faced with the prospect of the serene rural residential area around the Brunswick site having a large ore processing facility and extensive gravel operations plopped down in its center. Already there are reports of residential real estate values dropping just on the potential that this project might be approved. Several residents in the area have already indicated they will sell their homes and move out.

Some of the many economic impacts of concern that should be considered:

1. The negative impacts on the Real Estate Industry must be determined and recorded in the EIR

2. the impacts to adjacent businesses and possible closures of high tech companies must be determined and recorded in the EIR.

3. The negative impacts on local businesses’ ability to attract and recruit new employees, especially in the high tech industries that predominate the area, must be determined and recorded in the EIR

4. The heavy truck traffic and mine employee traffic along Brunswick Rd and into the Glenbrook Basin and the financial burden to the City of Grass Valley’s and Nevada County’s infrastructure must be determined and recorded in the EIR.

5. Local air pollution will be exacerbated by the mine, impacting the health of residents. The potential health costs of this increased air pollution must be determined and recorded in the EIR.

6. There are an estimated 300 wells that are in the mineral resource property of the mine. There exits a potential loss of well function due to impacts on ground water from mine operation. The cost of compensation for the potential loss of wells must be determined and recorded in the EIR.

7. Tax revenue changes due to property value decrease and loss of business must be determined and recorded in the EIR.

8. Due to the high risk of mining operations, the impacts of lower than estimated mine production level and/or early mine closure must be assessed, and its financial impact on the City of Grass Valley and Nevada County must be determined and recorded in the EIR.

9. The financial strength of reclamation bonds and reclamation activities must be evaluated and recorded in the EIR.

//end//

From: E. Siljak
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Impact to private wells
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:53:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 30 years.
I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine.
Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.
Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

Sincerely,

Erik Siljak
12494 Larkspur Lane
Grass Valley
CA 95949

Eriksiljak@gmail.com

From: amanda.simpson@serendipitywines.com
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposition to the Idaho-Maryland Mine and Request for Environmental Impact Reports
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:30:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

As a 14 year resident of Nevada City and someone who was born and raised not too far from here in Auburn, I deeply value our community and the natural beauty that surrounds it. I'm 3rd generation Auburn and in my lifetime have witnessed its rapid transformation from a quaint town with generous open spaces to an overdeveloped eyesore, one whose planning commission was willing to trade our natural resources for generic box stores controlled by outside influences who contribute nothing but measly minimum wage jobs and who's services offer little in the way of quality of life, and instead propel needless consumerism and waste. I, for one, am not willing to trade one more scrap of open space, one single tree, or one drop of water for an industry that has severe environmental consequences. Why is it that the promise of economic opportunity and jobs gives corporations the right to pollute our air, water, and soil? Time and again corporations have shown that they are beholden only to their nameless, faceless stockholders, people who have no allegiance or concern for our community, which, to me is a glaring conflict of interest. I fiercely oppose this mine and quite frankly see this as a giant step backward for our community. What we want is sustainability and clean, renewable energy, not an accommodation for an outside corporation to take from us what they want and then leave us to clean up their mess. To that end, following are the specific analyses I'd like included in the Environmental Impact Report:

1. EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. More specifically, they should analyze:

    - The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
    - The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
    - The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
    - The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
    - A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

2. In addition, I'm concerned about the following issues for which I would also like EIR to provide analyses:

    - Impact on traffic and proposed changes to current roads. Will roads be widened, new traffic lights installed?
    - Impact on local wildlife, specifically in regards to the effect of light pollution on nocturnal birds

- Impact on air quality (which is already atrocious!)
- Impact of noise pollution affecting not only neighbors but wildlife as well
- Impact of water usage and pollution on local wildlife and native habitat
- Land use and aesthetics – will the buildings be made of sustainable materials? Will local contractors be given priority for the build? After the 80 year lease, what will become of the site?

3. Lastly, I would like to see an economic report of how exactly this project will benefit our community in the short and long term.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.

Amanda Simpson|530-613-3861

From: Jake Simpson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:37:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Jake Simpson and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jake Simpson
Resident of Nevada County
Jakesimpson40@gmail.com

From:	barb skillings
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Grass Valley mine
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 10:12:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kevin and Barb Skillings
12827 McCourtney Rd
Grass Valley, Ca. 95949
bskillings@pacbell.net
408-655-7753

Dear Mr Kelley

We looked around to see where to retire after all these years of working and dealing with the noise, traffic and pollution. We decided that Grass Valley offers us all the things we are looking for, a small community with beautiful nature, and peace and quite. We found 2 beautiful pieces of property in Grass Valley and retired here to our 10 acres.

Now you opening this mine would have a direct impact on our way of life. Our water would be ruined and the noise and stench would be unbearable!

All for what, money?

Once you ruin the beautiful nature, you can't get it back! I'm discussed that this mine might have a chance of opening. Stop destroying the earth of profits!!!

Barb Skillings

Sent from my iPad

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

RE: Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine

August 16, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to this letter to express to you my strong opposition to the reopening and development of the long-closed Idaho Maryland Mine. The environmental and health impact of reopening the mine far outweigh any possible benefit to the local community. The benefit is solely for the development company, not our local community, wildlife and environment. Please put people of Grass Valley and Nevada City in the forefront as you consider allowing the reopening of the mine; not a non-local mining company whose only concern is profit, not the welfare of the community.

My reasons for opposition to the mine:

- The mine is in the middle of the Grass Valley community. Due to the noise and environmental impact, mining like this should never be allowed in the local community. It should only ever be allowed far away from any community (*even then, the environment impact is unacceptable/too great a cost*). No amount of corporate profit is worth the toll this mine will take on the local community, animals, air, ground water and streams.
- Removing water from the mine is a terrible idea.
    - We are in the middle of a prolonged drought. Removal of any ground water puts local wells in jeopardy. Residents need the wells for drinking water and, for some, fire protection. Recall how the local wells were adversely affected by the mine opening on San Juan Ridge a few years ago. ***How can you ensure local residents that they won't lose access to clean drinking water (because they will)?***
    - The water in the mine is contaminated. To treat the water and remove it just puts contaminated waster elsewhere on this earth. Running excess water down Wolf Creek is potentially detrimental to animals who drink the water and fish and other creatures that live and by in the creek, as well as people. Corporate industry has proven time and time again to not be a reliable watchdog for their own pollutants. ***Who will check the water daily to ensure it safe?***

- Unacceptable noise from incessant blasting and mining and trucks (100 a day!) driving on our roads.
    - The noise from mining exploration was reported in the Union earlier this year, with residents close to the mine having to deal with unbearably loud noise. To learn that the Idaho Maryland mine could be running unrelentingly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is totally unacceptable to both residents and wildlife.
    - Trucks – up to 100 a day – loaded with debris from the mine is unsafe for our drivers and totally unacceptable for those who live along the path of the trucks. ***How will our streets be kept safe and quiet?***
- House prices
    - ***Who will compensate homeowners who live close to the mine when their home values drop?***
- Environmental impact:
    - It will increase Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons
    - It will create potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, etc.
    - There will be an unavoidable and significant increase in air pollution (in an area where we already do not have good air quality due to pollutants that come up from the Sacramento Valley).
    - All of this could open Nevada County to lawsuits.
    - ***Who will keep our air and water safe?***

We moved to this area because of the natural beauty, quiet and lack of development. The mine will not only serve to incent us to move, but will also dissuade others from moving to this area. And importantly, it will send a strong message that local government/decision makers do not have the interest of the local community top of mind, as they should, a further incentive for us to leave the area. I was not going to write a letter because I didn't believe it would make a difference. Please prove me wrong.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith

Grass Valley, CA

From:	Woodland
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:41 AM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Enclosed is a letter concerning the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine.
Thank you,
Brain Smith

Sent from my iPad

From:	Joanie Smith
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine proposal
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2020 12:42:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,

My name is Joan Smith and my elderly mother, Doris Roberts, owns a home on Tim Burr Lane which is currently rented and that I manage. I am co-trustee with my sister Virginia Roberts on my mother's trust with power of attorney.

As a concerned citizen of Nevada County for 42 years, I am convinced the viability of the Tim Burr Lane neighborhood and an Idaho Maryland Mine co-existing so close together is untenable.

It is reasonable to conclude this project will cost many homeowners in a ten mile radius minimum, much of their long earned assets as their home values will decrease considerably due to noise, air and water quality contaminants among many other things.

What is so utterly disappointing is that if the mine is completed and up and running, it will ONLY ADD 44 JOBS to Nevada County. Who is thinking about realistic economic development?
Lets consider making clean technical/electronic industries a priority for Nevada County without costing it's citizens an arm and a leg and a HOME.

Please advise how I may become informed/involved in the abatement of this proposed project.
Can we meet to discuss the reparations that will be made to the Tim Burr/Starr Drive neighborhood homes? My concerns are valid and reasonable.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Joan Smith
530-263-2611

August 16, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelly

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on the above project. The following are my comments regarding the Notice of Preparation after a brief review of the applicant's Application package. The 30-day review period is insufficient for a complete review of a mining application of this size by the public, and due to this time limitation, my comments do not address the wide range of potential impact which may result for the approval of this project.

The applicant has applied for a Mining Use Permit and Reclamation Plan Approval for the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. These are my comments, bold ext and underlining are my own.

Project Description

1. The term "project" under California Environmental Quality Act refers to the whole of an action and to the underlying physical activity being approved, not to each government approval (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(c)). Even if the Lead Agency needs to grant more than one approval for a project, only one CEQA document should be prepared. Similarly, if more than one government agency must grant an approval, only one CEQA document should be prepared. A Reclamation Plan is a "project" itself under CEQA and must also be included in the environmental review as part of the whole of this action.

The County Draft Project Description includes the following language under Section 3.2, Project Location:

The proposed project concerns two separate project sites: the Brunswick Industrial Site and the Centennial Industrial Site (see Table 3-1), totaling 175.34 acres. In addition, the proposed project would include approximately 0.30-acre of off-site improvements associated with a potable water pipeline easement.

On March 9, 2020, the applicant submitted a map showing the extent of the mineral rights proposed for this project which includes an additional 2585 acres of subsurface mineral rights not included in the County's Project Description.

According to the County's Draft Project Description, page 17:

Underground exploration would take place after mine dewatering is complete and throughout the life of the mine. Exploration would be done primarily with diamond core drilling throughout the mine area. Exploration would produce core samples that would be brought to the surface for analysis to determine future mining areas.

New underground tunnels and raises would be created as necessary to access gold-quartz veins or provide the necessary underground infrastructure to transport rock and provide ventilation and escape routes. The location, size, and depth of new underground workings would depend on surface and underground drilling and mineral testing. New underground workings, except for the service shaft and new ventilation raise, would be below 500 feet of the ground surface. All underground workings would remain within the boundaries of the project applicant's existing underground mineral rights, shown in Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2 clearly shows the 2585 acres of mineral rights and therefore should be included in a revised Project Description as the County of Nevada prepares an environmental document that addresses the whole of the mining application and to the underlying physical activity being reviewed, including the Reclamation Plan.

2. The Applicants Reclamation Plan, page 16, in response to the question 5.6, *Disposal of Mine Waste/Overburden states that **1.6 million tons of engineered fill over a 5-year period** will be trucked from the Brunswick site to the Centennial site for placement and compaction resulting in 37 acres of flat land. Upon the completion of placement at the Centennial site, the engineered ill with be transported from silos on the Brunswick site where **2.2 millions tons, over a six year period** will result in 21 acres of flat l*and.

Five years plus six years equals to eleven years of the proposed 80 year mining permit approval. The remaining 69 years of generated overburden will be trucked off-site to "local projects?" Analysis of this impact is not in the Traffic Analysis by KD Anderson submitted by the applicant. Maps of proposed truck routes are unreadable in the KD Anderson report and should be made more user friendly as well as including analysis of what is proposed for mine waste after the Brunswick and Centennial sites are full, truck haul routes and impact analysis. Additionally the Geotechnical Report submitted by the applicant for the fill site at Brunswick states:

5.1.1 Import Fill

Proposed import soil fill and proposed import rock fill should meet the geotechnical engineering material properties described in Sections 5.1.6 and 5.1.8 of this report. This

advisory represents the best practice for characterization of soil/rock prior to import for use as engineered fill. The project engineer should approve all proposed import fill for use in constructing engineered fills at the Site.

The Traffic Impact Analysis of the proposed EIR must include truck routes, amount of overburden to be hauled off site, and traffic impacts to highways proposed for use for the projects 80 year permit and include additional traffic impacts from the importing of soil fill to create engineered slopes.

3. Further, the noise impacts from the haul traffic up and down Highway 20/49, and if proposed, Highway 174. Trucks will be using "jake breaks" to control speeds on our highways. This project has the potential of turning all of Highway 49 corridor into a mining haul route and destroying our community, seven days a week.

The EIR must include noise impact analysis of trucks on our local highways. Mitigation proposing denying the truck drivers use of "jake breaks" is useless and unenforceable.

4. The applicant proposes to use blast rock and sand tailings to create the 37 acre Brunswick site, and the 21 acre Centennial site but states that "engineered fill" will be used to create these sites, properly compacted. The material resulting from blasting seldom results in "engineered fill." The applicant does not discuss what process will be used to create engineered fill from the blast rock. The stability of the over 40 foot high slopes (with no benches proposed) with 33 degree angles. Page 14 of the Reclamation Plan states under the question on Slope Stability, that "none is required." **The EIR should include a complete engineered study of slope stability and drainage analysis as well as analysis of the process to create this "engineered fill." This must be addressed during the 11 years of the areas fills proposed, as well as for the proposed Reclamation Plan.**

5. In addition, Arsenic has been classified as a carcinogen and causes other severe health issues, including thickening skin, pain, nausea, paralysis, and blindness. A legacy of gold mining at Empire Mine and elsewhere is contamination of mine wastes and associated soils, surface waters, and groundwaters with arsenic (As), mercury (Hg), lead (Pb), and other metals. At EMSHP, As has been the principal contaminant of concern and the focus of extensive remediation efforts over the past several years by the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Newmont USA, Ltd.

The EIR should include analysis as to impacts of contaminated materials as they are released from the rock and the effects on the health of local residents and the employees, and as they are released into the air from hauling these materials on and off-site.

Land Use

Light Industrial zoning is inappropriate for the proposed mining project and a thorough review of zoning issues should be included in the EIR. The following shows the Zoning Land definitions and Use Charts for Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial Zoning in the Zoning Regulations. Nevada County Zoning Regulations includes the following definitions of Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial Zoning Districts:

2. **M1 (Light Industrial)**. The M1 District provides areas for the production, repairing, distribution, and warehousing of goods and equipment, along with supporting businesses and services. Uses should provide for buffering from adjacent land uses to minimize incompatibility and should have convenient, controlled access to arterial or major collector roads without passing through residential areas.

3. **M2 (Heavy Industrial)**. The purpose of the M2 District is similar to that of the M1 District, except that allowed uses are potentially more intensive and may generate greater impacts on adjacent land uses, public facilities and services, and the environment. (underline mine)

I have inserted Table L-II 2.5.D from the Zoning Regulations to show allowed uses allied in Mi and M2 Zoning Districts:

Table L-II 2.5.D
Industrial Districts Allowable Uses and Permit Requirements

Key to Land Use Permit Requirements:

A Allowed subject to zoning compliance and building permit issuance
DP Development Permit required per Section 5.5
UP Use Permit required per Section 5.6
NP Not Permitted
NA Not Applicable
Varies Refer to listed L-II Section for allowable uses and permit requirements

ALLOWABLE LAND USES (See Section L-II 1.4.D for Similar Uses)	BP	M 1	M 2	L-II Sections
Industrial Uses				
Light industrial including research and development, the manufacturing, production, repairing, distribution, fabrication, processing, wholesaling, and warehousing of a wide variety of goods.	DP	D P	D P	
Any other intensive industrial use not allowed in the BP or M1 Districts.	NP	N P	U P	
…				

Storage of explosives.	NP	UP	UP	
Storage and distribution of bulk petroleum products.	NP	UP	UP	

Light industrial including research and development, the manufacturing, production, repairing, distribution, fabrication, processing, wholesaling, and warehousing of a wide variety of goods.
Any other intensive industrial use not allowed in the BP or M1 Districts

Although Section L-II 1.4 Rules of Interpretation allows for the Planning Director to make interpretation, the proposed 80 year mining permit does not meet the Goals, objectives, and policies of the Nevada County General plan, nor have other requirements meeting Section L-II 1.4 D. Zoning Land Use Interpretation as shown below been met.

*D. **Zoning District Land Use Interpretation**. If a proposed use of land is not listed in Article 2 (Zoning Districts), the Planning Director may determine the use to be allowable if the Director finds the use will:*
1. Be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Nevada County General Plan; and
2. Meet the purpose and intent of the zoning district that is applied to the site; and
3. Share characteristics common with those listed in the district and not be of greater intensity or density, generate greater impact on public facilities and services, or generate more environmental impact than the uses listed in the district; and
4. Be treated in the same manner as the listed use including determining where it is allowed, what permits are required, and what standards affect its establishment. Determinations that specific unlisted uses are equivalent to listed uses will be recorded by the Planning Department, and will be incorporated into the ordinance when amendments to the ordinance are next considered.
The Planning Director may forward questions concerning equivalent uses directly to the Planning Commission for determination at a public hearing.

Mining is not an allowed use is not allowed in an M1 Zoning District, and requires a Use Permit within the M2 District. Mining is not included within the M1 or BP Zoning Districts and the project therefore needs a rezoning to a M2 Zoning District. Full analysis of the impacts to the community and surrounding residential uses must be included in the proposed EIR as well as a full analysis of the definitions of Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial and appropriateness of the County's actions of not requiring the Heavy Industrial, M2 zoning. A Development Permit is what the Zoning Regulations require in a M1 Zoning District. How is the County processing a Use Permit in M1 Zoning?

I am including below the Required Findings for the approval of a Use Permit (also applicable to a Development Permit) according to Section L-II 5.5.2.C of the Zoning Regulations for Nevada County. The EIR should include complete and understandable discussions of the Findings provided below.

C. **Decision and Findings**. The ZA/PC shall approve, approve subject to 5.5.2:

1. The proposed use is consistent with the General Plan and its goals, objectives, and policies, with the General Plan Land Use Maps and with any Area or Specific Plan or development agreements in effect within the project area;
2. The proposed use is allowed within and is consistent with the purpose of the zoning district within which it is located;
3. The proposed use and any facilities meet all applicable provisions of this Code, including, without limitation, design and siting to meet the intent of the Site Development Standards mitigating the impact of development on environmentally sensitive resources;
4. The design of any facilities for the proposed use are consistent with the intent of the design goals, standards, and elements of this Chapter and will be compatible with the design of existing and anticipated future on-site uses and the uses of the nearby surrounding area;
5. The site for the proposed use is adequate in size and shape and location to accommodate the proposed use and all facilities needed for that use and reasonable expansion thereof, if any, and to make appropriate transitions to nearby properties and permitted uses thereon, without compromising site development standards;
6. The proposed use and facilities are compatible with, and not detrimental to, existing and anticipated future uses on-site, on abutting property and in the nearby surrounding neighborhood or area;
7. Adequate provisions have been made for water and sanitation for the proposed use, and if available, for transition to public water and/sewer;
8. Highways, streets, and roads on and near the site are adequate in width and pavement type to carry the quantity and kind of traffic generated by the proposed use and adequate provision has been made for project specific impacts and the cumulative effect traffic generated by the proposed use so that it will not create or add to an identified problem before construction of needed improvements for which a development fee has been established and imposed upon the project;
9. Adequate provisions have been made for emergency access to the site;
10. Adequate public facilities and public services exist or have been provided for within the project area which will be available to serve the project without decreasing services levels to other areas to ensure that the proposed use is not detrimental to the public welfare; and
11. All feasible mitigation measures have been imposed upon the project.
12. The conditions provided in the decision are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to:

a. Regulation of use, setbacks, buffers, fences, walls, vehicular ingress and egress, signs, noise, vibration, odors, the time of certain activities, duration of use, and time period within which the proposed use shall be established.

b. Require the surfacing of parking areas subject to County specifications, street, service road, or ally dedications and improvements or bonds, and landscaping and the maintenance thereof.
c. Such other conditions as will make possible the development of the County in an orderly and efficient manner and ensure conformity with the purpose of this Article.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Notice of Preparation.

Suzanne Smith
PO Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	suzanne.smith@mac.com
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland NOP Comments
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:14:17 PM
Attachments:	NOP Letter8162020PDF.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

Attached are my comments on the Notice of Preparation for the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Thank you for your assistance in preparing the Application documents for me to review at the County Building last week. I appreciate your time and effort.

Suzanne Smith

From: Jameson Auto Transport
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:17:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

I am 62 years old, I have lived in Grass Valley for over 30 years(This residence over 20) and was first introduced to Grass Valley Not quite 60 !!!! years when my grandparents moved to Penn Valley. I remember the entire Nevada County fair consisting of livestock, some food and a Ferris wheel, that was it !!!!

I moved here from the Los Angeles area with my wife and two young children to get out of the city and noise, a better way of life. This was a decision my wife and I have NEVER regretted, not once. And it worries me greatly to think that Nevada County would even consider a project like this that could be so harmful and disruptive to the surrounding communities.

These are just a few of my concerns:

Well water quantity and quality being destroyed (and who determines what is healthy ? Like the San Juan ridge homeowners who became ill, a few years ago.

Cost of connecting to piped water, if that's even an option ? And then the ongoing price of piped water ?

Blasting 24/7 ? Noise and vibrations all day, everyday !!!

Road use and noise ? Huge dump trucks 24/7 on Hwy 174, going right by our house !!!!

Home values ? We've never seriously considered moving from our little piece of heaven.....until now !!!! Who would want to buy a home that's in a war zone with non stop blasting and road noise ? Or a home with no or questionable potable water ? A large percentage of our wealth is in the equity of our home, it would be devastating to lose all or most of that.

I hope there will be an opportunity for all the unhappy/concerned residents to gather and show our opposition to this project.

Thank you for your time,

Lew Snavely
14150 Wilder Ln, Grass Valley
530-277-0644

Sent from my iPhone

From: Debra Snell
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine on Idaho Maryland
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:08:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley, we own property located at 110 Springhill Dr in Grass Valley, CA.

I urge you to read and adhere to Michael Gaboury's letter. I fully support his suggestions. I am very concerned about the long term affects this mine will cause.

Thank you,
Debra Snell
110 Springhill Dr
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rondal Snodgrass
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idah0-Maryland Mine application
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:12:58 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,

I am deeply concerned about the Canadian Co. wanting to reopen mines near Grass Valley.
The impacts could be disastrous. Instead Wolf Creek could be restored and return to its natural flow system and become a feature of Grass Valley.
Mining made a mess of this county and would once again.
Government is for the common good and planning is essential for government functioning.
Please separate out the issues and have town halls, Zoom would work to review the issues being identified.
This is outsourcing our resources at a cost to environmental quality.
Simple to just put the skids on this application and move on to better economic planning and development.

Thank you,

Rondal

Rondal Snodgrass
Conservation Land Consultant
707-496-8729
Rondal Snodgrass
Conservation Land Consultant
707-496-8729

From: Darryl Snow <darryl_snow@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Please stop the gold mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

I am writing about Rise Grass Valley Inc.'s (Rise GV) ongoing efforts to reopen

the Idaho-Maryland gold mine to industrial-scale mining. I live in this area and I am on well water as are my neighbors. It appears that there are a number of mining issues that could potentially have long-lasting impacts such as dewatering of our groundwater aquifer, damaging the quality of our groundwater, surface water (Wolf Creek), air (24/7 exhaust from the mine), and human health, not to mention the potential effects on our property values, heavy truck traffic (1,500 tons of rock removed per day), noise, fire danger, and overall quality of life. We all know that Nevada County's environmental quality has been impaired by historical mining and is in long-term recovery. The proposed Rise GV operation estimates it will pump out over 1.2 million gallons of natural groundwater per day that will be discharged to Wolf Creek. What happens if our wells go dry? Rise GV is proposing to install a NID pipeline along a small section of roadway with free hookups offered but homeowners that had free well water in the past would have to pay for NID water going forward. What an insult! And what about the rest of us who lose our groundwater? We already have enough to worry about with wildfires, power outages, diminishing groundwater supplies, and now coronavirus! I am advising friends who are interested in moving to the area to hold off until we see how this turns out. I strongly object to having an industrial-scale gold mine in my neighborhood! There is nothing in this for homeowners. Their website has announced that their reports show no significant environmental impacts for the project, if that is also to be believed. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be based, in part, on technical studies provided by Rise GV which I feel will bias the report in favor or Rise GV. This potential disaster already has serious momentum and Rise is heavily invested and they recently announced that they are raising $3,300,000 in financing. If the mine re-opens, we homeowners will have to live with the effects for 80 years. I'm asking for you to please do whatever you can to help us prevent this from happening.
Thank you!

Darryl Snow
14278 La Noria Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Evelyn Soltero, MS
20405 Farrell Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946
530-210-9508
emsoltero@gmail.com
August 16, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Public Comment Environmental Scoping Idaho-Maryland Mine DEIR

Dear Matt Kelley of the Nevada County Department of Planning,

As a Nevada County resident with friends, family, and clients living within the proposed Idaho Maryland mining operations, I expect you to do your due diligence in serving the public. It is imperative that your department ensure an independent environmental impact report is completed, and paid for by the Rise Gold Corp. The loss of my friends, family, and clients' livelihood directly impacts my livelihood.

I believe these proposed mining operations will dewater the local area of groundwater! Nevada County has already been identified by USGS as county with most wells gone dry, most wells drilled new due to dry wells, most trucked in water due to dry wells, and most abandoned wells. Consider the damage done when wells are dewatered, when forest health declines and increases fire hazards, when seismicity and subsidence increase due to millions of gallons of water removed rapidly from the subsurface, when South Wolf Creek collapses due to industrial use. Nevada County's water resources are not only invaluable to its residents, the management of our surface water and groundwater resources are being scrutinized by the state.

I expect independent investigations to address the direct impact mining has on available groundwater (already experienced and never recovered in NSJ), as well as on forest and stream health and related fire danger- without water, forest health will decline. These and other concerns are addressed below.

1.Hydrology:

a.The dewatering of the local groundwater from between 576 (1767 acft) and 815 (2500 acft) million gallons (Rise Gold Technical Report, 2020; Idaho Maryland Water Treatment Plant Design Report, 2019) is enough to service up to 10,000 families in one year! -Based on four water conservative families using 1 acre-foot of water per year. This water will be removed in the 1st 6mos followed by over 1.2 million gallons per day of discharged groundwater- enough water to serve up to 16 families per day! It is eminent that Grass Valley well owners will be without water in a matter of time.

What will you do in the event that wells are dewatered?- and I hope it does not include said residents paying for treated water. Provide a realistic assessment of the dewatering of local wells based on mapped mine shafts and local connected wells that include the number of homes expected to lose available groundwater.

2.Agriculture and Forestry: Forest Health and Fire

Removing 1,224,000 million gallons per day (Rise Gold Technical Report, 2020; Idaho Maryland Water Treatment Plant Design Report, 2019) will induce drought stress on local trees, cause insect infestations to rise, and directly impact fire safety.

Please address the potential for dewatering to induce drought stress on local forests such that fire hazards are greatly increased.

3.Hazards/Hazardous Materials

a.Discharge to Wolf Creek: Encasing a tributary for waste water discharge and releasing large quantities of waste water into Wolf Creek threatens local surface water groundwater connectivity and threatens to mobilize mercury in the watershed.

Thoroughly investigate the negative impacts of encasing a major tributary to Wolf Creek and the potential for mercury mobilization due to releases of large volumes of mine water into Wolf Creek. Address the safety of the related holding pond related to the increased seismicity induced by rapid removal of over 1billion gallons of groundwater.

> The Sierra Fund, 2008, Mining's Toxic Legacy: An Initiative to Address Legacy Mining Toxins in the Sierra Nevada
> http://www.sierrafund.org/images/content/campaigns/pdf/Miningstoxiclegacy.pdf
> Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Mercury-Related Risk in the Sacramento River Watershed
> http://lwa.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Mercury_Strategic_Plan_1202.pdf

b.The use of mine tailings as fill material for potential residential building sites on land described as unstable is unsound.

Please address why the use of unconsolidated mine waste on unstable ground provides a safe building site.

c.Trucks will transport explosives into the area. If any of these deliveries or handlings go wrong, a catastrophic forest fire will occur. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the mine site.

This area is not zoned heavy industrial because it is near city limits and has residential dwellings like homes and school bus yards. We should not allow explosives or other hazardous materials- such as chemicals, coolants, solvents- anywhere near the proposed area. Point source pollution is not welcome in the Wolf Creek watershed.

Provide a comprehensive study on the potential impacts of these chemical hazards- and include an explanation as to why this is acceptable in a light industrial area.

In addition, without specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, if an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? The potential impact must be studied and explained.

4.Land Use and Planning- Zoning

The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. Changing the zoning to heavy industrial does not remove the residential neighborhood and its community assets. My friends, family, and clients did not purchase their homes in a heavy industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and extend into residential areas above. The impacts of drilling and blasting in residential neighborhoods cannot be mitigated to less than significant. Please explain how rezoning of a light industrial area immediately outside city limits is feasible in an existing light industrial infrastructure, with homes, small businesses, and school bus yards.

5.Geology/Soils

Investigate and address the potential for increased seismicity and subsidence related to removal of over 1 billion gallons of groundwater.

6.Air Quality, Noise, and Transportation/Traffic

The Foothills are known to be a collection point for bad air quality from larger cities down the hill. Address the potential for bad air days to become a common occurrence. Explain how air quality degradation will be mitigated.

A well-traveled section of Grass Valley will be subject to large trucks day and night. The impact to a peaceful rural living cannot be mitigated. Address how the 24/7 traffic to a small rural city of 40k is an asset to sleep, quality of life, and home values.

The road damage coupled with groundwater withdrawal could cause irreparable damage. Please investigate the potential for road damage, coupled with excessive rapid removal of groundwater, to destabilize local homes- especially with faulting in the area- and expected increased seismicity related to sudden groundwater withdrawal.

With a current and future duty to serve in the public's interest, I expect the public to come first, corporate businesses, second. I petition you to apply sound science when weighing local resources vs. outsider business. Consider the irreplaceable nature of our existing resources such as available groundwater, a healthy forest, stable geology, air quality against community losses of such basic needs- water, fire safety, and air quality. All eyes are upon you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Soltero, MS

Evelyn Soltero, MS
emsoltero@gmail.com

From: Evelyn Soltero
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Letter of Concern- Rise Gold proposal for Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:21:45 PM
Attachments: Soltero IDM Public response 8-16-2020.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
Attached is a letter addressing my concerns regarding the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. Rise-Gold has no community stake in this venture. We will continue to live here long after damage is done and Rise Gold has departed.
Please ensure an independent EIR is accomplished- and be sure to address well and groundwater dewatering among other concerns- all addressed in attached letter.
Thank you for considering the public you serve.
Cheers.
Evelyn Soltero, MS
All About Wells, Owner
530-210-9508
invitewatertostay.com

From:	Sasha Soukup
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Proposed Reopening of Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:06 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sasha Soukup
13125 Burma Road
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

astralweekend.shop@gmail.com
925-518-0315

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 15 years. I love the peace, the quiet, and the natural beauty of this area.

I know that mining was once the mainstay of this community, but I do not find this past worth returning to merely for the sake of "tradition". The scars on the landscape and on the psyche of the native Nisenan are as much a legacy as the gold that fed the local economy for a brief moment in time. Ultimately, most of the wealth that was extracted from the land- at great cost to the environment and native culture- ended up in the hands of a privileged few, who hoarded it. I'm afraid not much has changed with the way that we humans do business in 2020, which is why I am extremely concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

I would like to know the following:

What will the noise and vibration levels from mine operations and mine truck traffic be? How will this impact human and wild animal health?

How many of the jobs created by the mine would actually be entry level or include extensive technical training, so that local residents could apply for them with a reasonable chance of being hired? Will the pay rate for these jobs be at least $15 an hour, aka, a living wage for this county and this state?

Where will the majority of the money from this company end up? In our county? In Canada?

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine’s mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

-The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

-The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

-The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

-The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

-A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would also like to know the following:

What will the noise and vibration levels from mine operations and mine truck traffic be? How will this impact human and wild animal health?

How many of the jobs created by the mine would actually be entry level or include extensive technical training, so that local residents could apply for them with a reasonable chance of being hired? Will the pay rate for these jobs be at least $15 an hour, aka, a living wage for this county and this state?

Where will the majority of the money from this company end up? In our county? In Canada?

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have for me.

Sincerely,

Sasha Soukup

Business Owner

Instagram Influencer and Activist (14K followers)

--
Shop: www.AstralWeekend.Etsy.com
Cel: 925-518-0315

From: Jill Southard <jsouthard0923@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: OPPOSE the mine!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
What can we do to stop this proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine??? Everyone I have talked to or heard from is opposed to this for so many obvious reasons. I am a realtor and believe this will have a terrible impact on the housing market in all areas of this county. Please help us help you to stop this from happening!
Thank you,

Jill



Jill Southard, Realtor, MBA
Cell: (530) 264-6208
Intero Real Estate

Jill.Southard@NevadaCityRealty.com
JSouthard@InteroNC.com
DRE #01973236

From: Jill Southard
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: OPPOSE the mine!
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:36:10 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you



On Aug 10, 2020, at 5:15 PM, Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Jill:

Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.

Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project:https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley

We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested

individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
<image001.jpg>
Planning Department
County of Nevada
Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
office 530.265-1423
https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Jill Southard <jsouthard0923@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: OPPOSE the mine!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,
What can we do to stop this proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine??? Everyone I have talked to or heard from is opposed to this for so many obvious reasons. I am a realtor and believe this will have a terrible impact on the housing market in all areas of this county. Please help us help you to stop this from happening!
Thank you,
Jill
<image002.jpg>

-----Original Message-----
From: Joe Sowa <joesowa@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Joseph Sowa and I live in the cedar Ridge community and I am emailing you to let you

know that I do not approve of the proposed Idaho Maryland mine. This project will create too much pollution for neighboring communities and you somehow think it is a good idea to pump the water into deer creek, which is absurd. Nothing about this project is good for the local community. I'm asking that you please reconsider this project.

-Joseph Sowa

-----Original Message-----
From: Joe Sowa <joesowa@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Brian Foss

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Brian,

My name is Joseph Sowa, I'm 31and currently working for the county in behavioral health. I am contacting you to let you know that I disapprove of rise gold's reopening of the mine. I live near

Cedar Ridge and if the plan is approved, I will be selling my property and leaving the county for good. You will experience a mass exodus in the area and for something that will not benefit the locals. I hold you responsible if the price of my property drops.

From: Steven Sparks <stevencarlsparks@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,
I know the decision to allow mining in this location is not simple.
In the cost-benefit analysis, the costs to local residents like me are obvious and I am sure everyone is reminding you of them. The benefits are likely many--jobs and money and the revenue to local governments this creates.
However, are the benefits real and long-lasting?

If the mining begins, not only will the mining company be constantly sued when (for whatever reason) wells run dry/low and locals get respiratory illnesses; but all involved government officials will be labeled as complicit and have their careers shortened. How could it happen any other way? Consider how much time you will spend dealing with the political fallout of endorsing a mining operation so near the center of Grass Valley. Your life will be full of encounters with disappointed and finger-pointing locals.
That said, I assume this mine will never re-open, as the company will learn that their short-term profits will vanish from the environmental lawsuits locals will spearhead.
Do you, or any other local government officer, really want to deal with this legacy?
Thanks for considering,
Steven Sparks
Greenhorn / Anvil Rd

From: Gmail
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine!
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

This whole project sounds like a bad idea for Grass Valley and it's residents. There is no way that any fees or expenses that this Canadian company would pay, will out way the disruption of life by the traffic, noise, air pollution, and draining of our precious water system. As it is, many of my neighbors and myself, experience days when our wells can't supply enough water for our own use, and yet this company will be allowed to just drain it away, for their personal profit.

Has a complete study been done to establish that the water they drain from that site, won't draw more water from surrounding areas and deplete the water from our wells? It seems to me that our water tables must be interconnected, and that they have no way to guaranty that this will not happen. With our currently dry environment, we need all the water we have just in case of fires, and can't risk the possibility that this company will take that away from us.

How can excavating, grading, compacting, and using explosives, not create a negative effect on the environment or our valuable community?

How can a Canadian company be concerned about the property values in Grass Valley?

What are the total effects of dewatering, underground mining, gold mineralization and rock processing, and loading and transport off-site, going to be on Grass Valley?

What does Grass Valley get as a benefit from this mining? How much will the town make in fees? Will residents of Grass Valley get a portion of the profits for having to put up with the dewatering, underground mining, gold mineralization and rock processing, and loading and transport off-site?

What are the expected effects of sending 2,500 gallons per minute at the South Fork Wolf Creek site, and the effects to everyone downstream?

The disruption now, and the final reclamation (in 80 years), which will only be partial, does not benefit residents of Grass Valley, and a majority of the aboveground facilities and structures would remain to support future post-mining industrial uses on the site. It sounds like the company is here to stay. What dominance will they in future take hold of Grass Valley politics, and make changes, that will only benefit their company?

What will happen to all the deer and other natural critters that we so frequently see in the proposed area?

With a lot of the surrounding area zoned as residential, who would want to live there? Who would want to develop there? Will
Rise Gold buy up the properties and create its own “mining town”?

Can E Bennett Rd, Idaho Maryland Rd, and Brunswick Rd, support the additional constant use of vehicles, (many heavy industrial), without disrupting the daily life of the residents of Grass Valley and its visitors?

And again, can Grass Valley and the surrounding areas survive the removal of so much ground water to benefit a Canadian company?

The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Charles C Spencer
13966 Mill Creek Lane
Grass Valley Ca 95945

408 438 8700
crumbybaker@gmail.com

From:	Natana Spohler
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	list hidden
Subject:	reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:07:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have serious concerns of the Idaho Maryland Mine Re-opening creating strong negative environmental impacts of the Grass Valley and surrounding area.

First, as I began to research this topic, I did a simple google search and I used my common sense. I asked Google, a unbiased source, “What are the common impacts that mines have on their surrounding environment?”

The answer from Wikipedia was “Environmental impacts of mining can occur at local, regional, and global scales through direct and indirect mining practices. Impacts can result in erosion, sinkholes, loss of biodiversity, or the contamination of **soil**, groundwater, and surface **water** by the chemicals emitted from mining processes.”

Negative impacts from mining is an expected occurrence.

Secondly, it occurs to me that it should be common sense that mines have a negative impact on their surrounding areas and certainly known to those of us who live in the Grass Valley area.

We don’t have to look far. Go by the Empire Mine State Park, located not far from the Idaho Maryland site, and see all the very expensive work that had to be done to attempt to mitigate the toxic impacts of this former mining operation in our community. Might I add that the owners of the mine who made quite a bit of money from the mining operations did not pay at all for this very expensive and imperfect reclaiming of the land and remediation of massive amounts of poisonous mine by-products.

Why would we in our right minds even consider starting a new large mining operation in our community unless we didn’t care about the negative environmental impact.

Please do not attempt to cover up the basic facts in complicated reports or slanted research paid for by mining companies that don't care a darn about our community and as business people only care about getting a profit and doing whatever is necessary to pass the test and get started on their project.

The extensive negative impacts would be:
Negative impact on water.
Negative impact on air.
Negative impact on surrounding property values and lives of our citizens.
Negative impacts of noise of a 24/7 operation (may I remind you that the Idaho-Maryland Mine less than 1 mile from the commercial centers of our town and even closer to residences.)
Negative impacts on road use with massive numbers of loaded large trucks running all day every day and I'm quite sure there are more impacts than these.

Mr. Kelley, please don't sacrifice the well-being of our community by not clearly stating the negative impacts that are expected, likely or possible in the above areas. I, along with many others who care about our community, say no to the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Thank you for listening and representing this beautiful community with integrity and a desire to do what is best for the health of our local environment and residents.

Diedra Spohler
Lake Wildwood Resident

From: sfcitydruid@aol.com <sfcitydruid@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 6:17 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine - Draft Environmental Impact Report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Idaho-Maryland Mine
Draft Environmental Impact Report
7/23/20
Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Third District Supervisor Dan Miller

Dear Sirs:

As a registered voter in Nevada County and a homeowner on Cedar Ridge, I am deeply concerned about the possible reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine in my backyard and underneath my feet.

According to the letter I received from the Planning Department dated July 17, 2020, there are several points I would like clarification regarding:

- There will be improvements to a potable water pipeline easement along East Bennett Road. Will the Canadian-owned company of Rise-Grass Valley be paying NID for the potable water? How much water is expected to be used? Is the potable water to be used in the mine and the mineral processing buildings or will it be used solely in the warehousing/office buildings? Is there a way to use non-potable water in the mine and for mineral processing? Is there a way to reuse water from the water treatment plant? Will the company be pumping underground water which might affect residents who rely on wells drilled on their property?
- What exactly is “dewatering” and where does that water go?
- There is an 80-year permit period with operations on-going 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. “Following completion of mining and processing activities, the project sites would be reclaimed to open space and industrial uses.” What guarantees are there that if the mine reopens and is allowed to operate that at the end of operations the project site would be reclaimed. Is there insurance or a bond issued to make sure the money is there to complete the reclamation rather than having it become another on the SuperFund list of toxic sites?
- With operations on-going 24/7 is there any mitigation for noise pollution? I live on Cedar Ridge Drive and often hear traffic on both Brunswick Road and Highway 174 (Colfax Highway).
- There will be a water treatment plant on the Brunswick Industrial Site. Depending on which way the wind blows will this treatment plant produce any malodorous smells? How much water would be treated per day and then discharged at South Fork Wolf Creek? Will there be any seepage either from the treatment plant or the aboveground pipe? How will the amount of water discharged affect the flow, drainage and water quality of the South Fork Wolf Creek?
- Engineered fill would be transported from the Brunswick Industrial Site to the Centennial Industrial Site. Truck payloads would be approximately 20 tons per truck with an average of 50 trips per days. CRIMINETLY!! That’s an awfully lot of fill. Is the term “engineered fill” another term for mine tailings? Does this fill contain mercury, arsenic and other toxic materials? Will the company pay for the extra wear and

tear on the roads? Where exactly will this fill be deposited? Some have said it will be deposited at the end of Cedar Ridge Drive.

- Do the workings in mineral processing industrial buildings essentially crush the rocks/ore that is mined underground? Does this include a type of stamp mill? Will this also be operating 24/7?

These are some of my concerns. I plan to download the virtual scoping meeting that will be available on July 27, 2020.

Thank you. Mary Stallings, mailing address: P.O. Box 155, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924, physical address: 11097 Cedar Ridge Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Anya Stanger
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:19:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,
I am writing to express my great concern about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I am a Nevada County native (born, raised, and returned after grad school to raise my family in this beautiful area). My life has been shaped by stories of this place I call home, which *always* show the futility (danger, shortsightedness) of various mines and mining ventures. Quick money to a few sounds good on paper, but when we look further down the line, the story is consistent and the story is clear. Mining is not good for the people outside of direct benefit, and it's an absolute nightmare for our natural resources.
Yes, we are a county founded on gold mining, but we have grown and stayed strong because we have shifted our industry and appeal. Indeed, our town thrives precisely because we care about our natural environment, its clean water, and the people in our neighborhoods and communities. The people living here today are drawn to the beauty of this place, its safety for their children, and the healthy lifestyles we believe they can have because we live here. All of this is in serious jeopardy with projects such as this.
I urge you and your team to expand your thinking beyond the immediate future, and beyond the very small group most directly poised to benefit from this mine. When you include more people and a longer time frame, there is only one reasonable choice in this matter: we must not return to mining in Nevada County.
Thank you for your consideration,
Anya Stanger
Nevada City, CA

From: Phillip Starr <sierrastarr1@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Gold and Proposed Local Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings
I want to add my voice to those against the Rise Gold Project. I don't know if the deadline for comment has been extended, I hope so.
I am against this project in so many ways.....have we not learned from our past what havoc this sort of mining creates?
Please put my name on the list of those profoundly against this project.

Regards
Phil

Phil Starr, Founder
Sierra Starr Vineyard & Winery
Established 1995
"Fine Wine, Fun People....Starr Quality"
124 West Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-477-8282 Tasting Room
530-477-8277 Cell/Winery
sierrastarr1@sbcglobal.net
www.sierrastarr.com

From: Olivia Steele <oliviasteele.ca@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt Kelley + the board of supervisors,

I am writing to express my absolute opposition and outrage against the Idaho Maryland Mine. I will begin this email with a quote from the organization Earth Works; "Gold mining is one of

the most destructive industries in the world. It can displace communities, contaminate drinking water, hurt workers, and destroy pristine environments. It pollutes water and land with mercury and cyanide, endangering the health of people and ecosystems." Though in truth, the horrors of gold mining do not end with the examples cited above. And Nevada County should walk carefully into the future considering our atrocious history with this topic and the genoice that was called "the Gold Rush".

Let me remind you, our leaders, that we are in the midst of a housing crisis. We are in a severe need of affordable, low income, long term housing in this county as we watch housing prices soar. The promise of being able to live in our hometown forever has become a dream, many of us wonder where we will go when we are no longer able to live here. If 100 acres will be developed, it should be for housing. We do not need a mine. Especially in one of the last central places of the Brunswick Basin area that remains undeveloped and has any sense of environmental preservation.

This mine has the potential to destroy our water clarity, poison our water sources, not to mention the violation of FILLING the mine shafts with CEMENT. How much do we think the earth owes us? How much do we think we own? Mine waste has multiplied exponentially as the mechanics progress, allowing workers to process more rock than ever. What is the carbon footprint of this? What is the environmental impact of not only MINING but also having a PROCESSING PLANT in our small town? Working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on a permit for 80 years! What will the traffic impact be? How long until we need to redo all of our roads? Have you informed yourself on the disastrous working conditions of underground mining? The gold mining companies who are currently being prosecuted for violating the Clean Water Act? Do you really want to risk our town being involved with a stain of that size on our reputation? Metal mining was the number one toxic polluter in the United States in 2012, responsible for 40 percent of all reported toxic releases, also representing 8% of workplace deaths in our country.

Might I also remind you of the current environment we find ourselves in. Gold mining companies consume an excessive amount of water. The average gold mine uses enough water to provide the basic water needs for a population equivalent to that of a large U.S. city for a year. We currently and permanently live on the brink of a drought in this state, as our summers get hotter, and our winters get drier. How much power will be used by this 24 hour operating project? How many ecosystems will suffer?

All you have to do is drive through the diggins on the San Juan Ridge to see the embarrassing and shameful proof of our town desecrating our landscapes for the thirst and greed of gold. We have forever changed these landscapes, they will never come back. We have taken what can not be given back. How far will we slip into an identity that can be marketed, bought, sold, weighed, and processed? I am disgusted with this. Almost 3000 acres of underground mining?! Because you don't deem the land "prime farming land", so that takes away from it's value to our community or the future of our planet?

I want to conclude by saying that I SEE YOU, I see what you are doing while our community is distracted by our personal health and safety being threatened by this virus. And this will not be the last time you hear from me if this project continues to move forward. I am ashamed that I even have to write this letter to fight against the further violation of our environment, values, impact, and community.

Until next time.
Olivia Steele

-----Original Message-----
From: Cynthia Stewart <cicistewart@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine - NO

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt, I was just shocked to find out that this is yet once again a conversation. Why on earth with the county even consider allowing this mind open? We know the devastation that can happen. We know this is a Canadian Farm who is already stated they will only have a handful of temporary part-time jobs for locals. Matt, I was just shocked to find out that this is yet once again a conversation. Why on

earth would the county even consider allowing this mind open? We know the devastation that can happen. We know this is a Canadian farm who is already stated they will only have a handful of temporary part-time jobs for locals. It's the most devastating thing that could happen to our community...hundreds of residential wells will be pumped dry..3.6 million gallons daily for 6 months, the 1 million daily for 80 years. And that's just the tip of the iceberg of their horrible plans. The county has an obligation to protect its citizens, but we cannot leave it up to them. Mines contaminate everything.
Watch this documentary of what happened in N Sahttps://vimeo.com/120747168

Please help our community and stop this project!

Cynthia Stewart
Sent from my iPhone

From: Tim Stokes
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 6:55:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr.Kelley,
I have been a resident of Nevada County for 17 years,and live in Grass Valley. I'm contacting you
to express my concerns about re-opening the Idaho Maryland mine. It is hard for me to believe that we are talking about going back in time to an industry that historically put Nevada County on the map while science has shown the cost of such notoriety.

Water is the lifeblood of the area,and therefore I would like the EIR to closely look at the following:

-the impact on private wells within the proposed site boundaries
-the influence of 3.6m. gals./day to de-water the mine on Wolf Cr., and the subsequent 1.2 m gals./day "in perpetuity".
-the monitoring of water quality "in perpetuity"
-the posting of a bond to insure the proposed operator (should the mine be reopened) would be
able to mitigate any water quality problems related to its operation without city,county,or taxpayer
financing.

The re-opening of Idaho Maryland would have such a major impact on our community.I am not willing to go backward.

Thank you,

Tim Stokes
127 Northridge Dr.
Grass Valley, Ca. 95945
(530)-274-3699
timstokes44@gmail.com

From Wolf Creek Community Alliance website:

Since RISE acquired the property, they have been recruiting investors through the parent company in Canada to conduct exploratory drilling operations. The exploratory operations have raised a number of concerns, including significant violations of State and County regulations. So far, in just the exploratory drilling phase, RISE has been unable to comply with some of the most basic land use regulations:

- Violation of timber harvest regulations; in constructing an equipment storage area, RISE removed a healthy stand of timber, including ponderosa pine, incense cedar, and big leaf maple, without a timber harvest plan.
- Multiple violations of the 100' riparian setback from a perennial stream (in this case South Wolf Creek, a tributary of Wolf Creek, which runs in close proximity to this site).
- Failure to follow the approved grading plan.
- Multiple violations of Storm Water Management best practices.
- Violation of a subsequent Comprehensive Management Plan.

Additional concerns with the exploratory operations:

- Advances in drilling technologies allow directional drilling and drilling to greater depths. The drilling equipment being operated by RISE (24 hours per day, 7 days per week) is essentially a super-sized well-drilling rig. It can drill a mile deep and is multi-directional, so it can "explore" under neighboring properties. Drilling operations can continue for many months.
- Multiple shafts penetrate the impermeable rock layers that underlie local shallow aquifers. The potential damage to residential water wells, local aquifers, and the adjacent perennial stream is unknown.
- Repeated noise complaints from residents with homes near the mine site.
- Repeated light pollution complaints due to bright floodlights. And dust.
- Hundreds of gallons of drilling fluid compounds and lubricants are used. Strong odors of solvents reported by passing cars.
- Since no permit is required for exploratory drilling, there is no prescribed oversight from County officials; enforcement action is driven by complaints.
- There are no requirements for restoration or reclamation plans.
- There is no bonding, licensing, or insurance required.

Wolf Creek Community Alliance is working with Community Environmental Advocates (CEA) to address these issues.

Documents filed by RISE reveal some objectionable aspects of the planned mining operation. These include the following:

- The project would remove forested areas and deposit massive amounts of waste rock and tailings on two Grass Valley sites, ultimately covering 75 acres to depths of up to 90 feet. Haul trucks would run on Brunswick Road and Whispering Pines Lane up to 100 round trips daily 16 hours a day. Residential neighborhoods in the area would be significantly impacted with noise, dust, traffic, and the prospect of living adjacent to large processing facilities and continuous gravel operations involving bulldozers, graders, and compactors.

- The project would consume a quantity of PG&E electricity equal to what is used by approximately 5000 homes and emit around 9,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. In this time of climate crisis this is inexcusable.
- The dewatering of the mine would require a purification system to run forever to remove pollutants. Wells are at risk. The outflow would put South Fork Wolf Creek at flood stage with multiple impacts to riparian habitat and to the Grass Valley drainage systems.

From Wolf Creek Community Alliance- Action Alert!

Water
The first six months of mining operations would include dewatering over 70 miles of abandoned mine tunnels by pumping out **3.6 million gallons of water daily** into South Fork Wolf Creek. Thereafter, **1.2 million gallons per day** will be continually pumped from the underground workings. The effect that dewatering will have on wells, Wolf Creek, riparian zones, subterranean groundwater, as well as surface soils and vegetation, is unpredictable.

Air
An estimated **1500 tons of rock** will be removed every day, **24/7**, with up to 100 truck round-trips carrying waste rock to 3 locations, including the Centennial site along the edge of Wolf Creek. In addition to diesel exhaust, there will be dust from bulldozers, graders, and compactors on waste rock which will likely contain naturally occurring arsenic and asbestos.

Safety
Explosives, diesel fuel, chemicals for processing the gold, and various other chemicals will be regularly transported to the site, and stored on site. Explosives will include ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate and Fuel Oil), and Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion.

Greenhouse gases
Full operations of the mine, including fuel for equipment, electricity, exhaust from the daily use of diesel trucks, bulldozers, graders, and compactors, cement paste backfill plant, and other operations are estimated to produce around **9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year**.

How will the mine impact our local creeks and rivers?

At the Brunswick site, the first sixth months of mining operations would include "dewatering" the abandoned mine shafts by pumping 3.6 million gallons of water daily into South Fork Wolf Creek. Once the mine is dewatered, 1.2 million gallons per day (1.9 cfs/ 850 gpm) will be pumped from the underground workings to maintain the dewatered state. Before discharging into the creek, the water would need to be treated to remove the metal contaminants. This water treatment facility will have to operate in perpetuity to prevent the discharge of contaminated water, even after the mine closes in 80 years. These high, artificial water discharges into the creek will disrupt the natural flow regime in the creek, disturbing the life cycles of the organisms that sustain the ecology of this riparian corridor.

It should be noted that it is not possible to predict the full effect that dewatering will have on the underground hydrology in the vicinity with absolute certainty. This includes nearby wells, the creek, riparian zones, and subterranean groundwater.

How will the mine impact air quality?

Mining operations would produce exhaust emissions from trucks and equipment, and dust from ore processing operations, trucking, grading, and compacting of the "engineered fill" as mine waste rock and tailings are deposited at the two planned locations. Air pollution from the chemical discharges associated with mining activities are anticipated. There will be impacts from the use of ammonium nitrate, the explosive used to blast new shafts and tunnels through the bedrock to develop the mine workings. Significant greenhouse gas emissions will be generated by the mine because tremendous amounts of energy are used to extract tons of rock from depths of 5000 to 10,000 feet below surface level and pulverize them to extract the ore.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral of the subterranean rock of this area. Mine tailings and waste rock brought to the surface for processing and disposal will result in arsenic being released into the air as fine dust particles. The most common exposure pathways for humans are through water and air. Mercury vapor emissions from the prior contaminated soils on the site are also of concern.

Many people in the area live on wells. How will the mine impact water quality and quantity?

Since the closure of the Idaho-Maryland mine in 1956, residential neighborhoods have developed around the site. There are approximately 350 homes within a 1000 foot radius of the mineral rights boundary area that rely on wells to supply their water.

The geology of this area contains networks of fractures and faults in the rock that fill with water and provide water to local wells. The recent experience of the local San Juan Ridge Mine demonstrated that mining can have unpredictable consequences for wells near its operations. Should wells fail or become contaminated as a result of mining activity, affected households would have to connect to another water supplier, most likely NID. The impacts and scope of this problem are unknown.

How will the mine impact noise and vibration in the area?

Construction of the above ground facilities will last for 18 months. Unregulated construction noise may occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the duration of the construction. In order to permit an industrial mining operation, site rezoning will increase maximum allowable sound levels affecting surrounding residential communities.

Once mining operations commence, underground blasting and mining operations will continue 24 hours a day for 80 years. Vibration from crushing, truck loading and other operations may transmit through the ground to nearby residences. Haul trucks will transport rock between the New Brunswick mine access shaft and processing site on East Bennet to the Centennial site. This will increase traffic and noise along Brunswick Rd and Whispering Pines Blvd. Grading and compacting with heavy equipment will occur on both sites.

How will the mine affect traffic?

Waste rock and tailings haul trucks will make up to 100 roundtrips a day, 7 days a week, from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM which equates to about one heavy truck passing every 10 minutes all day, every day. The trucks will use Brunswick Rd to reach Whispering Pines lane and to access Hwy 49. Additional truck trips will transport fuel oil, diesel fuel, explosives, large amounts of cement for backfill, and other supplies, as well as gold mining concentrate transported out of the area for further processing.

Mine operations would entail two shifts a day for 300 workers travelling from and to the Brunswick site. The safety hazards from heavy haul truck traffic during winter conditions and destruction of local roads from the heavy haul truck traffic are of concern.

How will the mine affect real estate/ property values?

“Projects with unknowns like mining projects hurt values. Perception becomes reality.” (Local real estate agent, 8/3/2020) The projected impacts associated with the Rise Gold Idaho Maryland Mine (IMM) and the Centennial Mine Cleanup projects include noise, dust, and dewatering of the mine into Wolf Creek. This could impact water tables and well performance. In addition the project description notes up to

100 dump truck loads daily from the IMM to the Centennial site. Questions regarding impacts to home owners and their property could lead to weakness in property values. When another mining company proposed to reopen IMM between 2005 and 2012, new homes near the proposed site saw a dramatic value decline.

From:	Geri Stout
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho-Maryland Mine Issues
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:49 AM
Attachments:	Rise Gold Application.docx Action Alert.docx Community Environmental Advocates.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley,

As a resident of Grass Valley since 1987 and of the county since 1976, I have observed so many impacts from mining in our area. I participated in water monitoring for many years with Wolf Creek Community Alliance, was one of the founding members, served on the Board of Directors until recent years and I am currently on the Advisory Board. As a person caring about environmental issues with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and M.S. in Renewable Resources, I do feel that my concerns should be voiced.

We cannot allow for the reopening of the mine which will cause dewatering that will have an impact on upstream and downstream wells, as well as on more contaminants entering the waterway. The traffic, noise and continued impacts cannot be allowed by our county. Even though Rise Gold presented through a series of paid reprinted historic articles in our local paper concerning the operation of the Idaho Maryland Mining Company; they only presented ones on positive economic results and events from the past. Nothing was shown about the deaths, injuries, contamination which included while continuing to include arsenic, nickel, zinc, and lead. The noise of the stamp mills was only halted at times of cave ins and other disasters, when injuries and deaths occured. The nuns of Mt St Mary's cared for mining orphans.

Rise Gold does NOT have a record of any regard for environmental factors and it has already overstepped its boundaries within our county many times.
I am attaching a list of issues that are posted on Wolf Creek Community Alliance's website that show noncompliance as well as many concerns that the county should weigh very heavily in any discussion of Rise Gold's application. If you have not seen this comprehensive list, please take the time to download and read it and share with your other decision makers.
And you may also have already seen the second attachment, if so please excuse the repetition, BUT it is so important and so well stated in an Action Alert by Wolf Creek Community Alliance.
And because so many citizens care about our environment and its health AND our health I am also attaching a third set of facts. This one is from Community environmental Advocates.

Please do not support the reopening and the ensuing issues for many of our citizens. Our air and water quality will deteriorate more, and traffic congestion and noise will increase greatly. I have dear friends that own their home on Bennett St with frontage on South Wolf Creek. Their source of water is a well. Their beautiful home of many years will be so damaged and degraded economically and environmentally.

Sincerely,
Geri Stout
101 Bawden Ave.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Chris Streng
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi-
As a long time Nevada County resident (Cedar Ridge specifically), I'm writing to voice my opposition to the proposed reopening of the mine at Idaho-Maryland.
While mining has a long tradition here in Nevada County, I feel that the current ecological climate cannot sustainably support this new mine. My concerns include the toxification of groundwater, the inevitable noise of a 24/7 mining operation and the increased traffic to name just a few.
I won't waste your time with a long letter but I would like to add my voice to the growing list of residents who oppose reopening this operation.
I have no knowledge of how these kinds of things work on a governmental level and I assume that if you've already made up your mind, a single email won't change the course of action however I cannot, in good conscience, allow the mine to re-open without voicing my strong opposition to it. Do you really want to be the person who OK'd this plan when years down the road, our beautiful community has been spoiled with toxic runoff, ecological blight and no local financial gains?
Again, please deny the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine.
Thanks for your time.
A concerned citizen,
Chris Streng
13125 Burma Rd
Grass Valley CA 95945

From: Barry Stukin <bstukin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,
I have lived here in Grass Valley since 1980 and just love our small town.

I AM DEFINITELY AGAINST OPENING THIS OLD MINE SITE!!!

By now you probably have received many letters against opening of the mine.
You by now are aware of all the issues our community has concern about like wells/water, toxicity, traffic, noise etc.
I would like to add this thought.
Why open the mine? It simply provides profit for the owner and his company.
Gold really has no practical use for society to benefit from.
For years underdeveloped 3rd world countries have been mined for profits only.

So I hope you see these thoughts and their truths to stop the opening.
Your support is appreciated in advance.
Sincerely,
Barry Stukin
14010 Lower Colfax Road
Grass Valley

From: Barry Stukin
To: 3jewels3@gmail.com; Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION PLEASE - Massive Environmental Impacts of Impending Re-opening of Idaho Maryland Mine in Grass Valley -
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:18:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for this.
I too sent a letter.
Ganga

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Sun, Aug 9, 2020 at 2:48 PM, David Kimmel <3jewels3@gmail.com> wrote:

> Massive Environmental Impacts of Idaho Maryland Mine Re-opening on our Grass Valley/Nevada City Community
>
> To: Matt Kelley
> Senior Planner
> Nevada County
> matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
> 530-265-1423
>
> Deadline for Comments: 5 p.m. August 17, 2020
>
> Purpose of Comments: To help steer the direction of the draft environmental impact report
>
> Dear Mr. Kelley,
>
> I have serious concerns of the Idaho Maryland Mine Re-opening creating strong negative environmental

impacts of the Grass Valley and surrounding area.

As I began to research this topic, I did a simple google search and I used my common sense.

Firstly, the google search. I asked: “What are the common impacts that mines have on their surrounding environment?”

The answer from Wikipedia was “Environmental impacts of mining can occur at local, regional, and global scales through direct and indirect mining practices. Impacts can result in erosion, sinkholes, loss of biodiversity, or the contamination of **soil**, groundwater, and surface **water** by the chemicals emitted from mining processes.”

Negative impacts from mining is an expected occurrence.

Secondly, it occurs to me that it should be common sense that mines have a negative impact on their surrounding areas and certainly known to those of us who live in the Grass Valley area.

We don’t have to look far. Go by the Empire Mine State Park, located not far from the Idaho Maryland site, and see all the very expensive work that had to be done to attempt to mitigate the toxic impacts of this former mining operation in our community. Might I add

that the owners of the mine who made quite a bit of money from the mining operations did not pay at all for this very expensive and imperfect reclaiming of the land and remediation of massive amounts of poisonous mine by-products.

Should we be so naive to think these type of impacts have gone away because we happen to be in the 21st century?

Why would we in our right minds even consider starting a new large mining operation in our community?

Unless we didn't care about the negative environmental impact.

Please do not attempt to cover up the basic facts in complicated reports or slanted research paid for by mining companies that don't care a darn about our community and as business people only care about getting a profit and doing whatever is necessary to pass the test and get started on their project.

The extensive negative impacts would be:
Negative impact on water.
Negative impact on air.
Negative impact on surrounding property values and lives of our citizens.
Negative impacts of noise of a 24/7 operation (may I remind you that the Idaho-Maryland Mine less than 1

mile from the commercial centers of our town and even closer to residences.)
Negative impacts on road use with massive numbers of loaded large trucks running all day every day.

I’m quite sure there are more impacts than these.

Mr. Kelley, please don’t sacrifice the well-being of our community by not clearly stating the negative impacts that are expected, likely or possible in the above areas.

Thank you,
David Kimmel
Lake Wildwood Resident

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project EIR

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please consider our suggested requirements to be included in the EIR for the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine as listed below. Regarding the project, we believe that the potential impact on the Wolf Creek watershed and the surrounding area's watershed are at serious risk, the company's owners have structured themselves to avoid liability associated with any environmental impact, and there is no plan for what will be done when the mine closes.

As for the EIR, we submit the following suggested requirements:

- The Environmental Impact Report should include a thorough evaluation of the water quality of ALL the water to be removed from the mine prior to operation, how water will be treated, procedures for treating and monitoring of post-treated water quality, procedures for monitoring the site after it is closed, and baseline well data for all surface water wells surrounding the mine tunnels.
- Initial water testing should be done at all levels of the mine as areas deeper in the mine complex are likely to contain greater contaminants. In addition, testing of water currently in the mine must also be done after ground disturbance as pumping will disturb sediments such as arsenic, iron, and manganese from the walls and floor of the mine. Such a test will gauge the potential

impact and necessary water treatment of the water as it is removed. A simple water test without agitation of the water will not detect this.

- The proposed mine will dump water into the Wolf Creek watershed which flows 25 miles to Bear River. The EIR should include cost estimates for potential cleanup of hazardous waste such as arsenic, manganese, iron, and sulfuric acid into the watershed. The cost estimates should be graded by contamination levels and areas contaminated based on time and volume of water.
- Once the EIR performs the water testing, a complete set of requirements and guidelines for water treatment should also be included. These guidelines must include required time intervals for testing of treated water dispelled into Wolf Creek. These time intervals can then be used to gauge the amount and areas affected by contamination.
- The EIR should reflect which governmental body is responsible for monitoring water testing, how often tests should be reported to the public, and how often Rise Gold reported water test results should be audited by an independent body.
- The impact of higher water levels in Wolf Creek should also be considered as I am sure we can expect winter flooding as the creek already gets close to flooding during winter storms.
- As water is drained from the mine, sediment samples from the walls of the mine should be taken to ensure that contamination levels are safe for workers.
- A baseline of well production and well water quality should be developed for all wells located within the Rise Gold mineral rights area and all wells located ½ mile outside the boundary of the Rise Gold mineral rights area prior to the start of the project. If mine operations affect wells in the way they did at the San Juan Ridge Mine, such a baseline will provide evidence of guilt should well water quantity and quality be impacted by mine operations. This raises another question, why is Rise offering to

pay for NID water for the neighboring houses that are currently on well water? Will these wells be impacted by well operations? If so, how will other wells potentially be affected? Why is this not included in the scope of the EIR?

- The EIR scope should identify underground fissures that could potentially drain well sources as the mine is drained.
- If new mine tunnels are created, procedures for future local well production and quality should be documented.
- The effect of heavy trucks on traffic patterns, road wear, traffic safety, and the icy conditions and accident history of Brunswick and East Bennett Roads should be included in the scope of the EIR. The currently submitted reports do not include traffic safety impacts, especially in winter months.
- The current noise and vibration study submitted by the applicant only covers areas where there is existing residential housing. The scope of the study needs to go further down Brunswick and along Idaho Maryland Road south of Brunswick where new residential communities are planned.
- The 2,500-acre subsurface mineral rights of Rise Gold are below the propane companies located in the industrial park next to the Nevada County Airport and part of the airport itself. The current vibration study needs to include a geological report of the seismic stability and ability of the propane storage facilities in the industrial park area next to the Nevada County Airport to withstand blasting below those areas. The geological report should also include the potential seismic impacts to the airport.
- The noise study currently uses standard, average noise levels of a heavy truck. The noise study does not consider the noise level of a heavy truck going downhill in low gear on Brunswick or East Bennett. A truck in these circumstances is much louder than the standard noise level referred to in the current study.
- The EIR scope currently includes only testing for asbestos levels in the mine and tailings. The scope should include testing for arsenic, iron, manganese, and mercury levels, especially

since the tailings from previous mine operations are known to contain arsenic.

- The Aesthetics Report submitted by the applicant states that the changes made to the views from Centennial Drive south and from Brunswick Road south will be insignificantly changed by the mine operations. What is currently a view of trees is going to become a view of a landfill as mine tailings are going to be placed on the southern end of the Brunswick site and apparently all over the Centennial site. Not only is the landfill a significant change to the view, the tailings will potentially contain arsenic, iron, manganese, chromium, and sulfides, thus exacerbating an already contaminated area. Everyone is presuming that the new tailings will be contaminant free while it is known with 100% certainty that the old tailings from previous mine operations were tainted with arsenic. The EIR should include procedures for testing these tailings as they are placed in areas where they will likely leach into groundwater.
- The applicant intends to use sulfides to extract the gold through a filtration system. Sulfuric acid is not mentioned anywhere in the EIR scope and should be.
- In the NOP meeting, it was mentioned that the County's experts will be reviewing mine related data. Can your office please list the names of these experts, how they are selected, and previous projects they have done for Nevada and other counties. This same information should be provided for the firm doing the EIR report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken and Elise Stupi
13068 Madrona Leaf Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	Elise Piscopos Stupi
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	ken stupi
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Comment Letter
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 1:01:58 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR K. Stupi Comments 8.14.20.pdf Idaho Maryland Mine Stupi EIR Comment Letter.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Our signed Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Comment Letter is attached in a PDF file format. I've also attached an unsigned Word version in case there's a problem with the PDF. **Please confirm receipt.**

Thank you,
Elise and Ken Stupi

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project EIR

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please consider our suggested requirements to be included in the EIR for the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine as listed below. Regarding the project, we believe that the potential impact on the Wolf Creek watershed and the surrounding area's watershed are at serious risk, the company's owners have structured themselves to avoid liability associated with any environmental impact, and there is no plan for what will be done when the mine closes.

As for the EIR, we submit the following suggested requirements:

- The Environmental Impact Report should include a thorough evaluation of the water quality of ALL the water to be removed from the mine prior to operation, how water will be treated, procedures for treating and monitoring of post-treated water quality, procedures for monitoring the site after it is closed, and baseline well data for all surface water wells surrounding the mine tunnels.
- Initial water testing should be done at all levels of the mine as areas deeper in the mine complex are likely to contain greater contaminants. In addition, testing of water currently in the mine must also be done after ground disturbance as pumping will disturb sediments such as arsenic, iron, and manganese from the walls and floor of the mine. Such a test will gauge the potential

impact and necessary water treatment of the water as it is removed. A simple water test without agitation of the water will not detect this.

- The proposed mine will dump water into the Wolf Creek watershed which flows 25 miles to Bear River. The EIR should include cost estimates for potential cleanup of hazardous waste such as arsenic, manganese, iron, and sulfuric acid into the watershed. The cost estimates should be graded by contamination levels and areas contaminated based on time and volume of water.
- Once the EIR performs the water testing, a complete set of requirements and guidelines for water treatment should also be included. These guidelines must include required time intervals for testing of treated water dispelled into Wolf Creek. These time intervals can then be used to gauge the amount and areas affected by contamination.
- The EIR should reflect which governmental body is responsible for monitoring water testing, how often tests should be reported to the public, and how often Rise Gold reported water test results should be audited by an independent body.
- The impact of higher water levels in Wolf Creek should also be considered as I am sure we can expect winter flooding as the creek already gets close to flooding during winter storms.
- As water is drained from the mine, sediment samples from the walls of the mine should be taken to ensure that contamination levels are safe for workers.
- A baseline of well production and well water quality should be developed for all wells located within the Rise Gold mineral rights area and all wells located ½ mile outside the boundary of the Rise Gold mineral rights area prior to the start of the project. If mine operations affect wells in the way they did at the San Juan Ridge Mine, such a baseline will provide evidence of guilt should well water quantity and quality be impacted by mine operations. This raises another question, why is Rise offering to

pay for NID water for the neighboring houses that are currently on well water? Will these wells be impacted by well operations? If so, how will other wells potentially be affected? Why is this not included in the scope of the EIR?

- The EIR scope should identify underground fissures that could potentially drain well sources as the mine is drained.
- If new mine tunnels are created, procedures for future local well production and quality should be documented.
- The effect of heavy trucks on traffic patterns, road wear, traffic safety, and the icy conditions and accident history of Brunswick and East Bennett Roads should be included in the scope of the EIR. The currently submitted reports do not include traffic safety impacts, especially in winter months.
- The current noise and vibration study submitted by the applicant only covers areas where there is existing residential housing. The scope of the study needs to go further down Brunswick and along Idaho Maryland Road south of Brunswick where new residential communities are planned.
- The 2,500-acre subsurface mineral rights of Rise Gold are below the propane companies located in the industrial park next to the Nevada County Airport and part of the airport itself. The current vibration study needs to include a geological report of the seismic stability and ability of the propane storage facilities in the industrial park area next to the Nevada County Airport to withstand blasting below those areas. The geological report should also include the potential seismic impacts to the airport.
- The noise study currently uses standard, average noise levels of a heavy truck. The noise study does not consider the noise level of a heavy truck going downhill in low gear on Brunswick or East Bennett. A truck in these circumstances is much louder than the standard noise level referred to in the current study.
- The EIR scope currently includes only testing for asbestos levels in the mine and tailings. The scope should include testing for arsenic, iron, manganese, and mercury levels, especially

since the tailings from previous mine operations are known to contain arsenic.

- The Aesthetics Report submitted by the applicant states that the changes made to the views from Centennial Drive south and from Brunswick Road south will be insignificantly changed by the mine operations. What is currently a view of trees is going to become a view of a landfill as mine tailings are going to be placed on the southern end of the Brunswick site and apparently all over the Centennial site. Not only is the landfill a significant change to the view, the tailings will potentially contain arsenic, iron, manganese, chromium, and sulfides, thus exacerbating an already contaminated area. Everyone is presuming that the new tailings will be contaminant free while it is known with 100% certainty that the old tailings from previous mine operations were tainted with arsenic. The EIR should include procedures for testing these tailings as they are placed in areas where they will likely leach into groundwater.
- The applicant intends to use sulfides to extract the gold through a filtration system. Sulfuric acid is not mentioned anywhere in the EIR scope and should be.
- In the NOP meeting, it was mentioned that the County's experts will be reviewing mine related data. Can your office please list the names of these experts, how they are selected, and previous projects they have done for Nevada and other counties. This same information should be provided for the firm doing the EIR report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken and Elise Stupi
13068 Madrona Leaf Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From:	Elise Piscopos Stupi
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	bdofsupervisors; ken stupi
Subject:	Fw: Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Comment Letter
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 10:09:54 AM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR K. Stupi Comments 8.14.20.pdf Idaho Maryland Mine Stupi EIR Comment Letter.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning, Mr. Kelley,

I emailed our Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Comment Letter to you on Friday and have not yet received an acknowledgement of receipt. Thus, I'm now forwarding the original email with attachments as per below and have cc'd the Board of Supervisors. Thank you for your prompt attention and consideration.

Elise and Ken Stupi

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Elise Piscopos Stupi <emcgyr@yahoo.com>
To: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us <matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: ken stupi <kstupi@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020, 01:01:13 PM PDT
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Comment Letter

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Our signed Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Comment Letter is attached in a PDF file format. I've also attached an unsigned Word version in case there's a problem with the PDF. **Please confirm receipt.**

Thank you,
Elise and Ken Stupi

From: Dianna Suarez
To: Matt Kelley; bdofsupervisors
Cc: mineconcerns@cea-nc.org; Sharon Delgado; Traci Sheehan
Subject: re: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:42:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, My name is Dianna Suarez and I live in the Bear River watershed. I am very concerned with the groundwater in our area and everything we need to do to protect the quality and quantity of available groundwater. I am a domestic well user and greatly value free groundwater. I also stand in opposition to the proposed Centennial Reservoir and see this proposal in relation to the general lack of education and information regarding our collective groundwater. Before we continue with projects affecting our groundwater, further studies and greater understanding needs to be demonstrated by decision makers.

Approximately 2 million California residents rely on privately owned domestic wells for drinking water. During the California drought of 2012−16 groundwater levels declined in many parts of the state and wells were deepened in response. Most of the wells deepened during this time were domestic wells that were drilled into fractured bedrock throughout the Sierra Nevada foothills region of northern California. To understand the impacts of extreme drought on groundwater supply availability and quality in this setting, the United States Geological Survey completed a geochemical survey of domestic wells throughout the Yuba and Bear River watersheds during 2015–16 as part of the State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program Priority Basin Project (GAMA-PBP).

Understanding how climate change could affect groundwater recharge in intensively managed watersheds is essential to managing regional vulnerabilities of drinking-water resources. Groundwater supply from fractured bedrock aquifers of the Sierra Nevada foothills and other similar settings is highly dependent on inputs from local precipitation and, therefore, is vulnerable to hydrologic drought. However, homeowner wells located within surface-water irrigation districts also can derive some of their well water indirectly from surface waters diverted for human use that can recharge aquifers during dry times when demand peaks. Human re-plumbing of watersheds is a double-edged sword with respect to groundwater resources; although it can increase recharge to domestic wells during drought, it also can introduce water-quality

vulnerabilities associated with contaminants from untreated surface-water sources. The consideration of groundwater and surface-water interactions and associated water-quality impacts is vital for comprehensive sustainability planning in California and other rapidly developing waterscapes.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1) <!--[endif]-->How will de-watering mine shafts and then continuing to pump out the groundwater affect these ongoing studies meant to understand groundwater sustainability in our local area?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2) <!--[endif]-->How will directing unnaturally high flows down Wolf Creek alter riparian communities, contaminate groundwater, and affect water quality in adjacent domestic wells?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3) <!--[endif]-->How will mine shaft effluent be treated in order to maintain water quality in Wolf Creek and Bear River?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4) <!--[endif]-->How will the cost of substituting free groundwater in domestic wells, with paying thousands of dollars to hook up to the Nevada Irrigation District system, and then forever paying ever increasing water rates, be monetarily compensated to those homes whose wells will fail as the result of this project?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5) <!--[endif]-->Have studies been completed that consider the vast network of mine tunnels under the City of Grass Valley as an underground water storage opportunity?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6) <!--[endif]-->Will these studies be part of the environmental document as a cumulative effect?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->7) <!--[endif]-->Before this project can be considered, a study must be completed to determine the feasibility of this method of groundwater storage including cost per acre foot compared to the cost of building Centennial Reservoir for surface storage cost per acre foot.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->8) <!--[endif]-->What is the total amount in acre feet of groundwater currently contained in the connected mine tunnels associated with this project that will be subject to cumulative impact?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->9) <!--[endif]-->Given the perceived water scarcity in the Sierra Foothills and fear of future climate change, why would the Nevada County Planning Commission consider sending such a cumulatively large volume of water out of the county while at the same time considering spending a billion dollars on a devastating dam on the last of Bear River for water storage?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->10) <!--[endif]-->In 30 years, the amount of water sent out of county would nearly fill Scotts Flat Reservoir. Why commit to such a short sighted plan?

Thank you for comprehensively answering my questions.

Sincerely, Dianna Suarez, Colfax, CA

The Suarez Family Cam, Dianna, Donavon, Jessie and Cruz "Walk tall as the trees, Live strong as the mountains, Be gentle as the spring winds, Keep the summer sun in your heart and the Great Spirit will always be with you."

From: Ed Suchow
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir:

I have lived off Greenhorn Road about 4 miles from the proposed mine site for the last 20 years. I, like many other people in this community, am totally opposed to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine. Mining is an environmental disaster waiting to happen. I know our town's history includes mining and we still suffer from the toxic effects on many properties. We are now a rural community, not a mining town, with families who don't deserve to have this happen here. Pollution and traffic from trucks, possible disasters to our wells, all for a Canadian company who wants their profit despite any community resistance. What if problems arise? Do they file for bankruptcy and leave the mess in our community's lap? The promise of jobs, no doubt going to skilled people that do not live in this community is not worth the potential problems this venture may cause.
Exactly who actually wants this project besides Rise Gold? Certainly no one who lives here and loves this community.
Thank you.
Sincerely, Ed Suchow
18810 Jones Ridge Road
Grass Valley
530 277 2201

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

RE: Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine

August 16, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to this letter to express to you my strong opposition to the reopening and development of the long-closed Idaho Maryland Mine. The environmental and health impact of reopening the mine far outweigh any possible benefit to the local community. The benefit is solely for the development company, not our local community, wildlife and environment. Please put people of Grass Valley and Nevada City in the forefront as you consider allowing the reopening of the mine; not a non-local mining company whose only concern is profit, not the welfare of the community.

My reasons for opposition to the mine:

- The mine is in the middle of the Grass Valley community. Due to the noise and environmental impact, mining like this should never be allowed in the local community. It should only ever be allowed far away from any community (*even then, the environment impact is unacceptable/too great a cost*). No amount of corporate profit is worth the toll this mine will take on the local community, animals, air, ground water and streams.
- Removing water from the mine is a terrible idea.
    - We are in the middle of a prolonged drought. Removal of any ground water puts local wells in jeopardy. Residents need the wells for drinking water and, for some, fire protection. Recall how the local wells were adversely affected by the mine opening on San Juan Ridge a few years ago. ***How can you ensure local residents that they won't lose access to clean drinking water (because they will)?***
    - The water in the mine is contaminated. To treat the water and remove it just puts contaminated waster elsewhere on this earth. Running excess water down Wolf Creek is potentially detrimental to animals who drink the water and fish and other creatures that live and by in the creek, as well as people. Corporate industry has proven time and time again to not be a reliable watchdog for their own pollutants. ***Who will check the water daily to ensure it safe?***

- Unacceptable noise from incessant blasting and mining and trucks (100 a day!) driving on our roads.
    - The noise from mining exploration was reported in the Union earlier this year, with residents close to the mine having to deal with unbearably loud noise. To learn that the Idaho Maryland mine could be running unrelentingly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is totally unacceptable to both residents and wildlife.
    - Trucks – up to 100 a day – loaded with debris from the mine is unsafe for our drivers and totally unacceptable for those who live along the path of the trucks. ***How will our streets be kept safe and quiet?***
- House prices
    - ***Who will compensate homeowners who live close to the mine when their home values drop?***
- Environmental impact:
    - It will increase Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons
    - It will create potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, etc.
    - There will be an unavoidable and significant increase in air pollution (in an area where we already do not have good air quality due to pollutants that come up from the Sacramento Valley).
    - All of this could open Nevada County to lawsuits.
    - ***Who will keep our air and water safe?***

We moved to this area because of the natural beauty, quiet and lack of development. The mine will not only serve to incent us to move, but will also dissuade others from moving to this area. And importantly, it will send a strong message that local government/decision makers do not have the interest of the local community top of mind, as they should, a further incentive for us to leave the area. I was not going to write a letter because I didn't believe it would make a difference. Please prove me wrong.

Sincerely,

Theresa Sullivan

Grass Valley, CA

From:	Theresa Sullivan
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:09 AM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello - Please see the attached letter for my feedback on the re-opening and development of the Idaho Maryland Mine.
Sincerely,
Theresa Sullivan
Grass Valley, CA

From: Iona Swift
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Concerned Citizen Iona Swift"s Questions Re: Idaho Maryland "Mine"
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Iona Swift

PO box 1674
Cedar Ridge, CA
95924

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 20 years. I love the peace, the quiet, and the natural beauty of this area.

I know that mining was once the mainstay of this community, but I do not find this past worth returning to merely for the sake of "tradition". The scars on the landscape and on the psyche of the native Nisenan are as much a legacy as the gold that fed the local economy for a brief moment in time. Ultimately, most of the wealth that was extracted from the land- at great cost to the environment and native culture- ended up in the hands of a privileged few, who hoarded it. I'm afraid not much has changed with the way that we humans do business in 2020, which is why I am extremely concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

I would like to know the following:

What will the noise and vibration levels from mine operations and mine truck traffic be? How will this impact human and wild animal health?

How many of the jobs created by the mine would actually be entry level or include extensive technical training, so that local residents could apply for them with a reasonable chance of being hired? Will the pay rate for these jobs be at least $15 an hour, aka, a living wage for this county and this state?

Where will the majority of the money from this company end up? In our county? In Canada?

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

-The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

-The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

-The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

-The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

-A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would also like to know the following:

What will the noise and vibration levels from mine operations and mine truck traffic be? How will this impact human and wild animal health?

How many of the jobs created by the mine would actually be entry level or include extensive technical training, so that local residents could apply for them with a reasonable chance of being hired? Will the pay rate for these jobs be at least $15 an hour, aka, a living wage for this county and this state?

Where will the majority of the money from this company end up? In our county? In Canada?

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have for me.

Sincerely,

Iona Swift

(530) 263-6199
Student

From: Lucetta Swift
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold Permit
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:43:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

First, the "gold rush" days of early California are over, or should be. The destruction of our mountains and rivers, forests and meadows, and wildlife habitat, all blindly executed by wealthy mine owners, should not be given permission to repeat these assaults in the year 2020.

This project will cause only harm to our area through the contamination of our air, land and water. There will be pollution on every level including continuous noise from equipment and vehicles. I do not live in the mine area, but my heart goes out to all the residents, including the animal life and habitat, that will be impacted.

This project has the potential of changing Grass Valley forever, but not in a positive way. Please consider all the factors. Rise Gold will walk away with the gold. The dollars earned by our community will not be worth the cost to our environment.

Please Do NOT approve the Rise Gold Permit.

Sincerely,
Lucetta Swift
Grass Valley

-----Original Message-----
From: Tache <tache@together.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 7:35 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley and all Planning Commission members,

My family and I are very concerned about the reopening of the gold mine. The water concerns are huge for local wells and for local water supply. The toxic waste problem is also huge. We have

friends who live near the mine, and they complain of 24 hour noise and their fear of 24 hour truck traffic. That has been a residential area for a long time now, and property values there would plummet. No one wants to live near a mine.

The energy needed for extraction is also huge. The company is foreign, and there wouldn't be enough local jobs to justify the huge water use, water pollution, noise, truck traffic, waste problems. PLEASE say no to this prospect. I haven't spoken to a single resident of our area that is in favor of this mining project. Seriously, not one person.

Thank you.
Janet Taché
Penn Valley, CA
530-274-7383
tache@together.net

From:	Donna Taggart
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	The Rise Gold Corporation Project
Date:	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 3:46:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Donna Taggart and Peter Selaya
638 Zion Street
Nevada City, CA. 95959
home phone: 530-265-4314

To Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Dear. Mr. Kelley,

We have recently become aware of the Rise Gold Corporation's proposed project in our community. We attended the Scoping Meeting to learn about what is proposed and hear what the Planning Department is doing about it. After hearing about all that they propose to do we were stunned that this is even being considered. Our question is "Why?". Although we don't understand the process and why it is necessary, we think and feel that our community should be protected from this kind of situation, where a company from out of our community can buy property and proceed to degrade and disrupt our land and our neighbor's home environments with their goal of monetary gain. That being said, we know that there is an Environmental Impact Report in development and concerned citizens are being asked to voice what might be included in that report.
There was something that wasn't mentioned and that is "disaster implications". One example would be if the mining creates an earthquake (since there is a known seismic zone in the area) and the holding pond is breached sending contaminated water into the well water of the neighbor's and Wolf Creek. Contamination and loss of the water table is an historic issue with mining. Blasting and drilling underground (as fracking is an example) is known to destabilize the earth and it's underground support structures. There are, of course, other future possibilities that could create unforeseen damage as well.
Looking into the future, this company plans to take what they can from our community and move on, leaving our county with an unknown degradation to clean up.
Please consider that the public needs to be heard. During this time of COVID19 there is an opportunity for corporations to take advantage of the inability to have public meetings and let things go unnoticed until it's too late. Please be a strong advocate for our community and please don't allow this to go forward until public meetings can be held.

Thank you for your time and good work.

Donna Taggart and Peter Selaya

Sent from my iPad

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

August 17, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing on behalf of myself and two Grass Valley residents who have lived in Grass Valley for 30 years. As long-term residents of Nevada County, we have a vested interest in the health and wellbeing of our community and environment. As such, we are deeply concerned about the potential environmental impact of proposed Idaho Maryland Mine, especially considering the past industry practices of Rise Gold Corp.'s CEO Mr. Ben Mossman, formerly of Banks Island Gold Ltd.

PREAMBLE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Between 2014 and July of 2015, Mr. Mossman, President, Director and CEO of Banks Island Gold Ltd. operated a mine in Banks Island in B.C. Canada.[1] On July 15, 2015, after receiving a complaint that the company had unlawfully discharged tailings into the environment at the mine site, the Canadian Ministry of Environment along with several regulatory agencies,[2] inspected the site and issued a Pollution Abatement Order to Banks Island Gold Ltd.[3] The order alleged that the company had released tailings and effluent into a creek, a lake, a pond, as well as forest and wetland on Banks Island and determined that the tailings would continue to seep if activities were not stopped.[4] The company was ordered to commence clean-up procedures[5] and was also issued a cease and desist order requiring Banks Island Gold Ltd. to shut down operations until they came into environmental compliance.[6]

[1] https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/mining-company-facing-charges-for-alleged-damage-to-hecate-strait-island-1.3719194
[2] *Environmental Protection Division (Ministry), Conservation Officer Service, Environment Canada,* and *Ministry of Energy and Mines.*
[3] *Environment Management Act:* Pollution Abatement Order, July 15, 2015; served on Banks Island Gold Ltd. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2KowAr9EF9FZDg2RUZJSEZGTDA/view
[4] *Environment Management Act:* Pollution Abatement Order, July 15, 2015; served on Banks Island Gold Ltd. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2KowAr9EF9FZDg2RUZJSEZGTDA/view
[5] *Environment Management Act:* Pollution Abatement Order, July 15, 2015; served on Banks Island Gold Ltd. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2KowAr9EF9FZDg2RUZJSEZGTDA/view
[6] https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/mining-company-facing-charges-for-alleged-damage-to-hecate-strait-island-1.3719194

Under Canadian law, any clean-up costs associated with environmental spills must be paid for by the mine's owners.[7] However, Banks Island Gold Ltd. filed for bankruptcy on January 7, 2016 (only six months after it was shut down),[8] leaving the company unable to finance clean-up obligations.[9] The Canadian Government was stuck with an estimated $1.6 million clean-up cost, only $420,000 of which was funded by Banks Island Gold Ltd. in the form of their seized security bond.[10]

Mr. Mossman and two employees were later charged with violating 35 provincial and federal environmental laws, but he was convicted of only two of the charges and ordered to pay a $15,000 penalty.[11] Mr. Banks was also charged with criminal obstruction of justice related to the investigation of the underlying charges laid under the Environmental Management Act, but was acquitted of those charges.[12]

A year after the mine's closure, approximately two-hundred kilograms of waste material still remained at the site in the streams around the mine while the Canadian Government continued to discuss who would pay for the clean-up.[13] Notably, Mr. Mossman's bio on the Rise Gold Corps. website states, "Previously, as CEO, he lead the exploration, permitting, financing, construction, and operation of a profitable gold mine in British Columbia which was one of the only hard rock metal mines in the world to use pre-concentration (DMS) to eliminate all surface disposal of tailings."[14] As demonstrated above, this is far from the truth.

REQUESTS FOR ANALYSES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

In light of Mr. Mossman's history, we believe our County should be extremely concerned about the potential environmental impact of reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine. With the above in mind, below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

[7] https://www.bclocalnews.com/news/court-date-looms-for-banks-island-gold-mine-ceo/
[8] Rise Gold Corp. *Notice of Annual General Meeting*, June 24, 2020, pp. 9-10.
[9] https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/b-c-may-be-on-hook-to-clean-up-banks-island-mine-mess; https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/bankrupt-mining-company-now-faces-35-charges-for-banks-island-mess/
[10] https://www.mining.com/gitxaala-nation-accuses-b-c-government-of-delaying-mining-site-clean-up/; https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/bankrupt-mining-company-now-faces-35-charges-for-banks-island-mess/
[11] https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/court-assesses-15000-penalty-in-banks-island-mine-case/
[12] https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/ex-ceo-of-banks-island-gold-mine-acquitted-of-obstruction-charge/
[13] https://www.mining.com/gitxaala-nation-accuses-b-c-government-of-delaying-mining-site-clean-up/ [According to James Witzke, Environmental Assessment Manager at Gitxaala[13] Environmental Monitoring Office in BC Canada, "What we believe is happening is that the site is under receivership and the receiver is trying to find a mining company to purchase the lease, in order to recover the funds that were lost when Banks Island Gold declared bankruptcy. We believe the government is waiting for a company to come along and do that, so the government doesn't have to spend its own money on clean-up."]
[14] https://www.risegoldcorp.com/management-team

1. **How will Rise Gold Corp. handle and process the quantity of water that will be pumped from the site?**
    a. According to the p. 8 of the *Nevada County Community Development Agency Mineral Exploration and/or Extraction Planning Department Environmental Assessment* ("Environmental Assessment"), Rise Gold Corp. plans to pump a total of 3,600,000 gallons per day (approximately 2500 gpm) from the site. This is almost three times the amount the Nevada County Sanitation District collects and treats per day.[15] According to the Project description, 2500 acre feet will be pumped over a six month period into a clay-lined settling pond that only has 40 acre feet capacity. How will this volume of water be effectively managed?

2. **Impact on South Fork Wolf Creek:**
    b. How will pumping into the creek impact the aquatic and other life? According to §6.3 of the Project Description, water will be pumped into South Fork Wolf Creek. Given the high volume of pumping (3,600,000 gallons/day) and limited capacity of the settling pond:
        i. What quantity of water will be pumped into the creek on an hourly/daily/weekly/monthly/yearly basis?
        ii. How will the alteration of the stream and influx of water affect aquatic and animal life?

3. **How will the drawing down of the water table impact local residents in the area?**
    c. According to p. 12 of the Environmental Assessment, pumping of ground water could result in draw-down of the water table.
        i. How will this impact local residents' access to water?
        ii. Will there any subsidence of the surrounding residential or industrial areas?

4. **Impact of Heavy Traffic on Wildlife:**
    d. Per §7.8 of the Project Description and p. 19 of the Environmental Assessment, approximately 100-210 5-axle, 20 ton trucks will travel along Whispering Pines Lane and Brunswick Road:
        i. How will the increase in heavy traffic in these areas impact wildlife in the area?

[15] There are 10 zones within the Sanitation District with facilities that collect and treat 1,245,000 gallons of wastewater each day. The Sanitation District provides sewer service to 5,230 accounts in western Nevada County with a population of 14,000, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/1590/Wastewater.

5. **Impact of Increased Noise and Vibration Levels:**
    e. According to p. 13 of the Environmental Assessment, the project will result in a change in existing noise and vibration levels in the vicinity.
        i. How will this impact local wildlife habitat and activities?

6. **Overall Impact on plants and animals:**
    f. According to p. 14 of the Environmental Assessment, the project will cause changes in the species, or the number of plants and animals:
        i. How will mining activities impact the number of plants and animals and species in the area?
    g. According to p. 14 of the Environmental Assessment, the project will result in the loss or reduction of endangered species:
        i. What species will be impacted and to what degree?

7. **Fill Disposal:**
    h. Per §6.6 of the Project Description, 1.5 million tons of engineered fill will be transported to the Centennial Industrial site over a 5-year period. This fill is to be added to pre-existing toxic tailings already on site:
        i. What measures will be taken to reduce the contamination of the area and of the fill being moved to the site?
        ii. What is the plan and impact beyond the 5-year period.
    i. 2.2 million tons of engineered fill will be transported to the Brunswick industrial site over a 6-year period:
        i. What measures will be taken to reduce the contamination of the area and of the fill being moved to the site?
        ii. What is the plan and impact beyond the 6-year period?

8. **Referring to Legend Note 1, in Figure 5 of the NOP stating, "South Fork Wolf Creek Discharge Point." The existing road to be used for the above ground pipeline is in question:**
    a. What is being called an "existing road" is currently a small, rarely used trail. The road may have been a road at some point in time, but does not have the width and compaction needed to be considered a road. Is this suitable to hold a pipeline?
    b. Does the "road" have the capacity to hold a pipeline without having to be re-graded or improved?
    c. If grading or other improvements to the road are required, what materials will be used?
    d. Will heavy equipment be needed to build, install, and maintain the pipeline?
    e. How will this equipment cross the creek and what are the impacts that will have on the creek structure, natural course, water quality, and flora and fauna?

f. Does the construction of a more suitable road void their current Management Plan for allowance to develop within 100’ setback of a Perennial Creek? Or how does it change their Management Plan?

Thank you for considering the above questions as you conduct your EIR. A copy of this letter has also been provided to Community Environmental Advocates at mineconcerns@cea-nc.org.

Sincerely,

Sarah Taranto
Lonnie Lasley
Wendy Sinclair

From:	sarah taranto
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Lonnie Lasley; Wendy Sinclair; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Comment Letter
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:21:43 PM
Attachments:	Nevada Couty Mining Project EIR Letter.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please find my EIR Comment Letter regarding the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine, written on behalf of myself and two Grass Valley residents, attached to this email. A copy of this letter has also been provided to Community Environmental Advocates at mineconcerns@cea-nc.org.

Regards,

Sarah Taranto
Lonnie Lasley
Wendy Sinclair

From: Annette Taylor, Virtual Assistant <virtualvamps@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: gold mine NOISE impact

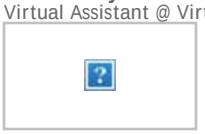
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm wondering what the noise levels will be. Many of us work from home and the noise would be horrible to focus. What will the decibel levels be?

Warmly,
Annette @ Murphy St

Annette Taylor
Virtual Assistant @ Virtual VAMPS



(408) 757-7720 Call or Text
www.virtualvamps.biz
Professional Administrative Support, Virtually!

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Matt.kelley@co.nevada.us

Dear Mr. Kelley

I am writing to identify the issues I think should be addressed in the DEIR for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine. I am writing as a private citizen.

Concern #1 Dewatering of domestic water supplies outside the site boundary and Concern #2 Dewatering of Wolf Creek and ephemeral tributaries.

California now has a statewide policy of a human right to water and there are numerous programs that require counties and other entities to take water budgets for domestic groundwater supplies into account during planning activities. California also has laws that prevent dewatering of streams and waterbodies as unacceptable environmental impacts.

The proposed mine site lies in a fractured bedrock aquifer system that serves as the primary domestic water supply for residents living beyond NID infrastructure. The density pf private wells in the area can be found in Johnson and Belitz (2017). A recent study indicates that domestic water supplies in the area are already being affected by development (Levy and others, 2019 and 2020) as groundwater levels across the more heavily populated areas of the County have been declining since the early 1970s. The same study also found that very local precipitation and irrigation water from NID's canal system are the primary source of recharge in the study area. This implies that any dewatering of domestic wells and/or Wolf Creek would only be reversable if new/augmented water supplies were available to refill a drained system.

Fractured rock aquifers cannot be mapped in the detail required to predict how mine dewatering would affect groundwater supply availability and streamflow changes—the only way to determine where effects would occur is by experiment. The currently proposed water supply pipeline may not be sufficient.

I strongly recommend that a water budget study be part of the DEIR, and that study include economic analyses of mitigation costs that include securing augmented water supplies in the event of inappropriate effects on domestic water supplies and/or flows in Wolf Creek. The augmented supply analysis should include ways to treat, store, and recycle water pumped out of the mine and additional collaborations with NID to achieve this purpose. It should not be assumed that NID's current supply system has enough supply to compensate for dewatered domestic and environmental uses.

The current proposal to discharge treated water into Wolf Creek would not address dewatering of wells and streambeds above the discharge location.

Concern #3 Changes in the hydrology of Wolf Creek

The proposed discharge of treated water in Wolf Creek would likely represent a significant shift in the hydrologic regime of the creek. An analysis of potential shifts in water flow volume and timing and potential geomorphic changes (downstream erosion and deposition patterns, sediment transport, floodplain shifts, etc.) should be conducted to determine how the proposed flow augmentation would affect flood risks and sensitive downstream areas.

Concern #4 Traffic and road issues

The area around the Centennial Site, and in particular Idaho-Maryland Road, is in a road corridor that currently has infrastructure problems including erosion into/ by Wolf Creek, poor road surfaces, narrow and absent shoulders, and high traffic. The DEIR should study how the project will augment these problems, what road infrastructure would be appropriate for projected use, and the cost to upgrade the area to meet those infrastructure standards. At a minimum, the project should not cause any increase in traffic along the segment of Idaho-Maryland between Sutton Way and Brunswick Rd.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments

Kim

Kim Taylor
10231 Mills Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Ktaylor.ca@gmail.com

Johnson, T.D., and Belitz, K., 2015, Identifying the location and population served by domestic wells in California: Journal of Hydrology—Regional Studies, v. 3, p. 31–86, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrh.2014.09.002.

Levy, Z., Fram, M.S., and Taylor, K.A., 2019, Effects of surface-water use on domestic groundwater availability and quality during drought in the Sierra Nevada foothills, California: US Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2019-3077, https://doi.org/10.3133/fs20193077.

Levy, Z., Fram, M.S., Faulkner, K., Alpers, C.N., Soltero, E.M., and Taylor, K.A., 2020, Effects of montane watershed development on vulnerability of domestic groundwater supply during drought: Journal of Hydrology, v. 583, p. 124567, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2020.124567.

From:	K Taylor
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	comments on scoping for Idaho Maryland Mine DEIR
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 10:13:55 AM
Attachments:	Public Comments ID-MD Scoping.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Kelley

Please find attached my suggestions for the issues the project proponent should fully analyze in the DEIR process.

Thank you

Kim Taylor
Grass Valley, CA

From: Louise Taylor <let@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:39 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Brian Foss <Brian.Foss@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>; Louise Taylor <let@berkeley.edu>; Sterling Bailey <sterling.bailey@att.net>; Kim & Chris Pierson <kimchris116@att.net>; Teri Heauser <heauser@sbcglobal.net>; Dianne Fenton <rdfenton@sbcglobal.net>; Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>; Dan Miller <Dan.Miller@co.nevada.ca.us>; Ed Scofield <Ed.Scofield@co.nevada.ca.us>; Sue Hoek <Sue.Hoek@co.nevada.ca.us>; Richard Anderson <Richard.Anderson@co.nevada.ca.us>; publiccomment@co.nevada.ca.us
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Draft EIR

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Wawona Madrono Homeowners Association

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

August 12, 2020

Nevada County Planning Department

Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelley;

As President of the Wawona Madrono Homeowners Association, with thirty-nine households located at the end of Loma Rica Dr., I write about several concerns that we believe should be addressed in the Draft EIR during the Scope period for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project.

First, the **Traffic Impact Analysis** should consider the impact on traffic at the intersection of Brunswick and Loma Rica. There are a number of cars and service vehicles using that intersection to interact with the numerous business and industrial facilities, in addition to airport services and residential areas. When there is snow, can the large transport trucks leaving Whispering Pines gain adequate traction after stopping at the Loma Rica red lights and can they stop at the light coming down the hill with their heavy loads?

Second, to what extent might the **Airport** be impacted since the majority of employees will work 7 days ON and 7 days OFF? Will Rise Gold Corp. or a new commercial carrier be flying employees and others in and out of the Nevada County Airport?

Third, a **Geological Report of the seismic stability** needs to study the ability of the Propane fields in the Industrial Park area next to the Airport to withstand blasting below those areas.

Fourth, in crushing and loading rock, what will the **decibel levels** be and how far will these be carried? Is the noise level dependent upon the direction of the wind?

Fifth, how far from the site and in what direction will the **air be impacted** by the heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volumes, and the release of unhealthy particulate matter from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic chemicals and heavy metals?

Sixth, will the provision of **NID water** to the Mines and residents who have lost their well water create problems for agriculture and other dependent properties during drought years?

Seventh, there needs to be a **geological/hydrological evaluation** of the impact on water tables and the potential loss of well water for neighboring properties within a **3 mile radius** of the Brunswick project, including those at higher elevations where water drains down hill to the proposed development. Included in this analysis needs to be a study of the impact on the surrounding forests and vegetation of lowered water tables, if that is found to be the case.

Eighth, the Fehr & Peers Memorandum dated 3/24/20, Idaho-Mine Project – **Vehicle Mile Travel Analysis**, page 3, states: "According to the trip generation estimates provided by KD Anderson & Associates, truck trips are not included in this analysis. The total trip generation for the employee traffic only is 178 trips inbound and 178 trips outbound." This Analysis should (a) include Truck Trips and (b) was based upon Building Square Footage (above ground) and should include the underground miners working over 2,000 square feet of mines.

Ninth, citizens are interested in the **Economic Impact** on the County, from the proposed project as should be the Board of Supervisors. It is difficult to perceive what this impact is without considering:

- Will there be a **reduction in property tax revenu**e from property within a close proximity of the mines where the owners anticipate a substantial decline in the value of that property?
- Will 312 Mine employees and particularly those on the 7 day, 12 hour shifts who are from out of the area **exacerbate the shortage of affordable housing and increase rental rates**?
- Will increased reliance on **County services** such as law enforcement, schools, county Department of Transportation, recreation, inspection and regulations be **offset by** sales taxes, property taxes, and possibly increased taxes paid by or future taxes imposed on the project?
- What is the estimated future income to the County that will **benefit taxpayers by reducing the increase in property taxes**?

Thank you for considering these concerns and including them in the Draft EIR.

Louise Taylor

Louise Taylor, President, Wawona Madrono Homeowners Association

Cc: Brian Foss, Planning Director, Nevada County Planning Department

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

WMHOA Board of Directors

Wawona Madrono Homeowners Association
Louise Taylor, President
14121 Loma Rica Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-477-9888
Email "Louise Taylor" *let@berkeley.edu*

August 12, 2020

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelley;

As President of the Wawona Madrono Homeowners Association, with thirty-nine households located at the end of Loma Rica Dr., I write about several concerns that we believe should be addressed in the Draft EIR during the Scope period for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project.

First, the **Traffic Impact Analysis** should consider the impact on traffic at the intersection of Brunswick and Loma Rica. There are a number of cars and service vehicles using that intersection to interact with the numerous business and industrial facilities, in addition to airport services and residential areas. When there is snow, can the large transport trucks leaving Whispering Pines gain adequate traction after stopping at the Loma Rica red lights and can they stop at the light coming down the hill with their heavy loads?

Second, to what extent might the **Airport** be impacted since the majority of employees will work 7 days ON and 7 days OFF? Will Rise Gold Corp. or a new commercial carrier be flying employees and others in and out of the Nevada County Airport?

Third, a **Geological Report of the seismic stability** needs to study the ability of the Propane fields in the Industrial Park area next to the Airport to withstand blasting below those areas.

Fourth, in crushing and loading rock, what will the **decibel levels** be and how far will these be carried? Is the noise level dependent upon the direction of the wind?

Fifth, how far from the site and in what direction will the **air be impacted** by the heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volumes, and the release of unhealthy

particulate matter from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic chemicals and heavy metals?

Sixth, will the provision of **NID water** to the Mines and residents who have lost their well water create problems for agriculture and other dependent properties during drought years?

Seventh, there needs to be a **geological/hydrological evaluation** of the impact on water tables and the potential loss of well water for neighboring properties within a **3 mile radius** of the Brunswick project, including those at higher elevations where water drains down hill to the proposed development. Included in this analysis needs to be a study of the impact on the surrounding forests and vegetation of lowered water tables, if that is found to be the case.

Eighth, the Fehr & Peers Memorandum dated 3/24/20, Idaho-Mine Project – **Vehicle Mile Travel Analysis**, page 3, states: "According to the trip generation estimates provided by KD Anderson & Associates, truck trips are not included in this analysis. The total trip generation for the employee traffic only is 178 trips inbound and 178 trips outbound." This Analysis should (a) include Truck Trips and (b) was based upon Building Square Footage (above ground) and should include the underground miners working over 2,000 square feet of mines.

Ninth, citizens are interested in the **Economic Impact** on the County, from the proposed project as should be the Board of Supervisors. It is difficult to perceive what this impact is without considering:

- Will there be a **reduction in property tax revenu**e from property within a close proximity of the mines where the owners anticipate a substantial decline in the value of that property?
- Will 312 Mine employees and particularly those on the 7 day, 12 hour shifts who are from out of the area **exacerbate the shortage of affordable housing and increase rental rates**?
- Will increased reliance on **County services** such as law enforcement, schools, county Department of Transportation, recreation, inspection and regulations be **offset by** sales taxes, property taxes, and possibly increased taxes paid by or future taxes imposed on the project?
- What is the estimated future income to the County that will **benefit taxpayers by reducing the increase in property taxes**?

Thank you for considering these concerns and including them in the Draft EIR.

Louise Taylor

Louise Taylor, President, Wawona Madrono Homeowners Association

Cc: Brian Foss, Planning Director, Nevada County Planning Department
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
WMHOA Board of Directors

From: Paul Tebbel
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Input on Idaho-Maryland Mine site
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:46 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Nevada County is rich in mining history and we all embrace it as part of what made this part of CA great.

As you know, a gold mine like the Empire Mine is truly different from what is being proposed for the Rise Gold Project. I moved here to enjoy this community and the beauty of the north woods. If I had known that a gold mine might begin operating within 5 miles of my house, I would have not come here. This is far different from a situation where the mine was already here and operating - then it would have been my choice as to whether or not I wanted to live in an area with intense air, water and traffic impacts. But the mine was not operating....nor was there any talk about it coming back

We will be accused of being NIMBYs - but we are not. We were here first and the impacts of this mine will negatively impact many of the things we all love about living here. Not to mention that the value of our property is likely to take a significant drop because of the mine impacts.

Like I said, the water, air and traffic impacts from the mine operation will negatively impact all of us who live near the mine. And we were here first. Our wells are already impacted by the new homes being built near us - if this mine is going to impact our wells in any way, then you will have a significant problem on your hands. We cannot get NID water (although we pay a minor fee for being in the region) so offering that water as a replacement isn't going to work. The traffic is already bad, especially up Greenhorn where over 750 home sites are located. The County will have to re-do the Greenhorn/Brunswick intersection and potentially part of Brunswick because of the additional truck traffic.

My primary concern is water. The amount of daily water that will need to be removed from the mine and treated is huge. That's the groundwater that so many of us depend on. How will impacted neighbors be compensated? How will you know the level of impact when there are thousands of wells within 5 miles or less of the mine site? Same concerns with air and traffic impacts - what are the parameters which the EIR will require to be measured prior to the mine possibly reopening and how will you know the real answers to these questions?

Mr. Kelley, we are your neighbors, your friends and likely members of your family. You need to show that this mine isn't going to ruin our lives.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Tebbel & Lynn Schweissinger
14230 Mill Creek Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Paul Tebbel
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Input on Idaho-Maryland Mine site
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:46 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Nevada County is rich in mining history and we all embrace it as part of what made this part of CA great.

As you know, a gold mine like the Empire Mine is truly different from what is being proposed for the Rise Gold Project. I moved here to enjoy this community and the beauty of the north woods. If I had known that a gold mine might begin operating within 5 miles of my house, I would have not come here. This is far different from a situation where the mine was already here and operating - then it would have been my choice as to whether or not I wanted to live in an area with intense air, water and traffic impacts. But the mine was not operating....nor was there any talk about it coming back

We will be accused of being NIMBYs - but we are not. We were here first and the impacts of this mine will negatively impact many of the things we all love about living here. Not to mention that the value of our property is likely to take a significant drop because of the mine impacts.

Like I said, the water, air and traffic impacts from the mine operation will negatively impact all of us who live near the mine. And we were here first. Our wells are already impacted by the new homes being built near us - if this mine is going to impact our wells in any way, then you will have a significant problem on your hands. We cannot get NID water (although we pay a minor fee for being in the region) so offering that water as a replacement isn't going to work. The traffic is already bad, especially up Greenhorn where over 750 home sites are located. The County will have to re-do the Greenhorn/Brunswick intersection and potentially part of Brunswick because of the additional truck traffic.

My primary concern is water. The amount of daily water that will need to be removed from the mine and treated is huge. That's the groundwater that so many of us depend on. How will impacted neighbors be compensated? How will you know the level of impact when there are thousands of wells within 5 miles or less of the mine site? Same concerns with air and traffic impacts - what are the parameters which the EIR will require to be measured prior to the mine possibly reopening and how will you know the real answers to these questions?

Mr. Kelley, we are your neighbors, your friends and likely members of your family. You need to show that this mine isn't going to ruin our lives.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Tebbel & Lynn Schweissinger
14230 Mill Creek Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Jason and Tanya Telford
14350 Little Hill Lane
Grass Valley, CA. 95945
530-272-7828
jason.telford@patagonia.com
08/06/2020

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Dear Matt Kelley:

We are writing to express vehement opposition to the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project. There is an overwhelming litany of unpredictable risks, negative effects, and unmitigated hazards to our health and well-being. If the project is approved, utter devastation will follow. The environmental and public health risks are unfathomable. The impact of this heavy industry will forever ruin our foothill town, it cannot operate as proposed without severe and permanent damage to our quality of life. Rise Gold Corp has extremely dubious finances, SEC filings posted on their website show massive losses and liabilities. If there was a blasting accident or toxic spill, they do not have the working capital to compensate residents for damages or make amends. Population levels have increased since the mine closed and heavy industrial mining is not compatible with human habitation.

We bought our home here in 2006, started a family, and deeply cherish the tranquility and peace of our neighborhood. Rise Gold Corp does not care about local jobs or our economy, they'll extract everything they can in 80 years and leave behind scorched earth.

History does tend to repeat itself. Surely you must be aware of the recent Siskon Gold Corporation debacle on the San Juan Ridge. Healthy lives were ruined, property values dropped, and private water wells either ran dry or were permanently fouled. You must not allow this to happen again, please learn from crucial errors in judgement by your predecessors and do not repeat their mistake.

Now, why would residents near the proposed mine operation be concerned? Here's the short list of environmental issues that need thorough study in the draft EIR; air pollution, heavy truck traffic, asbestos dust, water pollution, noise pollution, ammonium nitrate explosives used directly under our homes, dewatered privately owned wells, risks of those living downstream from the mine, and decreased property values.

First, let us explore the topic of toxic air pollution. A letter received by me from the Nevada County Planning Commission dated July 17, 2020 states, *"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 future industrial use." The traffic impact of up to 100 trips per day with trucks loaded with 20 tons of rock is unacceptable on our narrow two-lane roads. Traffic impact and danger to pedestrians and cyclists aside, submitted documents clearly state asbestos was found in lab samples from the mine. Therefore, Serpentinite rock brought to the surface will expose humans. No level of asbestos exposure is considered safe. The draft EIR must explore the potential for exposure to this known carcinogen, as dust from transport and fill activities will create airborne particulates.

The document titled Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report clearly states, *"Project construction and operation activities would produce TAC emissions due to equipment, haul truck trips, and mining and soil movement. These emissions could result in elevated concentrations of TAC emissions at nearby receptors, which could lead to an increase in the risk of cancer or other health impacts"* Given the proximity of the proposed development to our homes, schools, hospital, and businesses, any amount of exposure to toxic air contaminants is unacceptable.

Second, besides airborne carcinogenic TAC emissions resulting from mine rock and engineered fill dust, Rise Gold Corp plans to use Ammonium Nitrate. When Ammonium Nitrate explodes, two toxic gasses result, Nitrogen Oxide and Ammonia Gas. The proposed 275hp ventilation fan will do a great job spewing these toxics into our neighborhoods and into our downtown area when the wind blows. Combine the toxic gas with asbestos dust, and you've got an airborne cocktail, great for promoting tourism and our local economy. The draft EIR must study the consequences of exposure to the toxic cloud to our youth and elderly population. Is Rise Gold Corp going to pay for chemotherapy and radiation treatment when our citizens develop mining activity related cancer? Will they pay for funerals and cremations? Oh no, that's right, they are a penny stock foreign company with their sights set on gold extraction.

Third, proposed dewatering creates an inevitable crisis, not only for those whose very life depends on that water, but also for those downstream. Water treatment plant or not, one small mistake or tiny miscalculation and pollutants are sent downstream. Any amount of risk is too much to bear. Our forests are already dying from drought and beetle kill, we live in such a high fire risk zone, many of us have had our homeowner insurance canceled. Dewatering will further exacerbate the stress on our forest and increase fire danger.

Finally, if the property is rezoned and the mine approved, Nevada County will suffer significantly reduced property tax revenue. Please tell me who wants to live in the shadow of a noisy, dusty, toxic, industrial mine site. The house next door to ours is currently listed on the market for over $1,000,000, how much do you think it will be worth when there is no water?

We implore you to consider the families that have built a life here and do the right thing. Don't sell out to a foreign company. We cordially invite you to visit our neighborhood, take a walk with us, and meet some of our neighbors so you can witness firsthand the lives that will be forever changed if the mine project is approved.

The EIR needs to thoroughly address the following questions:

1. Since there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, how will Rise Gold guarantee zero asbestos in our air as a result of their mining activity?
2. What type of water and soil tests and air quality monitoring equipment will be used to keep tabs on the operation?
3. Exactly what type of chemical fumes and particulate dust will be emitted from the ventilation shaft?
4. What chemical reagents will be used for gold extraction?
5. What toxic substances can be expected in our air from the use of Ammonium Nitrate?
6. Will the toxic substances used underground be present in well water?
7. Will Rise Gold Corp pay for cancer diagnosis and treatment?
8. What chemicals will remain in water discharged into Wolf Creek?
    a. From dewatering
    b. From gold extraction
    c. From blasting with Ammonium Nitrate
9. How many trees are expected to die when the water table drops?
10. When a water well is found to be toxic or goes dry following dewatering, what kind of monetary compensation will Rise Gold pay residents?
11. How close to the surface will drilling occur directly under my property?

Sincerely,

Jason and Tanya Telford

From:	Tanya Telford
To:	Mercedes Ricciardi
Cc:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Re: Idaho Maryland Mine - comment letter
Date:	Saturday, August 15, 2020 6:47:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Brilliant! The questions are exactly what we nee. Thanks so much for taking the time to write a letter!! Love you ...miss you.
We have been nothing but beach bums. I am a little concerned with a place to stay tonight. We might be poaching the side of the road. Will start back tomorrow
Oxoxo
T

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 15, 2020, at 5:08 PM, Mercedes Ricciardi <mercedesric@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Dear Mr. Kelly,
>
> I have been a resident of Penn Valley for over 12 years. Although I am not a resident of Grass Valley, my family spends a great deal of time in the Grass Valley area and my children have attended Grass Valley Charter School for the past 8 years. Like many others in this area, my husband and I were drawn here from the Bay Area because of its incredible natural beauty, strong sense of community, and slower pace of life.
>
> We are deeply concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine being located close to where our children attend school, play sports, and spend time with friends. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report regarding impact to air quality in the area. The EIR should analyze the impact the mine will have on air quality to our local community and beyond.
>
> o Airborne pollution from gold mining frequently contains heavy metals such as mercury, a potential and serious health hazard for anyone exposed. How will this be dealt with?
>
> o Large trucks will be needed for transportation of ore continuously, producing

large amounts of emissions and greenhouse gases into our environment. How will this be addressed?

o Earth moving equipment needed for digging mine shafts or stripping topsoil produces substantial amounts of dust and airborne particles that can further reduce air quality. Our community often deals already with poor air quality given the increase in large scale fires. How will our community be able to withstand even more?

The impact on air quality is only one of a variety of pollution types that gold mining creates including soil and water pollution. I understand that the high value of gold has made it a prime target of mining operations, but at what cost are we as a community willing to pay to allow this mine to operate here - our children, our health, our community? We must not let this happen here!

Please choose to protect our community and our children by not allowing it here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Ricciardi

14377 Kick Back Lane

Penn Valley, CA

mercedesric@gmail.com

650-799-2763

From:	Jason Telford
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Mine Concerns
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 4:30:53 PM
Attachments:	Nevada County Planning Commission Letter_08172020.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley-

Please see my attached letter proposing questions for the EIR also pasted below in its entirety.

Thank you,
Jason

Jason Telford
N CA and N NV Sales
530.613.6745

Jason and Tanya Telford
14350 Little Hill Lane
Grass Valley, CA. 95945
530-272-7828
jason.telford@patagonia.com
08/06/2020

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Dear Matt Kelley:

We are writing to express vehement opposition to the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project. There is an overwhelming litany of unpredictable risks, negative effects, and unmitigated hazards to our health and well-being. If the project is approved, utter devastation will follow. The environmental and public health risks are unfathomable. The impact of this heavy industry will forever ruin our foothill town, it cannot operate as proposed without severe and permanent damage to our quality of life. Rise Gold Corp has extremely dubious finances, SEC filings posted on their website show massive losses and liabilities. If there was a blasting accident or toxic spill, they do not have the working capital to compensate residents for damages or make amends. Population levels have increased since the mine closed and heavy industrial mining is not compatible with human habitation.

We bought our home here in 2006, started a family, and deeply cherish the tranquility and peace of our neighborhood. Rise Gold Corp does not care about local jobs or our economy, they'll extract everything they can in 80 years and leave behind scorched earth.

History does tend to repeat itself. Surely you must be aware of the recent Siskon Gold Corporation debacle on the San Juan Ridge. Healthy lives were ruined, property values dropped, and private water wells either ran dry or were permanently fouled. You must not allow this to happen again, please learn from crucial errors in judgement by your predecessors and do not repeat their mistake.

Now, why would residents near the proposed mine operation be concerned? Here's the short list of environmental issues that need thorough study in the draft EIR; air pollution, heavy truck traffic, asbestos dust, water pollution, noise pollution, ammonium nitrate explosives used directly under our homes, dewatered privately owned wells, risks of those living downstream from the mine, and decreased property values.

First, let us explore the topic of toxic air pollution. A letter received by me from the Nevada County Planning Commission dated July 17, 2020 states, *"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 future industrial use."* The traffic impact of up to 100 trips per day with trucks loaded with 20 tons of rock is unacceptable on our narrow two-lane roads. Traffic impact and danger to pedestrians and cyclists aside, submitted documents clearly state asbestos was found in lab samples from the mine. Therefore, Serpentinite rock brought to the surface will expose humans. No level of asbestos exposure is considered safe. The draft EIR must explore the potential for exposure to this known carcinogen, as dust from transport and fill activities will create airborne particulates.

The document titled Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report clearly states, *"Project construction and operation activities would produce TAC emissions due to equipment, haul truck trips, and mining and soil movement. These emissions could result in elevated concentrations of TAC emissions at nearby receptors, which could lead to an increase in the risk of cancer or other health impacts"* Given the proximity of the proposed development to our homes, schools, hospital, and businesses, any amount of exposure to toxic air contaminants is unacceptable.

Second, besides airborne carcinogenic TAC emissions resulting from mine rock and engineered fill dust, Rise Gold Corp plans to use Ammonium Nitrate. When Ammonium Nitrate explodes, two toxic gasses result, Nitrogen Oxide and Ammonia Gas. The proposed 275hp ventilation fan will do a great job spewing these toxics into our neighborhoods and into our downtown area when the wind blows. Combine the toxic gas with asbestos dust, and you've got an airborne cocktail, great for promoting tourism and our local economy. The draft EIR must study the consequences of exposure to the toxic cloud to our youth and elderly population. Is Rise Gold Corp going to pay for chemotherapy and radiation treatment when our citizens develop mining activity related cancer? Will they pay for funerals and cremations? Oh no, that's right, they are a penny stock foreign company with their sights set on gold extraction.

Third, proposed dewatering creates an inevitable crisis, not only for those whose very life depends on that water, but also for those downstream. Water treatment plant or not, one small mistake or tiny miscalculation and pollutants are sent downstream. Any amount of risk is too much to bear. Our forests are already dying from drought and beetle kill, we live in such a high fire risk zone, many of us have had our homeowner insurance canceled. Dewatering will further exacerbate the stress on our forest and increase fire danger.
Finally, if the property is rezoned and the mine approved, Nevada County will suffer significantly reduced property tax revenue. Please tell me who wants to live in the shadow of a noisy, dusty, toxic, industrial mine site. The house next door to ours is currently listed on the market for over $1,000,000, how much do you think it will be worth when there is no water?

We implore you to consider the families that have built a life here and do the right thing. Don't sell out to a foreign company. We cordially invite you to visit our neighborhood, take a walk with us, and meet some of our neighbors so you can witness firsthand the lives that will be forever changed if the mine project is approved.

The EIR needs to thoroughly address the following questions:

1. Since there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, how will Rise Gold guarantee zero asbestos in our air as a result of their mining activity?
2. What type of water and soil tests and air quality monitoring equipment will be used to keep tabs on the operation?
3. Exactly what type of chemical fumes and particulate dust will be emitted from the ventilation

shaft?

4. What chemical reagents will be used for gold extraction?
5. What toxic substances can be expected in our air from the use of Ammonium Nitrate?
6. Will the toxic substances used underground be present in well water?
7. Will Rise Gold Corp pay for cancer diagnosis and treatment?
8. What chemicals will remain in water discharged into Wolf Creek?
    a. From dewatering
    b. From gold extraction
    c. From blasting with Ammonium Nitrate
9. How many trees are expected to die when the water table drops?
10. When a water well is found to be toxic or goes dry following dewatering, what kind of monetary compensation will Rise Gold pay residents?
11. How close to the surface will drilling occur directly under my property?

Sincerely,

Jason and Tanya Telford

Steven R Temple August 17, 2020

13459 Bass Trail

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Mr. Kelly:

My wife and I retired to Cedar Ridge 5 years ago when I retired from a career in Cooperative Extension with the University of California. I remembered how, back in the 60s and 70s, Western Nevada County was such an interesting and healthy mix of cultural and political directions, and with people so happy and proud to live here. And that has been our experience in retirement.

I write to you today because I fear that reopening the Idaho Maryland gold mine is a significant step backward for most of the citizens and community interests, and ask you to examine very carefully every detailed aspect of what this decision means for all of us who would become “neighbors” to the mine. In particular, I live on a relatively high ridge of cedar forest just East of Cedar Ridge proper, and the water table for most of our properties is of enormous concern. We already spend time and money treating the well water, and we have observed that winter to summer fluctuations significantly affect the quality and recharge. I am also concerned about the projected mine traffic on Bennett and Brunswick. Brunswick is a very important access to Grass Valley and HW 49/Nevada City for the East side of the County, and as such is often barely adequate to handle todays volume.

On a more general note, I am skeptical of the community value/impact of mining, and especially of this proposal. I realize this might be heresy for an area that benefitted so much during the gold rush. But not everyone (and certainly not the environment) benefitted from gold mining. In fact, the somewhat archaic US laws on mineral exploration are some of the most extractive and exploitive in our history, and have consistently led to abuses and unintended consequences. Many of our “superfund” sites are sad relics to that history, and we will be paying for those mistakes for many more years.

Thank you for noting my concerns.

Sincerely:

Steven Temple

From: Steven R Temple
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:31:46 PM
Attachments: Idaho Maryland Mine.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley:
Thanks you for receiving my attached letter regarding the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine.
Sincerely:
Steven R. Temple
13459 Bass Trail, Grass Valley, 95945
srtemple@ucdavis.edu
(530) 220-0995

From: Chris Themelis
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: What"s GOOD about allowing this mine to open?
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:59:58 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,

What's the "upside" here? More tax revenue somehow? Jobs somehow? This will degrade the quality of life in our neighborhood and our whole area. Please don't allow this to happen.

Rise Gold plans to operate machinery 24 hours a day. On the south side of Banner Mountain, traffic noise from Brunswick travels easily. The noise from the Centennial site where processing is proposed to take place, 24 hours a day, will be plainly obvious. At night, traffic noise on Brunswick is minimal, the occasional passenger car. Add a stream of heavy trucks loaded with ore, and it becomes a nightmare.

Based on what I've seen, corporations promise these kinds of projects will bring jobs, but they almost always bring *way* fewer than promised. The kinds of jobs that are touted to be created, we have plenty of around here. Call it construction-type work, a trade, or blue-collar work. Try to get a carpenter to do anything around here, or a plumber, or a roofer, or a painter. People are booked for months, or not interested in doing the job. These businesses are HIRING and have a hard time finding good people. Want a job driving a truck? Plenty of demand for that.

Sure, there will be a few engineering jobs and administrative jobs. Especially with the shift to remote work, you can have that kind of job around here right now... we don't need to open a gold mine.

If tax revenue is a supposed positive for the area, will it really offset the increased wear on our roads? Right now people are moving to the area for the quiet environment and driving property values up, and tax revenue with them. With the trend toward remote work, that should only continue. If we introduce a noisy gold mine into our midst, property values will go down, and tax revenue along with them.

I'm in my dream house in my dream location. PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T ALLOW IT TO BE RUINED for some inflated promises from an out-of-town corporation.

Chris

From:	Florence Jacquet
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	I oppose the gold mine project- revised email
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:44 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

As a Nevada city citizen, I absolutely oppose the Gold Mine project. I would negatively impact my neighborhood.

Let's talk about sinkholes! We're talking about lives being endangered so several people can make money.
Do you want a sinkhole under your house and lose your family and your house? I don't!
I just can't believe Nevada county would even consider such a dangerous project where lots of people are actually living.

Let's talk about noise. We've worked really hard to buy a house in a nice and quiet neighborhood. But somehow some people are entitled to destroy our quality of life to make some money. How is that acceptable?

How about property value? Nobody with a sound mind would consider buying a house sitting above an active mining zone, I know I wouldn't. So I'm going to lose a lifetime of hard worked money along with thousands of people so a few can benefit from this mine digging. Utterly unacceptable and inconceivable. Please reconsider this gold mine project and shut it down.

They should go dig in the desert where there's nobody around, not in people's neighborhoods where a lot of people are actually living.

Thank you.
Florence Themelis.
11022 Banner Mine way, Nevada city CA 95959
florencejacquet@yahoo.com

From: Florence Jacquet <florencejacquet07@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:39 PM
To: Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>; Ed Scofield <Ed.Scofield@co.nevada.ca.us>; Dan Miller <Dan.Miller@co.nevada.ca.us>; Sue Hoek <Sue.Hoek@co.nevada.ca.us>; Richard Anderson <Richard.Anderson@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: I oppose the Gold mine project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a Nevada city citizen, I absolutely oppose the Gold Mine project. It would negatively impact my neighborhood.
Let's talk about sinkholes! We're talking about lives being endangered so several people can make money.
Do you want a sinkhole under your house and lose your family and your house? I don't!

I just can't believe Nevada county would even consider such a dangerous project where lots of people are actually living.
Let's talk about noise. We've worked really hard to buy a house in a nice and quiet neighborhood. But somehow some people are entitled to destroy our quality of life to make some money. How is that acceptable?

How about property value? Nobody with a sound mind would consider buying a house sitting above an active mining zone, I know I wouldn't. So I'm going to lose a lifetime of hard worked money along with thousands of people so a few can benefit from this mine digging. Utterly unacceptable and inconceivable.

Please reconsider this gold mine project and shut it down.

They should go dig in the desert where there's nobody around, not in people's neighborhoods where a lot of people are actually living.

Thank you.
Florence Themelis.
11022 Banner Mine way, Nevada city CA 95959

From:	Woniya Dawn Thibeault
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Please do not reopen the mine
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:41 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

My name is Woniya Thibeault. I was born and raised in Nevada County and have recently moved back to the area. I am writing to urge you strongly to reject the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland mine. I am old enough to remember playing childhood games all
around Empire Mine, in areas that are fenced off now to them being too toxic to be safe to even walk through. Creeks and river full
of silt destroying spawning grounds, mountains washed away, wells contaminated, children playing in earth laced with toxic heavy metals. These are the legacies of gold mining in Nevada County. The idea of reopening the area to gold mining is unthinkable.

As a resident, I am strongly opposed. As an educated scientist, with a Masters Degree in Environmental Science, I am
all too aware of the dangers. As a high profile resident, recently featured on a popular wilderness survival televiso show, Alone, I also have a lot of publicity these days and will be doing my best to advertise the proposed mine and the devastation it could bring to out beautiful rural small town

Sincerely,

Woniya Dawn Thibeault

From: gerald thomas
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:12:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Gerald Thomas
316 Monroe Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
Tallpeople4@sbcglobal.net
650-888-8817

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada City resident for 10 years. I moved here because of the beauty of the area and the lively concentration of artists, musicians, and writers. I have lived in other places but no place of this size exceeds what this area offers. I am very concerned about the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. If it were located away from a populated area the request might make more sense. Given its size and close proximity to downtown Grass Valley and given the history of mining in general, I would like to see a thorough Environmental Impact Report. I think there are several areas I am concerned about.

First the impact on the air and water. My understanding is that there will be continuous operation of the mine using massive quantities of water. A thorough analysis should study impacts to the existing watershed. Where and how waste water is disposed. What will be done to filter and clean this waste water. How will damage to existing Wolf Creek and potential impacts on local wells be dealt with. Disposal and treatment of any hazardous wastes. The air quality since the air here already has some pollution carried here from the Sacramento Valley adding in the huge diesel truck traffic for hauling away mine tailings would make a significant impact on local air quality.

Second the added noise pollution generated by all the mine activities such as blasting, grading, and trucking operations especially if they operate around the clock.

Third The heavy trucks on the local roadways and potential damage to existing County and State roads as well as increased traffic congestion.

The report needs to also look at how any loss of drinking water in existing wells will be handled. Since this mine is asking for an 80 year lease future water remediation costs need to addressed.

The costs of continual testing of the water supply and of providing an alternative supply to any existing well that may be compromised. With this should be very clear guidelines as to what constitutes a compromised water supply and what to do if the water source dries up.

Sincerely,

Geral Thomas

Matt Kelley – Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Aug 13, 2020

RE: Proposed mining project, Rise Gold

Dear Mr. Kelley;

In my career as a research scientist I've had to judge ideas and review numerous proposals as a participant on national review committees and in leadership roles at National Laboratories and Universities. One of the valuable tests of ideas, concepts, and proposals that I learned from colleagues is the "smell test". Many times I've heard experienced leaders say "it doesn't pass the smell test". I also came to realize that this is not a trivial test, but relies on experience and demonstrated good judgment that proves correct on detailed examination.

The proposal to restart gold mining in Grass Valley in 2020, after all of the detrimental impacts that mining have brought to this area, definitely does not pass the smell test. We are now a "destination" community that has attracted a diverse mix of artists, professionals, and out-of-the-ordinary people who value the attractions offered here. It is unusual among foothill communities in this respect.

With all the attendant impacts we already know, 24/7 mining and trucking activity, de-watering, waste disposal, etc., this to me is clearly something that will negatively impact current and future residents. I have yet to meet anyone in favor of the project, and there is a lot buzz in town over this.

Committing to a long-term mining project has further unseen potential consequences. Judging from activities of the 1-2 centuries past, the likelihood of there being future disastrous events is too high to risk the tranquility and attractiveness that has created the community we have today. No amount of monetary benefit is more valuable that these community assets.

Keith Thomassen

13634 Vincent Ct
Grass Valley, CA

Keith Thomassen,
Prof of Engineering
MIT and UC Berkeley

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County

Via email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the draft EIR. This is letter is from a group of avid Nevada County cyclists with varying interests in the project to include:

-Living within the subsurface boundary

-Living within a mile or two from the mine

-Cycling on Brunswick, Bennett, Greenhorn Roads and the nearby area.

We are long-term residents that have raised children here and remain here because of family, the natural beauty, and the myriad of outdoor activities available, including cycling.

We request the following questions and issues be addressed in the scope of the EIR.

- **Dewatering the mine and associated impacts**

The full impacts of dewatering the groundwater and ultimately discharging water to Wolf Creek need to be fully identified and studied including:

- Impacts on wells in the subsurface area and those in close proximity (much more than 500 feet) to the subsurface area. Impacts include the possibility and probability of dewatering wells, contaminating wells, and the length of time these wells will be impacted.
- Impacts on the surrounding forest and associated ecosystem including the subsurface area and ecologically connected systems. The eco system should include plants, animals, insects, reptiles, and birds. (Forests are often dependent on ground water.
- The project proposes significant, year-round discharges to Wolf Creek. What will be the impact to the Wolf creek ecological system, including terrestrial and aquatic resources for the next 80 years. Will the project cause additional erosion and/or sediments in Wolf Creek? Will additional sediment be released into or by

the creek due to the large amounts of water added to the creek? How will this impact the achievement of TMDL (total maximum daily load) limits for the creek?

- What toxic materials, contaminates, and heavy metals are in the existing tunnels? Which ones are in the mine ground water? What process will be used to monitor the water being removed from the tunnels? What additional contaminants may be introduced by further dewatering?

- California legislation provides authorities and guidance for local agencies to develop sustainable groundwater management plans and implement the plans to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions in their areas of jurisdiction. According to scientific research, "*Groundwater provides late-summer flow for many rivers and can create cool water upwelling critical for aquatic species during high temperatures, and groundwater is the only water source for springs and subterranean ecosystems which harbor a distinct and poorly understood fauna. Therefore, groundwater is an important factor in maintaining the ecological integrity of some ecosystems. Groundwater dependent ecosystems as terrestrial, aquatic, and coastal ecosystems that require access to, replenishment or benefit from, or otherwise rely on subsurface stores of water to function or persist.*[1]"

  The project EIR should fully identify the extent that homes, businesses, and the ecosystem are dependent on the dewatered groundwater for drinking water, replenishing surface water, feed springs, and the maintain the integrity of the terrestrial ecosystem.

- **Air Quality**

The EIR needs to identify the amount, length of time, of air pollution and emissions generated by all aspects of the project, including truck exhaust from hauling waste and tailings, discharges related to energy use and from back up generators, employee transportation, and particulate matter from rock crushing? How will these emissions impact Nevada County's ability to meet the 8-hour ozone standard? How will air quality be monitored? The scope should include how the project impacts achieving the California Ambient Air Quality (CAAQ) standards

Air emissions and pollution travels based on a variety of factors. Modeling and projects should be robust and identify areas impacted particularly those with a sensitive population including the Union Hill elementary school, churches, day care facilities and other public places to include the entirety of the Empire Mine State Park, a highly used

[1] Mapping Groundwater for Dependent Ecosystems in California, Howard & Merrifiend, June 23, 2010.

recreational facility for hiking, mountain biking, horse back riding, and other outdoor activities.

- **Geology/Soils**

How will the stability of the land be impacted due to frequent blasting? How will "ground vibrations" be monitored? What will be the impact on the ground stability throughout the subsurface area, including the airport and industrial complex?

What faults exist in the subsurface area and how might these faults contribute to additional vibrations and property damage?

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

How will project operations, including trucking of mine waste, trucking supply and construction deliveries, and fumes from mine blasting impact or create additional green house gases for the next 80 years?

The EIR should include a study to determine if high emissions will impact the forests, the associated ecosystems (e.g. acid rain), and human health.

- **Hazards & Hazardous Material, Contaminates, Minerals**

What hazardous materials will be used and generated by the project? How will they be stored, transported and disposed of?

What is the type of fumes that will be released from blasting? How will they be monitored and controlled? What areas will they impact considering wind, temperature, and other factors?

What hazardous materials, contaminates and heavy metals will remain on the site with the potential to adversely impact the environment?

Are there naturally occurring minerals, such as arsenic and asbestos, with impacts to humans or the environment that will be disturbed, exposed, otherwise pose a risk as part of the project?

Empire Mine continues to address contamination issues and there are sign warning visitors of lead, arsenic, and mercury still in the area.

- **Land Use/Planning**

What rezoning is required? How will this rezoning impact the current and planned residences in the area? Will this or could this be considered a taking? (See comment in project economics below.)

This is a proposed 80-year permit. As required by CEQA, Rise Gold should submit alternatives to an 80-year permit, including a shorter term permit and a conditional permit.

How will the County monitor permit compliance? How many resources will be dedicated to this, from which departments, and what expertise? Does the County have air quality experts? Water quality? Noise measuring systems? Seismic detection systems? If not, how will the county determine compliance?

- **Noise • Population**

Blasting tunnels, loading trucks, and crushing rock are noisy, dusty operations. How much dust will be created? On windy days, where with the dust be blown? How will compliance with PM 2.5 and PM 10 standards (particulate matter) be determined? Will the project meet standards 24/7?

What noise levels will be generated by all operations from crushing, loading and unloading trucks, the power system, and employee transportation? At what times of the day and which days? How far away will residents hear this noise, including trucks hauling rock down Brunswick and Bennett (initially) and later down Highways 49, 20, and 174? What will be the impact on the residents and businesses alike?

How will the EIR scope address the impacts on blasting, even if below the damage threshold?

- **Public Services Recreation**

Important and highly visited recreation areas are nearby including the Union Hill portion of Empire Mine, Empire Mine itself (West of 174) and Wolf Creek. The Empire Mine Park boundary is less than a mile from the Mine itself and appears to butt up against the project subsurface boundary. Will Union Hill or Empire Mine recreation areas be impacted by air emissions from trucking or the project operations? Will there be additional noise or vibrations from blasting? The Wolf Creek trail is a new, important, and highly visited trail. How will increased flows impact this resource?

- **Transportation & Traffic**

Bennett Street currently provides the safest and most direct pedestrian and cycling route from downtown Grass Valley to the Cedar Ridge area and then to Chicago Park. The

alternative, Highway 174, has heavy truck, school and other traffic and does not have bike lane or an adequate shoulder. How will pedestrians and cyclists be safely accommodated on Bennett, Greenhorn, and Brunswick? What alternatives will the County provide? What are safer alternatives for moving waste than that currently proposed?

Bennett Street is also the main route to access the Greenhorn Road subdivision from central Grass Valley. How will this impact these homeowners ability to access Greenhorn?

The operation will generate up to a hundred truckloads daily, plus deliveries of supplies, explosives, and other materials and employee traffic. This huge increase in traffic will result in potholes, road wear, and accidents. What is the cost and how will this be mitigated? Truck traffic will also substantially increase in nearby counties throughout the life of the project. How will this impact their roads (e.g. Highway 49, Highway 20)?

- **Utilities & Service Systems**

Water supply, the most important utility, will be significantly impacted. What new water systems will need to be installed to supply water for all homes with impacted wells, whether they are dewatered or contaminated? How will draining the groundwater impact future business and housing development which may be dependent on ground water wells?

- **Economic Study**

  - **Impact on Hospitality Industry.** Protecting our beautiful environment and supporting the hospitality industry are not mutually exclusive. Many people are drawn to the area to both work and play because of the beautiful forests, outdoor activities, and charming towns. The impact of a noisy mine with ongoing blasting and loads of truck traffic ½ mile from the Grass Valley City limit needs to be thoughtfully considered. If dewatering impacts our forests, the ability of the area to attract tourists and keep residents is a concern that needs to be studied as part of the EIR. Tourists who come to play stay in our hotels, inns, and campgrounds, eat in our restaurants, and shop at our stores. Will the hospitality industry be adversely impacted?

  - Takings. Rezoning and permitting the project would be government actions that impact private property rights, including loss of private property (wells) and devaluation of property. The cost of restoring these property rights must be fully considered in any economic study. How will dewatering wells impact the water supply for homes within the 1-mile radius of the project subsurface boundary?

- Loud industrial noise, dust, impacted air quality, dry wells, truck traffic, employee traffic and other factors will degrade the value of the homes around the project site and in Grass Valley, Cedar Ridge and the Greenhorn area. How much will the value of homes decline? What will be the overall impact on the housing market in Grass Valley?

- Blasting will cause ground vibrations and people's homes to shake. What limits are being set on ground vibrations to avoid damaging structures above the subsurface area? What happens when blasting limits are exceeded? What happens when damage occurs below blasting limits? Who will be responsible for investigating the damage claim and/or adjusting limits to prevent damage?

- Extensive truck traffic from both hauling rock and waste tailings and delivery of supplies will cause significant wear and tear on County roads. This is likely to cause safety issues for cyclists. Will a cycling lane be added to Bennett? How will increased safety issues be addressed? What will be the cost of keeping the road in good repair? Will this be added to the budget, or will other County roads suffer?

- What is the risk of creating additional sinkholes throughout the subsurface boundaries? How will these be identified and will the homeowners be compensated or will the company address the issue? What will be the requirements for addressing sinkholes that result on private property?

- Will the mine likely pay taxes to the County? If so, how much and when? Will this offset the cost of its operation on county roads, water supply, etc.?

- How will the releases to Wolf Creek impact the operation of the treatment facility downstream? What modifications will need to be made, at what cost, and who will pay for them?

- Historically, mine operations have left toxic impacts, contaminated wells, loss of public property (wells and home values), unsightly waste piles, and ground water contamination. This includes multiple mines throughout the County. If the company fails to have sufficient funds to address these issues, who will pay for them?

Please keep us apprised of the status of this project and promptly informed of all opportunities to comment. We believe it is the public benefit to have virtual public meetings on all aspects of this project, including economic impacts, air quality, water impacts, and public safety.

Sincerely,

Maria Blix, 131 Northridge Dr, Grass Valley, CA 95945, mblix51@gmail.com

Maria Butrico and John Hanrahan, 12828 Lake Wildwood Drive, Penn Valley, CA
mandorla137@gmail.com

Trudy Nye, 14270 Tim Burr Lane, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (Greenhorn area)
Trudyeney@gmail.com

Gail Shierman, 330 Bridge Way, Nevada City, CA 95959, gail_shierman@att.net

Cynthia Swarthout, 845 Morgan Ranch Drive, Grass Valley, 95945
cpswarthout@gmail.com

Katherine Thompson, 10815 Footwall Drive, Grass Valley 95945 (Union Hill area)
Kathompson111@gmail.com

From:	Wendy Thompson
To:	Matt Kelley; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Concerns regarding the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

Senior Planner, Nevada County,

Thank you for offering a way for public citizens to comment and ask questions in the Issue of re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine.

I have lived in Nevada County since 1988, have served on several Board of Directors locally, have served as an Educator in our local schools and care deeply about the well being of our community. I know you are reviewing the documents submitted by Wolf Creek Community Alliance where I volunteer to protect and restore water quality for the Wolf Creek watershed and by Community Environmental Advocates. Many of us are very concerned about the Environmental and Residential Impacts that this massive mine will create.

Here are my main concerns that I would like to have addressed in your evaluation process:

1) Is there even enough gold to balance the devastation and cost this mine will create?

2) In the dewatering process, will local wells be destroyed as happened in the North San Juan area mining operations?

3) In recent years, we sustained two sinkholes in Nevada City and Grass Valley. Will disturbing underground rocky tunnels to clear massive amounts of rock to build these mines cause disruption in the underground stability of land, potentially causing more dangerous and costly sinkholes?

4) How will dewatering mine tunnels with more than a million gallons of pumped water and removing literally tons of rock affect the water quality and habitat for animal life in Wolf Creek, and ultimately the Bear River, and it's riparian zones, and, local residential wells??

5) How can we ask local residents to live with the noise of trucks, dynamiting rock and potential safety hazards in the neighborhoods surrounding the mining operations for a very lengthy period of time?

6) Why are we considering a mining operation from a company outside of the United States?

In my opinion, we are still dealing with the legacy of mining operations from the 1800's. Nevada County has suffered enough from the greed and devastation to our rivers, creeks and environment from previous gold mining. I will be very grateful for your very dedicated and thorough evaluation of this process, considering all the potential negative impacts this could have on our county and local watershed. I do not see the overall value this project could bring, rather, I am very fearful of the ruination of our local beauty and the place we all call home.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Wendy Thompson

wtbreezy17@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Katherine Thompson <kathompson111@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 9:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Please add me to the mailing list for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley:

Please add me to your mailing/email list for notifications, documents, correspondence, etc. concerning the subject project. I live about 1.5 miles from the proposed project and have not received the NOP.

Thank you,
Katherine Thompson
10815 Footwall Drive
Grass Valley, CA
95945
916.835.1541

August 14, 2020

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County

Via email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the draft EIR. I am part of a 5-generation Nevada County family that has benefitted from mines in their heyday. We are not 500 feet from the subsurface boundary but live about 1.3 miles from the mine itself and are confident we will be impacted by air emissions, noise, vibration, and traffic.

I am also an avid road cyclist, mountain biker, and hiker; those activities in and around the Idaho-Maryland Mine subsurface area are a main reason I choose to live here.

I request the following questions and issues be addressed in the EIR.

- **Agriculture and Forestry**

The impacts of dewatering groundwater on the surrounding forest and associated ecosystem should be fully identified. Groundwater crosses the subsurface boundary of the project and supports forests and agriculture. Ecosystems are typically dependent on groundwater. The full impacts of dewatering groundwater on the forests and associated ecosystems, including plants, insects, birds, and mammals should be fully identified.

- **Air Quality**

How much air pollution will be generated by all aspects of the project, including truck exhaust from hauling waste and tailings, discharges related to energy use and from back up generators, employee transportation, and particulate matter from rock crushing? Keeping in mind that Nevada County has been out of compliance with the 8-hour ozone standard for multiple years, how will the project further impact ozone? How will air quality be monitored? The scope should include how the project impacts achieving the California Ambient Air Quality (CAAQ) standards including:

- Particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10)
- Ozone
- Nitrogen Dioxide
- Sulfate

- Carbon Monoxide
- Visibility Reducing Particles
- Lead
- Hydrogen Sulfide

Air emissions will not be contained to the project area. What areas will they impact and how will those impacted areas be notified of the potential project?

- **Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources**

The project proposes significant, year-round discharges to Wolf Creek. What will be the impact to the Wolf creek ecological system, including terrestrial and aquatic resources for the next 80 years. An analysis should be done showing the impacts in 5-year increments, and identifying long-term impacts on forest and associated ecosystem health.

- **Geology/Soils**

How will the stability of the land be impacted due to frequent blasting? How will "ground vibrations" (a seismic wave that moves through the ground following a blast) be monitored? What will be the impact on the ground stability throughout the subsurface area, including the airport and industrial complex?

Granitic rocks are known to be in the project area, and are composed of quartz diorite and granodiorite. The granitic rocks yield little water to wells unless they are fractured or weathered. How will further fracturing the granite impact stability throughout the region?

How will the geology of the subsurface area contribute to carrying the ground vibrations beyond the subsurface area?

What faults exist in the subsurface area and how might these faults contribute to additional vibrations and property damage?

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

How will project operations, including trucking of mine waste, trucking supply and construction deliveries, and fumes from mine blasting impact or create green house gases for the next 80 years? The analysis should include impacts on nearby counties, such as Yuba and Placer that will be impacted by trucking operations once the local waste depositary is closed.

- **Hazards & Hazardous Material**

What hazardous materials will be used and generated by the project? How will they be stored, transported and disposed of?

What is the type of fumes that will be released from blasting? How will they be monitored and controlled?

- **Hydrology/Water Quality**

Water supply is a chief concern in the County. Are we sending a solid supply of drinking water down the drain?

In the past, one of the major growth-related problems has been the inability to meet the demand for water with the present water system. As USGS found, "*The deficiency in the water system results from a limited supply of surface water and an absence of an adequate aquifer for supplying large quantities of ground water.*" So the bottom line is that ground water is a precious resource that needs full protection.[1]

Dewatering groundwater will likely impact groundwater beyond the project subsurface boundaries. The potential impacts to wells, homes, businesses, citizens and the environment, including the forest ecosystem, need to be fully identified and evaluated. Pre project, all wells within a mile of the subsurface boundary should be mapped using the standard system, such as USGS so impacts can be identified.

What will be the quality of the water discharged into the settling pond? Into Wolf Creek? How will it be monitored? What frequency, methodology, and by whom? How will the public be informed of the results? What actions will be taken for noncompliance?

Will the project cause additional erosion and/or sediments in Wolf Creek? Will additional sediment be released into or by the creek due to the large amounts of water added to the creek? What is the impact on the Wolf Creek ecosystem? What are the TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) for Wolf Creek? How will the project discharges and other actions impact the achievement of TMDLs?

Wolf Creek flows into the Bear River. Both Bear River and Wolf Creek are already identified as impaired waterways with water quality issues due, in part, to mining. How will Wolf Creek flows impact the Bear River, including sediments, pollution, and contaminants and TMDLs. How will the Bear River ecosystem be impacted?

What toxic materials are in the existing tunnels? Which ones are in the mine ground water? What process will be used to monitor the water being removed from the tunnels? What additional contaminants may be introduced by further dewatering?

[1] USGS Ground-water Conditions and Yields in Fractured Rocks, Southwestern Nevada County, Report 83-4262.

How will wells both directly in the subsurface area and within 1 mile of the subsurface area be monitored? How frequently? How will the company and or County assure the wells have not been contaminated?

- **Land Use/Planning**

What rezoning is required? How will this rezoning impact the current and planned residences in the area? Will this be considered a taking? (See comment in project economics below.)

This is a proposed 80-year permit. As required by CEQA, Rise Gold should submit alternatives to an 80-year permit, such as 5-, 10- and 20-year permits. The County needs to consider a conditional permit subject to 100% compliance.

How will the County monitor permit compliance? How many resources will be dedicated to this, from which departments, and what expertise? Does the County have air quality experts? Water quality?

- **Noise • Population / Housing**

Blasting tunnels, loading trucks, and crushing rock are noisy, dusty operations. How much dust will be created? On windy days, where with the dust be blown?

What noise levels will be generated by all operations from crushing, loading and unloading trucks, the power system, and employee transportation? At what times of the day and which days? How far away will residents hear this noise, including trucks hauling rock down Brunswick and Bennett (initially) and later down Highways 49, 20, and 174? What will be the impact on the residents?

How will the EIR scope address the impacts on blasting, even if below the damage threshold? OSMRE has found that *"People are sensitive to blasting vibrations and can feel blasts that are as little as 2% of the legal vibration limits. Thus, blasting that shakes their homes, but is within legal limits, may often annoy people. Depending on person's sensitivity, any given blast may be offensive.*" [2]

- **Public Services Recreation**

Important and highly visited recreation areas are nearby including the Union Hill portion of Empire Mine, Empire Mine itself (West of 174) and Wolf Creek. The Empire Mine Park boundary is less than a mile from the Mine itself and appears to butt up against the project subsurface boundary. Will Union Hill or Empire mine be impacted by air

[2]The Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, https://www.osmre.gov/resources/blasting.shtm

emissions from trucking or the project operations? Will there be additional noise or vibrations from blasting? The Wolf Creek trail is a new, important, and highly visited trail. How will increased flows impact this resource?

- **Transportation & Traffic**

Bennett Street currently provides the safest and most direct pedestrian and cycling route from Grass Valley to the Cedar Ridge area and then to Chicago Park. Highway 174 has heavy truck, school and other traffic and does not have an adequate shoulder. How will pedestrians and cyclists be safely accommodated on Bennett Street? What alternatives will the County provide? What are safer alternatives for moving waste than that currently proposed?

Bennett Street is also the main route to access the Greenhorn Road subdivision from central Grass Valley. How will this impact these homeowners ability to access Greenhorn?

The operation will generate up to a hundred truckloads daily, plus supply deliveries of explosive and other materials and employee traffic. This huge increase in traffic will result in potholes, road wear, and accidents. What is the cost and how will this be mitigated? Truck traffic will also substantially increase in nearby counties throughout the life of the project. How will this impact their roads (e.g. Highway 49, Highway 20)?

- **Utilities & Service Systems**

Water supply, the most important utility, will be significantly impacted. What new water systems will need to be installed to supply water for all impacted wells, whether they are dewatered or contaminated?

- **Economic Study**

  - Takings. It is likely that rezoning in the area from light industrial to industrial and/or dewatering private wells will constitute a taking. Under the 5th Amendment, the Government (County) does not have the authority to allow a taking for a private party benefit. A zoning change that substantially diminishes an owner's property value, however, may constitute a compensable regulatory taking. This is somewhat different than an eminent domain (condemnation) proceeding because the property is not actually "taken," but a regulation is adopted that diminishes its value. An infinite variety of regulations may affect a property's value. Also, the County is allowing a private company to dewater wells for the benefit of the company. The cost of takings should be evaluated in the economic study.

In a famous opinion by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, the Supreme Court held that if a regulation went "too far," it could constitute a taking that would require just compensation by the government.

Rezoning and permitting the project would be government actions that impact private property rights. The cost of restoring these property rights must be fully considered in any economic study.

- Loud industrial noise, dust, impacted air quality, dry wells, truck traffic, employee traffic and other factors will degrade the value of the homes around the project site and in Grass Valley, Cedar Ridge and the Greenhorn area. How much will the value of homes decline? What will be the overall impact on the housing market in Grass Valley?

- Blasting will cause ground vibrations and people's homes to shake. When people feel their homes shake, they may associate damage to their homes, businesses, airfield, etc. as being a direct result of blasting. What limits are being set on ground vibrations to avoid damaging structures above the subsurface area? Do the Feds, State, or County have the regulations that adequately protect homes, businesses, and property? What happens when blasting limits are exceeded? What happens when damage occurs below blasting limits? Who will be responsible for investigating the damage claim and/or adjusting limits to prevent damage?

- Ground water supported much of the growth in the Grass Valley area in the 1980s[3]. How will dewatering wells impact the water supply for homes within the 1-mile radius of the project subsurface boundary? Ground water pockets do not stop at the mine subsurface boundary and the scope needs to consider that groundwater will move from much more than 500 feet from the boundary.

  As USGS found, ground water occurs chiefly in fractures in the hard rocks and moves through a zone that, in general, lies above a depth of about 215 feet and that is less than 200-feet thick. This is the depth the project plans to dewater. Groundwater is unlikely to be found at deeper depths, per USGS so home owners will not be able to just dig their wells deeper for water. What will be the economic impacts of dewatering wells, including providing a new water supply to areas previously without water? Who will pay for the home hookups?

- Does NID have sufficient resources to put another 50 to 200 homes on their system in the Cedar Ridge/Greenhorn/Loma Rica road area? If not, how will water be provided to homes that lose their wells?

[3] USGS Ground-water Conditions and Yields in Fractured Rocks, Southwestern Nevada County, Report 83-4262.

- Extensive truck traffic from both hauling rock and waste tailings and delivery of supplies will chew up County roads. What will be the cost of keeping the road in good repair? Will this be added to the budget, or will other County roads suffer?

- What is the risk of creating additional sinkholes throughout the subsurface boundaries? How will these be identified and will the homeowners be compensated or will the company address the issue? What will be the requirements for addressing sinkholes that result on private property?

- Will the mine likely pay taxes to the County? If so, how much and when? Will this offset the cost of its operation on county roads, water supply, etc.?

- How will the releases to Wolf Creek impact the operation of the treatment facility downstream? What modifications will need to be made, at what cost, and who will pay for them?

- Historically, mine operations have left toxic impacts, contaminated wells, loss of public property (wells and home values), unsightly waste piles, and ground water contamination. If the company fails to have sufficient funds to address these issues, who will pay for them?

Please keep me apprised of the status of this project and promptly informed of all opportunities to comment. I also request virtual public meetings on all aspects of this project, including air quality, water impacts, and economic considerations.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thompson

10815 Footwall Drive

Grass Valley

Kathompson111@gmail.com

916.835.1541

From:	Katherine Thompson
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments on the Scope of the Draft EIR-Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:42 AM
Attachments:	Thompsonscope DEIR IMMinefinalcmt.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt:

Attached are my comments on the scope of the draft EIR for the subject mine.

I have also included them as text below:

_____

August 14, 2020

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County

Via email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the draft EIR. I am part of a 5-generation Nevada County family that has benefitted from mines in their heyday. We are not 500 feet from the subsurface boundary but live about 1.3 miles from the mine itself and are confident we will be impacted by air emissions, noise, vibration, and traffic.

I am also an avid road cyclist, mountain biker, and hiker; those activities in and around the Idaho-Maryland Mine subsurface area are a main reason I choose to live here.

I request the following questions and issues be addressed in the EIR.

- **Agriculture and Forestry**

The impacts of dewatering groundwater on the surrounding forest and associated ecosystem should be fully identified. Groundwater crosses the subsurface boundary of the project and supports forests and agriculture. Ecosystems are typically dependent on groundwater. The full impacts of dewatering groundwater on the forests and associated ecosystems, including plants, insects, birds, and mammals should be fully identified.

- **Air Quality**

How much air pollution will be generated by all aspects of the project, including truck exhaust from hauling waste and tailings, discharges related to energy use and from back up generators, employee transportation, and particulate matter from rock crushing? Keeping in mind that Nevada County has been out of compliance with the 8-hour ozone standard for multiple years, how will the project further impact ozone? How will air quality be monitored? The scope should include how the project impacts achieving the California Ambient Air Quality (CAAQ) standards including:

- Particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10)
- Ozone
- Nitrogen Dioxide
- Sulfate
- Carbon Monoxide
- Visibility Reducing Particles
- Lead
- Hydrogen Sulfide

Air emissions will not be contained to the project area. What areas will they impact and how will those impacted areas be notified of the potential project?

- **Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources**

The project proposes significant, year-round discharges to Wolf Creek. What will be the impact to the Wolf creek ecological system, including terrestrial and aquatic resources for the next 80 years? An analysis should be done showing the impacts in 5-year increments, and identifying long-term impacts on forest and associated ecosystem health.

- **Geology/Soils**

How will the stability of the land be impacted due to frequent blasting? How will "ground vibrations" (a seismic wave that moves through the ground following a blast) be monitored? What will be the impact on the ground stability throughout the subsurface area, including the airport and industrial complex?

Granitic rocks are known to be in the project area, and are composed of quartz diorite and granodiorite. The granitic rocks yield little water to wells unless they are fractured or weathered. How will further fracturing the granite impact stability throughout the region?

How will the geology of the subsurface area contribute to carrying the ground vibrations beyond the subsurface area?

What faults exist in the subsurface area and how might these faults contribute to additional vibrations and property damage?

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

How will project operations, including trucking of mine waste, trucking supply and construction deliveries, and fumes from mine blasting impact or create green house gases for the next 80 years? The analysis should include impacts on nearby counties, such as Yuba and Placer that will be impacted by trucking operations once the local waste depositary is closed.

- **Hazards & Hazardous Material**

What hazardous materials will be used and generated by the project? How will they be stored, transported and disposed of?

What is the type of fumes that will be released from blasting? How will they be monitored and controlled?

- **Hydrology/Water Quality**

Water supply is a chief concern in the County. Are we sending a solid supply of drinking water down the drain?

In the past, one of the major growth-related problems has been the inability to meet the demand for water with the present water system. As USGS found, "*The deficiency in the water system results from a limited supply of surface water and an absence of an adequate aquifer for supplying large quantities of ground water.*" So the bottom line is that ground water is a precious resource that needs full protection.[1]

Dewatering groundwater will likely impact groundwater beyond the project subsurface boundaries. The potential impacts to wells, homes, businesses, citizens and the environment, including the forest ecosystem, need to be fully identified and evaluated. Pre project, all wells within a mile of the subsurface boundary should be mapped using the standard system, such as USGS so impacts can be identified.

What will be the quality of the water discharged into the settling pond? Into Wolf Creek? How will it be monitored? What frequency, methodology, and by whom? How will the public be informed of the results? What actions will be taken for noncompliance?

Will the project cause additional erosion and/or sediments in Wolf Creek? Will additional sediment be released into or by the creek due to the large amounts of water added to the creek? What is the impact on the Wolf Creek ecosystem? What are the TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) for Wolf Creek? How will the project discharges and other actions impact the achievement of TMDLs?

Wolf Creek flows into the Bear River. Both Bear River and Wolf Creek are already identified as impaired waterways with water quality issues due, in part, to mining. How will Wolf Creek flows impact the Bear River, including sediments, pollution, and contaminants and TMDLs. How will the Bear River ecosystem be impacted?

What toxic materials are in the existing tunnels? Which ones are in the mine ground water? What process will be used to monitor the water being removed from the tunnels? What

additional contaminants may be introduced by further dewatering?

How will wells both directly in the subsurface area and within 1 mile of the subsurface area be monitored? How frequently? How will the company and or County assure the wells have not been contaminated?

- **Land Use/Planning**

What rezoning is required? How will this rezoning impact the current and planned residences in the area? Will this be considered a taking? (See comment in project economics below.)

This is a proposed 80-year permit. As required by CEQA, Rise Gold should submit alternatives to an 80-year permit, such as 5-, 10- and 20-year permits. The County needs to consider a conditional permit subject to 100% compliance.

How will the County monitor permit compliance? How many resources will be dedicated to this, from which departments, and what expertise? Does the County have air quality experts? Water quality?

- **Noise • Population / Housing**

Blasting tunnels, loading trucks, and crushing rock are noisy, dusty operations. How much dust will be created? On windy days, where with the dust be blown?

What noise levels will be generated by all operations from crushing, loading and unloading trucks, the power system, and employee transportation? At what times of the day and which days? How far away will residents hear this noise, including trucks hauling rock down Brunswick and Bennett (initially) and later down Highways 49, 20, and 174? What will be the impact on the residents?

How will the EIR scope address the impacts on blasting, even if below the damage threshold? OSMRE has found that *"People are sensitive to blasting vibrations and can feel blasts that are as little as 2% of the legal vibration limits. Thus, blasting that shakes their homes, but is within legal limits, may often annoy people. Depending on person's sensitivity, any given blast may be offensive."*[2]

- **Public Services Recreation**

Important and highly visited recreation areas are nearby including the Union Hill portion of Empire Mine, Empire Mine itself (West of 174) and Wolf Creek. The Empire Mine Park boundary is less than a mile from the Mine itself and appears to butt up against the project subsurface boundary. Will Union Hill or Empire mine be impacted by air emissions from trucking or the project operations? Will there be additional noise or vibrations from blasting? The Wolf Creek trail is a new, important, and highly visited trail. How will increased flows impact this resource?

- **Transportation & Traffic**

Bennett Street currently provides the safest and most direct pedestrian and cycling route from Grass Valley to the Cedar Ridge area and then to Chicago Park. Highway 174 has heavy truck, school and other traffic and does not have an adequate shoulder. How will pedestrians and cyclists be safely accommodated on Bennett Street? What alternatives will the County provide? What are safer alternatives for moving waste than that currently proposed?

Bennett Street is also the main route to access the Greenhorn Road subdivision from central Grass Valley. How will this impact these homeowners ability to access Greenhorn?

The operation will generate up to a hundred truckloads daily, plus supply deliveries of explosive and other materials and employee traffic. This huge increase in traffic will result in potholes, road wear, and accidents. What is the cost and how will this be mitigated? Truck traffic will also substantially increase in nearby counties throughout the life of the project. How will this impact their roads (e.g. Highway 49, Highway 20)?

- **Utilities & Service Systems**

Water supply, the most important utility, will be significantly impacted. What new water systems will need to be installed to supply water for all impacted wells, whether they are dewatered or contaminated?

- **Economic Study**

  - Takings. It is likely that rezoning in the area from light industrial to industrial and/or dewatering private wells will constitute a taking. Under the 5th Amendment, the Government (County) does not have the authority to allow a taking for a private party benefit. A zoning change that substantially diminishes an owner's property value, however, may constitute a compensable regulatory taking. This is somewhat different than an eminent domain (condemnation) proceeding because the property is not actually "taken," but a regulation is adopted that diminishes its value. An infinite variety of regulations may affect a property's value. Also, the County is allowing a private company to dewater wells for the benefit of the company. The cost of takings should be evaluated in the economic study.

    In a famous opinion by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, the Supreme Court held that if a regulation went "too far," it could constitute a taking that would require just compensation by the government.

    Rezoning and permitting the project would be government actions that impact private property rights. The cost of restoring these property rights must be fully considered in any economic study.

  - Loud industrial noise, dust, impacted air quality, dry wells, truck traffic, employee traffic and other factors will degrade the value of the homes around the project site and

in Grass Valley, Cedar Ridge and the Greenhorn area. How much will the value of homes decline? What will be the overall impact on the housing market in Grass Valley?

- Blasting will cause ground vibrations and people's homes to shake. When people feel their homes shake, they may associate damage to their homes, businesses, airfield, etc. as being a direct result of blasting. What limits are being set on ground vibrations to avoid damaging structures above the subsurface area? Do the Feds, State, or County have the regulations that adequately protect homes, businesses, and property? What happens when blasting limits are exceeded? What happens when damage occurs below blasting limits? Who will be responsible for investigating the damage claim and/or adjusting limits to prevent damage?

- Ground water supported much of the growth in the Grass Valley area in the 1980s[3]. How will dewatering wells impact the water supply for homes within the 1-mile radius of the project subsurface boundary? Ground water pockets do not stop at the mine subsurface boundary and the scope needs to consider that groundwater will move from much more than 500 feet from the boundary.

  As USGS found, ground water occurs chiefly in fractures in the hard rocks and moves through a zone that, in general, lies above a depth of about 215 feet and that is less than 200-feet thick. This is the depth the project plans to dewater. Groundwater is unlikely to be found at deeper depths, per USGS so home owners will not be able to just dig their wells deeper for water. What will be the economic impacts of dewatering wells, including providing a new water supply to areas previously without water? Who will pay for the home hookups?

- Does NID have sufficient resources to put another 50 to 200 homes on their system in the Cedar Ridge/Greenhorn/Loma Rica road area? If not, how will water be provided to homes that lose their wells?

- Extensive truck traffic from both hauling rock and waste tailings and delivery of supplies will chew up County roads. What will be the cost of keeping the road in good repair? Will this be added to the budget, or will other County roads suffer?

- What is the risk of creating additional sinkholes throughout the subsurface boundaries? How will these be identified and will the homeowners be compensated or will the company address the issue? What will be the requirements for addressing sinkholes that result on private property?

- Will the mine likely pay taxes to the County? If so, how much and when? Will this offset the cost of its operation on county roads, water supply, etc.?

- How will the releases to Wolf Creek impact the operation of the treatment facility downstream? What modifications will need to be made, at what cost, and who will pay for them?

- Historically, mine operations have left toxic impacts, contaminated wells, loss of public

property (wells and home values), unsightly waste piles, and ground water contamination. If the company fails to have sufficient funds to address these issues, who will pay for them?

Please keep me apprised of the status of this project and promptly informed of all opportunities to comment. I also request virtual public meetings on all aspects of this project, including air quality, water impacts, and economic considerations.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thompson

10815 Footwall Drive

Grass Valley

Kathompson111@gmail.com

916.835.1541

Footnotes:

---

[1] USGS Ground-water Conditions and Yields in Fractured Rocks, Southwestern Nevada County, Report 83-4262.

[2]The Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, https://www.osmre.gov/resources/blasting.shtm

[3] USGS Ground-water Conditions and Yields in Fractured Rocks, Southwestern Nevada County, Report 83-4262.

> On Aug 10, 2020, at 6:09 PM, Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:
>
> Good Afternoon Katherine:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR. We will also add your name to the mailing and notification list for notification for the proposed project as well.
>
> The Notice of Preparation was mailed out on July 17, 2020 to Responsible Agencies, Organizations as well as all property owners within 500 feet of the extent of the subsurface mineral rights that are owned by the applicant. In addition, the Notice of Preparation was also posted on the Nevada County Planning Department website beginning on July 17, 2020 athttps://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-

Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley and it was also posted in the Union Newspaper also on July 17, 2020. As specified by the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation is being circulated for a 30-day review period which began on July 17, 2020 and which closes on August 17, 2020 at 5pm.

Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley

We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's

recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
<image001.jpg>
Planning Department
County of Nevada
Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
office 530.265-1423
https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

-----Original Message-----
From: Katherine Thompson <kathompson111@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 9:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Please add me to the mailing list for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley:

Please add me to your mailing/email list for notifications, documents, correspondence, etc. concerning the subject project. I live about 1.5 miles from the proposed project and have not received the NOP.

Thank you,
Katherine Thompson
10815 Footwall Drive
Grass Valley, CA
95945
916.835.1541

From: Katherine Thompson <kathompson111@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Maria Blix <mblix51@gmail.com>
Subject: Scope of DEIR for Idaho Maryland

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt-

Attached is a letter from a local cycling group. Maria Blix was inadvertently left off as a signatory and is included in this version.
-Katherine Thompson

From: ed tillotson <edltillotson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 10:24 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have lived here on Anchor lane since 1968 and have seen the area become very populated.
This mine would kill my well which sits at 160 ft. I guess there is no plan for the loss of wells other than on Bennett street.
This is a huge money maker for the county but at what cost to the families living in the area's around this mine.
This is a Bad Thing for out town.
Thank you. Ed Tillotson

From: Nancy Tilman <tntilman@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I can't imagine this project being part of the life, here in Grass Valley!! We are no longer an industrial site.
People come here for the serenity of the area and this project would in no way contribute to that desire.
PLEASE don't let this happen to us!!!!!

Nancy A. Tilman
14480 Wilder Lane

Grass Valley, 95945-9528

tntilman@att.net

From: Kalita Todd
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 9:00:10 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Is Global Warming being considered in this idea of opening a mine in Nevada County? The #1 method money generating in this county presently is Open Space.
Who are the people moving to the Nevada City , Grass Valley area and why?
https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf

OUTDOOR RECREATION IS A POWERFUL ECONOMIC ENGINE:

Outdoor recreation is among our nation's largest economic sectors, representing the lifeblood of thousands of American communities and providing livelihoods for millions of American workers:
THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY GENERATES:

7.6 MILLION AMERICAN JOBS
$887 BILLION IN CONSUMER SPENDING ANNUALLY
$65.3 BILLION IN FEDERAL TAX REVENUE
$59.2 BILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE

Please consider this in your deliberations.

All topics below need to be considered in this proposal:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality

- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing

Public Services Recreation
- Transportation & Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Economic Study

Please do the very best to represent Nevada County and it's people in the very best way.

Thank you, Kalita Todd

From: John Totino
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine proposed re-opening and operation
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

I have been reading about the proposal for the re-opening and operation of the Idaho-Maryland mine by the Canadian company Rise Gold.

I am very concerned about the potential for serious negative impacts on the quality of life and the environment in the Grass Valley/Nevada City area where I live.

I oppose the re-opening of this mine for a number of important reasons:

First, in order to make the mine operational again, large amounts of water would need to be extracted from it in order to clear the existing mine shafts. This could cause the wells of many residents who live in the area to run dry.

The excess water would be dumped into Wolf Creek and even if it were treated first there could still be the risk of toxic contaminants entering this water shed. The discharge of excess water into this creek could also upset the delicate balance of wildlife around it.

There would also be air pollution both from the many diesel trucks that would be hauling away mine trailings and from the pulverizing of dirt from from the mine operation. This could release toxic and potentially dangerous chemicals into the air including asbestos.

In addition, there would be continual noise seven days a week from trucks and from the mine operation that would adversely impact the quality of life for neighboring residents and this could also drastically lower their real estate property values. Furthermore, the many trucks involved in this operation would create traffic congestion and there is also the risk of a catastrophic accident from a truck hauling explosives that are used for the mining operation. As well as numerous other impacts.

I am asking you as a concerned citizen and resident of this area to oppose and reject the proposal by Rise Gold to re-open the Idaho-Maryland mine. Please do this for the benefit of for the residents of our community and for your own consciousness. Thank you.

Sincerely, John Totino

From: Miranda Townsend
To: Matt Kelley
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:20:29 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Miranda Townsend and I am a resident of Nevada County, born and raised! I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.
Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Miranda Townsend
Proud Resident of Nevada County
mirtownsend5@gmail.com

From: Holly Toyoguchi
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: I am opposed to the Rise Mine Proposal.
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 4:45:07 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for reading this. I have personally seen the devastation from mining in Clearlake, Ca. Poisonings of fish and wildlife in and around the lake and area.
I am new to Nevada City, 5 years residency but I feel the people, water, air and wildlife is more important than mining. I am opposed to any mining in Nevada County.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Holly Toyoguchi
14612 Harter Place
Nevada City, California
95959, USA
1-951-760-2767

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Felicia Tracy <ftracy@sierraemail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I am personally open to fully exploring the impacts of reopening the mines. Nevada County in my lifetime has depended upon mining, lumber, agriculture, tech and most recently tourism. Without better internet throughout the county, we are at a great disadvantage. The timber industry

has basically been shut down…the spotted owl did not help, large scale grazing and a once large dairy industry are diminished, and now tourism is suffering thanks to Covid 19 Small agriculture and specialty farming is doing well, but is not on the scale that mining and timber were. We need to look at how this county can survive and thrive. Mining in the past kept it very alive.

It would seem with today's technology that many of the issues people fear from past mining ventures might be resolved. All industries have side effects. Let us look at this with an open mind. Gold has always had value worldwide.

Felicia

Tracy

From: Deborah Underwood
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine reopening
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:19:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to let you know I am against the mine being reopened.
Deborah Underwood

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: David Unterman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:55:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: David Unterman 10679 Bragg Ave., Grass Valley CA 95945 530 272 4650 530 263 3297 text

Mr. Kelly:

I live under 2 miles from the proposed Rise Gold Centennial site. As I read the County's documents about preparing for an EIR, and other reports, several things stand out:

First, Rise Gold has proven unreliable already, ignoring watercourse setback requirements and timber rules since their 2017 explorations. Therefore, any proposed mitigation measures and environmental monitoring should include outside observers and other professionals that are adequately funded--more so than normal--with more frequent inspections than usual, also with funding budgeted for those.

Similarly, Rise Gold's ambitious business model will likely push them to bend rules and ask for latitude. As the EIR is reviewed, extra financial measures to insure compliance must be included.

The EIR should address the overall institutional scale and the fact that the County's resources are limited, while the applicant has no long-term commitment here, is motivated to make money before departing, and is ultimately a foreign corporation.

Finally, the EIR will have to address whether 24/7 drilling noise and truck traffic can be mitigated. I urge that these topics be looked at with extreme skepticism. No matter what the noise and traffic studies say about sound barriers and existing traffic flows, this project appears to have potential for huge, permanent, negative impacts to many established residential and commercial neighborhoods.

From: greghvaness@gmail.com <greghvaness@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: rvaness60@gmail.com; 'Linda Lanzoni' <Linda@StarshineRanch.org>
Subject: The Idaho - Maryland Mine...Concerns...Van Ess

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

My wife and I purchased our “final home” on Anchor Lane, off Greenhorn in December 2019. We were tired of the Bay Area traffic, the density, and tired of living next to the Martinez, CA Oil Refinery

(we lived 0.5 mile from this property). As you can imagine, we lived with pollution, noise from plant operations, weekly emergency sirens (drills), explosions and releases, cancer/health concerns, aesthetics issues, depressed property values and resultant quality of the surrounding neighborhoods, and wildlife impact...scarcity of birds (canary metaphor).

We had no idea that the Idaho – Maryland Mine, also ~0.5miles from our new home, was under consideration for reopening when we purchased. We would not have purchased our home had we known, and I would hate to be a homeowner in this area in a must-sell situation now. The few articles that I have read are extremely concerning for us.

Here is a list of our most concerning points:

- Water (in all the ways it can be impacted)
- Property value
- Noise pollution, 24x7
- Air pollution/dust/air quality/health concerns
- Nighttime lighting
- Traffic, especially the truck runs
- Truck noise, plus back-up beepers
- Well water drying up
- Well water contamination
- Loss of birds and wildlife
- Availability of new water source if needed
- Cost of new water source
- Loss of water to garden (my wife's passion in life, we have 2 acres of flat landscaped yard)
- Increased fire risk due to loss of area groundwater (trees suffering from less groundwater)
- Health of area forests
- Risk of an industrial accident leading to a forest fire
- Waste materials transport and disposal - solids
- Wastewater disposal and related pollution
- Fire hydrant water supply (?)
- Loss of our tranquility
- Loss of our beautiful neighborhood
- Forced to sell at a loss and move away if these issues become reality
- What does the community gain to justify these losses?
- Ability to sell our home, let alone at a loss
- Ability to obtain a home equity line of credit (property appraisal required)
- Ability to refinance (property appraisal required)
- Ability to obtain a reverse mortgage (which can be important as an income source in retirement if other assets are depleted, and this strategy is dependent upon a property appraisal to loan balance)
- Power disruptions and outages
- Increased electricity rates (?)
- Effect on property taxes
- Effect on homeowners insurances

Fair Plan fire insurance impact

I saw on the CEA website where another mine was opened after the owner provided assurances around well water supply and well water contamination, and in the end, I believe I read that wells dried up and other wells became contaminated. I have no confidence in a large Canadian mining company caring about anything other than their profits.

We strongly do not support this venture, and I am committed to help block it.

Thank you,

Greg

Greg and Robin Van Ess
14384 Anchor Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945
925.323.7422

From:	Toon Vandevorst
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Rise Gold Idaho-Maryland mine reopening
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 9:53:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Today I was reminded of the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland mine, and the August 17th deadline for public comment. I anticipate a lot of people will write to you with environmental concerns. Based on my limited knowledge of what extraction of minerals does to a region's water and air quality, and the likelihood of noise pollution, I'm convinced most of the concerns are valid. Our own property is located close enough to the site that noise from traffic and drilling will be an issue.

I want to voice another, additional concern: I'm worried this venture will negatively impact our local economy (tourism, health care, etc.) and not just because of the traffic and environmental damage. I'm sure the value of gold has gone up considerably in today's uncertain economy, and I'm sure Rise Gold first and foremost wants to make a profit. No matter how strict the rules we set for them, there will always be externalities, the "cost of doing business". Why exactly would we agree to bear these costs if the profit goes to a Canadian parent company and its shareholders? Is there a benefit to our community as a whole, or is it a small group of insiders that stand to gain from this deal?

My sense is that we currently actually have a strong and equitable local economy. I'd hate to see that weakened by a remote corporation with short-term, if not entirely speculative goals.

Sincerely,
-Toon Vandevorst

From:	Bonnie Veblen
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Sara Tiffany
Subject:	Letter of concern over RISE Gold mining proposal
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:44 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Matt Kelley:

We are writing as members of the community to express our concern over the proposed mining activity by RISE Gold at the Idaho-Maryland mine. We live on a property along Wolf Creek and are invested in the health of our county's residents, its resources, and the local ecosystems, and wish to protect them from harm. The proposed project would likely have many serious negative impacts to both our local community as well as the health of our ecosystems, and for these reasons we disapprove of it proceeding. Our main concerns are as follows:

• Negative impacts to air quality as well as greenhouse gas emissions. This includes exhaust emissions and dust, as well as arsenic released in the air due to fine dust particles whenever rock is brought to the surface and potential disruption of prior contaminated soils causing mercury vapor emissions. The release of approximately 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gasses per year due to mining operations, as well as loss of carbon sinks and habitat due to the proposed removal of 75 acres of forest for tailing sites, is untenable in the time of climate change. Would the project be required to be net-zero in terms of climate emissions? Would it be required to replant another deforested area in forest?

• The proposed dewatering of the mine could potentially catastrophically empty the local aquifer, causing wells in the local area around the mine to go dry or become permanently contaminated. In 1990's this actually happened due to Siskon Gold operations along the San Juan Ridge, even though the environmental impact report had determined that it would not happen. How can we be sure that the same thing will not happen again? It's essential to protect the most essential resource our community has, it's water. Losing this resource would be a burden to the local residents as well as cause property values to decline.

• Previous gold mining processes have left behind tailings with arsenic, cobalt, barium, mercury, thallium, chromium, copper, lead, zinc, cyanide, vanadium and nickel, many of which have been measured at hazardous levels. We want to know how these will be dealt with, since they would likely be disturbed, including in respect to leaching and potential impacts to groundwater.

• Looking forward, with the proposed mining processes, how will RISE Gold ensure their mine tailings are safe and free of hazardous materials, such as those listed above? Especially if the areas with tailings are going to be later converted into development sites, as has been proposed, how will the mining company ensure that they are safe and would not negatively impact the health of current or future communities, or the groundwater, near or on those tailings?

• We also have concerns about contaminants in discharge water and potential harm to the organisms that live in and along Wolf Creek if not properly removed, as well as potentially affecting the health of groundwater and wells along the creek. Specifically, before the project proceeds, we would want to know who would oversee water treatment processes and continually ensure that contaminants are not being released in the discharge water into Wolf Creek. Given that this is a process that would need to happen even after the mine closes in 80 years, how will the mining company guarantee this process will continue to happen to adequate safety standards, and will be paid for in perpetuity?

• Since the water discharge process would permanently bring the level of Wolf Creek up to flood-stage level, we have concerns about how the increased flow levels would impact the riparian ecosystem as well as properties along the creek. Specifically, how would the plants, animals and other organisms that live in or along the creek and rely on its waters (which are adapted to its lower flow rates with occasional high flow rates when storms come through) be affected by high flow rates and likely permanent flood stage waters? How would property values be affected for lots along Wolf Creek?

• We also have concerns about potential erosion along the creek due to higher flow rates. With the higher flow rates and water level, would the riparian zone likely be impacted by wetter, looser soil and subsequent erosion? Would this make riparian tree fall more likely? Could this create a positive feedback loop of subsequent further erosion and destabilization to the banks?

• Wolf Creek is currently low enough to accomodate run-off from rain storms during fall, winter and spring months, however if the proposed mine went through, Wolf Creek may very well permanently be at flood stage due to discharge water, and thus there would be potential for very serious flooding whenever it rains. What would be the plan for accommodating run off from rain water?

Thank you for considering these thoughts and questions in assessing the environmental impacts of this project. Please contact us if you have any questions about what we have outlined here.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Veblen and Sara Tiffany

Bonnie V. Veblen and Sara E. Tiffany
10911 Wolf Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95949
443-418-6562
bvveblen@gmail.com
tiffany.sara@gmail.com

--
Bonnie Veblen

"When the abandonment to gravity comes into action, resistance ceases, fear vanishes, order is regained, nature starts again to function in its natural rhythm and the body is able to blossom fully, allowing the river of life to flow freely through all its parts." -Vanda Scaravelli

From: E. Jane Velasco <ejanevelasco@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Maryland Mine, Grass Valley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am voicing my concern regarding the proposed mine. The potential detrimental environmental effects are too great to warrant moving ahead on this project.

E. Jane Velasco
Penn Valley resident

From: Helena Velasquez
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposing the Reopening of Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:55:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

It's absurd to reopen Idaho-Maryland Mine. Definitely opposed. It doesn't make any sense.

H. Velasquez

Kristin Cobler-Verducci

14105 Collier Rd.

Grass Valley, CA 95945

sundogprod@gmail.com

530 264-6258

Aug. 13, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for over 50 years and have enjoyed this community for its natural beauty and serene and simple lifestyle. I raised my children here and now they are raising their children here. My father was one of the founding executives of Grass Valley Group (now Techtronic) which helped to establish the local economy with jobs and positions for many families (over 2,000 employees) over the last 3 decades.

With this said, I am very concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine in regards to its negative impacts to homeowners in the immediate area and the entire community- especially in regards to pollution, traffic, noise, the economy, wildlife and the destruction of the natural beauty here that we love dearly and which makes our town one of the most beautiful in the United Sates.

My husband and I purchased our property off of Greenhorn Rd. 1.5 miles from the proposed mining site. Our water source is strictly well water and I am requesting these analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

1.The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

2. The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

3. The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

4. The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

5. A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

6. Can we be assured that all chemicals to be used in the mining efforts are completely safe for our water, the environment, families, pets and livestock and the for the next 80 years or the duration of the mining contract?

Traffic Noise and the Economy:

1. What are the long- term effects of daily loads going back and forth hauling dirt and other debris from the mine to Centennial? How will this effect the local traffic, the environment, air-quality, wildlife? How will this effect tourism and will Grass Valley and Nevada City become less attractive for people to want to visit the local area? How will this affect the local economy?

2. Will the value of our home depreciate as people are less likely to want to buy a home that is in close proximity to the mine due to the likelihood of our well running dry, the increased traffic, noise and pollution? How would we be compensated for this?

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Kristin Cobler-Verducci

530 264-6258

From: Kristin Verducci
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:58:59 AM
Attachments: Letter to Matt Kelley.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please see attached letter.

I also mailed you a hard copy last week but this attachment is just in case you do not receive my letter by today.

Sincerely,
Kristin Verducci
530 264-6258

From: Margaret Vodicka
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Environmental Impact of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:43 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City, CA 95959
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I've lived in Nevada County over 40 years and recognize the negative impacts of gold mining. Even though gold mining is a big part our community's history, today, we are still dealing with those negative impacts. Just one example is the Magenta Drain' passive treatment system that was needed to be put in place to address mining influenced contaminated water. To hear that there is a proposal to open the Idaho Maryland Mine is very concerning to me and my family.

As the Environmental Impact Report is prepared, please include for analyses the following:

1. Analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted and include the full cost of providing/connecting each of the homes if wells are impacted for the full 80 year life of the lease.
2. Analyze the noise pollution.
3. Analyze the handling of toxic and hazardous material.

Please do not allow our community to suffer so that a group of investors can become rich while Nevada County pays for the negative consequences.

Sincerely,

Margaret and Milan Vodicka
14219 Rollins Park Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
margaret_vodicka@hotmail.com
530 272-4421

From: jvoorhes
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:01:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Please count this email as a no vote against reopening the mine.

Irregardless of the best intentions of Rise, we know mining never has a positive effect on the environment.

Thank you,

John Voorhes

From: Savannah Vucinich
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Concerns from an Environmentalist and Citizen of Nevada County
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:25:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Savannah Vucinich, and I am a resident of Nevada County. I am also studying Environmental Studies and Conservation Policy at UC Santa Cruz.
I am contacting you regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.
Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect our local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing.

This is not something are community or our surrounding ecosystems would at all benefit from. It seems only detrimental.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Savannah Vucinich
Resident of Nevada County
Savannah.vucinich@gmail.com

From: kurt wahi
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I object to any new mines to be operated in Nevada county . The gold rush has already destroyed habitats and ecosystems here . We need to stop destroying the earth to put a dollar in pockets . Please know I have lived in Nevada county for 21 years and represent many other that feel the same way I do .
Do not allow our lands to be raped and our waterways to be polluted for profit . Be the change in the world !! Help Nevada county be a role model for others
Thank you for your time
Kurt wahi
530-308-2261

From:	WAHLER ENTERPRISES
To:	Matt Kelley; jim wahler
Cc:	bdofsupervisors
Subject:	RE: Deeply concerned about the Idaho-Maryland Mine situation which should never even be in the works. Jim Wahler
Date:	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:50:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Matt Kelley and NC Board of Supervisors,

It doesn't take rocket science to read and understand the 3 parts listed in the **"Environmental Impact of Idaho-Maryland Mine"** article below.

Rise is a corporate entity that only has interest in their own pocket book and not our community.

It is up to us to protect our way of life here in Nevada County. There would be irreparably damage done to our water, earth environment, and air quality (noise being a big factor as well).

I sincerely hope that both Matt and the NC Board of Supervisors will get behind protecting our community from this destructive industry. There has been a reason why we haven't had any Mine activity since the 1940's.

Sincerely,
Jim Wahler, Concerned citizen of Nevada County since 1994

On 08/11/2020 6:16 PM Matt Kelley <matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Wahler:

Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.

Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley

We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission’s recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project

during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner



Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are

available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Jim Wahler <jimawahler@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:35 PM
To: jim wahler <jimawahler@comcast.net>; Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Deeply concerned about the Idaho-Maryland Mine situation which should never even be in the works. Jim Wahler

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt and Representatives of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

Years ago back in the early 1970's I was a city planner for the Lake County Planning Commission. We subcontracted our services to all the cities of Lake County because none of the other cities had city planners. We developed a master plan and land use plan among other things. Back in those days we stood for doing the right thing to make everything work for the entire community. The politicians stood for big money and lining there own pockets just as they do today. The planners of those days were the only thing that stood in the way of the community getting trampled from

haphazard building, not enough services, ie, decent roads, enough water lines, etc.

I don't know what you stand for, but I would hope it was for the safety of our community. This Idaho-Maryland mine hasn't been active since the 1940's and there is a reason for that. There is even more of a reason today, with the increase in people who live here and wish to live here in safety. This projected mine has only the interest of investors of the mine in mind and not our community. **As a city planner, I would think you would see right through this. The level of damage that would be done to our local water, earth environment, and air quality can not be denied.**

I will be sending this to the the Nextdoor Grandview Terrace and anyone who lives in our community who desires to continue to live in a safe community where our Water, Earth environment, and Air quality are needing to be protected. I hope you are on the side of protecting our community from most certain lasting damage if the present owners of the Idaho-Maryland Mine have their way>

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Wahler, concerned citizen of Nevada County since 1994.

"Environmental Impacts of Idaho-Maryland Mine

1. Water. Hundreds of miles of tunnels were built during prior mining operations at the Idaho-Maryland Mine site. When the mine was abandoned these tunnels filled up with naturally occurring water. To re-operate the mine, the area would need to be dewatered. This process entails pumping water from the old mine, treating the water to remove any toxic materials, and then discharging it into Wolf Creek. Proposed discharge rates are about 2,500 gallons per minute, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek, until the mine is drained. After the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send about 850 gallons per minute into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from refilling with water. The geology of this region that holds and transports underground water can respond unpredictably to dewatering and mine operations, potentially affecting local water resources. Mobilizing legacy contaminants in tunnels and in waterways with increased discharge can cause water quality problems. 2. Earth. Extracting gold produces tailings and waste rock, the byproduct of mine works. The scale of production is immense because gold yield is typically grams for every ton of ore rock excavated from a mine. The permit application describes a drill and blast regime beneath and beyond the boundaries of the property on Brunswick Road that would remove 1,500 tons of rock per day, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the life of the project. The permit states that half of the mined rock would be deposited at two sites on and near the mine. Haul trucks would deposit 1.4 million cubic yards of mining tailings on 31 acres of the Brunswick property where the mine is located up to their boundary near Mink

Court and Elk Lane. One million cubic yards of mining tailings would be deposited on the 44-acre Centennial Industrial Site bordered by Idaho Maryland Road, Centennial Drive, and the DeMartini RV site. The permit application does not indicate how many years the disposal sites can receive mine tailings and what happens with the debris once these fill sites are full. Rise Inc. plans to sell mine tailings as engineered fill, utilizing highways 20 and 49 to transport the rock to potential customers. Mine tailings can be elevated in lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic and other metals, posing a potential exposure risk. 3. Energy. Mining is a resource-intensive industry that requires large inputs of power. The permit application estimates power needs of 10 megawatts to run the mine with additional diesel back-up power generation capacity of 6 megawatts. One megawatt of power supplies 650-1000 homes with electricity. The proposed mine operation would re-inject 500 tons of processed mine debris as paste backfill each day into the blasted sections of the mine works to stabilize it. The backfill paste will use approximately 25 tons of cement daily, adding another 3 megawatts of power used to make the cement [1][2]. Although this power wouldn't come directly from the local power grid, cement production, a resource-intensive industry, is responsible for 5-7 % of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. The mine would contribute about 25 metric tons of CO2 daily solely from producing the cement required to backfill the proposed mine [3]. Mine operations would use up to 12,000 gallons of fuel per day, releasing another 120 metric tons of CO2 into the earth's atmosphere daily. Mining for gold uses large amounts of energy to excavate and process vast quantities of rock in order to extract small amounts of precious metal. Community

Impacts from Idaho-Maryland Mine While mining can be lucrative for those who control the operations, the benefits to local communities are less clear. One of the issues with extractive industries is that they do not take into account the social costs of projects. Gold is extracted and “goes away” as profit while traffic, noise, environmental, and other quality-of-life impacts are left to the community to deal with. The application to re-operate the Idaho-Maryland mine states that 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of those jobs, 242 jobs are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from outside the area. The remaining jobs, truck transport of mine debris and mineral processing, could provide 70 jobs for current local residents. There would be a positive economic boost from mine employees spending their money locally. No local public revenue would come to our municipality from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by people employed by the mine. California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee, collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of around $1500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise Inc. None of this fee would come to Nevada County to remediate the impacts of this proposed mine operation. Public benefit from hard rock mining is small while the public burden is significant and traditionally goes unaddressed.

From: Jim Wahler <jimawahler@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:35 PM
To: jim wahler <jimawahler@comcast.net>; Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Deeply concerned about the Idaho-Maryland Mine situation which should never even be in the works. Jim Wahler

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt and Representatives of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

Years ago back in the early 1970's I was a city planner for the Lake County Planning Commission. We subcontracted our services to all the cities of Lake County because none of the other cities had city planners. We developed a master plan and land use plan among other things. Back in those days we stood for doing the right thing to make everything work for the entire community. The politicians stood for big money and lining there own pockets just as they do today. The planners of those days were the only thing that stood in the way of the community getting trampled from haphazard building, not enough services, ie, decent roads, enough water lines, etc.

I don't know what you stand for, but I would hope it was for the safety of our community. This Idaho-Maryland mine hasn't been active since the 1940's and there is a reason for that. There is even more of a reason today, with the increase in people who live here and wish to live here in safety. This projected mine has only the interest of investors of the mine in mind and not our community. **As a city planner, I would think you would see right through this. The level of damage that would be done to our local water, earth environment, and air quality can not be denied.**

I will be sending this to the the Nextdoor Grandview Terrace and anyone who lives in our community who desires to continue to live in a safe community where our Water, Earth environment, and Air quality are needing to be protected. I hope you are on the side of protecting our community from most certain lasting damage if the present owners of the Idaho-Maryland Mine have their way>

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Wahler, concerned citizen of

Nevada County since 1994.

"Environmental Impacts of Idaho-Maryland Mine

1. Water. Hundreds of miles of tunnels were built during prior mining operations at the Idaho-Maryland Mine site. When the mine was abandoned these tunnels filled up with naturally occurring water. To re-operate the mine, the area would need to be dewatered. This process entails pumping water from the old mine, treating the water to remove any toxic materials, and then discharging it into Wolf Creek. Proposed discharge rates are about 2,500 gallons per minute, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek, until the mine is drained. After the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send about 850 gallons per minute into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from refilling with water. The geology of this region that holds and transports underground water can respond unpredictably to dewatering and mine operations, potentially affecting local water resources. Mobilizing legacy contaminants in tunnels and in waterways with increased discharge can cause water quality problems. 2. Earth. Extracting gold produces tailings and waste rock, the byproduct of mine works. The scale of production is immense because gold yield is typically grams for every ton of ore rock excavated from a mine. The permit application describes a drill and blast regime beneath and beyond the boundaries of the property on Brunswick Road that would remove 1,500 tons of rock per day, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the life of the project. The permit states that half of the mined rock would be deposited at two sites on

and near the mine. Haul trucks would deposit 1.4 million cubic yards of mining tailings on 31 acres of the Brunswick property where the mine is located up to their boundary near Mink Court and Elk Lane. One million cubic yards of mining tailings would be deposited on the 44-acre Centennial Industrial Site bordered by Idaho Maryland Road, Centennial Drive, and the DeMartini RV site. The permit application does not indicate how many years the disposal sites can receive mine tailings and what happens with the debris once these fill sites are full. Rise Inc. plans to sell mine tailings as engineered fill, utilizing highways 20 and 49 to transport the rock to potential customers. Mine tailings can be elevated in lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic and other metals, posing a potential exposure risk. 3. Energy. Mining is a resource-intensive industry that requires large inputs of power. The permit application estimates power needs of 10 megawatts to run the mine with additional diesel back-up power generation capacity of 6 megawatts. One megawatt of power supplies 650-1000 homes with electricity. The proposed mine operation would re-inject 500 tons of processed mine debris as paste backfill each day into the blasted sections of the mine works to stabilize it. The backfill paste will use approximately 25 tons of cement daily, adding another 3 megawatts of power used to make the cement [1][2]. Although this power wouldn’t come directly from the local power grid, cement production, a resource-intensive industry, is responsible for 5-7 % of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. The mine would contribute about 25 metric tons of CO2 daily solely from producing the cement required to backfill the proposed mine [3]. Mine operations would use up to 12,000 gallons of fuel per day, releasing another 120 metric tons of CO2 into the earth’s

atmosphere daily. Mining for gold uses large amounts of energy to excavate and process vast quantities of rock in order to extract small amounts of precious metal. Community Impacts from Idaho-Maryland Mine While mining can be lucrative for those who control the operations, the benefits to local communities are less clear. One of the issues with extractive industries is that they do not take into account the social costs of projects. Gold is extracted and “goes away” as profit while traffic, noise, environmental, and other quality-of-life impacts are left to the community to deal with. The application to re-operate the Idaho-Maryland mine states that 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of those jobs, 242 jobs are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from outside the area. The remaining jobs, truck transport of mine debris and mineral processing, could provide 70 jobs for current local residents. There would be a positive economic boost from mine employees spending their money locally. No local public revenue would come to our municipality from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by people employed by the mine. California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee, collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of around $1500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise Inc. None of this fee would come to Nevada County to remediate the impacts of this proposed mine operation. Public benefit from hard rock mining is small while the public burden is significant and traditionally goes unaddressed.

Joy Waite
12504 Old Stagecoach Road
Grass Valley CA 95945
calhounclan@yahoo.com

Dear Mr Kelly,

I was actively involved in opposing the Emgold application to re open the Idaho Maryland Mine. Fortunately, public outcry and testimony of our amazing local scientists and other professionals was sufficient to bring Emgold's proposal to the necessary conclusion - and the mine did not re open. Local individuals and organizations spent countless hours preparing and presenting testimony. All of that testimony is as true today as it was then. The mine should not be approved for one day, let alone eighty years (up from the 20 year proposal by Emgold). I submit that all of the testimony provided throughout the Emgold proposal process be reviewed and utilized again now.

RiseGold has not been forthcoming in the NOP about their plan to access the mine with large industrial equipment. Emgold had proposed a decline allowing access to mining trucks basically the size of Semi Trucks. If this is part of the plan, this omission is quite serious. I am now questioning the validity of all that has been presented to date. I am questioning everything that has been left out.

Since the time of the Emgold proposal, the Nevada Irrigation District has proposed a new water storage reservoir on the Bear River. This proposal is proof positive that NID believes water security is an issue in our area. Is it possible that NID will be required to:

The extraction of 2500 gallons a minute from the existing mine workings until the miles of tunnels from beyond Idaho Maryland Mine and Empire Mine are dry. That all the water "following the path of least resistance" into the mine for 80 years can be pumped into South Wolf Creek with no impact to local water security?

Providing an additional 5700 gallons per day to RiseGold.

Providing treated water to the closest residential neighbors. What about all of the other property owners that are effected?

What are all of the ramifications of each of these points?

Is the Environmental Health Department on board with the RiseGold claim that the water to be pumped into South Wolf Creek, flowing eventually to San Francisco Bay, contains no toxicity of concern other than Iron and Manganese. Nevada County Environmental Health approves a clay lined settling pond as water treatment?

Does the Environmental Health Department agree that that the water now "stored" underground in the miles of tunnels can be removed without any impacts?

What are all of the ramifications of each of these points?

Has it not been proven without a doubt that previous mining activity has created a toxic mining legacy here. Both hydraulic and hard rock mining have left contamination that remains to this day. RiseGold claims they will clean up the legacy left on the surface of the land they have purchased. Empire Mine, Peabody Creek, and the Northstar Mine “water treatment facilities” are other examples of hard rock mining toxic legacy. RiseGold extraction would wreak further devastation to existing hazards.

What are all of the ramifications of these points?

Do our local river scientists agree that year round pumping of underground water into South Wolf Creek, flowing to San Francisco Bay, has no negative impacts? Volume, temperature, timing, water quality, aquatic life, etc.

What are the ramifications of these points?

Of course, water is only the most important consideration, as it is essential to life.

A few other of the multitude of considerations include:

A Corporation receiving the economic benefits while leaving the community with all of the externalized costs.

Population increase replacing our rural quality of life.

Roads becoming freeways to accommodate industrial trucking and traffic.

Pollution and accelerated climate change due to extractive industry.

Again, all of the points brought to light during the Emgold application process must be considered again.

It is in the best interest of our community to require protection of our underground water in perpetuity.

From:	Joy Waite
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	IMPORTANT: NOP comments for submission before 8/17 please reply that received and submitted
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 3:20:40 PM
Attachments:	RiseGold NOP response 8 20.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt Kelly - Attached please find a letter to be included with NOP comments - considerations for RiseGold application. Please reply that you have received and submitted my comments. Thank you.
Joy Waite

From: Lexi Ward
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: opposition to mine re-openeing
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:52:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Alexandra Ward

15006 Skaith Bend rd.

Nevada city ca 95959

415-250-6589

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 10 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Ward

From: Darlene Ward
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:42:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a citizen living in Nevada County, I am very concerned about opening an historic mine in the heart of our town. Our traffic is already getting more congested, our water supply needs to be nurtured, and we need to protect the ambience of country living that we all have enjoyed. Why should we enrich a company that comes in from elsewhere? They will extract whatever they can, perhaps add to pollution of our creek, create noise and dust, and ride off into the sunset, leaving us to solve the problems they created while they were here. Others have pointed out the problems more explicitly than I can, but I know I am not in favor of granting permission to open the mine. As a docent at the Empire Mine State Historic Park, we have often been asked if we think the Empire Mine will ever be reopened. The answer has been, "Can you imagine the problems and environmental impact of draining 367 miles of tunnels?" This is something we don't need in our community.

Darlene Ward

From:	Greg Ward
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments and Concerns regarding the proposed gold mining operation at the Brunswick and Centennial Industrial Sites
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 9:02:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
County of Nevada

And

To: The Nevada County Board of Supervisors

re: comments and concerns regarding the proposed gold mining operation at the Brunswick and Centennial Industrial Sites.

Dear Matt and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors

My name is Greg Ward. My wife and I own a 2.94 acre parcel of land on which our home of 20 years is located. This property is at 13120 Wood Rose Way and sits on the East side of the proposed mining operation. We bought this property in 1999, built our home and moved in on October 1, 2000. At the time we were aware of the fact that the site proposed for the Rise Gold operation had once been the home of a Sierra Pacific Lumber Mill and the former Idaho Maryland Mine and neither of those industries were in operation.

We did check the zoning on those properties and found that they were zoned for light industrial uses. We were fine with that use and anticipated that light industrial uses would have little or no impact on our quality of life and would generate very little if any noise, dust, environmental concerns and traffic congestion.

The idea that the County would allow the zoning to be changed on this property to allow a full blown mining operation to go into this site that is now surrounded by residential areas is very concerning and should not be allowed. We realize that the decision has not been made to allow this change in use so we are writing this letter to voice our concerns about the following items. Of particular concern to us is the impact the Brunswick site will have on the area surrounding this site so that is what my comments relate to:

The Draft Project Description shows the potential for negative impacts in every aspect of the mine's operation that will be running 24/7 for 80 years if allowed to open. This is not fair to the people who reside in the sphere of influence of this mine. Negative impacts include but not limited to the following:

Noise generated from:

- Air compressors & generators
- Conveyor belts carrying rock from the mine to the silo
- Mine rock being dropped into the silo
- Waste rock being dropped into the dump trucks
- Truck's in excessive of 200 trips per day hauling the mine waste rock out and coming back empty
- Mine waste being dumped at the fill sites, spread and compacted
- Delivery Trucks
- Automobile traffic from 350 workers coming and going equates to 700 vehicle trips per day

Dust

- 100 trucks hauling mine waste away from the site and returning = 200 vehicle trips per day
- Delivery trucks coming and going.
- Mine waste moving along conveyor belts
- Automobile traffic from 350 workers coming and going every day = 700 vehicle trips per day
- Mine waste being dumped, spread and compacted

Traffic Congestion and Safety Concerns on already busy streets resulting from:

- 200 or more truck trips per day hauling out mine waste and returning empty
- 700 worker trips per day coming to and leaving the site (350 coming and 350 leaving)
- Unknown amount of Delivery trucks coming to and leaving the site
- Impact on children walking to and from their bus stop
- Impact on school bus schedules
- Impact on commuter traffic using Brunswick and Hwy 174

Road Damage resulting from:

- 100 dump trucks weighing in excess of 25 tons when loaded will severely damage East Bennett, Brunswick and Whispering Pines roadways. Who pays to repair the damage?
- 700 vehicle trips per day from employees coming and going to work will add to the damage

Wolf Creek will be impacted as a result of:

- Mine water being dumped into the creek. Can all the contaminants really be cleaned out of the water? How often will the water quality be tested?
- Increased flow rates. How much will the water level of the creek be raised and how will that impact those who own property along Wolf Creek,

Air Quality will be impacted by:

- Exhaust from dump trucks, delivery trucks, employee vehicles, tractors and graders, generators, pumps, etc.
- Exhaust fumes being pumped out of the mine and vented into the air
- Dust and particulates from the crushing and transporting of mine rock

Real Estate values will be negatively impacted

- Most people moving into the area will not want to buy in the areas negatively impacted by the mines which will result in a decline in property values
- Many of the people who live in the area negatively impacted by the mine will attempt to sell their homes and relocate. Because of the negative impacts, the home price will have to be discounted to entice home buyers
- Both of these items will drive down home values resulting in decreased property tax revenues.

Other Concerns

- If property owners in the area impacted by the dewatering of the mine, other than those along East Bennett, have their wells go dry, how will that be handled by the Applicant and how long will it take for them to be provided treated water.

- When the Brunswick and Centennial sites have been filled in after 5 – 6 years, where will the mine waste be taken and what impact will having to truck it further away have on traffic and road destruction.

- How will the explosives be secured during transport to the site and storage on site?

- How will underground blasting affect the properties above the blast sites?

It is our hope that you will take our concerns seriously and not allow this project to be approved. The time for this property to be developed into a property that carries so many negative impacts on the community has passed. The area surrounding the mine has been allowed to develop into residential neighborhoods where people are entitled to the Quiet Enjoyment of their property. To allow it to move forward would have tragic consequences for this beautiful and peaceful neighborhood.

Respectively,

Greg & Ginger Ward

From: samuel warmerdam <samwarmerdam92@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine. my point of view

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The EPA ranked the Idaho-Maryland mine as the most overall at risk abandoned mine in California. It ranked as number 1 in residential water exposed potential, and relatively high in all other categories. Basically, there are high levels of toxic substances in very close proximity to residents. What do you think happens if say we have a large flood this winter. Where do those toxic chemicals go? How about rather than doing nothing (which is what Nevada county has done for the last 50+ years). Instead let a company come in to clean it

up for us. Cost of no charge to the taxpayers of Nevada County. Forget about all the economic advantages of opening the mine. I would like this ticking time bomb to be cleaned up before something bad happens. I will admit that mining was horrible years ago before regulations. Current mining does not use toxic chemicals like mercury and cyanide. Furthermore, all the toxic chemicals they would be required to clean out when dewatering the mine would make drinking water safer, not worse.

From: Anje' Waters <anjewa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I live On Greenhorn Road near this site.
I am absolutely opposed to this project.
This project will: <> significantly and unavoidably increase local air pollution; <> increase noise, traffic and dust; <> drain

wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality; <> inflict incessant blasting on the community, which will likely force several high-tech companies to relocate; <> increase Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons <> create real potential for contamination from cyanide, lime, hydrochloric acid, and others.
Our community is currently suffering from the toxic legacy of past gold mining in the area, including polluted watersheds, Superfund cleanup sites, and contaminated water from the Magenta Drain in Grass Valley, and at Grizzly Hill School in North San Juan. We do not want to add additional mining related impacts to our community for years into the future.
Thank you,
Mr. Anje' Waters
14945 Christmas Tree Ln.
GV
530-559-0555

From: Greta Watson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:29 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My concerns about the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine include air quality issues, especially with 50-100 truck loads of debris on and around Brunswick road on a daily basis. Those of us who have asthma are already high risk should we get COVID-19, and it seems that the truck debris would increase this risk. COVID-19 will be affecting our lives for quite a while. Additional concerns would not be welcome.

In addition, the increase in traffic concerns me. The traffic has increased in that area in the 21 years since I moved here. Can that area reasonably handle the extra traffic generated by the trucks? Will I want to do any shopping in that area because it will be so congested as to be irritating? Have concerns about negative impact on shopping in that area been addressed?

Since I don't live on Brunswick, the risk of sink holes and decrease in property values due to the noise, traffic, and air quality don't directly affect me. However, who would pay for those changes? If not the mine owners, perhaps we would all have to pay through our taxes. I'd rather have money go toward schools, park maintenance, and other things I might enjoy than to line the pockets of mine owners.

I hope these concerns will be addressed in the EIR.

Thank-you.

Greta Watson
11467 Lothlorien Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959

From: William Wauters
To: Matt Kelley; Steve Baker; Traci Van Thull; Micheal Ross
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:23:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Nevada County Authorities;
All of the 100's of miles of abandoned, flooded mines in the Grass Valley/Nevada City areas should be considered important Ground Water Reservoirs as the State is now regulating elsewhere.
They are extensively used already by many for well water recharged from the surface. Maps already exist for many.
These could be further developed by NID or the cities for seasonal ditch water storage, perhaps using some as water transfer tunnels to serve new areas in our upcoming drought scenarios.
Man made wetlands count legally as wetlands.
The Salton Sea was a man made mistake and adopted as needed by the State.
These man made Ground Water Reservoirs should have the same respect, not depleted and poisoned for out of country greed.
William Wauters, Auburn, Cal.

From:	RON WAYNE
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	concerns about the possible reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine : corrected copy
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 12:50:06 PM
Attachments:	Mine issues 8-14-2020.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Attached is a corrected copy (one word had an extra letter in my last e-mail) detailing our concerns about the possible reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine.

Please let me now if you have any trouble opening the attached letter. I would be happy to provide a printed copy of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Ron Wayne and Nancy Keith

long time residents of Nevada County

530-432-315

From: RON WAYNE
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: concerns about the possible reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine : corrected copy
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:31:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

That would be Mr.Kelley.

My apologies for missing the second "e".

Ron Wayne

> On 08/14/2020 12:49 PM RON WAYNE <ron.wayne@comcast.net> wrote:
>
> Dear Mr. Kelly,
>
> Attached is a corrected copy (one word had an extra letter in my last e-mail) detailing our concerns about the possible reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine.
>
> Please let me now if you have any trouble opening the attached letter. I would be happy to provide a printed copy of our concerns.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Ron Wayne and Nancy Keith
>
> long time residents of Nevada County
>
> 530-432-315

Ronald Wayne

Nancy Keith

11560 Meadow View Way
Rough and Ready, Ca. 95975
ron.wayne@comcast.net
530-432-3145

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a property owner and resident in Rough and Ready since 1980. As an outdoors person I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty. I also felt the heart of this county from this area's commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture. I was extremely excited to live here once I discovered the area. Initially it took everything I had to have a home and create a living to be here.

And I also like the quiet and privacy country life affords us.

My wife is Nancy Keith who has been a stage actor in Nevada County for over 40 years always contributing to the betterment of this area.

We are extremely concerned about the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

I know if I wish to build a home in this county, I must follow strict septic engineering requirements appropriate to the composition of the land.

This county has placed the absolute highest priority on protecting the watershed and adjacent residences from mismanaged effluent seeping out into the environment creating waste hazards.

This country has also guarded against indiscriminating overgrowth of home building and businesses. This is to keep our wonderful atmosphere that has been cultivated over many decades through countless deliberate and focused decisions in county government.

This county has just rebuilt the Bridgeport covered bridge, as well as several other such endeavors throughout this area, both to preserve this historic bridge and to attract tourists, an important part of our economy.

Our country has already chosen its identity and way of living through careful planning and zoning that encourages and supports our current way of country life.

Our deep concern is that the reopening of this mine would lead to a health, property, and cultural disaster.

In addition, there would be countless lawsuits, wells ruined from aquifer intrusion and subsequent poisoning, homes and businesses abandon with property values plummeting. The reopening of this mine after all these years in the center of all these homes and businesses would be a cancer in the community.

We view those aquifers, who's waters can take up to two years to percolate from the mountains down to us, that supply clean water to all parts of this county as the life blood for everyone. From past mine failures in our own region and others we have indisputable evidence of the far-reaching devastation that these mines create in otherwise previously livable pristine environments.

This county must protect all the citizens who live and work here from such an environmental, health and financial disaster. The towns of Grass Valley, Nevada City, Rough and Ready, Penn Valley and surrounding districts have all believed the promise of our current way of life that the county has so stringently fought for.

This is why we moved here and continue to invest in improving our homes, properties and businesses.

If this mine reopens, we believe that it will cast a pall on the clean and inspiring image of our local towns, as well as endanger our future. Many folks either will not be able to or want to be here anymore.

Those are our serious concerns.

Respectfully,

Ron Wayne and Nancy Keith

Below is a list of just some of the issues that we feel can not be successfully met in order to safely reopen this mine:

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

o A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

o Reimbursement and damages for lost property values.

o Reimbursement and damages for health issues to humans and livestock.

o Total costs for environmental reconstruction of this mine once the mine pays out and the Canadian company abandons the area.

From:	RON WAYNE
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Ron Wayne; Tony Lauria
Subject:	concerns about the Idaho Maryland mine
Date:	Friday, August 14, 2020 11:52:23 AM
Attachments:	Mine issues 8-14-2020.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Please read our attached letter detailing our concerns regarding the permit for reopening the Idaho Maryland mine.

If you have any trouble opening the attached letter please let us know. I would be happy to provide a printed copy.

Thank you,

Ron Wayne and Nancy Keith

530-432-3145

From: mike weaver <jm.mp31@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Grass Valley Mining

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,

I wrote to you back in April, and I want to reiterate that I am opposed to the re-opening of ANY mine near residences and/or wells. In addition to the concerns I expressed below, I am concerned about the traffic and noise pollution this may cause. Both Bennett and Brunswick are fairly rural roads and not accustomed to heavy trucks. Please note that there is a blinking red light at their intersection. Recently the Planning Department approved the storage facility at the corner of Greenhorn and Brunswick. The traffic at this intersection will become excessive as the only main road in and out of Grass Valley from this part of the county.

I have learned that the mine will be operating 16 hours per day as opposed to the 24 I wrote below.

Again, I thank you for your time.

Jan Weacer

****

I'm a resident on Greenhorn Road and my water is supplied by a well. As I understand it, before the mine can open, they will pump out over 815 million of gallons of water. Has anyone tested to see if arsenic or mercury is in the water? We all know, that these toxic chemicals were a part of mining during their days. Where will all this possibly toxic water go? Down our streams...out to the rivers, then to the ocean? I understand that once the mine is up and running it will need to pump out about 1,224,000 gallons per day. This is unconscionable! Northern California has experienced severe drought conditions on and off for the past seven years. We are currently 50% below our rain level just this year. Our trees need that water to remain healthy and disease free.

I also understand that the mining operations will take place 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are too many issues to allow this project to go forward and I hope you deny their application

Jan Weaver

From: mike weaver
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Rise Grass Valley Mining
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:04:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for this very informative email.

Sent from Jan Weaver

> On Aug 10, 2020, at 5:23 PM, Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:
>
> Good Afternoon Jan:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.
>
> Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR

prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
<image001.jpg>
Planning Department
County of Nevada
Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
office 530.265-1423
https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: mike weaver <jm.mp31@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Grass Valley Mining

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelly,

I wrote to you back in April, and I want to reiterate that I am opposed to the re-opening of ANY mine near residences and/or wells. In addition to the concerns I expressed below, I am concerned about the traffic and noise pollution this may cause. Both Bennett and Brunswick are fairly rural roads and not accustomed to heavy trucks. Please note that there is a blinking red light at their intersection. Recently the Planning Department approved the storage facility at the corner of Greenhorn and Brunswick. The traffic at this intersection will become excessive as the only main road in and out of Grass Valley from this part of the county.

I have learned that the mine will be operating 16 hours per day as opposed to the 24 I wrote below.

Again, I thank you for your time.

Jan Weacer

****

I'm a resident on Greenhorn Road and my water is supplied by a well. As I understand it, before the mine can open, they will pump out over 815 million of gallons of water. Has anyone tested to see if arsenic or mercury is in the water? We all know, that these toxic chemicals were a part of mining during their days. Where will all this possibly toxic water go? Down our streams...out to the rivers, then to the ocean? I understand that once the mine is up and running it will need to pump out about 1,224,000 gallons per day. This is unconscionable! Northern California has experienced severe drought conditions on and off for the past seven years. We are currently 50% below our rain level just this year. Our trees need that water to remain healthy and disease free.

I also understand that the mining operations will take place 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are too many issues to allow this project to go forward and I hope you deny their application

Jan Weaver

August 10, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: Rise Gold Idaho Maryland Mine reopening study
Grass Valley, CA

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My husband and I have been residents of Grass Valley since 1991. We live off of Brunswick on Bet Road, very close to the proposed mine area. We love living in Grass Valley. Over the past 30 years we have seen an increase in traffic on Brunswick Rd. However, the impact of mine waste being transported by trucks for 16 hours a day, 7 days a week will be devastating to our neighborhood. We will be besieged by noise, dust, air pollution, and increased traffic. How will the Environmental Impact project (EIR) evaluate the impact of this traffic on our lives?

We are also on a well and have grave concerns that our well will be dewatered. How will the EIR address our concerns re our wells? How extensive of an area will the EIR survey when evaluating the impact on wells.

We are concerned re the impact this mine will have on our property values. We would like to know how the EIR will measure the impact on our home values.

Lastly, we wonder why the planning commission is considering allowing the mine to reopen. It will be devastating to our community. What possible benefits can re-opening the mine bring to our community?

If you have any questions re our concerns our email is t.scanlon@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

Carey Webster

Tim Scanlon

From:	Timothy E Scanlon
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject:	Reopening Idaho Maryland mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:08:03 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine .docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Enclosed is my letter re the potential reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine and questions re the EIR report.

Thank-you,
Carey Webster

From: Kaye Wedel <kaye.wedel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:40 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

July 27, 2020

Nevada County Planning Commission

Dear Matt Kelley, Sr. Planner

I am writing regarding the attempted re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corp. (sites which are owned by Rise Grass Valley). I live on Wood Rose Way and my home is less than one mile of this proposed project. I commute on Brunswick Rd. daily and enjoy our quiet and peaceful area.

I am not in favor of this mine re-opening due to the traffic congestion, noise and air pollution that would occur. I also strongly believe that my property values will seriously decline due to these impacts.

I moved to Grass Valley 14 years ago to enjoy its pastoral environment; specifically choosing my home for its quiet, low traffic location. My understanding is that the re-opening of this mine will involve a significant number of trucks moving tailings daily (365/24/7) for many, many months and possibly years. This would destroy the environment I specifically sought when buying my home.

I have other concerns about this project including: What plans have been made for road maintenance and improvement considering the impact of transporting 20 tons of tailings at 100 trips per day on asphalt city roads? I would speculate there will be severe damage and potholes that will occur on a regular basis due to the excessive weight. Who is going to pay for these repairs?

I am asking that you use your considerable influence as Sr. Planner of this project to prevent this mine from re-opening. Please contact me if you have any other questions.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Kaye Wedel
13259 Wood Rose Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Kaye.wedel@gmail.com

Hope, like faith, is nothing if it is not courageous; It is nothing if it is not ridiculous. Thornton Wilder

From:	Dale and Susan Weidmer
To:	Matt Kelley; Dan Miller
Cc:	mdeneria@gmail.com; Wick WEIDMER
Subject:	Idaho - Maryland Mine Reopening
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:11 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley and Supervisor Miller,

Although not a permanent resident of Nevada County, I own property on Hi Way 74, near Laws Ranch Road. Charles Law was my grandfather and I am fortunate to have been able to retain a small part of the ranch he purchased in around 1915. My Mother was born on that Ranch and Nevada County has been important to all my family since. Charles Law graduated with a Mining Engineering degree at Columbia and originally came to Nevada County to find employment in the then operating mines. He was General Manager for the NID before his death.

My concerns regarding the proposed Mine opening are three fold:

The noise generated at the Brunswick site: The Consulting company's study concluding that the noise from processing the ore will not be "significant" is hardly reassuring. And the fact that Nevada County does not now have any guidelines to govern such noise does not excuse them from establishing some, particularly now that, for the first time in many years, the County is about to reintroduce heavy industry. Such guidelines must be developed before that happens. I am reminded that Ms. Bourne, wife of the owner of the Empire Mine, disliked staying at their lovely "cottage" at the mine because of the noise generated by the stamping mills. I am sure that technology has improved but crushing rock to separate the gold still must create some racket. Exactly to what degree should be thoroughly understood.

Lowering the Water Table; Having to pump a million plus gallons of water a day and the potential of lowering the water table in the area is a real concern. That the Company has made provisions for providing NID treated water to some of those bordering the drilling site seems to be an acknowledgment that the water table could well be lowered. How low and for how far is not addressed. While the scarcity of water was not a big concern when the mines last operated it certainly is today - NID's constant urging for conservation and the annual fire season we now experience are obvious examples. To move forward like nothing has changed since the mines last operated is extremely short sighted .

Transporting the engineered fill on today's roads ; Not only will these heavy trucks wear the roads, they will be traveling through areas where development has been allowed and a large number of homes have been built. While there is a plan as what to do with the fill for the first 10 years, the Company is being given an 80 year approval to operate and it is not clear what will happen with the fill for the next 70.

Nevada County and the Sierras are still recovering from the devastation that resulted from the original mining operations and those days are an important and romantic part of our history. While there may be financial gain to be had with the opening of a Mine, it seems much more prudent to continue to focus on the light industry and other ways to generate revenues than with this proposal.

Thanks you for listening to my concerns,

Dale
Dale Weidmer
Cedar Ridge

-----Original Message-----
From: Jacque <yogaflowerlady2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:00 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am strongly opposed to any new mining operations in our area. Too toxic. Jacquie Weills. , 40 year resident

From: Stuey Weills <stueyweills@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:59 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Gold

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 7:56 AM Stuey <stueyweills@gmail.com> wrote:

> I am a business owner in Nevada City.
> I have lived here for over 40 years. My ancestors came here in the 1850s

> I am NOT in favor of the Rise Gold plan.
> This isn't the 1859's. This is not environmentally sound for many reasons.
> Water table/pollution/noise/traffic.... GREED.
>
> WE DO NOT NEED THIS PROJECT
>
> Thank you
> Susan Weills
> Nevada City
>
> Sent from my iPhone

--

_____
yo yo yo we are selling on the internets!
graygoose.com - get over there!!

---

16 Aug ‘20

RST Engineering

13993 Downwind Court
Grass Valley CA 95945
530.272.2203 voice only
www.rstengineering.com

Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City CA 95959

ATTN: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner (via email)
REF: Notice of Preparation, Idaho Maryland Mine Project

Matt:

I am sure you are aware of the history of various companies coming to Nevada County to reopen this mine for the last 50 years. Rise, then Emgold, then Newmont, then reaching far enough back in my memory to have faded to a bad dream.

My comments, in no particular order of importance are:

Air Commerce. Nevada County Airport is an air commerce facility. I note that one of the structures is 165 feet tall. As I plot it, this structure is directly in the instrument approach area of the airport. I do not have access to the standards for instrument approach design criteria, and would hope that this item would be considered in the report.

Secondarily, aircraft air induction filters for normally aspirated engines are very limited in their capability; they are designed to operate for a very short period of time on the ground and expect the air they filter to be relatively clean once airborne. I note that runway 25 (250° M) has its departure route directly over the subject area. An inordinate amount of airborne particulate matter on a regular basis will result in clogged filters which generally lead to loss of power and then result in what pilots call a “character building experience”.

Finally, I note that the electromagnetic spectrum around the airport is fairly “clean” as regards radio transmitter signals. As a matter of fact, the Federal Communications Commission considers it so clean that it has designated a spot on the airport property as an antenna pattern and certification range for “type acceptance” and “certification” testing. Unfortunately, the FCC has required all two-way radios be marked with a “This device may not cause interference. It has to accept any interference also.” sticker. When asked what that meant, one FCC engineer said, “Here are two pairs of boxing gloves, You guys fight it out.” I would hope that any mining company two way radios be chosen for their non-interference with vital aircraft communications.

Domestic Wells All of the residences to the east of the mine area are served by individual water wells. I believe that the Newmont (?) application was predicated on the sampling of the water level in each of those wells within the permitted area on a monthly basis, and I believe that information is kept in the Cranmer Engineering files. As memory serves, those wells were monitored for depth of water below the surface.

The problem with the Newmont (?) monitoring provision was NOT that it was not done, but that if the level dropped precipitously after a mining event, there was no way to tie the drop to the event, and even if there was some presumed nexus, that it would be up to the individual resident to seek remedy through the courts. There has to be SOME way of tying a drop in a well, or a series of wells, to an event in the mining process and providing some remedy for the residents rather than through the judicial system. And, if some large numbers of wells are affected in a short period of time, there has to be some

performance guarantee and financial backing other than the mining company to throw up their hands and saying, "We quit."

Domestic Structures The same arguments for wells apply to structures (homes, garages, outbuildings) that are damaged by mining activities. There are a few examples of sinkholes in the western part of the county that are traceable to mining activities prior to WWII. The argument has always been how can a sinkhole near Nevada Union High School be caused by blasting a thousand feet under the ground on East Bennett? I am not a geologist nor do I pretend to be. But reading the expert geologist's report speaks to a fairly major fault line(s) running through the area. As with wells and structures, how do you tie damage three or four miles away to a blast in the mine? I have no answer to that, but I hope that you require one in the EIR.

I am sure that there are those much more learned than I to address other items in the Notice. I thank you for your time and look forward to the public hearings in the Board Room, if only for nostalgic reasons.

Jim Weir
VP Engineeering
Nevada County Supervisor, District III, Retired

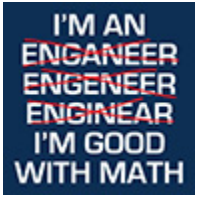
From: Jim Weir <jim@rstengineering.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: bbbmusic@att.net
Subject: Response To Notice of Prep

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached.

Thanks,

Jim



From:	Paul Weir
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Strong and deep concerns about the Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:59 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 16, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My family and I own and live on a small acreage property which we raise animals and are a local producer of organically raised Apples. We live 1.5 miles away from the Brunswick Industrial Site and are slightly lower in elevation.

My family has strong and deep concerns about the Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening

Well Water Protections and Quality Concerns
We are scared and concerned about our well water being affected. From an unhealthy shift in minerals to an actual complete loss of water. The fact that the mine will need dewatering continuously to allow for the mining planned for is all but sure to have an effect on our fissure based groundwater sources. We can not afford to pay to bring treated water to our property and honestly we moved here to get away from city chlorinated water some 15 years ago and this is a massive shift in our sense of living in the country. I have been told by our local well drilling and testing companies that the average well in Western Nevada County is 4gpm. Our wells are fragile and this well drinking water is sacred to our rural way of life. With the incredible 2,500gpm of water planned to be pumped out of the mine shafts, to allow for the mine to restart - plus - the additional mine shaft ongoing infiltration expectation of 850gpm that will need to be continuously pumped 24/7 and **it is impossible to believe that this will not affect the many wells for several miles around the entire underground shaft network**

Noise and Traffic Impact
The number of trucks and amount of rock and mine related debris that will be hauled from 6:00am to 10:00pm as listed in the County Notice of Preparation is enormous and completely insane. Where is the benefit to our local community and our standard of living. The same document says the estimate is for this work to continue **7 days a week for the next 80 years . . . I am actually at a loss for words. This is simply stunning**.

Property Values
I have been a top level real estate professional for the last 13 years here in Nevada County. **This mine project will destroy property values for anything within approximately 5 miles of the two mine properties**. This mine project will also single handedly destroy the desirability of living in Western Nevada County -- no one, and I mean no one, wants to live

next door to a mine or to have any chance of being affected by a the fallout from mining operations (contamination or air, soil and water, noise pollution, traffic issues, environmental impacts both near term and legacy cleanup issues and more). **All property owners within a few miles of these mining operation industrial sites will lose no less than 50% of their market value.** It will be the equivalent of the great recession (2008-2012) all over again -- except this time it will never recover back to its former market valuations . . . at least not until the 80 year estimate of operations has passed. How much money does that county stand to lose in property taxes (and sales taxes)? Tens of Millions! Nevada County's future will be an economically dark one. People will leave and businesses will close. Grass Valley and Nevada Cities downtowns' will be unsustainable and will become mostly vacant shadows of their current selves. Think this will not happen? take a drive out to some of the large mining operations and their local hub towns that support them in neighboring Nevada. They are barely functioning communities that have become completely beholden to the mining operations over time. When those mines close and they eventually will (they always do), those towns will finally give up the ghost and be left with massive environmental and further economic ruins. I cringe at the idea of Grass Valley being a ***has been*** or a ***once was***. Our family is proud to be a part of this community, and no doubt you and your family are too, as are thousands of others. Let's please keep our County's current residents future best interests in mind.

Zoning
These industrial properties are zoned for light industrial not heavy industrial. The property owners who have bought and developed their lands adjacent to these areas knew they were light industrial and, in the case of both of the Rise Mining proposed industrial sites, they have been more or less sitting idle for the last 20 years. Rise is within their right to develop light industrial businesses and complexes on those properties as allowed for by permitting and county approvals, but light industrial is a far cry from heavy industrial. **Mining is Heavy Industrial and these two sites are not zoned for that kind of massive environmental impacts**. How does Heavy Industrial ever fit well with Residential? It is litigation waiting to happen and will be an ongoing nightmare for the county leadership for decades to come. The only one who will benefit from that will be lawyers. Nevada County has always shown their leadership to be very measured and thoughtful in their approach to growth and uncontrolled expansions within our boundary. I implore the county to not allow this egregious modification of land use and zoning to allow for a rekindling of Gold Mining legacy that had immense impacts during its 100+ year run that are still seen and felt today in our local area.

Local job creation is a ploy
The 40-50 or so full time jobs that will be created by this endeavor are a drop in the bucket in comparison to the 1000's that will be lost in our county as the mass exodus ensues, in the years to come, if this operation is allowed to fully open in the way it is being presented.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to share our feelings on this important matter

Sincerely

Paul & Jennifer Weir
13913 Gopher Hill Ct
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: adam weiss <weisslandscaping@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Open it

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I would be excited to have the mind open. Just wanted my opinion in the ring

Have a good day

Adam Weiss
President
Weiss Landscaping inc.

Get Outlook for iOS

-----Original Message-----
From: Carolyn Weisswasser <drcarolynweiss@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:49 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Mine re-opening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

My husband and I bought our home off of Brunswick Rd on Bubbling Wells rd in 2010. We are now a family of four. We chose our neighborhood for its quiet rural charm and close access to town. The

water we drink is pumped from the well beneath us.

We are adamantly opposed to the opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine for several reasons. One is the potential for groundwater contamination and depletion. Draining the water from the hundreds of miles of mines below us may result in wells going dry. Amidst the droughts we already face residents can't afford to have our water table further depleted. This is a known risk and should preclude the reopening of the mine. Who will be liable when neighborhood wells go dry as a result of draining these tunnels when the risk is so well known?

Secondly, Brunswick rd is our commute to work and it cannot take 100 heavy trucks per day. The noise these trucks will make is not okay for a residential area. The noise of the operation itself is of grave concern, crushing rocks 24 hours per day?

Lastly, we are concerned about air pollution and dust from the rocks being crushed, in addition to downstream water erosion.

Please do not allow this company to degrade our local environment. The days of mining in Grass Valley are historic ones. This is now a growing and thriving residential community. We don't want to loose the value that makes Grass Valley such an attractive place to live.

Thank you,

Dr. Carolyn Weisswasser, ND

From: Gregory Weisswasser
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Mine opening
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:55:55 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelly,

I am a resident, home owner and business owner here in Grass Valley with a home off Brunswick Road. I am very concerned about the opening of an industrial Mining operation of this scale just up the road from me. Concerns include increased traffic, dust/ air pollution, water contamination, impact on water table (I am on a well), overall environmental damage to the mine property and surrounding ecosystem. As a doctor I am regularly treating people for illnesses derived from the mining operations from a century ago. Let's not repeat this devastation of the environment and the local community's health again. I am thoroughly opposed to the opening of this mining project.
Thank you for considering the opinions of myself and the local community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gregory Weisswasser
Resident address
10938 Bubbling Wells Road,
Grass Valley CA, 95945

Office address
Whitewater Naturopathic Medicine
1097 East Main st. Ste C
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Sent from my iPhone

From: ronwerner@comcast.net
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise impact report
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:00:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt:
I just reviewed the Siskon Mine catastrophe from the 1990's. Evidently the planning dept at that time reviewed the environmental report and approved the proposal at one meeting in 1993.
I'm not saying that will be the case now, certainly you've learned from the past, or have you? I'm sure nothing in that report addressed what eventually happened to cause the disaster.
My point is this, no matter what is included in the Rise environmental report, there is no way to address all the potential catastrophes from unforeseen mining failures. Except of course to deny the reopening of the mine.

Ron Werner
13984 Dalmatian Drive
Grass, Valley , CA 95945
(209)483-1713

From: Emily West
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Opposing Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:20:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley:

My name is Emily West and I am a resident of Nevada City and graduated as Student Body President from Nevada Union in 2018. I currently study Psychology with a minor Biology at San Francisco State University. I'm contacting you in regards to the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Upon my review of the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make it clear to you that I oppose this project.The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and for good reason. The negative affect on the environment and local quality of life far outweighs any benefit our county may receive from it. The mine will create water pollution, noise pollution, deteriorate our precious earth, consume excessive amounts of energy, produce excessive amounts of carbon dioxide, and it will not look too beautiful while doing so. The only benefit for our county is a few more jobs (most of the jobs are high skilled and will most likely be from out of town), and we will get a few bucks in property taxes, everything else will be shipped back to Canada with their company. I live less than a five minute drive from the mine so I know I will be directly affected by the reopening of the mine. I believe your duty is to protect local residents and keep them safe so I urge you to oppose the reopening.
Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emily West
Resident of Nevada County
missemwest9@gmail.com

From: David White
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: EIR Comments
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:25:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Following are my comments on the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine:

1. This mine is situated in a residential area. Please explain how truck traffic, blasting, exhausting mine gases and general noise from the proposed operation will be mitigated to not affect any of the surrounding residential properties.

2. The blasting and noise from loading 100 trucks a day with rick from the mine will definitely affect the property values of the surrounding residences. Certainly no one will want to buy a house that is shaken daily by underground blasting operation and continuous noise throughout the day and night. Please explain who will be responsible for covering the loss in value of the surrounding residential properties. Will it be Rise Gold and/or any county representatives that approve this project. We are planning on selling our home in a few years and I am certain there will be no buyers in this mine application is approved.

3. The noise studies that have been done to date have been terribly flawed in they did not take into account the topology of the areas. When we moved into our house the mill that existed on the mine site was in the process of closing down. We could hear the voices of the people at the mill site at night when our windows were open. Several times there have been noised along East Bennett Road that were barely audible at the road elevation but were distinctly and clearly heard at the elevation of our house. Many of the houses on East Bennett Road are at a much higher elevation than the road and sounds from the surrounding area can be clearly heard at these elevations. What mitigations will be taken to insure that noise from the mining operation will not be disturbing at the residences at the higher elevations?

4. Having a house shake at random times is very disturbing to the residents and will surely lead to lawsuits against may parties. It will also destroy the value of the residential properties. Many residents are dependent upon the value of their properties for their retirement years. How will blasting be mitigated as to not cause a loss of values to the surrounding residential properties?

5. The mine is not a critical project as far as the requirement for gold is concerned. With most of the mined gold being used for jewelry and other nonessential purposes there is no shortage of gold from existing mines to satisfy critical industrial and other essential needs without opening this mine.

6. The extremely high use of electricity and the large numbers of large trucks transporting mine wasted will add a large amount of carbon dioxide and other chemicals to the atmosphere. In

this time of rapid global warming please explain why it is necessary to permit this operation with its high output of atmospheric warming emissions.

7. A tower to exhaust the gases in the mine has been proposed. The height of this tower is lower than many of the residences in the surrounding area and will disperse those gases into residential neighborhoods. Please explained how this will be mitigated.

8. The grass Valley area is already overpopulated with high housing and rental prices. Please explain how the importation of all the workers for the mine will be mitigated as to not impact the already hight housing prices and quality of life in the Grass Valley area.

9. How will explosives be transported and stored to avoid sabotage and theft? What will be the impact on the surrounding community should the explosives go off as the result of an accident or other cause? What are the mitigation factors that will be uses to prevent any of these occurrences?

10. There are absolutely no mitigation factors that can be applied to the noise, exhaust and traffic problems that will be caused by 100 truckloads of mine waste being transported of the local roads. The noise alone from dumping rock into the hauling trucks 100 times a day will be overwhelming in the surrounding community. Brunswick road is already at capacity many times during the day and feeding these trucks into the traffic load will certain lead to an increase in accidents on the road.

11. Our well, as many surround wells have been identified by both Emperor Gold (in a previous failed application) and Rise Gold as being at high risk of being dewatered by the draining of the water from the mine. The prosed solution by Rise Gold is to provide water from NID at a high cost to the ho9meowners who currently access to relatively inexpensive will water. Rise Gold should pay all connection costs and well as the cost of the expensive NID water.

12. Rise Gold has already shown that they can not be trusted to obey environmental laws and regulations. During their coring operations along East Bennett Road, in a residential area, they encroached upon the riparian zone along Wolf Creek, removed trees without a permit and created a large amount of noise pollution in the surrounding residential area. Why should they be trusted when environmental damage covering a much larger area could be created?

David White
14036 Diamond Ct.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Robert White
13171 Wood Rose Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530 273-9679 bob@whitetool.com

August 11, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

RE: EIR for Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Since 1992 I have lived on Wood Rose Way across Brunswick Road from what is referred to in the project description as the Brunswick site. This letter represents my input to the Draft EIR for this project.

Ordinance 1853:

Ordinance 1853 adopted by the Board of Supervisors governs the use and development of the Bohemia mill site. That would be the site referred to as the Brunswick site with respect to the mining proposal. This means that simply changing the zoning will not suffice. This ordinance must first be abandoned or nullified by the Board of Supervisors.

The residents in the area have a “reasonable expectation” that the site plan accompanying ordinance 1853 would govern the use and development of that property.

Within the ordinance it dictates the site plan, use, and development that must be conformed to with regard to that property. For this reason the EIR must take into account the differences between the proposed mining activity and the comparable activity of the business park defined by that ordinance. As far as the EIR is concerned this aspect would affect the degree to which each mitigation measure is evaluated with respect to the effectiveness of that particular mitigation. This existing, and still valid, site plan would be the benchmark that the mitigation measures in the EIR for the mine would need to be measured.

Residential Expansion:

It must be kept in mind, and this is pertinent to the EIR with regard to evaluation of impacts, that the character of the surrounding community has changed drastically since the mine was last in operation. The use of the surrounding property has transformed from a very rural atmosphere to one of a high grade residential community. This was at least in part due to the absence of the mining activity. And after 1991 even the sawmill activity ceased. So the area affected by all the environmental impacts of the previous operations has been developed with that as an expectation. Especially when you consider that it was supported by law. “Ordinance 1853". So any suggestion or comparison stated in the EIR regarding previous use should be considered as invalid. In fact, if those mentions or comparisons appear in the Draft EIR they should be removed in the Final EIR.

Consider: If there were 200 homes affected adversely by reduced value of 10 percent as compared to where they would have been valued without the mine. And the average value of those homes was $500k. That would represent 10 million dollars of negative valuation to the neighborhood. That math is pretty simple. And I think you should agree that those numbers would be conservative approximations. I don't think the mine would be financially capable of offsetting that negative impact for the neighborhood.

I understand that the environmental impact report is prohibited by CEQA from considering social and economic considerations. That must be left up to the "lead agency" according to CEQA. I don't think the planning commission or the supervisors will perform their legally prescribed duty unless the public forces the issue into the process. If the County is formally notified of this economic impact and it is not addressed by the "lead agency" the County will be legally financially liable. Consider this letter as notification of the liability.

These are questions regarding the EIR and requests for inclusion in the EIR:

The project description indicates that the property at the Centennial site requires fill to be made usable for development. The EIR needs to include an assessment as to the benefit or detriment to the Brunswick site of the fill that is proposed for that area.

The project description indicates that the Centennial site and Brunswick site would be used for disposal of excess material removed from the mine for a period of approximately 11 years. The project is supposed to last 80 years. The EIR must address what would be done with that fill in the remaining 69 years.

There is an historical and nostalgic value to the aesthetics of the old silo. That silo would be enclosed by a building. This needs to be addressed under aesthetics in the EIR.

The project description indicates that post-project storm water discharge could be equal to or less than pre-project storm water discharge. How is that possible?

Only a small portion of Bennett Street is to receive NID treated water. The hydrology report assumes no other wells will be significantly affected by the mining operation. While that may be theory based on mathematical modeling it is by no means reliable. For that reason the area that must be offered NID hookup should be much larger. It should extend past the mineral boundaries of the mine workings. And the cost of that water should be supported by the ongoing mining operation for the full 80 years.

Because there is an existing site plan, backed up by an ordinance, the hours of operation must be the same or less of an impact than those that would be expected by the proposed business park. And as previously implied so should all other impacts.

The added fire risk associated with fuel storage on site should be addressed in the EIR.

These mining companies are notorious for violating the environmental conditions of their permits and the environmental regulations of the area they operate in. For this reason each mitigation measure that dictates conditions that must be met by the project, both in the initial stages as well as during the operational stages, must include effective enforcement requirements.

Because these enforcement guidelines must be part of the mitigation measures those mitigation measures should include the permitting for each phase be based on compliance of the mitigation measures. There should be prescribed measurable mandates set for each mitigation measure and permitting for continuation of the project should be contingent on the satisfaction of those mandates. Since this mitigation would be to protect the interests of the residents in the area a commission should be formed by the Board of Supervisors, made up of Nevada County residents, from areas affected by the mine operation, to oversee this evaluation of compliance to the mandates set forth in the permit for each stage.

Respectfully;

Robert White

COB

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2020

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EACH SUPERVISOR REC'D.

Robert White
13171 Wood Rose Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530 273-9679 bob@whitetool.com

August 11, 2020

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Members of the Board:

I request that you consider and discuss, during a scheduled Board meeting, at the earliest possible date, the issue of postponing the review process of the Idaho Maryland Mine project proposal due to the current pandemic. I believe this is not only warranted but appropriate.

This process is usually conducted including public hearings and group gatherings. This includes official County hearings as well as meetings and gatherings of residents possibly affected by the project. The process as defined and regulated by the State relies on these meetings and gatherings.

This process cannot be conducted according to norms common to this type of process at this time. This is due, at least in part, by the actions and dictates of your own Board in relation to the pandemic. Even at this stage, after the NOP has been released, it is expected that the community organize to respond to the process. Your actions concerning the pandemic greatly inhibit this organization process.

At a time when you are restricting people to the degree you are, causing near collapse of Nevada County resident's businesses, in the name of this pandemic, it is preposterous that you continue to mandate that these same residents' comply with this evaluation process at this time. Not to mention the effect on the process of the other inconveniences imposed on the residents by the regulations associated with this pandemic.

I think it would be completely appropriate for this process to be put on hold until after the other restrictions imposed by the County are removed. If you refuse you are incurring even more liability with respect to your final decisions regarding this project.

Respectfully;

Robert White

Robert White

From: Bob White <bob@whitetool.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Idaho Maryland Mine Project Description

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,

Please disregard my initial request. I think I have found the page I was looking for.

I would like an opportunity to speak with you regarding the site plan for the Brunswick site that you have on file. The one that is dictated by an ordinance. I don't have access for the

ordinance number here at home. If I did I would mention it for reference. I'll find that later and send it to you. I have it at work with the site plan.

Please let me know if that would be possible and when you would be available for that.

Thank You

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Project Description
Date: Sat, 8 Aug 2020 09:59:01 -0700
From: Bob White <bob@whitetool.com>
To:matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Good Morning Matt,

I got the impression by the video concerning the project that there was a complete project description on your site. I am having trouble finding the document. Can you direct me to it?

--
Bob White
12524 Loma Rica Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530 273-9679

-----Original Message-----
From: Bob White <bob@whitetool.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: EIR Input Letter

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt,

This is my letter for input to the EIR. I also mailed this today.

--
Bob White
12524 Loma Rica Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530 273-9679

From: Chris Whitlock
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for reviewing the email sent August 6, 2020, concerning the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project. Although you gave no specific information on the project itself, you sent us in the right direction for investigating this further.
Your help in forwarding my email is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Chris Whitlock

On Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 6:17 PM Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

> Good Afternoon Mr. Whitlock:
>
> Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.
>
> Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project:
> https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley
>
> We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Chris Whitlock <ps421cw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 7:07 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please do not let our valuable resources or go to Canada or are you unfamiliar with the gold situation in the world today?. You will be hurting the counties future financial stability by not leaving the gold here in the U.S.

The idea of added revenue from opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine has its merits.

The impact on the environment is a consideration.

The impact the noise will have on the environment would encompass the human population as well.

I am always taken by the quiet at the Empire Mine because the process of hard rock mining is so loud.

The loss of income in this county will not be compensated for by this unwanted plan in the near future; the time to install the mine should be compared with the increase already happening in home prices. Governing bodies always want more money to spend and the Bay Area rush to Nevada County is a current increase in the tax base.

Reducing the Idaho-Maryland to a foreign holding in this community is something only someone detached from this county could consider. It is business, you reply. It is a mishandling of Nevada County's precious metals by the people elected/hired to oversee those resources/assets who will then turn around and sell what is not theirs but the county's, to the highest foreign bidder.

The Idaho-Maryland has been silent all these years. If you must open the mine because you need more money in your pockets, please do not exploit our history, gold, or county. If Canada is interested, a company in the United States will eventually make an offer. Wait.

Please do not let our valuable resources or go to Canada or are you unfamiliar with the gold situation in the world today?. You will be hurting the counties future financial stability by not leaving the gold here in the U.S.

I hope someone of reason considers this.

Sincerely,

Chris Whitlock

Grass Valley resident

(530) 277-5173

--
(530) 277-5173

From: Chris Whitlock
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:17 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please do not let our valuable resources or go to Canada or are you unfamiliar with the gold situation in the world today?. You will be hurting the counties future financial stability by not leaving the gold here in the U.S.

The idea of added revenue from opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine has its merits.
The impact on the environment is a consideration.
The impact the noise will have on the environment would encompass the human population as well.
I am always taken by the quiet at the Empire Mine because the process of hard rock mining is so loud.

The loss of income in this county will not be compensated for by this unwanted plan in the near future; the time to install the mine should be compared with the increase already happening in home prices. Governing bodies always want more money to spend and the Bay Area rush to Nevada County is a current increase in the tax base.

Reducing the Idaho-Maryland to a foreign holding in this community is something only someone detached from this county could consider. It is business, you reply. It is a mishandling of Nevada County's precious metals by the people elected/hired to oversee those resources/assets who will then turn around and sell what is not theirs but the county's, to the highest foreign bidder.

The Idaho-Maryland has been silent all these years. If you must open the mine because you need more money in your pockets, please do not exploit our history, gold, or county. If Canada is interested, a company in the United States will eventually make an offer. Wait.

Please do not let our valuable resources or go to Canada or are you unfamiliar with the gold situation in the world today?. You will be hurting the counties future financial stability by not leaving the gold here in the U.S.

I hope someone of reason considers this.
Sincerely,

Chris Whitlock
Grass Valley resident
(530) 277-5173

From: Pamela Whitman <pamwhitman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Rise Mine concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed opening of the Rise Mine. Issues relating to safety, noise, traffic and water impacts are paramount. In addition, the owner has shown disregard for complying with set standards in the past (in Canada), which raises questions whether he can be relied on to do what he claims here. This matter needs to be seriously considered, as it would impact our community in overwhelming ways.

Sincerely,
Pamela Whitman
Grass Valley, CA

From:	swoolman
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	swoolman
Subject:	Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelly,

I have lived here for 50 years and every once in a while some mining concern makes an attempt to re-open one of the mines.

Every time they have been refused and for good reason.

I'm not a hydrologist or someone who can reel off a bundle of statistics, but here are my thoughts and observations.

...The effects of the enormous amount of water pumped out of the mine and sent scouring down the creeks, on the wells, pond, creeks and vegetation in surrounding communities because of the complexities and interactions between fractured bedrock aquifers, due to mine blasting, and surface water cannot be predicted.

Any guaranties that Rise Gold might make about safety and continuance of well water usage cannot be taken seriously;

Hooking wells up to NID, where the land owners will have to pay a monthly fee when they, previously, had their ground water for free, hardly seems to be an equitable solution.

"Mining will take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. About 1500 tons of waste rock and tailings will be removed from the mine daily. Of this, 500 tons per day will be mixed with cement to form a paste backfill and re-deposited into the mine. The remaining 1000 tons per day will be deposited at the Centennial site and at a 31-acre area along Brunswick Road just south of the processing facility and bounded by neighborhoods on Cedar Ridge Drive, Elk Lane, and Mink Court.

"Waste rock and tailings from the mine will be transported by trucks making up to 100 round trips per day, 16 hours per day, 7 days per week. To get to the Centennial site, they will turn left onto Brunswick Road about 0.4 miles south of East Bennett Rd, pass through the intersection of East Bennett and Brunswick and turn left onto Whispering Pines Lane to reach Centennial Drive."

From "A Preliminary Assessment of the Proposal to Reopen Idaho-Maryland Mine"

Good grief... In 1994, an estimated 1,776 people lived within 1 mile of the site, and 24,091

lived within 4 miles of the site. I can't find the statistics for 2020 but, we can agree that it has increased considerably.

Would anyone want to live near this cacophony?

How are these noise & property devaluation impacts going to be "mitigated?

The mine hasn't been operational for 50 years. Our economy now is based on the natural beauty of the area, which we should make a priority.

The damage of mining isn't worth the, "pie in the sky", promise of jobs.

Mining is a risky business and president and CEO of Rise Gold, Mr. Mossman created a company that ended in bankruptcy, was charged with many environmental violations and had their $420,000 security bond confiscated by the Ministry of Energy and Mines to clean the polluted site.

According to the Government of Canada's website, "on July 13, 2018, Mossman was found guilty of one violation of the Fisheries Act ($7,500) and one violation of the Provincial Environmental Management Act ($7,500)."

Is this the company we are putting our trust in? This area that we have been given stewardship is much too precious to take this chance.

I was advised to choose one topic to concentrate on, but there is so much wrong with this proposal that it was impossible,

Thank you for taking time to review my considerations.

Best Wishes,

Elaine Whooley

20493 New Rome Road

Nevada City, CA 95959

530-265-6318

August 15, 2020

Matt Kelley
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Subject: Comment Letter for the Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Kelley,

On behalf of the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Board, who represent several hundred wildlife biologists and professionals in northern California, I am writing to provide comments and areas of concern ahead of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will be prepared for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project in Grass Valley, California. The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit professional society, dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.

The reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine consists of: dewatering activities including discharge into South Fork Wolf Creek, ongoing underground mining activities, transport and disposal of mine tailings and other waste, and establishment and operation of above-ground industrial facilities, as well as other associated activities. Cumulatively, the reopening and ongoing operation of the mine could result in numerous important environmental impacts that should be considered thoroughly while drafting the EIR.

I strongly urge you to consider the following:

1. **Wildlife**
   The Project occurs in the vicinity of multiple wildlife habitats, including mixed hardwood forest, wetland meadows, and the South Fork Wolf Creek corridor. Several special status species occur or have the potential to occur within the proximity of the Project. Species with nearby records of occurrence include birds such as Willow Flycatcher (State-Endangered), Olive-sided Flycatcher (Species of Special Concern [SSC]), and yellow-breasted chat (SSC); mammals such as Townsend's big-eared bat (SSC); reptiles such as northwestern pond turtle (SSC); and plants such as Stebbin's morning-glory (Federally- and State-Endangered) and Pine Hill Flannelbush (Federally-Endangered). Wildlife and plant species could be impacted directly by development

or vehicle/equipment strikes, or indirectly via impacts to water quality and flow, noise, pollution, and other project-related factors.

2. **Noise Impacts**
   The ongoing operation of the mine, as well as the increased truck traffic due to haul of mined goods and waste, would increase noise levels in the area during all times of day and night. Increased noise due to mining practices and haul truck traffic could negatively impact wildlife movement and activity, as well as nearby residents.

3. **Air Quality/Climate Change Impacts**
   According to the Air Quality and greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Project, the energy use required by mining operations will be substantial, estimated at 42,757,000 Kilowatt-Hours per year. Full operations of the mine, including fuel for equipment, electricity, and other operational uses are estimated to produce around 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

4. **Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts**
   As proposed, the Project plans to discharge water via an outfall into South Fork Wolf Creek. The South Fork Wolf Creek corridor provides foraging and breeding habitat as well as refuge for wildlife species, including several special-status species. Additionally, the hydrology and water quality of the creek impact the downstream waters of the Upper Bear Watershed. In addition to the direct discharge of water into the creek, potential impacts to domestic water wells, ground water and stormwater runoff have potential to occur as a result of mining activities.

The reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine has the potential to cause several major and long-lasting impacts to the surrounding environment. We urge you to consider the potential impacts outlined here, as well as any other pertinent factors, while drafting the EIR.

Sincerely,

Conservation Affairs Committee Chair
Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

From:	Sacramento-Shasta Chapter
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Sacramento-Shasta Chapter
Subject:	Comment Letter - Idaho Maryland Mine EIR
Date:	Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:52:32 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Maryland Mine Comment Letter 08.15.20.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelley,
On behalf of the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society Board, please find attached a comment letter regarding the Idaho Maryland Mine Environmental Impact Report.

--

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

For more info and updates, please see our Chapter website and Facebook page.

From: Don JaiMa
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:51:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Below is an attachment of a neighbor that gave permission for me to use. I include it as I agree wholeheartedly, he expressed more than I would of.
However I do want to add some additional points, some may be highlights.

A few years ago, when the other mine proposal was in process, I talked with a Hydrologist who read over the report done by the Mine owners hired hydrologist as to the potential impact of draining out the mine as is, to the surrounding ground water and neighbors wells. He stated although it can not be known for certain, he felt the report highly underestimated the affect it would have on neighbors wells.

The past few years with so much “Fake News” it seems very clear, experts, scientists can come up with essentially whatever is wanted. I am very much concerned with the environmental impact on this area. As has been stated, water, air quality, noise pollution, road safety, affect to emergency evacuations due to fire.

I am almost 70, I am aware of many corporations that can make many promises to communities, bringing in so many tax dollars, jobs. Market conditions change, world events change, corporate structure changes, that lead to corporations going bankrupt, leading to communities having to deal with clean up at tax payers expense.

If this were to go through, how do you propose to protect us from this from happening? Mines, historically have not had a good record of how they leave the environment.

Would you guarantee some kind of Public Trust Acct (meaning some account the Mine would have to give a predetermined amount of money, in which they cannot touch, if they go bankrupt, or in any way, fail to follow through with issues that come up - water, property values dropping etc) How much? Seems minimally tens of millions?

The mine was closed down so long ago, the city of Grass Valley, and rural residential have grown to encircle the mine. Not a heavy industrial area.

Please insist on due diligence, with a long term view of the affect to our community.

My wife and I have lived in our home on Greenhorn for almost 14 years, 1.3 miles from Brunswick/Bennet. We have not planned to move, because we have really appreciated this community, the environment. If this goes through, it could drive a lot of people away, as well as stop new people from moving here.

Thank you,
Wish you well.

Don Wiljamaa
13951 Greenhorn Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-615-8418

Below is what a neighbor wrote:

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact,

understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of

reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it’s a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to

open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our

children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

From: Jennifer Wilkerson
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: bdofsupervisors; mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: Opposition to Mine
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:26:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly, et al.,

I live off of Greenhorn Road and I am vehemently opposed to reopening the mine in our neighborhood. There are no studies to discount the probability of negative impacts to our water, roads and air if active mining is permitted for the sole profit of out-of-town investors. The preliminary information sufficiently shows the adverse effects of pollution (air, water and noise) and extreme road wear if this mine project is allowed to proceed.

Economic success in our community should benefit those who live here by providing sustainable jobs, such as technology and tourism, which do not negatively impact our environment.

Please stop the process from proceeding further with this misguided mine reopening proposal. Thank you for your consideration of our community's concerns.

Jennifer L. Wilkerson
12604 Honeydew Ln
Grass Valley CA 95945
530-913-8296

From: Bethany Wilkins
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Concerned citizen
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:04 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for 6 years. I love the peace, the quiet, and the natural beauty of this area.

I know that mining was once the mainstay of this community, but I do not find this past worth returning to merely for the sake of "tradition". The scars on the landscape and on the psyche of the native Nisenan are as much a legacy as the gold that fed the local economy for a brief moment in time. Ultimately, most of the wealth that was extracted from the land- at great cost to the environment and native culture- ended up in the hands of a privileged few, who hoarded it. I'm afraid not much has changed with the way that we humans do business in 2020, which is why I am extremely concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

I would like to know the following:

What will the noise and vibration levels from mine operations and mine truck traffic be? How will this impact human and wild animal health?

How many of the jobs created by the mine would actually be entry level or include extensive technical training, so that local residents could apply for them with a reasonable chance of being hired? Will the pay rate for these jobs be at least $15 an hour, aka, a living wage for this county and this state?

Where will the majority of the money from this company end up? In our county? In Canada?

Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine’s mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

-The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

-The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

-The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

-The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

-A clear definition of what constitutes “compromised” water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would also like to know the following:

What will the noise and vibration levels from mine operations and mine truck traffic be? How will this impact human and wild animal health?

How many of the jobs created by the mine would actually be entry level or include extensive technical training, so that local residents could apply for them with a reasonable chance of being hired? Will the pay rate for these jobs be at least $15 an hour, aka, a living wage for this county and this state?

Where will the majority of the money from this company end up? In our county? In Canada?

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have for me.

Sincerely,

Bethany wilkins

Operations Manager at Fat and the Moon in GV

From: Shirley Williams
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Gold Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are writing because we are against the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. We live across the street and this will destroy the life and home we have built here. My husband and I drove around a very small portion of our area and found 125 homes, some very expensive homes, 2 day cares, 1 Church, 1 grocery store, 3 auto repair shops, 1 bar, and 1 thrift type store. There are many home businesses in the area. These are all within walking distance of this area. It took us about five minutes to drive the area I have spoke about. The area surrounding this mine is a residential and business community. It is not just a few homes.

My own personal concern is my lung cancer. I spoke to my oncologist about carbon dioxide, ammonia nitrates, diesel fumes, asbestos etc. that they would put into the air I would be forced to breathe and wanted to know what it would do to my lungs. His response was if the air is chronic and extended it would not be good for my cancer. I expect that my life is worth much more then this gold mine.

Evidently rules do not apply when you are trying to open a gold mine. They have already been charged with some violations. Don't think I believe they did not know what they were doing. This already sounds like something they did in Canada. They were charged with 35 counts for allegedly polluting Banks Island near Prince Rupert. The charges were under the Federals Fisheries Act and Environmental Management Act and Water Act. Were there any Federal charges?

The owner was ordered to clean up but instead filed bankruptcy. Then in 2017 it looks like they had money to come to California and buy the IM Maryland for Two Million Dollars. It is interesting that they did not have enough money to clean up a mess they made but could come to California and start another project. Are the people of Nevada County and California expected to clean up another mess left by a company that might have to file bankruptcy again. Former CEO of now bankrupt Banks Island Mine Ltd, Benjamin Mossman, as well as the mine manager Dirk Meckert and aquatic biologist Allegra Cairns faced 35 charges under federal Fisheries Act, provincial Environmental Management Act and Water Act. You can look it up on the internet.
Now Mr. Mossman has moved on to California.

Why would a bankrupt company come to California, same company different name, to open a gold mine. I am guessing they would not be able to get a permit in Canada. Have they ever opened anything that showed a profit anywhere? Have they ever paid any money to investors? Have they ever left any place they tried to develop better then they found it? I am sure you must have the answers to all these questions? I hope you are as concerned about the health and welfare our environment and small town will be left in as I am.

The IM Mine was basically closed over 50 years ago. We are no longer a mining town but a small city where people have built their homes and dreams. My husband and I built our home ourselves a very long time. We have a lot of blood and tears in our home. I hope all this is taken into consideration on a project that I feel will destroy our neighborhood and town that so many people have made their home. If Nevada County had any idea that someday the mine would be opened then they should never have allowed so many families to build their homes in this area. My life and my neighbors lives are worth much more then some gold mine.

Thank you
Bob and Shirley Williams

Sent from my iPad

From: david wills <dwills9878@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,
I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project.
I am a lifetime resident of Nevada County & would like to see the county promote more sustainable & environmentally friendly projects. We don't need to have something like this in our county.

I see where this would benefit the mine owners, the county building dept, & N.I.D. I don't see where it would benefit the citizens of nevada county, the environment, or any other benefit to the area. In fact it looks to me that it would be an actual detriment to our area. There are so many things that we can't forsee that will happen if this project is approved that will affect the next seven generations or more. It would be totally irresponsible to approve it."

David Wills
13550 Lower Anchor lane
Grass Valley, Ca. 95945

From: Grady Wilson
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Reopen The Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:13:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings Matt Kelly, I am in favor of re-opening the Idaho Maryland mine I know they will work hard to meet the regulations required to operate environmentally Responsible.
Sincerely,
Grady Wilson
530-852-2734

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Mark Wilson
To:	Matt Kelley
Subject:	Comments Regarding Rise Gold Proposed Reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:49:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

As a 17-year resident and of Nevada City and homeowner on Banner Mountain, I'm writing to identify some issues that I would like the upcoming draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to address. Overall, I'm concerned that the mine will affect public and environmental health, the quality of life in the Grass Valley/Nevada City area, and property values.

Because the mine will be a large industrial facility operating in an area that currently has light industrial facilities, businesses, offices, and housing, I have some specific concerns. These include Wolf Creek being used as a drainage for its ongoing dewatering operations, but I know others are writing you about that, so I'll focus on two others: air quality and noise.

Air Quality

1. Western Nevada County has been in nonattainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone for more than 20 years, and during that time its designation status has shifted upwards from "Moderate" to "Serious." The NSAQMD Ozone attainment plan (NSAQMD 2018) referenced in Rise Gold's *Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Nevada County, California* (February 2020) addresses an upper limit of 0.075 parts per million (ppm) of ozone, rather than the 0.070 ppm ozone standard set by both the federal National Ambient Air Quality Standard and the California Ambient Air Quality Standard. This is the difference between a designation of "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" (0.075 ppm) and high "Moderate" (0.070 ppm), which is still far above the upper end of the "Good" range (0.050 ppm). It should be noted that if Rise Gold were conducting this project in their native Canada, they would be required to meet the even healthier Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standard value for ozone, which is lower still (0.063 ppm). *The EIR should address why Rise Gold's plan is not addressing the more healthy regulatory standard level of 0.070 ppm.*
2. We know that one element of ozone production is high temperature, and that the prevalence of high temperatures has been increasing and will continue to increase in this area over the proposed 80-year life of the mine's operation (https://www.theunion.com/news/local-news/the-science-of-warmer-winters-sierra-temps-rising-faster-greater-impact-on-snowpack/). To ensure healthy ozone levels for not only today, but also for our children and their children, *the draft EIR should model likely temperature increases in the area over the life of the mine's operations and the effect of that temperature rise on ozone production over that lifetime. Because some of the ozone that affects this area is transported from other areas, that modeling should include areas from which that ozone is produced and transported.*

3. As much of the work that the California Air Resources Board has shown, local ambient air quality can differ greatly over relatively short distances, based on topology, mixture of pollutants transported from other areas, wind direction, temperature, and other factors. Table 2 (Local Ambient Air Quality Data) on page 17 of Rise Gold's *Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Nevada County, California* shows that data for nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide, and course particulate matter were taken from the Yuba City monitoring station, which is 31 miles away. The report states that "The data collected at these stations [Grass Valley and Yuba City] are considered generally representative of the air quality experienced in the project vicinity." However, this statement is questionable. For example, independent local ozone monitoring coordinated with the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and conducted a number of years ago in the Grass Valley/Nevada City area showed significant differences in ozone levels. This was true even in locations that were short distances from the official Litton Building monitor, demonstrating that the ozone data from that one monitor is not representative of the entire area. *The draft EIR should identify the person or entity that considers monitoring data from the Litton Building and Yuba city monitors to be representative of the project location and show supportable evidence that readings taken from these monitors ~1 to 31 miles away are truly representative of the proposed location.*
4. Because some air impacts (such as ground-level ozone) occur from different pollutants mixing in the air rather than from direct emissions, *for all air quality considerations, the draft EIR should consider cumulative emissions for the areas affected by the mine's construction and throughout its anticipated 80 years of operation.*
5. The mine location is in a Tier 2 (Elevated) fire risk area and directly adjacent to a Tier 3 (Extreme) fire risk area. In addition, the location typically experiences smoke from wildfires both in and out of the area in the summer and the fall, and in the recent past such events have ranged from a day to more than a week. Since wildfire smoke at the location is an annual occurrence, *the draft EIR's particulate emissions section should account for local and transported wildfire smoke and outline any actions the mine would take to reduce its particulate emissions during these high particulate events.*
6. On page 3 of *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Nevada County, California,* Rise Gold states the following:

> "The prevailing wind direction over the County is westerly. However, the terrain of the area has a great influence on local winds, so that wide variability in wind direction can be expected. Afternoon winds are generally channeled up-canyon, while nighttime winds generally flow down-canyon. Winds are, in general, stronger in spring and summer and lower in fall and winter. Periods of calm winds and clear skies in fall and winter often result in strong, ground-based inversions forming in mountain valleys. These layers of very stable air restrict the dispersal of pollutants, trapping these pollutants near the ground, representing the worst conditions for local air pollution occurring in the County."

Reviewers of the draft EIR should be able to view the likely trajectory and distance of air emissions from the proposed plant, so they can easily visualize which areas are likely to be affected. *The EIR should include a wind rose of the prevailing wind direction,*

superimposed over a map of the area, as well as a map of the area labeled with recognizable features that shows the area affected by the inversion described.

7. The Odorous Compounds section of Rise Gold's *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Nevada County, California* (p. 9) states that "Odors are generally regarded as an annoyance…" and only gives an example of a coffee roaster. Obviously, the odors from the Idaho-Maryland mine (such as diesel exhaust and the use of industrial chemicals) will be more intrusive and offensive than a coffee roaster, and beyond health effects, can lead to such harms as a reduction in property values and permanent loss of enjoyment of one's property. *The draft EIR must identify the industrial odors likely to be emitted from the mine's construction and operations, as well as the distance and direction from the site these odors are likely to travel, so residents can reasonably assess this impact.*

Noise

1. Noise from the construction and operation of this project is inevitable, and for those who reside and work near the site, it will decrease their peaceful, enjoyable use of their properties and potentially decrease their property values. *The draft EIR should identify the decibel levels of the mine activities in all directions at various distances outward from the site, so residents can gauge the effect of noise on their quality of life and its potential effect on their property values.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine reopening and for your careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Wilson

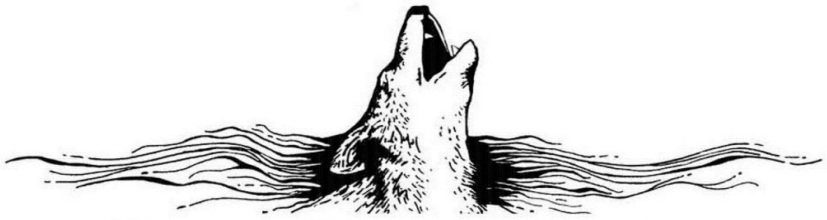
markwilson@pacbell.net
530-265-1934

-----Original Message-----
From: Joanne M. Wohlfeld <irishousestudios@Sierraemail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: No mines please

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not allow any openings of any mines. It was bad enough when the mines were operating as far as environmental impact.
We live here because of the beauty of the area which includes good air, relatively quiet, less traffic than cities.

The early mining here and what was done to the land is not something to be proud of. The corporations made a mess and left it. They are not to be trusted.
Thank you for your concern;
Joanne M Wohlfeld



WOLF CREEK COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

"Grass Valley - A creek runs through it."

August 16, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department, 950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Rise NOP Comments

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

As you know, we have found it extremely difficult to fully understand the scope of the documents provided because of the very short time period allotted to research it. The video slide show distributed by the Planning Department in late July left only 20 days for most folks to locate, review, read, try to understand some very complicated data, and then collect our thoughts into a coherent letter before submitting them to you. And that is only for people with good internet; others have almost no way to find the documents, much less respond in a meaningful way.

Nonetheless a volunteer crew of concerned citizens have managed to put together this preliminary list of comments. We hope you will extend the comment period to fully comply with CEQA's goal of allowing the general public adequate time to comment.

1. The EIR must describe a comprehensive monitoring plan for South Fork Wolf Creek (SFWC) and its watershed. Here is a sample of questions that must be answered in the EIR regarding this monitoring plan: What kind of pre-project monitoring of South Fork Wolf Creek (SFWC) will be done to establish baseline data for water quality? What type of ongoing monitoring will be in place during the dewatering process, to ensure there is no deleterious effect on water quality? What is the proposed monitoring program for water quality in SFWC during the 80-year life of the project? Who will oversee this monitoring, and what structure will be in place to enforce compliance? Who will pay for this? The parameters monitored should include, but are not limited to: pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, dissolved solids, turbidity, nitrogen, phosphorus,

heavy metals, manganese, iron, other mining residue. Please provide a scientific design of the proposed monitoring program, including suitable goals, exceedance levels, etc.

2. Please describe similar monitoring plans for other important riparian parameters, including but not limited to: benthic macroinvertebrates (BMIs), physical habitat, canopy coverage, and sediment loading.

3. Contrary to the report in the applicant's submitted documents, SFWC is a perennial stream, fed by two streams above Brunswick, flowing through the entire Brunswick site, not just the downstream half. As per definitions in Nevada County LUDC Sec. L-II 4.3.17 B:
   3. ***Watercourses, Perennial*** *- Natural or once natural flowing bodies of water, including natural waterways that have been channelized, which flow continuously through a bed or channel having banks. All streams, creeks, lakes, ponds and reservoirs shown on the 7.5 minute USGS maps as perennial are included in this definition unless professional evaluation determines the watercourse to be intermittent or seasonal.*

   SFWC is a blue line on 7.5 minute USGS maps all the way through the Brunswick property.

   WCCA has been collecting data from our monitoring site upstream of Brunswick Road on Woodrose for 10+ years, and we dispute the finding in the submitted Management Plan that the upstream portion of the stream on this property is not perennial. The fact that a previous property owner "channelized" a portion into a 48" culvert is not sufficient evidence to determine whether this stream is perennial or intermittent. The EIR must describe how the entire length of the creek on the property will be protected with minimum 100' setbacks during the life of the project, and how the creek will be restored to a fully functioning healthy creek during and after the project. Please see our letter to Matt Kelly regarding this matter dated 12/22/2019, attached hereto.

4. Whether the steam is determined to be perennial or intermittent, the setbacks required by the county LUDC must be maintained throughout. Any work performed, including the proposed removal and replacement of the culvert, will require special permits for streambed alteration etc. from (including but not limited to) California Fish and Wildlife, USACE, Cal SWRCB, etc. The EIR must describe the status of these permit applications, and the scope of work proposed. Please note that the applicant violated the County's minimum setback requirements (twice) in 2018, and was required to submit a second Management Plan because the first one was insufficient. See The Union Other Voices, 6/24/2020: https://www.theunion.com/opinion/columns/jonathan-keehn-reopening-idaho-maryland- mine-still-a-bad-idea/

5. Please describe the status of CalFire Timber Harvest permits, or other forest harvesting permits that may be required for the life of this project. Please note that the applicant was cited for violations in this regard on March 29, 2018, attached hereto.

6. The EIR must delineate how the on-going enforcement of these permits (and any others required) will be achieved over the 80-year life of the project, and the reclamation/maintenance phase post-project. e.g: Who will be enforcing them and collecting fines if any aspect of the project is found to be in violation of the spirit and intent of a permit, whether or not the original enforcement agency is still in existence?

7. SFWC has populations of native rainbow trout that are highly sensitive to warm water and other changes in their habitat, as are many of the macroinvertebrate species that they feed on. The EIR must describe how these fish and their habitat will be protected. This program would include, but not be limited to twice-yearly surveys of trout and BMIs downstream from the project, to monitor the effect of the project on trout.

8. The applicant has determined that SFWC is the proper conduit for discharge of all dewatering. However, the previous property owner (Emgold) went to great lengths to determine that a better solution would be to pipe the discharge to the main stem of Wolf Creek. The EIR must describe these former studies, assumptions, and findings, and describe why the current project applicant disagrees with the previous discharge analysis in favor of the current proposal. Alternative methods of disposal of the water must also be analyzed by the EIR, e.g. trucking off-site.

9. The EIR must address the following questions regarding the hydrological impact of dewatering: What is the level of confidence of the accuracy of the hydrological studies regarding dewatering? Describe the impacts of dewatering on ground water, surface water, riparian habitat, wetlands, and wells in the Wolf Creek watershed and beyond. What structure will be in place to measure negative impacts? What action thresholds have been set that will trigger remediation and fines if any negative impacts to the water resources of Nevada County and the Wolf Creek watershed occur? Who will enforce the rules, and who will pay for remediation? Please describe the public notification process, including real-time updates of all monitoring programs, in an easily-searchable data-base.

10. The project plan includes extensive exploratory drilling operations under neighboring properties and watersheds. The EIR must address the impacts on water resources (including but not limited to ground water, surface water, riparian zones, wetlands, and wells) of both the exploratory operations and the mining operations. How will negative impacts discovered by the monitoring program be remediated? What is the plan to halt operations, when significant changes in the water table are discovered, and how will alternative plans be made to stem the tide of destruction and depletion? In addition to SFWC, we are concerned about the main stem of Wolf Creek, the wetlands on the Centennial site that drains into Wolf Creek, all ephemeral and intermittent streams in the watershed, and the wet meadow on East Bennett Road that is on Empire Mine State property. How will these be monitored, and how will the general public and concerned citizens know if these wetlands and riparian areas are becoming degraded due to changes in the hydrology? And what will be done when negative impacts are discovered?

11. At the Centennial Site, the maps show that Centennial Drive and Spring Hill Drive are to remain in their current locations. However, the city of Grass Valley intends to realign this intersection, which would impact Wolf Creek proper, and its riparian zone. How will this project be designed to accommodate the realignment? How will the realignment be constructed in a way to enhance the creek and riparian area? The EIR must address these issues collectively as part of this project, because of their anticipated cumulative effects, and not separately or piecemeal.

12. How will the project enable and enhance the city's plan to create a public trail along the Wolf Creek/Idaho Maryland Road corridor? This project is currently in the design and engineering phase. The EIR must address these issues collectively as part of this project because of their anticipated cumulative effects, and not separately or piecemeal. The EIR must describe any and all easements that will be granted to the city or the County, and the impacts they will have in the riparian corridors.

13. The EIR must address how the project will encourage trails and bike path accessibility, both on the Centennial site, the Brunswick site, and East Bennett and Idaho Maryland Roads.

14. Please describe how all the wells that might be affected will be monitored before, during, and after the project, including exploration and during the reclamation phase. Describe all the parameters that will be monitored - e.g. well production, water level, clarity, taste, potability, iron, manganese, arsenic, etc. Describe the underground

hydrological features that may be affected by dewatering abandoned mine for 80 years, and how these features and activity will affect residential wells.

15. Please describe the projected loss to county tax revenues due to depressed property values over the next 80 years.

16. Regarding the "Aquatic Resources Management Plan" (Matuzak 2/2020): this report incorrectly interprets Nevada County Land Use and Development Code. LUDC L-II 4.3.17 – which states that any disturbance of wetlands, streams, etc. is to be allowed ONLY if there are no alternatives to a project going forward. *"**Sec. L-II 4.3.1 Purpose** The primary purpose of site development resource standards is to avoid the impact of development projects on sensitive environmental resources and natural site constraints. Where avoidance is not possible....."*

    The EIR must describe alternative designs for the project that will avoid the impacts mentioned.

17. *Fremontedendron decumbens* (Pine Hill flannelbush) is a federally listed: Endangered and CA listed: Rare, and is known from only 12 populations in Yuba, Nevada and El Dorado Counties. There is a population of 62 plants on the Centennial site and the project, as currently designed will lead to a loss of 18 plants and impact to another 4 plants. Over one third the population could be lost. This is an unacceptable take for a federally listed plant. A population of this size is very vulnerable and may not survive this level of impact. We would like the Draft EIR to demonstrate that the proposed mitigation described in Mauzak 2/2020 **Centennial Industrial Site *Habitat Management Plan for the Pine Hill Flannelbush (Fremontodendron decumbens)***, will not result in a loss of viability for the population and the meta population. We do not believe that transplanting is at all an option for this species. This genus is almost impossible to transplant when young, much less mature. The EIR must address how this plant will be protected and the population made to thrive on this site. Provide details of how this will be achieved, and include specific, proven methods of successful transplantation, if transplantation remains part of the plan. Provide a "performance based" monitoring plan to assure success of the project at 6 months, at least annually thereafter, for the life of the project and reclamation phase.

18. Regarding the **Technical Memorandum for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project – South Fork Wolf Creek Discharge Biological Resources Assessment** (Matuzak 2019). After this report was completed, the foothill yellow-legged frog was listed by the State of California as Threatened. Because of this recent listing, additional protocol-level surveys of the creek below the Brunswick site, including on the Empire Mine SHP property, must

be made, and the reports included in the EIR. The previous study was surprising given how few benthic macroinvertebrates were found. Our organization has several years of data on the BMIs of this location and it scored high for species richness and abundance, making this a prime habitat for trout, yellow-legged frogs, and Western Pond Turtles. The substrate is more than adequate as well for the frogs to lay eggs. New protocol-level surveys must be done by an aquatic biologist with frog experience, and the reports included in the EIR.

19. Serious and destructive flooding occurs during large storm events, along the main stem of Wolf Creek behind Mill Street, which is mostly residential. Homes are very close to this channelized portion of the creek and there has been considerable property damage during high water events. The EIR must describe the plan that will be in place to ensure that the water pumped into SFWC will not cause additional flooding along Mill St. and other parts of Grass Valley during high volume precipitation events. Please describe the plan to prevent the spill of toxic waste into the creek during high intensity storms, including remediation and funding sources. The Nevada City Engineering, Inc. (2019) Preliminary Drainage Analysis states that post project storm-water discharge from the Brunswick Site, including the treated mine water discharge of 5.6 cfs, will be *equal to or less than the estimated pre- project storm-water discharge levels*. However, as stated in the report, the project will be adding an additional 5.6 cfs in perpetuity. The report also states that the construction of the storm-water detention ponds and the project will have *no impact or increase of flows in creeks during storm events* (NCE, 2019). The EIR must address these contradictory findings and describe a remediation plan.

20. Please describe the plans to mitigate the effects of climate change over the duration of the project. In the foothills, our main issues are flooding, fire, air pollution, CO^2 emissions, carbon-based energy use, and drought. Please address all of these issues. With climate change, we have already, and will continue to experience higher intensity storms. The EIR must describe how these storms will affect the water quality and volume of the dewatering of the mine shafts, the levels of toxic water in your settling ponds, and the amounts of water pumped into the creek. Please describe the measures that will be implemented to reduce the proposed high use of carbon-based energy and your (very high) CO^2 emissions. Describe the impact of these proposed emissions on the stated goals for reduced emissions by the City of Grass Valley, the County of Nevada, and the State of California. Please address the measures that will be taken to make your properties fire-safe, in a fire regime that will be increasing in danger over the 80-year life of the project. Please describe the modeling used to anticipate the effects of climate change on all parameters over the life of the project and into the reclamation phase.

21. Please describe the plans to reduce nitrification of the creek and environs from the use of ammonium nitrate. Please describe the effects of ammonium nitrate on riparian systems, including but not limited to the range/distance of the effect of ammonium nitrate in general and specifically in the systems that may be impacted by this project.

22. The Centennial site has wetlands, ephemeral, and intermittent streams throughout the project area. The EIR must address the impact of the piles of waste rock and whether there will be an increase the total dissolved solids and/or lowering of the pH of the water in these wetland areas, further degrading the water quality before emptying into Wolf Creek. In light of climate change, the EIR must reassess the 100 year floodplain in keeping with the increased likelihood of higher intensity storms on a more frequent basis.

23. The EIR must include protocol-level surveys to be done by experts for all Federal and State listed species at both Brunswick and Centennial sites, and also at the precious meadow and riparian sections of the SFWC watershed owned by Empire Mine State Park, just downstream of the Brunswick site.

24. The **Centennial Industrial Site Idaho-Maryland Mine Project *Watercourse / Wetlands / Riparian Areas Management Plan,*** states that***,*** "temporary disturbance or encroachment may occur within the 100-foot non-disturbance buffer to Wolf Creek due to construction activities though such disturbance is not currently being proposed." This statement is vague and unenforceable. The EIR must make it clear that the project will maintain 100' setbacks to perennial streams, and 50' setbacks from all other water resources throughout the project, and describe the steps that will be implemented to achieve this goal during construction and for the life of the project and reclamation phase. The EIR must describe any sedimentation that may occur as a result of the dust and disturbance caused by the project activities at Centennial on all water resources. Also describe the oversight and enforcement of these rules: how the impacts will be monitored, to whom they will be reported, the fine schedule for violations, and the bond amount that will be posted to ensure compliance.

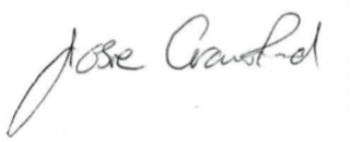
25. The EIR must determine an adequate bonding amount to ensure compliance and remediation of all facets of this project. It must include a financial structure sufficient to protect the County and its citizens from financial harm during every year of the proposed project, including through final reclamation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Sincerely,





Jonathan Keehn President

Josie Crawford Executive Director

Wolf Creek Community Alliance
P.O.Box 477, Grass Valley, CA 95945 Phone: 530.272.2347
Email: wolfcreekalliance@gmail.com

Web: http://www.wolfcreekalliance.org/

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you." Wendell Berry

December 22, 2019

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner 950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170 Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Rise Grass Valley application for Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan for the Idaho Maryland Mine project – mischaracterization of headwaters of South Fork Wolf Creek (SFWC)

Dear Mr. Kelley
Please review the following wording in the applicant's document, which can be found at page 17 (labeled pg 13) at:

https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/31023/Applicants-Project-Description

"A buried 48-inch culvert crosses the Brunswick Industrial Site. The culvert transports off-site surface drainage from Brunswick Road. South Fork Wolf Creek originates from the outlet of this 48-inch culvert. As shown on Sheets 1 and 2, this culvert will be upgraded and replaced to avoid proposed facilities and development. The new 48-inch culvert will discharge at the same location as the existing 48-inch culvert."

This is not an accurate description. The 48" culvert does much more than simply "transport off-site surface drainage from Brunswick Road". In fact it conveys all of the upstream reaches of the headwaters of South Fork Wolf Creek. There are springs and streams on the east side of Brunswick Road that flow through a culvert under the road, and there is a significant stretch of SFWC on the west side of Brunswick Road before it enters into the grated 48" culvert. There is important riparian habitat along all of these reaches, including on the subject property, that must be protected.

As you may know, Wolf Creek Community Alliance manages a robust water-quality monitoring program all over the Wolf Creek Watershed that has been operating continuously since 2003. We currently monitor 25 sites, one of which (Site 6.1) is on SFWC on the upstream (east) end of the Brunswick Road culvert. We call this site the SFWC Headwaters Site, but in fact the headwaters are farther to the east, up Wood Rose Road.

Any project that may come before you on the property currently owned by Rise GV should include daylighting this important stretch of SFWC that is currently in a 48" culvert. This stretch should be restored to a healthy open creek with a functioning riparian zone with habitat for a viable fish population.

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Jonathan Keehn
Wolf Creek Community Alliance
P.O.Box 477, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: 530.272.2347
Email: wolfcreekalliance@gmail.com

Web: http://www.wolfcreekalliance.org/

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDWARD G. BRWON, JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
NEVADA CITY FOREST FIRE STATION
10242 Ridge Road
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 277-1174
Website: www.fire.ca.gov

March 21, 2018

BENJAMIN MOSSMAN
RISE GRASS VALLEY INC
1090 WEST GEORGIA ST
VANCOUVER, BC V6E3V7

««NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF FOREST PRACTICE LAWS»»

Section 4604 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) requires the department to inspect timber operations for compliance with the Forest Practice Act and rules of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Violations may be cause for prosecution as a misdemeanor (Public Resources Code 4601), action against a Timber Operator License (PRC 4573 and 4576), injunction action (PRC 4605 and 4606), or a combination of the foregoing actions. Civil penalties may also be imposed (see PRC 4601.1). The following letter details code sections violated, mitigations required and date by which all work must be completed.

Harvest Document: 2-18NON-007-NEV MOSSMAN
Inspection Date: February 12, 2018
Inspection Type: Post-Harvest
Inspection Number: 1
Person Contacted:
Violator: Benjamin Mossman

VIOLATION OF PRC 4581- *Necessity of a timber harvesting plan.* (One count)

RULE:

No person shall conduct timber operations unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted for such operations to the department pursuant to this article. Such plan shall be required in addition to the license required in Section 4571.

VIOLATION:

Timberland owner Benjamin Mossman hired and instructed Neal Siller of Siller and Siller Construction, Inc. to perform timber operators on his property without a valid timber harvest plan.

MITIGATION:

At this time, there is no mitigation for this violation

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2018
REDDING
FOREST PRACTICE

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."

From: Jonathan Keehn <jbkeehn@sierraemail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:42 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>; Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>; Heidi Hall <heidimhall@msn.com>; Heidi Hall <Heidi.Hall@co.nevada.ca.us>; Ed Scofield <Ed.Scofield@co.nevada.ca.us>; Dan Miller <Dan.Miller@co.nevada.ca.us>; Sue Hoek <Sue.Hoek@co.nevada.ca.us>; Richard Anderson <Richard.Anderson@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: mineconcerns@cea-nc.org
Subject: Rise NOP Comments from Wolf Creek Community Alliance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt Kelley,

Find our list of comments attached, and please acknowledge receipt.

Thanks,

Jonathan Keehn

Wolf Creek Community Alliance
P.O.Box 477
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530.272.2347
530.913.2347 mobile
web: ***WolfCreekAlliance.org***

Many thanks for your support, donations, or volunteer effort!

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you." Wendell Berry

From: Mary Wollesen
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: The Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:18:31 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please hold Rise's feet to the fire. This has got to be done impeccably or not at all.

From: Lenda de Ann <lenda_deann@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 5:19 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: No on the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We live about a block from the proposed opening to Idaho Maryland Mine. I am totally against it for the following reasons.

We have no public water in this neighborhood, only well. Connecting water to the NID system is not acceptable. The recently raised their price to $800 a month, plus they spray RoundUp once a month to poison the weeds and algae. Not to mention animals and dogs drinking and swimming in it.

I'm concerned that when they drain the mine, they will lower our water table and we will no longer have water.

The trucks going in and out of there, the noise and the pollution concerns me.

Please do not approve the mine.

Thank you,

Lenda deAnn Wooard
11321 Beauview Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

From: Terry Wood
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re-opening Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:31:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Kelley

I understand you are accepting input regarding the reopening of Idaho-Maryland mine. My wife and I purchased a home on Brunswick Pines Road, Grass Valley in 1976 which we still own. We have strong objections to this. We are glad that you will be including certain dimensions in your EIR, such as air pollution, noise, traffic, water, etc. We feel that another aspect should be considered, and that is the reopening's impact on home values within the immediate area, which includes our property on Brunswick Pines Rd.

Perhaps I am putting the cart before the horse, but I am appalled that since our community has already slurped the poisoned Kool aid from the "golden trough" and suffered such dire long lasting consequences, why would we consider it again. I suppose that is some kind of right for people with golden tongues and supposed money to try and make their case. Hopefully our residents and governmental agencies will use more of their brains and deny the application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terry and Susie Wood

From: Laurie Woodum
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Proposal
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:45:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 17, 2020

Hello Mr. Kelly.

I strongly disagree that the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine should ever be considered for reasons below.

1. There is no safeguarding water moving through the ground. These people cannot guarantee that groundwater won't be depleted nor that there won't be cross-contamination.

2. Two roads will bear the construction traffic 24/7: The degree of noise and air pollution added to our quiet communities is not tolerable. And this does not take into consideration the operations of the mine itself. Remember the weekend races at the Fairgrounds? I do. They impacted a much larger area than the fairgrounds. Imagine how much greater that impact will be by a large mining operation.

3. If this goes through (God forbid), how will this company compensate those who live in the immediate surroundings plus the entire community? What compensation can they possibly offer for severely damaged quality of life, much less for the property of the many who will most certainly not want to live near to such an albatross.

How will this community benefit from such losses? A few jobs? Taxes paid to the county?

Please do everything within your power to abort this invasion.

Thank you for your attention.

Laurie

Laurie Woodum
11120 Manhattan Mine Lane
NC
530-559-9254

--
Laurie Woodum
lauriewoodum@gmail.com

From: Harry Woodum <hlwoodum@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Harry Woodum
11120 Manhattan Mine Ln
Nevada City, CA 95959
hlwoodum@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Nevada County resident for 28 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture, and overall high quality of life.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area, as well as the impact on homeownership, home values and climate impact. The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply.
- The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.
- The noise and air pollution and how a 24 hour 7 days a week operation will affect all residents in the area.
- The full cost and plan for remediation to all residents in the area who will be forced to relocate since this will create an unlivable situation for many.

Further, considering the population, I think this might have been a good idea 100-150 years ago, but not today with so many residences. And the people proposing this project have no vested interest in this community, only their own profit. They are too far removed, separated by thousands of miles, making it easier for them to submit such a proposal.

Sincerely,
Harry Woodum

From: Rachel Woodward
To: Matt Kelley
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt, it is terrible that you are considering opening a mine in grass valley. I will move since I live by the mine. I have asthma and a well. Please call me at 2747854 to discuss. Thanks, Rachel Woodward



From: Russ Woodward <rrwood41@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: gold mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt, I am writing you to let you know I will have to move if the gold mine gets approved. I have lived here for almost 20 years, raised my kids etc. I have medical issues that would prevent me from getting tons of exhaust fumes, more dust and bad air. The air here is already so bad. I am quite upset that you would even consider harming all the neighbors so someone can make a profit and leave another toxic mess. Thanks, Rachel Woodward

From: Russ Woodward <rrwood41@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: gold mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt, Our family is going to move if the gold mine gets approved. WE can't live by a toxic dump that the gold mine would create. Thanks, Russ Woodward

From: Russ Woodward
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Re: gold mine
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:45:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt, Thank you for he information. I hope you have a great day and DO NOT open the mine. Rachel

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 08:35:54 AM PDT, Matt Kelley <matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Woodward:

Thank you, we have received your comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project and the scope of the EIR analysis and they will be forwarded to the EIR consultant and the project applicant for review and consideration into the scope of the EIR.

Below is a link to the project application materials which can provide you with additional details and supporting documents related to the proposed project:
https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley

We are early in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposed project and are just initiating the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. As required by the California Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQA), there are requirements which are governed by California State Law that require the EIR analyze and evaluate certain issue areas including but not limited to: Hydrology and Water Quality, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Biological Resources, Air Quality Impacts, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology/Soils, Hazards / Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mineral Resources. These issue areas will be analyzed in the EIR based on technical studies that were submitted by the applicant and that were prepared by professionals in their respective fields. These technical studies will also be peer reviewed by the outside consulting firm that the County has contracted with to prepare the EIR. Drafting of the EIR will take many months to complete and is currently anticipated to be completed in late Fall, 2020.

Once the Draft EIR is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be released which will begin a minimum of a 45-day review and comment period to provide interested individuals an opportunity to review and respond to the adequacy of the draft EIR prepared for the proposed

project. During the 45 days, a public meeting will occur to accept comments on the EIR in addition to any emails or written comments that are submitted during the public review period. The public meeting will be noticed as part of the release of the NOA for the draft EIR. The EIR consulting firm will take all of the comments received and will respond to all comments in writing as part of the Final EIR. As part of the Final EIR, it will contain any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR based on the public and agency comments received as well as all of the written responses to all of the comments received during draft EIR comment period. The Final EIR will be released for a public comment period of not less than 10 days as required by California State Law and before any public hearings are held to consider the proposed project. A noticed Planning Commission hearing will be held to consider the project and the EIR and there is the potential for there to be multiple hearings before the Planning Commission. All comments received during the entire process will be part of the record for consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed project. After a recommendation is made on the project by the Planning Commission, a public hearing will then be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to consider the proposed project, the Environmental Impact Report and the Planning Commission's recommendations along with all public comments received throughout the process. As required, and similar to the Planning Commission public hearing(s) the Board of Supervisor public hearing(s) will be properly noticed and will provide an additional opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments on the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors will take action on the proposed project during their noticed public hearing.

Available application materials and supporting documents related to the proposed project including the Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and project application materials are available for public review at the Planning Department office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959 or they may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2881/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley.

Thank you again for your comments on the Notice of Preparation of the EIR. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed project throughout the EIR and public hearing processes.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170 *office 530.265-1423*

Nevada City, CA 95959 *https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department*

This message is for the designated recipient only and MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of this E-mail is prohibited.

The Nevada County Community Development Agency customer service counter is now open by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 11am, and 1 pm - 3 pm daily. To schedule an appointment please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222 option 2 at least one day in advance. The Planning Department will be continuing to provide services through email, phone, and online services. Applications for permits are available through our website at https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department. Before submitting an application, please contact the Planning Department and speak with a Planner. If you have any questions and/or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us directly at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Russ Woodward <rrwood41@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: gold mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt, I am writing you to let you know I will have to move if the gold mine gets approved. I have lived here for almost 20 years, raised my kids etc. I have medical issues that would prevent me from getting tons of exhaust fumes, more dust and bad air. The air here is already so bad. I am quite upset that you would even consider harming all the neighbors so someone can make a profit and leave another toxic mess. Thanks, Rachel Woodward

From: Lexicons Ska
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No Canadian Miners!
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:36:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Check em.
There is never enough money to allow these corporate profiteering jerks destroy your county. And they will! Cyanide leeching and leaving thousands, if not millions of yards of poisoned dirt behind. There's already enough CANCER AND COVID GOING AROUND! If you do not stop this you will lose sleep. Your children could die directly from this. YOU COULD DIE FROM THIS.
So please tell Canada gold NO! Because I would like to live in Grass Valley in the near future. Finding out you made any sort of deal for kick backs will change that. I will not buy your real estate. I will not live in a polluted Nevada County.
Do the right thing. Say No to Canadian Miners. Thank YOU.
Alexander Wright
6199179120

From: Todd Wulf <todd@budsartbooks.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

I am very troubled to hear that there is a possibility that the Idaho-Maryland Mine may become active again. If this does happen, I will be forced to move from the home I have lived in for 25 years, and the only home my two daughters have known. Plus from the hit I would take from the reduced property value, I would be forced to move out of the area, and most likely, out of the state.

I obviously oppose the mine being re-opened.

The item that I would most be interested in being addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report would be the following:

Noise pollution

Air Pollution

Water pollution to both the creeks and the water table.

Increased traffic on small roads never intended for industrial use.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Todd Wulf

Grass Valley resident

From: Harry Wyeth
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Rise Gold DEIR
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:52:11 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The DEIR should include very detailed and specific information about noise levels, including:

Will there be variations in noise hourly, daily, etc.?

Just how loud will noise be? Not just in dB, but in terms of how loud the noise actually sounds to the ear. Barely audible, always, constantly, how far away, listening on one side of a hill or the other, etc. Compared to what--a busy roadway, an almost silent roadway, etc.?

What will noise sound like? Rumbling, crushing rock, rushing noise, traffic noise, etc.?

Will noise be audible inside a residence? With windows closed or open?

The idea here is that the document should avoid canned responses and give actual, personally useful information.

HARRY WYETH

Grass Valley

530-798-6566

From: Jennifer Wynne
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:33:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Kelly,

I was shocked to hear that the county is considering re-opening the Idaho Maryland mine. I understand that historically this area has been used for mining but it is no longer the primary purpose of our county. Instead many people have moved here for the natural beauty and peace. This gold mine is now right in the middle of a huge residential area as I'm sure you know. Not only homes off Greenhorn, Brunswick and 174, but also the dense housing area downstream by the Memorial Park of Grass Valley will be subject to noise, pollution, and degrading ground water quality. Many homes that rely on wells will possibly even lose the ability to use these wells since so much ground water will be pumped away. I seriously cannot believe that Nevada Counties planning department is even considering approving this project. If you do I am sure many lawsuits will follow… Doesn't that sound like fun?

Be smart, don't do it.

Jennifer Wynne
Cedar Ridge

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----
From: Cynthia Yaguda <cyaguda@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

My husband and I are both grateful for the opportunity to communicate our feelings to you about

the reopening of the mine. Let me start by telling you a little bit about us.
We live close by to the proposed site, about 2 1/2 miles away. We love our life here in Nevada County. I am a practicing (not now, due to Covid) acupuncturist, for 35 years, and my husband has taught music in the schools as well as being a private music teacher for over 25 years. Before that, he was in construction, and he enjoys seeing the houses in town he has had a hand in building. We have raised 2 beautiful sons here as well as appreciated the opportunity to live in a beautiful peaceful setting with nature around us. The frog that greeted me this morning when I gently watered the planter on my back deck seemed to say, “Good Morning! “ and “Thank you!” We appreciate being able to support many of the local needs of our community in whatever way we can, be it financial or through donating our time. WE are a PART of Nevada County, and Nevada County is a PART of US.

We oppose the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.....

A few reasons why, are:
Noise pollution,
Water pumping,
destruction of natural resources for profit, toxic effects.....
Repeated mining for profit and gain,
this mine is not for helping Nevada County but for ruining Nevada County....We would consider moving elsewhere should this mine reopen, and support a different community whose priorities are more aligned with ours.

I urge you, From our hearts, please, do not support the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Cynthia Yaguda and Arthur Gould
12823 Lost Lake Rd
Grass Valley, 95945

From: Cynthia Yaguda <cyaguda@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 6:40 PM
To: LAFCO <LAFCO@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Sent to our Supervisor....Matt Kelley re:Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matt,

My husband and I are both grateful for the opportunity to communicate our feelings to you about the reopening of the mine. Let me start by telling you a little bit about us.
We live close by to the proposed site, about 2 1/2 miles away. We love our life here in Nevada County. I am a practicing (not now, due to Covid) acupuncturist, for 35 years, and my

husband has taught music in the schools as well as being a private music teacher for over 25 years. Before that, he was in construction, and he enjoys seeing the houses in town he has had a hand in building. We have raised 2 beautiful sons here as well as appreciated the opportunity to live in a beautiful peaceful setting with nature around us. The frog that greeted me this morning when I gently watered the planter on my back deck seemed to say, “Good Morning! “ and “Thank you!” We appreciate being able to support many of the local needs of our community in whatever way we can, be it financial or through donating our time. WE are a PART of Nevada County, and Nevada County is a PART of US.

We oppose the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.....

A few reasons why, are:
Noise pollution,
Water pumping,
destruction of natural resources for profit,
toxic effects.....
Repeated mining for profit and gain,
this mine is not for helping Nevada County but for ruining Nevada County....We would consider moving elsewhere should this mine reopen, and support a different community whose priorities are more aligned with ours.

I urge you, From our hearts, please, do not support the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Cynthia Yaguda and Arthur Gould
12823 Lost Lake Rd
Grass Valley, 95945

Dear Nevada County Planing Dept,

I disapprove of the mine. This is why:

- If you send a million gallons down stream it will flood Wolf Creek and make sink holes where the water was removed.

- I think from the blasting and machinery there will be a lot of noise and neighbors would hate it! All the trucks would pollute the air like mad and it would stink!

- The dump trucks halling all the dirt away could make popholes in the road and would take a lot of gas, will pollute the air.
that

- Please think of the long run.

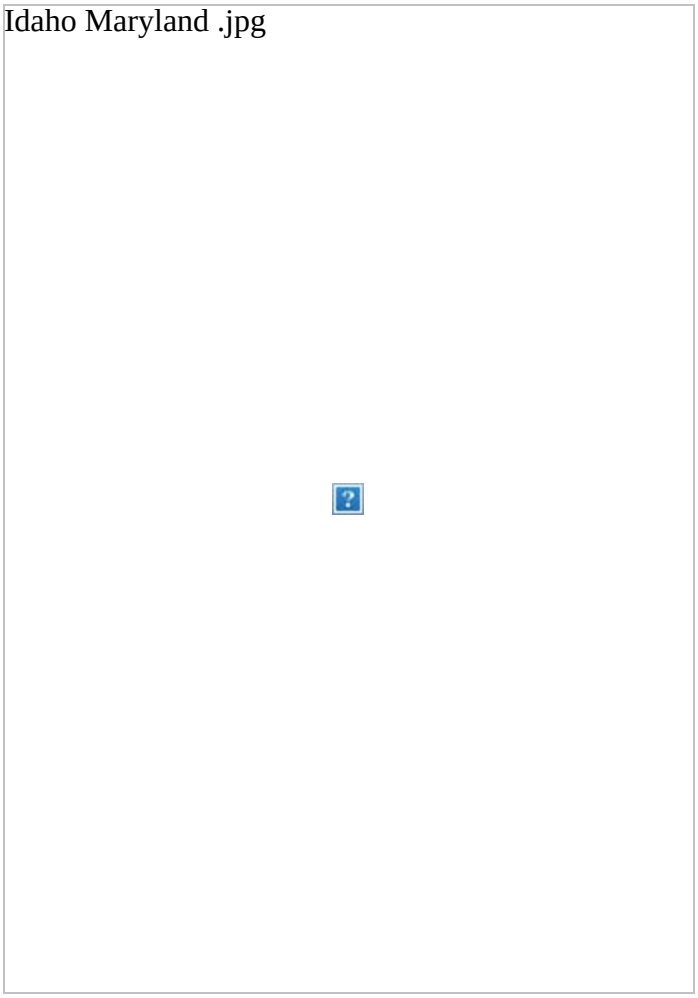
by Z.C.

4th grader

From: Nancy
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: A 4th Grader Disapproves of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:23:18 PM
Attachments: Idaho Maryland .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Idaho Maryland .jpg



From: Ariana Zimmerman
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho-Maryland mine
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:58:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I moved up to this area 20 years ago. This has been my dream come true. I lived in nyc and sf and now my retirement home up here in the foothills. I am begging you. Please no mining on Bennet road or anywhere in Grass Valley. There is no good reason to exploit our beautiful area. I am a sierra club member and an environmentalist. please learn from the mistakes of mining and depleting our resoures in our beautiful town. We all live on wells up here and the down side of a mine is sooooo great, I was and am totally appalled by this situation. No person living up here is in favor of the mine. Please respect our community wishes and stay out of Nevada county. Thank you for reading this. ariana zimmerman, grass valley,ca 95945

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
P.0. Box 1014
Nevada City, California 95959
info@nevadacountylandmarks.com
415-264-7230

17 April 2020

Community Development Agency
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite
170 Nevada City, Cal., 95959

Attn: Matt Kelley

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelley,

The Historic Properties Inventory was discussed at the Commission's meeting this morning. From a historical perspective, this document is inadequate in many ways.

1. In conducting its research, InContext did not submit a request for information to the Commission. It does not appear to know that the Mine was designated a Historical Landmark in 1984 (NEV 33) at our recommendation. InContext needs to discuss the Mine's significance as a County Landmark. Instead, it appears to be only concerned with state and national historical preservation laws.
2. It should fully explain its conclusion on page 29 that the project's alteration of a Historical Landmark is not considered adverse or significant.
3. It needs to further explain how the admitted adverse impact is offset by sharing existing documentation with the public. Most of the documentation appears to come from governmental agencies and should already be in the public record. Much of it, such as the voluminous documentation of the Narrow Gauge in the Chicago Park area, seems to have no relevance to the Mine.
4. It needs to explain the project's impact on the Round Hole shaft.

Once again, we urge that a competent analysis by an architectural historian or similar professional of the project's impact on a County Historical Landmark be conducted before proceeding further.

Yours truly,

Bernard Zimmerman

Cc: Sup. Dan Miller

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
P.0. Box 1014
Nevada City, California 95959
info@nevadacountylandmarks.com
415-264-7230

17 April 2020

Community Development Agency
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite
170 Nevada City, Cal., 95959

Attn: Matt Kelley

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelley,

The Historic Properties Inventory was discussed at the Commission's meeting this morning. From a historical perspective, this document is inadequate in many ways.

1. In conducting its research, InContext did not submit a request for information to the Commission. It does not appear to know that the Mine was designated a Historical Landmark in 1984 (NEV 33) at our recommendation. InContext needs to discuss the Mine's significance as a County Landmark. Instead, it appears to be only concerned with state and national historical preservation laws.
2. It should fully explain its conclusion on page 29 that the project's alteration of a Historical Landmark is not considered adverse or significant.
3. It needs to further explain how the admitted adverse impact is offset by sharing existing documentation with the public. Most of the documentation appears to come from governmental agencies and should already be in the public record. Much of it, such as the voluminous documentation of the Narrow Gauge in the Chicago Park area, seems to have no relevance to the Mine.
4. It needs to explain the project's impact on the Round Hole shaft.

Once again, we urge that a competent analysis by an architectural historian or similar professional of the project's impact on a County Historical Landmark be conducted before proceeding further.

Yours truly,

Bernard Zimmerman

Cc: Sup. Dan Miller

From: Bernard Zimmerman <berniezimmerman@me.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Bruce Boyd <beboyd@mac.com>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Our position remains unchanged.

Bernie Zimmerman

From: Bernie Zimmerman <berniezimmerman@me.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Mike Kochis <n.u.miner1973@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Idaho-Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

in response to your June 26 request, our position has not changed from our April 17 letter.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bernie Zimmerman <berniezimmerman@me.com>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: April 17, 2020 at 11:16:10 AM PDT
To: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
Cc: Dan Miller <Dan.Miller@co.nevada.ca.us>

From:	Gary Zimmerman
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	Gary Zimmerman
Subject:	COMMENTS - Proposed Reopening of Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:54 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Comments DEIR: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal - August 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA. 95959-8617
Phone: 530-265-1222 Option 2

Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

August 14, 2020

RE: Comments on DEIR on Proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening
By Gary Zimmerman
Nevada City, CA, USA

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and request information on the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening Draft Environmental Impact Report.

GENERAL OBSERVATION
This proposal appears to have a large number of significant adverse environmental impacts, including ground water changes, waste water and toxic by-products from restarting mining operations, “seismic” issues related to underground blasting that may impact above ground firms and industries, volumes of new heavy truck traffic, noise, air pollution, wear and tear on local roads and facilities, massive amounts of “barren” waste rock that would be removed from the proposed project to be used as fill creating large waste mounds, visible from nearby residences, control of toxics associated with mining processes, including potential asbestos contained in serpentine rocks, known to exist in the closed mine. Toxics, continue to be a regional issue, as well a problem on the proposed site, that remains unresolved to this day from mining facilities closed in the 1950s.

These above important and unresolved issues and serious concerns would require serious mitigation and monitoring, including costs that may offset “promised” economic benefits claimed by proponents of the project and likely cited as potential mitigation for the

environmental problems associated with this proposal.

PROPERTY VALUES
How will the proposed changes in zoning and planning designations from reopening affect nearby residential areas, including the health & safety of well water and level of water flows, flows from the proposed mine into existing creeks, including air pollution, from a wide array of toxic substances associated with the mining process, including traffic and noise, cost of repairing County & City streets as a result of the huge volume of daily heavy truck traffic required to remove "rock waste" from an active mine. Economic effects could include lost property values caused by pollution, noise, traffic, visual effects as forested areas are replaced by piles of mine rock waste.

Have estimates of the potential residential and commercial property values been calculated and will they be included in the DEIR, offsetting "promised" benefits.
Which residential and commercial areas or developments will suffer the largest property value losses associated with a large industrial mining operation?

WATER - QUALITY - WELLS - RUNOFF into WOLF CREEK - TOXICS - FISH & WILDLIFE
How will the DEIR estimate the costs to existing residential owners and commercial property owners of potential water quality issues related to dewatering the proposed mine, using existing waterways and creeks to remove mine waste water from the site?
What are the environmental benefits and costs associated with the proposed mine reopening Using on the existing creek and river system to remove water from the site?

What are the proposed mitigation's? How will Downstream Water quality be monitored and enforced? What budget and insurance is provided by proponents to maintain water quality for Nevada County streams, creeks, and ultimately rivers?

As well as, potential negative impacts on wells, has the DEIR identified any pollution, water flow, or toxic impacts to the Nevada Irrigation District, or other downstream water agencies, the Sacramento River, as well as the Delta and San Francisco Bay?

How will water runoff from the rock waste piles or hills, be handled? Stabilized?
Will rather be stable in are potential seismic event or earthquake? What are the costs associated with potential slides or collapses that could pollute streams and downstream areas? Would a collapse or slide release additional toxics or block existing streams or cause flooding of nearby roads, residences, or businesses?

The nearby Empire Mine State Park still has areas closed to public use because of toxic wastes, including ponds... over 6 decades after the mine closed. How long after closure of the proposed mining operation, would toxics remain on this site.

SERPENTINE (& Asbestos)
Serpentine rock, the State Rock, known to have been removed from the Former Idaho - Maryland, will likely include some naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA).

Has testing of waste rock and potential ore for serpentine and asbestos content been completes as part of the DEIR analysis?
If not, when will that analysis be completed, and what sampling procedure will be used and

how will it be reported?
How will waste rock containing naturally occurring asbestos be handed to mitigate toxic waste and toxic dust? How will the proposed asbestos waste rock dust be contained to avoid polluting neighboring residential area or commercial and retail sites?

Consider the case & Mitigations & Monitoring for the Calaveras Dam: **********
Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) added significant mitigations & costs to this project.

Calaveras Dam Replacement Project Air Monitoring Results

https://www.sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=530

Calaveras Dam Replacement Project Naturally Occurring Asbestos

The replacement of Calaveras Dam will require the movement of more than 7 million cubic yards of rock and earth, a portion of which may contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA). Construction activities could cause asbestos fibers to become airborne, which could present a health concern. We have put into place an extensive dust control and air monitoring program to



See map for monitoring locations

****

For DEIR to answer and address:

What NOA mitigation's will be proposed for the DEIR project?
Will estimates of the amount of serpentine rock be provided in the DEIR?
Will estimates Includes in the amount of NOA in the "tall" waste rock fill hills?
How will grading, crushing, filling that generate potential toxic dust (including the long list of potential toxics associated with gold mining operations) be mitigated, and controlled over the life of the proposed project (Decades)?
If not, why not?
How will controlling air quality affect costs and funding for mitigation's?
How will monitoring be accomplished?
What agency will be responsible for the monitoring?
How will mitigation & monitoring be permanently funded?
What legal liabilities may operators face from future toxic liabilities?

ECONOMICS

Will the DEIR consider the financial resources and staying power of the firm proposing to reopen the ID-MD Mine? Will the firm be able to mitigate or pay potential damages to others impacted by reopening the mine, including water and we'll quality, air quality, impacts of blasting on existing firms, traffic and road mitigations, toxic disposal, waste rock mounds or other potential impacts?

Will the DEIR consider or compare the proposed reopening with other alternative land uses for the sites, under existing land use, zoning, and general plan designations? Would other Alternative uses or projects face significant toxics, water pollution, air pollution, noise, traffic and other impacts, compared to the DEIR proposal?

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
Please include analysis of Climate Change issues related to this proposal.

Thank You for addressing these issues in the DEIR for the community!

Please notify me that you have received this set of comments by email.

Yours,

Gary Zimmerman
Economist
Gary.C.Zimmerman.e@gmail.com
Nevada City, CA

cc: CEA, SYRCL...

Sent from my iPhone

From: Heidi zimmerman <heidi@serku.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Letter against the mine reopening

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings Matt Kelley 8/14/2020

I live on E. Bennett directly across the street from where the exploratory drilling was taking place for more than 8 months.

I live at ground zero and have had firs hand experience experiencing exploratory drilling for 24 hrs a day 7 days a week. I have a family of 4 and our lives were tremendously impacted. We couldn't sleep, the sound exceeded allowable decibels for the situation at hand which is residential existing beside light industrial. This mining operation is no light industrial. This is heavy industrial. The birds left, there was no peace for the entire time of 1.6 years that exploratory drilling took place. All of our outdoor activities ceased because of the noise created from the drilling.

There are so many serious detrimental impacts to our beloved town, its mind boggling that this is even being considered. The fact that this town would consider giving a permit for 80 years in this day and age is just unreasonable on all fronts. We may be founded on mining but in 2020, this is not a reasonable consideration. There are many countries turning to green energy sources to fuel their demands. The days of mining for gold, oil and gas are over. Why not be a leader in moving our world , state, town forward with being a leader in green energy instead of

ruining a town that so many call home.
There are major concerns about the noise that will be created 24 hours a day and this will vibrate throughout all the tunnels that currently run throughout grass valley from the old mining tunnels. They already exceeded allowable noise decibels. And the town did not enforce their own rules. I ask how would this be any different? The town needs to respect people's "right to quiet enjoyment" it's in your by laws and there will be no "right to quiet enjoyment" if there is a mining operation going on 24hrs a day 7 days a week.

In addition:
Ammonia nitrate is highly explosive and since it will release into air and water from processing, both ammonia and nitrate will likely result in increased nutrient levels in Wolf Creek. Algal blooms, fish kills, deoxygenated water, and other aspects of accelerated eutrophication result from increased nutrient loading. Discharge criteria are needed.

Unmixed ammonium nitrate can decompose explosively and has been responsible for several industrial disasters, including the 1921 Oppau explosion in Germany, the 1947 Texas City disaster in Texas City, Texas, the 2004 Ryongchon disaster in North Korea, the 2015 Tianjin explosions, the 2013 West Fertilizer Company explosion in West, Texas, and the 2020 Beirut explosions in Lebanon. Environmental hazards include eutrophication in confined waters and nitrate/gas oil contamination of ground or surface water.[14]

Please explore this thoroughly. Look at the disasters that have happened before. Learn from their mistakes and make a better choice that will better serve the entire community of Grass Valley/Nevada City.

Heidi Zimmerman, heidi@serku.com. 530.386.1453

Heidi zimmerman 530.386.1453

From:	Peter Zimmermann
To:	Matt Kelley
Cc:	BOS Public Comment
Subject:	Opposition to the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:10:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley,

My name is Peter Zimmermann, and I am from Ashland, OH. I am good friends with someone currently living in Nevada County. They told me about the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

Upon reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, I wish to make my opposition to this project clear. The Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in 1956 and it should remain that way. The impacts of this project on the environment and local quality of life are not worth the effort. This project will not provide significant job opportunities, nor will it inject funds into the local economy. Instead, it will adversely affect the local ecosystems, including the potential to harm the South Fork of Wolf Creek and put the health of local residents at risk due to the use of harmful reagents during gold mineralization processing. As someone who would be interested in moving to the area, following through with these plans would deter me and others from moving to Nevada County.

Please consider my comments in your decision-making process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Zimmermann
pzimmerm@oberlin.edu

From: Tyler Zwick <tyzwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Planning <Planning@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Opposition to the Rise Grass Valley - Idaho Maryland Mine Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this in opposition to the project proposed by Rise Grass Valley to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine. I was raised here in Grass Valley, I grew up riding mountain bikes, hiking, and running on the local trails. I have recently returned to continue pursuing my career here in Nevada County. From the details stated planning documents I don't have confidence that this project will be beneficial to the community. The initial deposit site for the "engineered fill" is perilously close to Wolf Creek and it is important to protect our watersheds. Additionally the initial dewatering process

as well as the continuous dewatering of the mine poses threats to our existing water table, and as climate change makes California hotter and dryer we need to be thinking about how to maintain our water table, not lowering it.

With regard to day to day mining operations. A large portion of our local economy is driven by tourism. Once we turn a large area of our town into an industrial site with the associated noise, air, and light pollutions, do we think that people will still want to visit our town? With the complex topography that tends to trap the smog and smoke generated by the central valley. What impact would that have on our population by adding air pollutants into an already complex system. This is especially concerning since one of our primary outdoor recreation areas, Empire Mine, is very close to this proposed project.

While continuing to look at the economic impact the stated description details that the project will provide 312 total jobs. However, it is stated that only around 70 of those jobs will employ local workers since the company doesn't feel that they can find local employees with the required technical skills. The economic impact of adding 70 mid to low level paying jobs is not worth the degradation of our community as a desirable tourist location. We are talking about the degradation of our community for 80 years, multiple generations.

Extraction industries are only short term projects, once the resource is extracted the company moves on and the community is left with the fall out. We are still coming to terms with fixing the problems left over from our past mining history 50 years ago. Please look at the big picture and realize that this project has no benefit to our community. Extraction based industries are a thing of the past and we should continue to move toward more sustainable use of our local resources.

Sincerely,

Tyler Zwick

12937 Rattlesnake Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

530-205-8637

From: Elder Gideon
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:48:31 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Michael Zysk
151 Conaway Ave
Grass Valley, CA 95945
eldergideon@gmail.com
5302050817

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for over 20 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to music and the arts, and compassionate culture.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

o The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
o The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
o The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
o The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
o A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Michael Zysk

Bajka Holdings, LLC

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Brian Foss, Ex-Officio Secretary,
County of Nevada Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

July 25, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley and Mr. Foss,

My family owns an industrial building in Grass Valley, the address is: 355 Crown Point Circle. The Building is mostly leased by Analog Devices, an electronic design company. They have been renting for over 15 years. They have dozens of employees. They warned me, that because of their very sensitive equipment, they cannot co-exist with a working mine. They will leave the area. This will also impact our ability to find a new tenant.

May I strongly advise you, that while you may add some employees who will work in the mine, you will more importantly lose many industries in the area, and many more jobs than you will gain. A mine should not be opened in an area where you successfully established light industrial centers, like Whispering Pines. This is totally senseless.

As an added warning: who is going to clean up after a mining company, which might easily go bankrupt, as they did before. This procedure will be very costly, since they will leave toxic waste, poison the aquafers in the area, etc.

What is the upside? Added tax revenue to the city? Not if you lose countless other businesses. Please consider your decision very carefully.

Sincerely,

Agnes Bajka

Agnes Bajka
Manager of Bajka Holdings LLC

Bajka Holdings, LLC. 13440 Lakeview Place, Auburn, CA 95602

July 25, 2020

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

With this letter to you and the Nevada County Planning Department, I am strongly protesting the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Grass Valley, Inc., or any mining company.

After reviewing documents and comments on the proposed reopening of the mine, it is clear to me that the land surrounding the mine sites, as well as our community in total would experience severe negative repercussions should this or any Grass Valley/Nevada City mine be put back into operation.

There would be huge increases in noise pollution, light pollution, ground pollution, water pollution, damage to roads and our local highways, residential and business wells going dry, etc., etc., etc. Given the type of day-to-day mining operations, blasting fumes could severely impact the health of many residents, not only in adjacent properties, but throughout the county.

Given the hours and types of planned operations over the course of decades, the quality of our life here could be degraded to the point of irreparable damage. When people's wells run dry, health deteriorates due to air pollution, the peace and silence eroded by constant blasting, animal life disappearing, this precious and beautiful area could become a location where very few people would want or even be able to live.

Reopening this mine, now or in the future, would be massive mistake.

I urge you and the Nevada County Planning Department, as well as other County officials, to deny Rise GV, Inc.'s application to reopen Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Murray

Barbara C. Murray
12354 Hoppy Hollow Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

July 26, 2020

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
950 Maidu ave, Ste: 170
Nevada City, Ca. 95959

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Matt,

Let us voice our opposition to the Canadian mining company, RISE gold, that proposed to reopen a long closed gold mine in our neighborhood in Grass Valley. We live at 17150 greenhorn Road, just under 5 miles from the site. We chose to live our final years, in retirement, and built our dream home in 2016. If this project is allowed to proceed, the quality of our life, and our neighbors, will surely be negatively impacted by noise, pollution of the environment and our wells.

When we first moved here in 2004, this site was listed on the EPA Superfund site. Now it is not. ?? Any promise by the mining company to do the clean up or prevent damage while mining is suspect. All one has to do is drive by the Empire Mine to see that the taxpayers of California ~~is~~ are still paying to clean up the ravages left behind from the Bourn family.

→

We will follow this reopen proposal closely and add our opposition to this reopening.

Nancy Rojo, Red Rojo

P.O. Box 47
Cedar Ridge, Ca 95924

Matt Kelley

From: Steven Sparks <stevencarlsparks@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,
I know the decision to allow mining in this location is not simple.
In the cost-benefit analysis, the costs to local residents like me are obvious and I am sure everyone is reminding you of them. The benefits are likely many--jobs and money and the revenue to local governments this creates. However, are the benefits real and long-lasting?
If the mining begins, not only will the mining company be constantly sued when (for whatever reason) wells run dry/low and locals get respiratory illnesses; but all involved government officials will be labeled as complicit and have their careers shortened. How could it happen any other way? Consider how much time you will spend dealing with the political fallout of endorsing a mining operation so near the center of Grass Valley. Your life will be full of encounters with disappointed and finger-pointing locals.
That said, I assume this mine will never re-open, as the company will learn that their short-term profits will vanish from the environmental lawsuits locals will spearhead.
Do you, or any other local government officer, really want to deal with this legacy?
Thanks for considering,
Steven Sparks
Greenhorn / Anvil Rd

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

July 23, 2020

Idaho Maryland Mine Permit
Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Jude Bischoff
PO Box 1202
Cedar ridge, CA. 95924

Dear Matt,

Placing an industrial site in our sleepy little village is not an option. We live here for the quiet country life style. The Canadian Company submitting the permit under consideration for the Idaho Maryland Mine has raised some major concerns.

Last year , Rise, Grass Valley, INC., began doing 24/7 core drilling to obtain samples to see how much gold was in the ground. This vibration traveled through the bedrock and woke many residents of Cedar Ridge up in the early hours of the morning. Tunneling and blasting will keep us all awake. The permit does not address underground noise and vibration as a serious matter. We know from experience that this is a serious matter to consider.

Noise is the biggest issue facing our residential neighborhoods surrounding the mine. Trucks and tractors working from 6am 10 pm will be hauling away 1500 tons of backfill every day. The rock crushers must run 24/7. This will be a terrible thing to live by. When the family who owned the Empire mine finished their beautiful home there they could not spend the night. The noise of the rock crushers left it impossible to sleep.

Having read over the Noise and Vibration level assessment for the current permit I am amazed how it downplays the amount of noise to be generated. Last winter when work was being done on the sink hole that appeared on Brunswick Rd. The small amount work vehicles, trucks and tractors used in the construction was annoying for days.

This will severely hurt our property values. Living next to a noise nuisance and a chemical storage facility becomes a required disclosure item for home sellers when selling their property. I can't imagine a buyer wanting to purchase a property with a 24/7 noise issue.

Jude Bischoff
Cedar Ridge, CA



RECEIVED
AUG 20 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 15, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

County of Nevada

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170

Nevada City CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

My ancestors came from England in the early 1800's to Grass Valley to work in the mines. My Dad, Malcolm Hammill was the last employee of the Idaho Maryland mines corporation. The house I live in on Brunswick Rd. was one of the mine houses the corporation was disposing of in 1956. I have lived here for 64 years through the operation of the mine and Bohemia sawmill, both noisy, but one gets use to certain noises. The mine was here before all the building boom and influx of people. Who would have guessed our sleepy little town would become such a retirement area.

I would like to see the mine reopen. It is part of our historical economy, and the local politicians seem to want people coming here, building more houses and little strip malls, therefore; we need work for all these people to do.

With the requirements from the State and the County, I feel sure that the environmental impact would be mitigated making little impact on the neighbors.

Good luck with your endeavors to reopen the mine, which I fully support.

Sincerely,

Sylvia J. Crane

Sylvia J. Crane

12149 Brunswick Rd.

Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

8/15/20

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My wife and I have been Nevada County residents since 1980, and we have great concern regarding the mine re-opening question. We live near the Idaho-Maryland mine site, and our main concerns are about hydrology, traffic, and noise considerations.

It's our understanding that the de-watering of the mine will have unpredictable but negative impact on local wells. If this is the case, there should be no reasonable justification to proceed with this project.

The negative impacts of traffic and noise from mine operations are obvious and significant. And again, negatives of this magnitude would seem to clearly outweigh any potential for positive impact to our county and community.

Taken together, the constellation of obvious and grossly negative impacts on Nevada County residents' lives and property values should argue against any further consideration of permitting re-opening of Idaho-Maryland mine.

Sincerely,
John and Gwendy Reeder
12677 Jack Pine Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Francis Hamilton
12161 E Bennett Rd
Grass Valley, Ca, 95945
fxhtrinity@gmail.com
530-273-1217

Mr. Kelly.
My wife and I purchased our place on South Wolf Creek along Bennett Rd in 1990 and have lived here for thirty years. We are very concerned about the attempt to re-create a mining operation at the old Idaho Maryland mine.
We are specifically concerned about the potential for residential property value destruction as a result of permitting an extractive industry in the midst of what is already an obvious residential area.
We would like the EIR to address the potential for falls in property value as a result of permitting this operation, and calibrated to reflect the intensity of the effect measured over the geographic proximity of the mine and the residential properties.
We would like the EIR to address what efforts the mine owners and operators will have to take to compensate county residents whose loss of value can be directly attributed to proximity to the proposed mining sites.
Please contact us for questions directly, if you need.
Thank you,

Francis X Hamilton

Francis Hamilton

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

From: Don & Andrea Thompson
11330 Squirrel Creek Rd
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
erosionseer@gmail.com
8/16/2020

To: Mr. Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Mr. Kelley,

We have been residents of Grass Valley since 1983. We raised our three sons here so they could be surrounded by the peace of nature and friendly neighbors (we support all our Nevada county neighbors, especially now for those affected by incipient mining).

Since the mining stopped in 1956, this town has grown to be an important cultural gathering place in northern California. Top performers of all mediums bring their talents here from all over the world. An in-town, 24-hr/day mining operation, would absolutely destroy us as a popular venue.

We have a well for water, so are very concerned about the proposal to open the Idaho Maryland mine. A primary concern is for the hydrology and water quality. The mine is basically in residential neighborhoods and has a high risk of affecting many nearby resident's private wells, and far-reaching draining and contamination of aquafers.

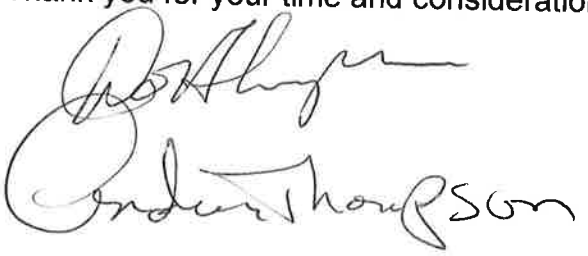
EIR: their analyzation must assure us that wells in the area will not be adversely affected. Previous promises and eventual mining has caused wells to become dry and/or contaminated forever. This is unacceptable, must not be repeated.

EIR: congestion and air quality of double skip loaders passing through town every 10 minutes, 16 hours a day seven days a week, is unhealthy, noisy, and dangerous for a community with so many elderly drivers. Please fully address this issue.

EIR: Wolf creek, which runs adjacent to downtown, should not be a conduit for private enterprise. The reopening of this mine is too large an industry to be operating in such close proximity to a large community and peaceful, local commerce.

Please extend the 30 days time limit for public input; the pandemic has been a time-warp, and many have not heard about the 80 year injury asking for sudden entry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



8/16/20

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada Co, CA

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr Kelley -

Please carefully consider the side effects of opening the Idaho - Maryland mine in the heart of Grass Valley / Nevada city. The pollution of air, water Noise, Soil appears to be enormous. The depletion of ground water and possible contamination could be quite a problem for residents with wells. We should be conserving our water as the state is warming and droughts are more common.

please investigate the history and practices of the owner Ben Mossman - has he had a clean history in the management of previous mines. there is no guarantee of significant gold being produced - mining seems to be a gamble. I doubt the Nevada County will see much of the gold should some be found.

We live in a beautiful area, please do not destroy it.

Sincerely
Patricia Dwyer

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 15, 2020

Dear Matt Kelley,

I am writing with concerns about the Idaho-Maryland mine going back into production. I have been a Grass Valley property owner since 2018. I am no expert on mining but I know that the local environment and all those who live in the area will suffer from ill environmental effects if the mine is allowed to reopen and begin production.

This comment period is much too short for a project of such a grand scale. If allowed to proceed, the project will affect many people who don't even know about it yet.

I'm concerned about the added traffic in the area. There will be hundreds of cars and trucks driving to and from the mine on a daily basis. The added cancer-causing micro-particles will pollute the air and affect everyone who lives in and visits the area. How can the mining corporation mitigate this pollution from the increased traffic? How about all the dust kicked into the air from the mining operations?

The vast underground tunnel network stretches under many hundreds of properties. Can the mining corporation prove that these properties won't be affected? Will the wells run dry? Will the water be polluted? Can sink holes form? Will cracks in the earth transport polluted water under other properties further away?

What chemicals will be used to extract the precious metals from the earth? If mercury and cyanide aren't used, what will be the alternative? How safe is the alternative? Are modern mining techniques and technology actually much safer for the environment? Could they be even more harmful? How much do we really know about the new mining techniques and chemicals used? How do we know that our environment won't be polluted?

Can the mining corporation prove that the mining won't affect the water table in the surrounding areas? Can they prove that the underground water on my property on You Bet Road won't be affected?

Thank you for your important work in planning for and protecting our local environment and its natural resources which we all rely on.

With My Best Regards,

Sylvia Ainslie

20588 You Bet Road

Grass Valley, California 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 15, 2020

Dear Matt Kelley,

I am writing with concerns about the Idaho-Maryland mine going back into production. I have been a Grass Valley property owner since 2018. I am no expert on mining but I know that the local environment and all those who live in the area will suffer from ill environmental effects if the mine is allowed to reopen and begin production.

This comment period is much too short for a project of such a grand scale. If allowed to proceed, the project will affect many people who don't even know about it yet.

I'm concerned about the added traffic in the area. There will be hundreds of cars and trucks driving to and from the mine on a daily basis. The added cancer-causing micro-particles will pollute the air and affect everyone who lives in and visits the area. How can the mining corporation mitigate this pollution from the increased traffic? How about all the dust kicked into the air from the mining operations?

The vast underground tunnel network stretches under many hundreds of properties. Can the mining corporation prove that these properties won't be affected? Will the wells run dry? Will the water be polluted? Can sink holes form? Will cracks in the earth transport polluted water under other properties further away?

What chemicals will be used to extract the precious metals from the earth? If mercury and cyanide aren't used, what will be the alternative? How safe is the alternative? Are modern mining techniques and technology actually much safer for the environment? Could they be even more harmful? How much do we really know about the new mining techniques and chemicals used? How do we know that our environment won't be polluted?

Can the mining corporation prove that the mining won't affect the water table in the surrounding areas? Can they prove that the underground water on my property on You Bet Road won't be affected?

Thank you for your important work in planning for and protecting our local environment and its natural resources which we all rely on.

With My Best Regards,

Sylvia Ainslie

20588 You Bet Road

Grass Valley, California 95945

11991 Dogwood Rd
Grass Valley CA 95945
August 15, 2020

Dear Matt Kelley,

The mine is NOT a fit for our residential community.

We need our planners to look out for us and protect us from such environmental degradation. Hundreds, if not thousands of residents ~~will be~~ would be effected in negative ways. The County of Nevada lacks the means to mitigate for the massive proposed damages.

On behalf of myself and my adult daughter, we strongly oppose any mining from a "Canadian Company". I have been a taxpayer and homeowner in the county since 1976 and I'm outraged.

Respectfully yours

Diane S. Ennis

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

John & Lugene Boyd
12766 Baccarat Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 13, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelly,

As residents of the Grass Valley area we have always appreciated the incredible natural beauty that surrounds us, the friendly community atmosphere, a cultural focus on the arts and music, and an attention to our history, the natural environment and our local rivers. It has all come together to provide a quality of life that appeals to us, and seemingly, most local residents.

We are concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. We know many residents will express concerns regarding the numerous and serious technical aspects associated with the mine. We understand the County Notice of Preparation includes attention to, at least, the following areas: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Terrestrial & Aquatic Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology & Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards & Hazardous Material, Hydrology & Water Quality, Land Use & Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population & Housing, Public Services & Recreation, Transportation & Traffic, Utilities & Service Systems, Economic Study.

We too, have concerns regarding each of the areas contained in the Notice of Preparation; however, we will leave comments relative to each to those with the knowledge and technical expertise for a proper consideration. Our inclination is to consider each of the items in the Notice of Preparation, as listed above, as a component of what must be addressed to maintain, or improve, the quality of life we enjoy in our area.

It is our belief that each of the items must be addressed and considered from a technical/scientific point of view, and also in relation to how each will impact the quality of life of our current and future residents. As community members we assume that from a governmental county planning perspective the impact on the quality of our community life must be affirming in each case. It is our impression that good public policy results in a strengthening of the quality of life, not a weakening.

We expect you, in your deliberations and considerations, to conclusively take into account the impact of your decisions on our common quality of life, and we trust you will, in your determinations, resolve to reinforce and strengthen our quality of life. Specifically we believe you, and, other county representatives, must hold the applicant accountable for, at a minimum, maintaining the quality of life associated with each individual item of the Notice of Preparation, in addition to the cumulative impact of the project on present and future generations. An Economic Study is listed as a final consideration in the Notice of Preparation. It must not be allowed to be the primary driving consideration in isolation from the impact to our overall quality of life of our community. While much of the charm remains, Grass Valley is no longer a mining town of the gold rush era with the ever present noise, dust, and other unfavorable impacts we are reminded of with each tour of the Empire Mine.

Thank you for allowing an opportunity to express our concerns and thoughts on the Idaho Maryland Mine proposition.

Respectfully,

John Boyd
Lugene Boyd

John & Lugene Boyd

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Francis Hamilton
12161 E Bennett Rd
Grass Valley, Ca, 95945
fxhtrinity@gmail.com
530-273-1217

Mr. Kelly.
My wife and I purchased our place on South Wolf Creek along Bennett Rd in 1990 and have lived here for thirty years. We are very concerned about the attempt to re-create a mining operation at the old Idaho Maryland mine.
Having lived with the creek running less than 40ft from our back door, we are concerned about erosion along the creek sides. After looking thru all the available materials, we see little to no mention of erosion during the period of intense run-off that will occur during the dewatering process, as well as no mention whatever for compensation if those of us bordering the creek experience losses.
We would like the EIR to address erosion as a specific issue. The EIR should address the monitoring of water quality of that discharge on a regular basis, but it also needs to monitor the erosion along the creek bed and address the issue of compensation.
Please contact us for questions directly, if you need.
Thank you,

Francis X Hamilton

Steve Hartshorn
12628 Towle Ct
Grass ValleyCa 95945
steve@stevehartshorn.com -------530.277.6630

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for over 30 years. Like many others in the area, I was drawn to this community because of its incredible natural beauty, commitment to recreation, music and the arts.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. I live directly across from the mine site off of Wood Rose Way. This mine will have a direct and negative impact on my neighborhood and quality of life including a decrease in property values.

How do you intend to address the following:

→ Noise and Earth tremors from 24/7 underground blasting and tunneling.

→ 6am to 10 pm hauling away of mine tailing s,

→ The increased traffic, noise and air pollution created by 100 trucks per day driving on Brunswick/Bennett and Hwy 174.

→ The potential toxic mine tailings dump at the end of Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver road causing dust and runoff into the watershed.

→ Extraordinary Noise and Light Pollution , No one in our quiet community will get any sleep.

→ The storage of Toxic chemicals in our neighborhoods

→ How do you intend to mitigate thee threat to the wells in the area? Clean reliable water is a necessity for our citizens health and welfare, not to mention property values.

→ I intend to get a fair market appraisal of my home before and after if the mine is approved. If there is a serious drop in property values surrounding the industrial complex how would you suggest this be addressed?

Thank You

Steve Hartshorn



Kristin Cobler-Verducci

14105 Collier Rd.

Grass Valley, CA 95945

sundogprod@gmail.com

530 264-6258

Aug. 13, 20



Dear Mr. Kelly,

I have been a Grass Valley resident for over 50 years and have enjoyed this community for its natural beauty and serene and simple lifestyle. I raised my children here and now they are raising their children here. My father was one of the founding executives of Grass Valley Group (now Techtronic) which helped to establish the local economy with jobs and positions for many families (over 2,000 employees) over the last 3 decades.

With this said, I am very concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine in regards to its negative impacts to homeowners in the immediate area and the entire community- especially in regards to pollution, traffic, noise, the economy, wildlife and the destruction of the natural beauty here that we love dearly and which makes our town one of the most beautiful in the United Sates.

My husband and I purchased our property off of Greenhorn Rd., 1.5 miles from the proposed mining site. Our water source is strictly well water and I am requesting these analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should further analyze:

1.The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply

2. The full cost of connecting each home to that system.

3. The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.

4. The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

5. A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

6. Can we be assured that all chemicals to be used in the mining efforts are completely safe for our water, the environment, families, pets and livestock and the for the next 80 years or the duration of the mining contract?

Traffic Noise and the Economy:

1. What are the long- term effects of daily loads going back and forth hauling dirt and other debris from the mine to Centennial? How will this effect the local traffic, the environment, air-quality, wildlife? How will this effect tourism and will Grass Valley and Nevada City become less attractive for people to want to visit the local area? How will this affect the local economy?

2. Will the value of our home depreciate as people are less likely to want to buy a home that is in close proximity to the mine due to the likelihood of our well running dry, the increased traffic, noise and pollution? How would we be compensated for this?

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Kristin L. Verducci

Kristin Cobler-Verducci

530 264-6258

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Francis Hamilton
12161 E Bennett Rd
Grass Valley, Ca, 95945
fxhtrinity@gmail.com
530-273-1217

Mr. Kelly.

My wife and I purchased our place on South Wolf Creek along Bennett Rd in 1990 and have lived here for thirty years. We are very concerned about the attempt to re-create a mining operation at the old Idaho Maryland mine. The only two benefits this project can bring to Nevada County are the potential for taxes and the possibility of jobs.

We would like the EIR to specifically detail all the expected tax revenues for this project, across its lifetime. It should also address any potential loss of tax revenues from introducing an extractive industry into the existing residential and commercial mix.

We request that the EIR address the specific type and number of jobs that will be available to existing residents, and the expected wages paid to each.

We ask that the EIR specifically address whether the numerous trucking positions that will become available will be company paid, or contracted out to retail hauling companies. If the drivers are paid by Rise Gold, will they be hourly wages, or paid by the load? If the hauling is to be mostly subbed out, we feel the EIR needs to address whether additional public safety funds will be available to police Bennett Rd to insure that speeding trucks do not become a safety menace.

Please contact us for questions directly, if you need.

Thank you,

Francis X Hamilton

Francis Hamilton

Risa J Roseman
245 N Auburn St.
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
rrzenrose@gmail.com
530-613-4408

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I moved to Grass Valley in 2006 with my husband and our two young children. We live in downtown and appreciate the ability to walk downtown, to schools and to Empire Mine.

I am concerned about the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine. Below are my requests for analysis to be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

The EIR should analyze:

o Impact to air quality within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should analyze the particulate accumulation in the air added by the increase in truck exhaust moving the waste rock.

o Impact to air quality within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area. The EIR should analyze potential increase in Spare the Air Days due to particulate and Ozone due to truck traffic and other mining equipment. Specific details to be included for each type of machinery, vehicle and equipment that uses fossil fuel, including heating and cooling of office and any other facilities involved in mining process.

o Impact of noise pollution and the quality of life due to increased noise and vibration (from use of explosives/mine operations) due to truck and equipment at the mine and surrounding area. EIR should include specific analysis of increase in noise pollution compared to existing noise levels in the area of the mine operations and surrounding residential and businesses enterprises. EIR should analyze noise from use of truck brakes on downhill sections of road within the area of the mine and transport within surrounding neighborhoods as waste is transported to varying sites of the mine which are not adjacent to one another. EIR should analyze the distance (miles) noise from mine and truck movement from the mine area to surrounding neighborhoods. Will I hear the mine operations at my home on N Auburn Street?

o Impact of traffic on the towns surrounding the mine. The EIR should analyze the the effect of adding 100 + truck trips to the existing traffic in the Brunswick and Grass Valley areas surrounding the mine.

o Impact on road quality and maintenance in the areas surrounding the mine. The EIR should analyze the the effect of adding 100 + truck trips to the existing road structures in the Brunswick and Grass Valley areas surrounding the mine and hwy 49.

I would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Risa J Roseman



RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 14, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelly
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: Environmental Impact Study
Rise Gold Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening
Grass Valley, California

Dear Mr. Kelly,

My wife and I previously lived in the Bay Area for over 20 years. The intensity of everyday life and concrete environment was taking a physical, emotional and spiritual toll on us and we knew we couldn't live like that any longer. After several years of searching, we were drawn to Nevada County because of the peace, serenity, and natural beauty of the Sierra foothills. Subsequently, in 2014 we purchased our residence in Grass Valley between Idaho-Maryland Road and Highway 174.

We have been incredibly happy and thankful for the solitude, environmental awareness and sense of community in Grass Valley and Nevada City. But it appears that that may come to an abrupt end if the Idaho-Maryland Mine reopens, therefore my wife and I want to have the following issues included in the Environment Impact:

- **Impact on property values.** Our property is zoned residential. With the proposed reopening of the mine our property values will plummet. Everything associated with 24 hour/day mining operations will have a severe impact on those properties in the general vicinity of this project.
- **Pollution** (Noise, Diesel Emissions, Water, Rock Processing by-products). The ***noise*** associated with mining operations, to included heavy construction equipment (rock crushers, loaders, conveyors, etc.) will be deafening and, due to the predominately east wind, this noise will carry into the Glenbrook Basin, ***24 hours/day 7 days a week***. ***Diesel Emissions*** from the mining equipment and rock debris transport vehicles will have a serious effect on the surrounding forests, vegetation, animals and respiratory systems of humans. ***Water***, in all probability, will be pumped from the local water table... what will happen when it is no longer available? Waste water, already in the mine, is supposed to be "treated" and then discharged into Wolf Creek? What happens to the surrounding residences if there is a glitch of some sort in the water treatment process? ***Rock Processing by-products*** will be in the air (dust), on the roads from the debris transporting vehicles in the form of dirt/mud from undercarriages and tires.

- **Road Deterioration** Transporting 1,500 tons of rock debris daily on Brunswick Road and Idaho-Maryland Road (which is presently in very poor condition) will significantly further deteriorate the road surfaces. During the winter months, Idaho-Maryland Road has to be closed due to flooding. Flood water in concert with loaded construction trucks will eventually cause complete closure. Who will undertake responsibility for closure and replacement of these roadways? Are these two roads designed for continuous heavy construction use?
- **Road Safety** Usual and customary traffic on Brunswick Road, especially at the entrance and exit from Brunswick Pines Road, is already very concerning. During normal working hours there are moments of sheer terror when trying to exit Brunswick Pines Road onto Brunswick Road west (blind curve from the west) and seeing oncoming traffic that comes quickly as you cross onto west bound Brunswick Road. Add to this already pre-existing heart stopping experience, 100 truck trips, half of which are loaded with 15 tons of rock debris, and you can clearly see a traffic disaster of epic proportions in the making, especially during ice/snow conditions.
- **Quality of Life** My wife and I have chosen to finish out our lives in this community where natural beauty, preservation of nature, environmental responsibility and family are a priority. A place where solitude, peace and compassion for one another is always at the forefront. This mining project is in direct contrast to the qualities of life which we are enjoying individually, and as a community.
- **Ben Mossman** My research of this individual reveals questionable business practices to include destruction of natural resources and pollution. When confronted, he declares bankruptcy and walks away from his responsibilities.

In my opinion, it appears Mr. Mossman is only interested in what he can take not what he can contribute to our community and residents. The Idaho-Maryland Mine brings decreased property values, pollution, destruction of our road ways and a severely compromised way of life. The Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening is the antithesis of what our community is about.

My wife and I thank you in advance for your time and effort in reviewing and consideration of addressing these issues in your Environmental Impact Report.

Respectfully,

Jane Hedgpeth-Kessler

Jane Hedgpeth-Kessler

Michael Kessler
11501 Brunswick Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 13, 2020

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

I have lived off Greenhorn Road about 4 miles from the proposed mine site for the last 20 years. I, like many other people in this community, am totally opposed to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine. Mining is an environmental disaster waiting to happen. I know our town's history includes mining and we still suffer from the toxic effects on many properties. We are now a rural community, not a mining town, with families who don't deserve to have this happen here. Pollution and traffic from trucks, possible disasters to our wells, all for a Canadian company who wants their profit despite any community resistance. What if problems arise? Do they file for bankruptcy and leave the mess in our community's lap? The promise of jobs, no doubt going to skilled people that do not live in this community is not worth the potential problems this venture may cause.
Exactly who actually wants this project besides Rise Gold? Certainly no one who lives here and loves this community.

Thank you.

Ed Suchow

Sincerely,

Ed Suchow

18810 Jones Ridge Road
Grass Valley
530 277 2201

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

12816 Lost Lake Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Matt Kelley – Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Aug 14, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Proposed mining project, Rise Gold

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We live right across the road from Lost Lake, a designated Super Fund site as a result of a mining accident that happened years ago. Nevada County does not need mining accidents. Accidents are just that, something unplanned and unwanted, but they happen. Rise Gold would be another big mining operation vulnerable to accidents that can and will negatively impact the environment.

Nevada County is no longer an industrial community. This community is now a world-renowned destination place for clean tech industry, excellent schools, the arts, music, good food and exploring the out-of-doors, all of which bring in a great deal of income to this area. These offerings also contribute to a healthy real estate market for our county.

The introduction of heavy industrial traffic, noise pollution, water issues and waste disposal is not consistent with the values of Nevada County. Twenty-four hour truck traffic, seven days a week with related noise and potential mine and/or vehicle accidents is not worth what may be gained by Rise Gold becoming operational.

Many people in the area of the mine, including us, live on underground well water. Any operation or accident that would compromise our water supply is unacceptable and will totally compromise the value of our homes. We would not be able to sell our homes.

This mine owned and operated by a company from another country with the goal to make as much money for themselves as possible, puts Nevada County at risk. What does Rise Gold care about Nevada County?

In closing, please know we are opposed to Rise Gold re-opening the mine. What is to be gained is not worth the risks.

Thank you,

Lawren S. Giles

Dianne Marshall

c.c. Heidi Hall, Supervisor, District One, Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
phone: 530-265-1222 option 2

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr Kelly, August 14, 2020

I'm writing to you today becasue I'm concerned about the impact of the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine just outside of the city of Grass Valley.
I've been a resident of Grass Valley- living right in the downtown area, for about 16 years now. I am also a business owner and have a shop on Loma Rica Dr. close to the airport which will be effected by the noise and pollution from the mine.
I moved here because of the beauty & quiet, peaceful nature of living in a small town.
I realize that there has been a history of minimg in this area for some 170 years, however I was under the impression that those days were done and most of the jobs and income was from tourism to our beautiful area. We should be very careful not to pollute our air and water, so people will still come up to our town to enjoy the vibrant town we have created. I would like the EIR on Rise Gold's proposal to address the following concerns.

1) How will the downtown area be affected by noise from the 100 truck trips per day.
   a) Noise travels across the valley that Wolf Creek carves out along Idaho Maryland road. Trucks dumping material 100 times a day up by Centenial Dr. will be heard by many residents and then there is the grading and compacting operation, which they say will be running 7 days a week from 7 AM-3:30 PM. Really!!!! Even construction sites aren't suppose to operate on Saturdays and Sundays.....and then starting at 7 AM on a weekend.....there goes sleeping in.....This is unheard of and should not be allowed!

2) How will all those machines/trucks affect our air quality.
   a) We already suffer from bad ozone pollution coming up from the Sac. Valley Do we really want all that extra particulate matter put into our air too?

3) How will they insure that the explosives they use will be safely transported through our town?
   They may be getting off Highway 49 at the main exit and there-by passing right by Grass Valley Charter School (formerly Hennessy) at the bottom of the exit-or perhaps they will get off at Idaho Maryland Rd. In which case they will wind up a very narrow stretch of road on Idaho Maryland between Sutton and Brunswick. (A road I frequently bike up-Large trucks going up this road are very scary as there is NO shoulder.)

4) How will they insure that the vibrations from the explosives they use won't effect the sensative business's in Whispering Pines business area.

a) How can we be assured that we won't be woken up in the middle of the night by little "earthquakes" from their underground explosions?
b) Will they compensate landowners if there is damage to property from the shaking?
c) What about sink-holes caused by underground mining activity?
    a) The city of Grass Valley already had to deal with a major sinkhole on Freeman lane by Wolf Creek, cause by a drainage pipe that was damaged and not releasing water into the creek.
    b) What sort of bond might they be required to put up to insure that they are solvant enough to pay for any damages that might incurr.

5) And for the people living very near to the site- Their property values are going to suffer mighty bad from having a mine move in and potentially de-water their wells. I know that Rise Gold has proposed hooking them up to NID, but they have already invested in drilling and maintaining their own wells, and now to be told they might not have water anymore and must pay the Utility for it.....that is not part of the deal these people should be going through now. Especially because people are already suffering through this pandemic.

Please make sure that the EIR covers these issues and the many other myriad of issues that industrial mining on this scale poses.

I appreciate your throughness in this matter.

Sincerely,
Rob Katzenstein
245 N. Auburn St.
Grass Valley, Ca. 95945
530 218-7124

Sierra Nevada Group/Sierra Club

Mother Lode Chapter
Post Office Box 1042, Nevada City, CA 95959

August 10, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner By Regular Mail & Email.

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste.170

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Re: Rise Gold

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please consider this the response by Sierra Nevada Group of the Sierra Club, comprised of 1400 members residing in Nevada, Yuba, Sierra and part of Sutter County, to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application ("Project").

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which, if permitted, would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities ' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

1

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures for each area of review.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in unincorporated and incorporated, Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences, including but not limited to, in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential Impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential Impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed and/or used for food growth and/or production.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas and fuel.

15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties including, but not limited to, Agricultural land used to grow and produce food.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exist sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential Impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.
19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State routes and roadways and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Z. Murphy

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

Conservation Committee

Cc: Nevada County BOS

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Leonard Brackett
21020 Shields Camp Road
Nevada City, California
95959
email: lenbrackett@gmail.com

Matt Kelley
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA
95959-8617

Saturday, August 8, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing this letter to air my views and requests of you concerning the proposed Idaho-Maryland gold mine.

As you might be able to tell I live on the Ridge, and I have had been here for close to fifty years, and have watched gold mine operations go through planning, sometimes get approval, sometimes not, and the watched the ones that are approved fail after doing a lot of damage to the environment and surrounding property owners. Creeks being flooded with excess very cold water, settling ponds of questionable effectiveness, wells going dry despite insistence that wasn't possible leading to well monitoring being required. I needn't go on.

Following are some subjects I believe need to be considered in any Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment that will be prepared for this proposed mine. I am sure you've already heard these, so if nothing else, at least here's one more voice asking that these subjects be addressed.

- How will this mine affect the water tables in the general area of the mine- will people's wells be damaged?
    - If so, what remediations are proposed?
    - Where will the water in de-watering the mine go, and what effect will that water have on stream health?
    - Is the water in the mine presently safe to drink, and or does it have toxic materials in it?

- What will be the energy requirements to run the mine?
    - Where will the electrical energy come from?
    - Do they propose alternative energy production to offset the energy used?
    - What effect on carbon emissions are expected?

- Where will waste materials from processed rock be stored?

- Will the storage of waste present an environmental hazard, and what will they do to deal with it?

- Do the mine operators intend to ***prepay*** a hundred year bond of sufficient amount- including the anticipated effects of inflation and increases in future costs — to deal with any environmental degradations as a result of their operations (In asking this I'm thinking about the old gold mine leaking toxics into the Sacramento River up near Redding from a hundred year old mine or the tunnel at Malakoff Diggin's State Park that still leaks toxic water into Humbug creek and the South Yuba River.) Do the mine operators intend to sell the waste materials?
    - If so what do they intend to sell?
    - If it's crushed material, where will the crushing plant be?
    - How much noise and dust will the crushing plant produce?
    - What effect upon traffic and roads are expected?

- How many people will be employed and where will they live?

- What kind of noise levels are expected?

- When (hours/day, days/week) will there be noise effects on surrounding neighborhoods?

- What effects upon county resources will the mine have?
    - police, fire, roads, water, power?

- Who will do inspections of the operations to assure environmental concerns are being dealt with?
    - If it's the county or state, will the mine be paying for these inspections?
    - If there are fines levied for infractions will there be a bond in place to pay those fines in case the mine goes bankrupt?

We have plenty of experience with mines that go belly up. It happens all the time, and when that happens no one is there to clean up the mess, or the bond that's in place during the operation of the mine wasn't large enough to cover the cost of clean up. And cleanup can be incredibly expensive and create it's own environmental messes. As a taxpayer and resident of this county I don't want to be left holding the bag so some international corporation can risk our environment to make tons of money that goes to investors who couldn't care less about Nevada County.

Anyway, I am sure none of what I mention above is new to you, but there it is; if nothing else confirmation of what you or others are already thinking about.

Respectfully and gratefully,

Len Brackett

From: **Julie Ann Clarfield** julie.clarfield@gmail.com
Subject: Possible mine reopening
Date: August 14, 2020 at 10:07 AM
To: matt.kelley@bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

My name is Julie Clarfield, and I am co-owner of the property at 14119 Liquidambar Lane Grass Valley, CA 95945. My daughter lives in and co-owns this property. I live in Sonoma County, and so I am lacking information on this issue. After speaking with my daughter, I find that my views coincide with this of Mr. Lauria in opposition to the reopening of the mine. I enclose a copy of his letter herewith.

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes

forced to pay for a public water hook-up, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not: create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact

Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources

A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site

Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.

The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock

Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project

the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows

Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact

It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards

Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported

Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it

seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every prospective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: Water or Gold

[redacted]

[redacted]

13656 Khalid Court
Grass Valley, CA 95949
August 10, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr Kelley,

I have lived in the Grass Valley area for 41 years. I am very concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine and its impacts on all aspects of our community.

Following are some of the problems I believe need to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Report.

- Property value collapse. How will the 350+ nearby property owners be compensated for their property values being decimated due to the constant noise, dust, traffic, water problems and aesthetic degradation associated with this project?

- Well and waterway destruction. How will property owners be compensated for loss of their water sources when de-watering occurs? What is the plan when the water in their wells becomes contaminated with toxins from the mining operations? Will the mining company be paying their water bills forever into the future?

- Road wear and tear. How much money will the county be reimbursed for the wear and tear of our roads as heavy equipment transports millions of tons of fill and tailings across town?

- Traffic nightmares. What is the plan to alleviate the traffic of hauling fill and gold concentrate 7 days a week for 80 years?

- Toxic substances left from previous mining operations. Why is this project being considered when contaminated soils from the previous mining project have not been dealt with? Why would one imagine a mining company cleaning up another mining company's previous mess when there is no contingency to do so?

- Voluntary environmental cleanup work at the Centennial Industrial Site. Why would a voluntary cleanup program be instituted? This ought to be mandatory and monitored for compliance.

- Noise pollution. How will the mining company mitigate the nerve-racking booming and rattling emanating from explosives, gravel and rock hauling, and ever present 24/7 mining noise for 80 years? What are the medical payment reimbursements the mining company will be making to landowners for the degradation of their mental health?

- Insufficient setback from Wolf Creek. Residential homes are required to have 100' setback from a creek. This project is incredibly larger and more impactful than a single-family residence. Due to the immense amount of fill of unknown quality and proposed soil disturbance adjacent to the creek, the setback from Wolf Creek ought to be increased to much more than 100'.

- Explosives handling and storage. How will explosives be safely stored? What are the risks of transporting explosives through residential neighborhoods and busy streets?

- Destruction of habitat. What are the mitigating costs the mining company must pay for destroying fish and wildlife habitat along Wolf Creek and adjacent environs?

Please include these serious issues in the EIR.

Thank you.
Lauren Drutz

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Francis Hamilton
12161 E Bennett Rd
Grass Valley, Ca, 95945
fxhtrinity@gmail.com
530-273-1217

Mr. Kelly.
My wife and I purchased our place on South Wolf Creek along Bennett Rd in 1990 and have lived here for thirty years. We are very concerned about the attempt to re-create a mining operation at the old Idaho Maryland mine. We had our well monitored for years due to past attempts to recreate a mining operation here.
The EIR should address the full costs of hooking up to the offered NID replacement, as well as the operating costs of using that service over the many years the mine wishes to operate. We do not feel that is an appropriate burden to be laid on residents who lose their wells because of operations related to this business venture.
The EIR should also address the process and specific timing of providing water to homeowners if a well is compromised, and the homeowner is not yet connected to NID.
Please contact us for questions directly, if you need.
Thank you,

Francis X Hamilton

Francis Hamilton

PAMELA RUTH CA License #01354434
PO Box 342 Cedar Ridge CA 95924 530-272-3017 pruth12@att.net

August 13, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
From: Pamela Ruth
RE: Proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

Mr. Kelley,

I emphatically oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine due to the toxic, environmental impacts on our lives, businesses and economy in this quiet, rural community. As stated in your notice letter, "The proposed project would reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine **over an 80-year permit period** with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration/mining **to operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during full operations**." The following are a few of the reasons for my concern and objection:

1) Extraordinary Noise Pollution and Ground Vibration due to rock grinding, compaction, blasting, tunneling and haul trucks adversely impacting our roads and quiet of the surrounding areas.
2) Mine tailings dumped by haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day, at the southern end of the Brunswick Site near and behind homes on Mink Court, Elk Lane, Brunswick Drive, Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver Road; and off Whispering Pines at the Centennial Site off Idaho Maryland Road along the edge of Wolf Creek. Dust from these operations is likely to contain asbestos, lead and arsenic from the massive amounts of tailings which must first be remediated.
3) To reinitiate this mine, the area would also need to be dewatered which entails pumping water from the old mine, treating the water to remove toxic chemicals then discharging it into little Wolf Creek. It seems doubtful the owners could guarantee ALL toxins are removed. Proposed discharge rates are approximately 2500 gallons per minute OR, 3,600,000 gallons per day, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek until the mine is drained. Then, after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send approximately 850 gallons per minute OR, 1,224,000 gallons per day for the life of the project into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from re-filling with water. There is also the potential for negatively impacting local water quality resources and threatening privately owned wells. Contaminates mobilizing in tunnels and waterways with increased discharge can absolutely impact water quality problems as well.
4) In addition to four industrial-size back-up diesel generators, the exhaust created from the daily use of diesel trucks, bull dozers, graders and compactors will greatly increase greenhouse gases.

5) A seriously damaging drop in property values will occur for both residential and commercial properties surrounding the industrial complex and beyond.
6) The application to reinitiate the Idaho Maryland Mine states 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of these jobs, 242 are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from **outside the area.** This would leave the remaining balance of only 70 jobs available to local residents which poses a question: would there be locals with the specific skills to fill those specific requirements for those jobs?
7) A potential decrease in tourism dollars could also impact our economy. According to a report by Visit California with help from market research firm, Dean Runyan Associates on May 7, 2019, "Tourism has generated millions of dollars for Nevada County. In 2018 alone, the county saw over $361 million in total visitor spending, $114.7 million in the food service industry and 3,770 jobs generated to accommodate for tourism. During that same year, county tourism created $31.6 million in local and state receipts."
8) No local public revenue would come to our community from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by employees of the mine. The State of California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of approximately $1,500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise, Inc. **None of this fee would come to Nevada County to remediate the toxic impacts of this proposed operation.** Public benefit from hard rock mining is extremely insignificant while the Public burden is **enormous.**

Gold is extracted and goes away as lucrative profit for the mine owners while traffic, noise, environmental, serious health effects and other quality-of-life impacts are left to the affected community to deal with. Previous attempts to revive the gold mine in the 1950's, 1980's and 2010 have all fallen short due to financial complications AND community pushback.

What would be cause for county denial/rejection of the development and reinitiation process for the Idaho-Maryland Mine?

Thank you,

Pamela Ruth

August 12, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley:

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

This letter is submitted on behalf of the homeowners of the Silk Tassle -Side Hill Circles community located on the north side of Idaho-Maryland Road and just east of the project site. We are writing to express our very serious concerns regarding the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine and submit comments regarding the scope and content of the draft environmental impact report (EIR).

We are long-term residents of the area who appreciate its natural beauty and strive to be good stewards of the land. We are also aware of the legacy of gold mining in this area and the resulting damage that resulted from early mining practices. As you know, many of those impacts remain to this day.

The following are our concerns that we believe need to be addressed in the EIR:

Impact to water wells. Many homes in the area rely on private wells for their water supply. Since wells in this area are fed by fractured bedrock and have relatively low flow rates, it is highly likely that they would be negatively impacted by the proposed dewatering activity. Many wells would be expected to fail completely. Research confirms that the New Brunswick main shaft was connected to the Idaho-Maryland main shaft via a tunnel 2,300 feet below the surface, linking together the total underground infrastructures of both mines. Additionally, research reveals the Glory Hole auxiliary shaft, located on the undeveloped property at the corner of Brunswick and Idaho-Maryland Roads, was drilled to provide additional access to the Idaho-Maryland main shaft that extends eastward for an additional 8,000 feet. That would place the main shaft squarely in line with the residences and water wells of the Silk Tassle-Side Hill Circles neighborhood. It is therefore of the utmost importance that potential impacts to wells in the area be thoroughly investigated, with specific identification of all tunnels, shafts, etc. and effective mitigation measures considered. The EIR should thoroughly analyze:

- Identification of the location and depth of all underground areas (tunnels, shafts, etc.) to be dewatered and their relationship to area wells and other relevant surface features.

- The total number of wells potentially impacted by dewatering and the estimated extent of those impacts, including areas beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights.

- The potential for negative impacts to water quality and the criteria that would be utilized for such a determination (e.g. U.S. EPA Drinking Water Standards).

- The full cost and method of providing an alternate water supply to impacted residents in the event their water supply becomes unstable, polluted or otherwise negatively impacted. This would include identification of alternate sources, availability of those sources and cost of connection, including main extensions, any additional storage and treatment facilities and distribution piping to residential structures.

- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water from an alternate source.

- The cost of properly abandoning / destroying private wells that fail because of dewatering activity.

- The EIR should also address the long-term reliability of any alternate water source for local residents. As you know, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) has considered, and is still considering, building an additional dam on the Bear River in order to address existing concerns regarding adequate water storage capacity. Adding a large number of service connections to NID would substantially increase demand on the local water supply, exacerbating water storage concerns. It is conceivable that mitigation measures to address failed wells could trigger the need for an additional dam.

- **Water Quality.** The EIR should examine impacts resulting from the continuous discharge of water from the mine to South Fork Wolf Creek (or any other receiving body). These would include hydrologic impacts, erosion, discharges of hazardous waste and impacts to wildlife and recreational uses.

- **Traffic Impacts.** The EIR needs to examine traffic impacts and the degradation of local roads from heavy truck traffic.

- **Noise Impacts**. Noise impacts from increased industrial activity and truck traffic need to be examined and any appropriate mitigation measures considered.

- **Air Quality**. The EIR needs to examine impacts to air quality associated with a resumption of mining activity.

- **Scope of the Requested Permit**. The EIR needs to consider a significantly reduced scope of operation for the requested permit. The applicant has proposed to conduct mining activity 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for 80 years. This is a rather astounding and unusual scope for any permitted activity, especially one as potentially destructive as mining.

- **Long-Term Financial Security of the Project.** The EIR needs to examine the financial capacity of the applicant to ensure continued viability of the project and uninterrupted funding for mitigation measures adopted as conditions of approval. Rise Gold Company was formed a few short years ago for the express purpose of providing core samplings from the Brunswick Annex of the Idaho-Maryland mine. This company appears to have no experience in reopening an abandoned mine and subsequently operating the mine successfully. This is especially critical given the fact that the mine itself was closed in 1956 because there were no known remaining reserves.

Should you wish to contact us directly for any clarification, please contact Richard Merrifield at rmerrifieldz@gmail.com. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Richard Merrifield, on behalf of:

Silk Tassle-Side Hill Circles Homeowners, Nevada City, CA 95959

Cc: Greg Wilbur / Peggy Davidson, 12419 Silk Tassle Circle

Gloria Anthony / Steve Valdevisio, 12410 Silk Tassle Circle

Kate Richiger, 12437 Silk Tassle Circle

Ed & Marilyn Arroyo, 12434 Silk Tassle Circle

Rich Bulotti, 12464 Silk Tassle Circle

Roland & Linda Rouda, 11649 Side Hill Circle

Gary & Juliette Nowak, 11668 Side Hill Circle

Richard Merrifield / Laura Ericson, 11630 Side Hill Circle

Eli & Sara Botrell, 11551 Side Hill Circle

Richard & Laurie Whitsel, 11552 Side Hill Circle

Paul & Shelly Andersen, 11524 Side Hill Circle

Gordon Sakaue, 11531 Side Hill Circle

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 17,2020

Matt Kelley- By Delivery & Email

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

On August 7, 2020, we wrote to you about our response to the NOP. Please consider this additional writing in conjunction to that writing on August 7, 2020, a copy of which is attached.

While Rise Gold Corp. has been promoting its gold mine operations, federal and state regulatory agencies apparently weighed in on the polluted tailings that cover most of its 56.4-acre site.

There has been truly little public disclosure of this contaminated site including by Rise Gold in submitting its plan. Rise Gold apparently and reportedly entered into a contract with the California Department of Toxic Substance Control ("DTSC") on August 13, 2019 to clean up its site. See the Enclosed DTSC update dated 5/28/20. This had the effect of deferring any EPA agency from intervening on behalf of we all as taxpayers. Instead, the agreement apparently with the State is to voluntary clean-up the site known as the Centennial site and be responsible for the entire remediation process which will be overseen by DTSC.

Yet, we are unaware of any steps taken by Rise Gold to meet its obligations. Instead, it seeks a use permit at considerable expense and resources being spent to address its conditional use permit for its mining operations. Instead, it waives a carrot at the Board of Supervisors to grant the use permit, then it will clean up its site I would presume.

I think that it is imperative that the Board and the Planning Department immediately address this misuse of the County's processes. What should be happening is that the conditional permit process should be on hold until the owner of the land can in fact clean up the toxic site.

Otherwise, as we see it, the permit cannot be granted with the right review under the EIR because the land will not be its final condition to scientifically address the potential impacts and feasibility of any changes.

As I understand it from the Department of Toxic Substances Control, ("DTSC") there is only a draft of an agreement between it and Rise Gold Corp. that is currently under review. This would apparently address, among other things, arsenic, cyanide, lead, mercury, and nickel already present from past mining efforts at the site.

As we both know, amalgamation with mercury, chlorination with gas under high temperature and cyanide in solution and leaching, are just of the few methods of extraction of gold in this area.

In Rise Gold's Application, it does not define, other than the use of sulfide, the chemical processes that it intends to use. For this reason also, the permit application cannot be addressed sufficiently to determine the environmental impacts and mitigating circumstances from the mining operations when the very chemicals and processes used are not defined.

Further complicating the issue is the zoning issue as well as Rise Gold Corp.'s plan to force immediately adjacent property owners to get rid of its well supply of water. This amounts to a "taking" of one's property that believe is unlawful. It would seem to me that rezoning for purposes of this project should be a public process and not simply a plan by one property owner that should be reviewed.

We therefore demand that the County stop its procedure for going forward with granting a conditional permit. We also demand a rezoning process that is clearing defined by the County and given public review.

Given the significant and potential effects of this project on area development, neighborhoods and property values, and other key elements that sustain our lives should an accident occur, public hearings on the permit process as well as the zoning process demand public hearings where all people, regardless of income or digital access, can attend.

We, like others in this County, have had to wait in line for a variety of government functions. Rise Gold Corp, as a private landowner can wait its turn as well.

Whether or not the County agrees with our demands, we understand that it is our responsibility to timely submit these issues to the County as they relate to the NOP. We also therefore request that you review the following while incorporating those areas of review in our 8/7/2020 letter to you:

1. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter in light of the existing condition of the Centennial site, including but not limited to, its geotechnical condition and soils before any clean-up having been completed and approved by the DTSC and/or EPA.
2. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter in light of the existing condition of the Centennial site, including but not limited to, its geotechnical condition and soils assuming that clean-up is completed and approved by the DTSC and/or EPA.

3. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter by using an entire and complete list of defined substances and chemical processes that Rise Gold will use in its mining operations, including but not limited to, amalgamation with mercy, chlorination with gas under high temperature, and cyanide in solution and leaching.
4. Review potential impacts and provide well-defined mitigation measures of each area referenced in our August 7, 2020 letter relating to toxic minerals, including but not limited to, lead, sulfides, arsenic and chlorides, that otherwise would appear likely to be released into the environment.

Sincerely yours,

Maryanne Z Murphy, Esq.

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Enclosed: letter dated 8/7/2020

DTSC update Preliminary Engagement Assessment 5/18/20

Proof of service by Delivery of this Letter to Mr. Kelly

Cc: Ms. Hall, Board of Supervisors.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
ENVIROSTOR

CENTENNIAL M-1 PROPERTY (60000716)

SIGN UP

SOUTH OF IDAHO-MARYLAND ROAD AND NORTH OF EAST BENNETT ROAD
GRASS VALLEY, CA 95959
NEVADA COUNTY
SITE TYPE: VOLUNTARY CLEANUP

PROJECT MANAGER:
SUPERVISOR:
OFFICE:

CENSUS TRACT:
CALENVIROSCREEN PERCENTILE SCORE:

Summary | Activities | Site/Facility Docs | Map | Related Sites | CalEnviroScreen

Site Information

CLEANUP STATUS
ACTIVE AS OF 3/6/2019

SITE TYPE: VOLUNTARY CLEANUP
NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST: NO
ACRES: 56.5 ACRES
APN: 09-550-32, 09-550-37, 09-550-38, 09-550-39, 09-550-40, 09-560-36, 0955032000, 0955037000, 0955038000, 0955039000, 0955040000, 0956036000
CLEANUP OVERSIGHT AGENCIES:
DTSC - SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM - LEAD AGENCY
NEVADA COUNTY

ENVIROSTOR ID: 60000716
SITE CODE: 102370, 102393, 101918
SPECIAL PROGRAM: VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM
FUNDING: SITE PROPONENT
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT: 01
SENATE DISTRICT: 01

Regulatory Profile

PAST USE(S) THAT CAUSED CONTAMINATION
MINE

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN
ARSENIC
CYANIDE (FREE)
LEAD
MERCURY (ELEMENTAL)
NICKEL

POTENTIAL MEDIA AFFECTED
SOIL

Site History

The site is located at 10344 Centennial Drive, Grass Valley, Nevada County, California and consists of Nevada County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 09-550-32, 37, 3 560-36, and is approximately 56.5 acres. Prior to 1851 the Site is presumed to have been unused and unimproved. In 1851 the Idaho-Maryland Mine was discovered and the Site from 1862 to 1956. Since 1956 the site has remained dormant despite several attempts to re-open the mine. Based upon information from existing documents, mi mine tailings are present throughout much of the property. Results of sampling that has been completed to date indicates that the soil at the site contains lead, arsenic, nic maximum concentrations of 35,111 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), 3010 mg/kg, 2100 mg/kg, and 41 mg/kg, respectively. These concentrations are above background ar hazardous waste levels.

In 2019 a new PP gained ownership of the Site and expressed interest in completing a VCA on the property. DTSC attended a multi-agency meeting with the new PP that Nevada City on March 14, 2019. A Site walk was also conducted on this date. A draft VCA was sent to the PP on March 29, 2019 and the Final Standard Voluntary Agree on 9/3/2019. DTSC received a draft Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) Report on December 16, 2019 and provided comments on March 9, 2020. A Draft Fina received by DTSC on 5/18/2020 and this document is currently under review. (Updated 5/18/2020)

Note: See DTSC Site Code 101505 (Idaho Maryland Mine Property, EnviroStor ID 29100007) for PA/SI activities for the Idaho Maryland Mine.

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

August 7,2020

Matt Kelley- By Certified Mail & Regular Mail & Email.

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please Consider this Response to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application. ("Project"). We reside at 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959.

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which if permitted would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City, Nevada County and in its neighboring counties.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas, and fuel.
15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exists sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.

19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, including but not limited to, neighboring County agricultural communities.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State and local routes, roadways, and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley, including but not limited to, those traveled by local school bus routes.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

Proof of Service

1. At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age.
2. My residence address is 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959
3. **On August 17, 2020, I delivered the following documents to Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner, c/o Nevada County Planning Department, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959:**

   Letter by Maryanne Z Murphy, Esq & David J. Murphy, Esq dated 8/17/2020 and enclosed documents (8/7/2020 by Maryanne Z Murphy, Esq & David J. Murphy, Esq. Dated 8/7/2020 to Matt Kelly, Senior Planner, Nevada County Planning Department 950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170, Nevada City, CA 95959.

   Proof of Service by Delivery dated 8/17/2020

   DTSC update Preliminary Engagement Assessment 5/18/2020.

4. The documents were delivered by personally delivering the documents to the person at the address listed in item 3 above; or by leaving the documents at the department or office in an envelope clearly labeled to clearly identify to whom it is to be delivered as addressed above by (1) leaving the envelope with a receptionist or an individual in charge of the department or office; (2) or if there was no person in the office or department with whom the papers could be left, by leaving them in a conspicuous place in the department or office between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm in the evening.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 17th day of August 2020 at Nevada City, CA 95959.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

matt Kelley

Aug 14, 2020

Nevada Co. Planning Dept.

Matt Kelley Senior Planner

CC: Board of Supervisor

CC: Cea NC. org

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To Whom it may concern:

I Am AGAINST the RE-OPPENING of the IDAHO MARYLAND MINE.

We have been residents of Grass Valley, living off Greenhorn Rd for the past 40 years. We vehemently oppose the proposal to open the Idaho Maryland Mine, that is being spearheaded by Ben Mossman of Rise Gold Co.

We believe that the consideration of this mine, if granted would have devastating and catastrophic effects on this community.

The environmental affects it would have on our water, atmosphere and wildlife, through the emissions of chemicals in the mining processes, would result in the contamination of ground water, surface water and soil. The atmosphere would have significant detrimental effect on human & animal health.

Statistically mining kills and injures more workers than any industry, nearly 15, 000 per year. There are estimations of 47,000 abandon mines spread throughout every county in CA, leaving the land decimated, abandoned and contaminated.

Mining is currently responsible for 4-7 percent of greenhouse gases.

Consider the impact of radioactive gases such as radon being emitted from the sludge in the tailing pond.

Other concerns, would be the possibility of sink holes and earthquakes.

"Mining accounts for the high number of human induced earthquakes worldwide.

The removal of the earth can cause instability, leading to sudden collapses that trigger earthquakes". National Geographic 2017.

On the other hand, tectonic earthquakes can collapse mine openings and tunnels with weak infrastructure. Mining would lower the water table causing the overlying rock and soil to collapse.

As is well known, sink holes are appearing more frequently each winter in Nevada county and Brunswick Rd. had a massive sink hole last winter. It was sheer luck that no one was injured.

How is it that Mr. Ben Mossman, CEO of Rise Gold Co. was able to acquire permits and reinitiate this mining project with no investigation of his previous business history?

Records show that he abandoned a mining project in Canada, and filed bankruptcy. He has 35 violations and fines, according to the Canadian Fisheries Environmental Management and Water Acts.

Mr. Mossman has already shown his disdain & disregard for this community by not complying with the Timber Harvest Plans rules, and regulations? Mr. Mossman also ignored riparian set back requirements for streams in Nevada County at his

East Bennett project.

This horrendous plan of reopening this mine with all the detrimental potential damage is unthinkable and unacceptable.

Property values in the vicinity of East Bennett, Brunswick, Idaho Maryland and Greenhorn will decrease and , What if we should have a fire disaster such as the devasting fire in Paradise, California.

No Water would be available. Traffic congestion including road damage are also major issues as well.

This proposal with all the toxic chemicals, the explosive materials being trucked, shipped and stored, is simply an accident waiting to happen.

PLEASE Stop the carnage that the re-opening of this mine will bring to this community.

Thank you for attention to this very important matter.

Deborah Shriver

Maureen Miranda

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 17, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project

To Mr. Kelley and Planning Commission,

The report entitled "Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Nevada County, California" utilizes air quality data from Yuba City, CA and meteorological data from Blue Canyon, CA. Yuba City is at an elevation of 59 feet in the Central Valley. Blue Canyon, CA is at an elevation of 4695 feet just 4 miles southwest of Emigrant Gap in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Blue Canyon also has the distinction of receiving the third highest snowfall in the United States (The Donner Party).

Grass Valley, CA is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills at an elevation of 2477 feet.

- How is data from these two very disparate topographical locations applicable to Grass Valley, CA?

Please find attached a Year Round Weather Report for Grass Valley, CA generated by NASA's MERRA-2 meteorological model. This model is a compilation of data from a 36 year history, dating from January 1, 1980 to December 31st, 2016.

The Air Quality Report specifies that the County's prevailing wind is from a westerly direction (page 14). Based upon the NASA model, Grass Valley winds are "most often from the south for 7.4 months, from February 10 to September 21, with a peak percentage of 55% on August 11. The wind is most often from the east for 4.6 months, from September 21 to February 10, with a peak percentage of 49% on January 1 (page 5, Weatherspark Report).

The Brunswick Site is south, southeast of the entire city of Grass Valley and a large portion of unincorporated county properties. Having lived just 0.3 miles north of the proposed Brunswick site, I can vouch for the southern and eastern wind patterns. I would be happy to have an anemometer installed on my property to verify these wind patterns.

Taking these wind patterns into account means that all pollutants will be deposited over the city and surrounding areas especially into the Brunswick Basin.

The quadrant bounded by Idaho Maryland Road, Dorsey Drive, E. Main Street and the Brunswick Basin will suffer assaults from the reclamation of the Centennial site, the construction and ongoing operations of the Brunswick site, the construction and ongoing operations of the Centennial site.

This quadrant contains Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, 4 Skilled Nursing Facilities, multiple assisted living facilities including memory care, multiple senior housing apartments, Hospitality House for the homeless population and proposed housing project for the homeless (Brunswick Commons). There are also public health department offices, physicians' offices-many of whom serve Medi-Cal patients, Grass Valley Dialysis Center on Crown Point and Chapa-De Indian Health Center.

This quadrant is populated almost entirely of "Sensitive Receptors". This is an extremely vulnerable population-I have serviced their respiratory needs as a Field Clinician for Apria HealthCare for the past three years until my recent retirement this past year.

There is a large pedestrian population due to the Hospitality House operational hours from 4 pm-7 am. There are currently 54 beds. With the completion of Brunswick Commons, an additional 41 units will be added. The Brunswick Basin is a vital banking and shopping district allowing easy access to pharmacies, grocery stores, etc for Grass Valley residents and this primarily pedestrian population.

- What will be the impact of pollutants on these vulnerable populations and GV residents?
- Will a census including explicit health conditions be performed as a baseline prior to project initiation?
- Will health monitoring of Grass Valley residents be ongoing and documented?
- Will Grass Valley residents be compensated for health conditions related to mining pollutants exposures?
- What will be the impact during Public Service Safety Shutoffs when Rise Mine will be operating 4 -6 diesel generators and the populace is unable to operate their own ventilation systems?
- What will be the impact if we have electrical brown or blackouts-what is the priority for reenergization?
- How will Rise restrict the fugitive dust to the property line during high wind conditions such as the Diablo wind event of last year?
- How will this project protect and maintain our community's health?
- Will the 70 or so proposed truck driving employees be informed and compensated for their risks of pulmonary fibrosis, silicosis, mesothelioma, lung cancer and premature death?

On mynevadacounty.com website, the document "2019 Community Health Needs Assessment/ Community Health Assessments of Nevada County" supports this position. Grass Valley is a Primary Community of Concern (pg 30). The main area of central Grass Valley has the greatest vulnerability residing in the top 20 percentile (pg 35). Both mining site operations are within this area.

Mortality rates in Nevada County from Chronic Lung Disease occur at twice the California state rate: 69.26 deaths per 100,000 people vs 34.92 per 100,000 respectively (pg 17).

The introduction of this report states: "The health of a community is greatly influenced by the environmental and structural components of the community, and personal characteristics of its members. Community health includes the health status of the people, and the conditions in the

community that promote, protect and preserve their health...and are deeply connected to the health of the natural environment in which they live."

- Please explain how the Rise Mine Project will address these issues in light of our already elevated mortality baselines

POLLUTANTS AND EFFECTS

Section 2, pages 3-9, of the Air Quality Report should be required reading for every Grass Valley resident. The author has done a thorough explanation of depicting most of the pollutants that will be widely disseminated into the environment through the mining operation. The dispersal will primarily be airborne, uncontrollable and unquantifiable once released to the atmosphere. Breathing(respiration) is the most rapid introduction to the human body of these toxins, and all other biological life forms.

The County General Plan's Goal 14.1 is to "Attain, maintain and ensure high air quality". The current EPA designation of western Nevada County is moderate "nonattainment" for 8 hour ozone levels. However in 2018, the submitted NSAQMD ozone attainment plan requested reclassification to "Serious" nonattainment area for the County. CARB has designated the County as a nonattainment area for ozone and PM_{10} standards.

Several locations identified in the Traffic Impact Analysis Report identified areas that already exceed carbon monoxide levels as well.

- Please explain how the release of "mitigated" tons of nitrogen oxide compounds will enable Nevada County to achieve attainment goals for ozone on top of the existing elevated baseline
- Who will monitor and mitigate the destruction caused by acid rain from nitrogen oxide compounds?
- Who will monitor and enforce air quality standards since we do not have an Air Quality Control Officer ?
- Who will develop standards for the myriad of contaminants, many of them carcinogenic, that do not currently have established enforcement levels?
- Who will pay for third party monitoring necessary to ensure transparency?
- How will the California Health and Safety Code Section 41700 be enforced?

As a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Respiratory Care Practitioner with the state of California, my primary concern is for the immediate and long term pulmonary health of our community. All exposures from the mining operation are detrimental to lung health whether it is from site reclamation, the initial construction and grading exposure, continuous diesel fumes exposure and/or continuous "engineered" fill exposure.

This bracketing of sites results in *de facto* annexation of all property between the two sites and beyond. This area will be subject to all conditions of the mine and quarry sites. In fact, we will suffer from the

noise, light, vibration and pollution 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Employees will go home after each shift and will be offered the benefits of OSHA regulations and protections.

We chose to live here and we will choose to leave. We will walk away from our dream home if necessary. Nevada County and Rise do not have the right to "stake a claim" to my sanity, physical health or quality of life.

Sincerely,

Pam Heard RRT

Pam Heard RRT
11500 Brunswick Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 277-3891

P.S. By rezoning from Light Industrial to Mineral Extraction, Nevada County and Rise must accept responsibility for the consequences of that action. In recompense, Nevada County and Rise should at minimum:

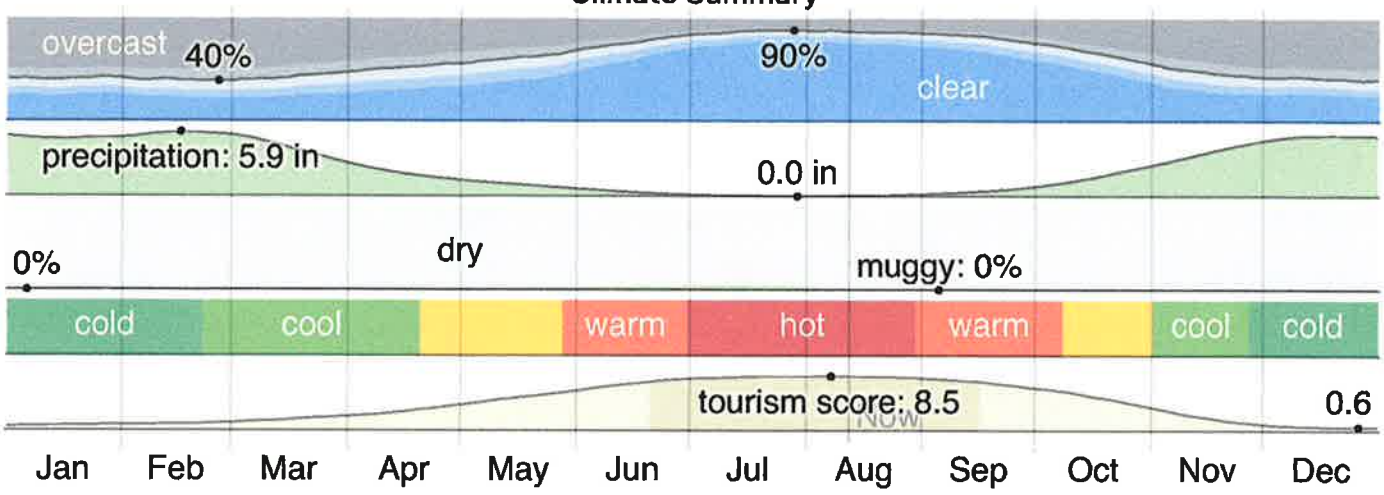
- Offer to purchase at current market price, any and all affected residences or businesses that wish to relocate
- For those remaining, pay all health care claims in perpetuity related to pollution generated by mine operation.
- Establish a water reservoir for wildfire mitigation since all vegetation will be negatively impacted
- Establish a fund for road maintenance since taxpayers should not be liable for their pulverization from mining equipment
- Establish an escrow account for Superfund cleanup of Grass Valley, not just mine site reclamation

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Average Weather in Grass Valley California, United States

In Grass Valley, the summers are hot, arid, and mostly clear and the winters are long, cold, wet, and partly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 39°F to 88°F and is rarely below 32°F or above 95°F.

Climate Summary



Click on each chart for more information.

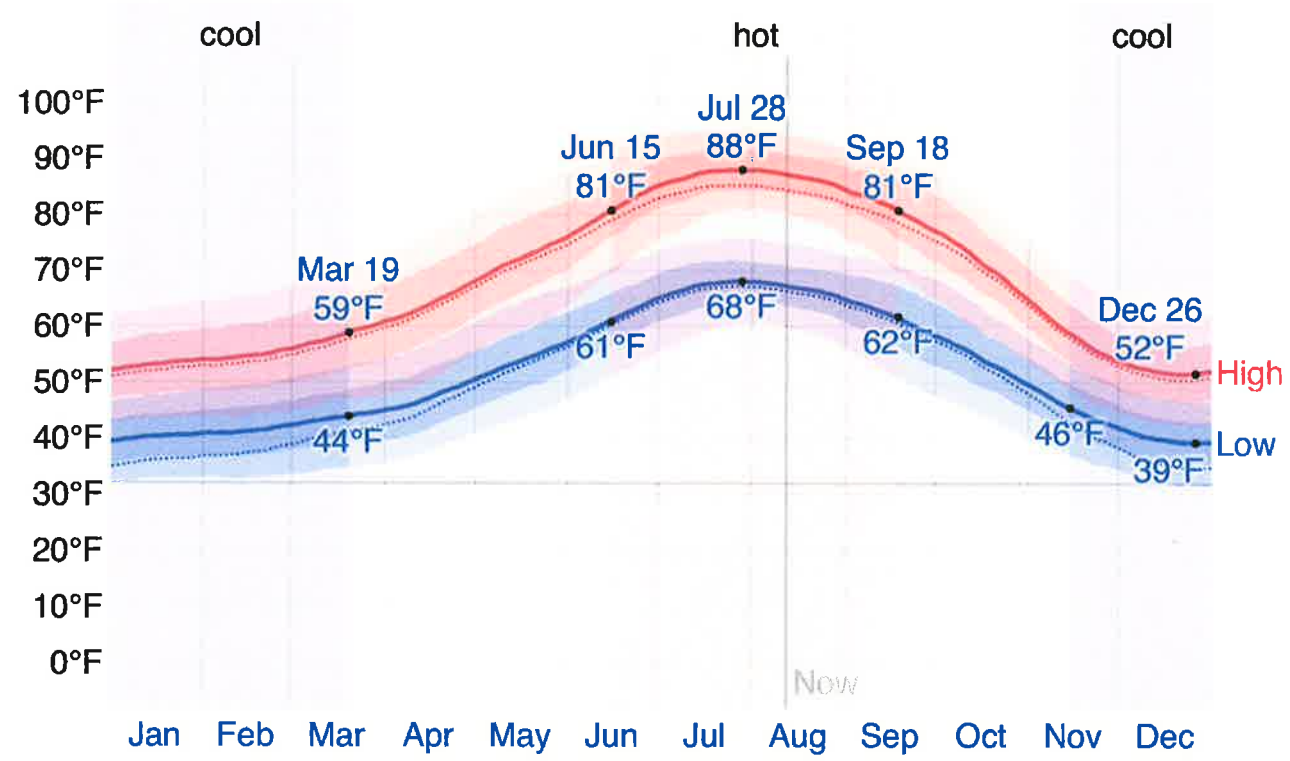
Based on the tourism score (https://weatherspark.com/y/1178/Average-Weather-in-Grass-Valley-California-United-States-Year-Round#Sections-BestTime), the best time of year to visit Grass Valley for warm-weather activities is from late June to mid September.

Temperature

The hot season lasts for 3.1 months, from June 15 to September 18, with an average daily high temperature above 81°F. The hottest day of the year is July 28, with an average high of 88°F and low of 68°F.

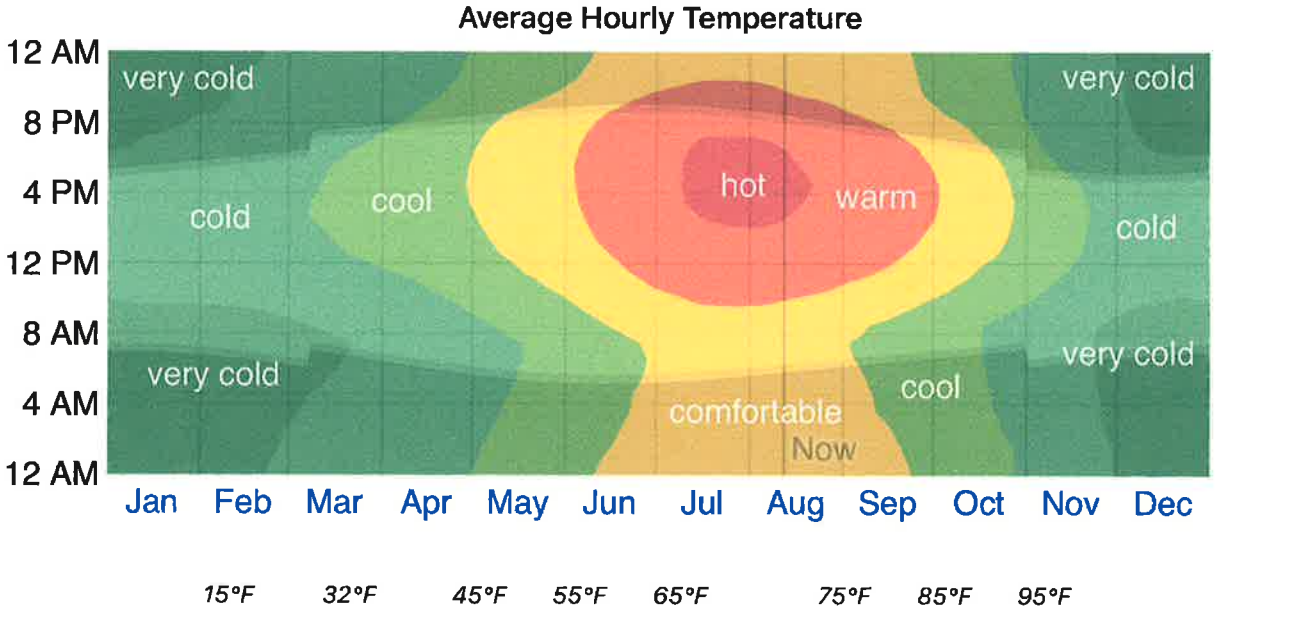
The cool season lasts for 4.2 months, from November 14 to March 19, with an average daily high temperature below 59°F. The coldest day of the year is December 26, with an average low of 39°F and high of 52°F.

Average High and Low Temperature



The daily average high (red line) and low (blue line) temperature, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands. The thin dotted lines are the corresponding average perceived temperatures.

The figure below shows you a compact characterization of the entire year of hourly average temperatures. The horizontal axis is the day of the year, the vertical axis is the hour of the day, and the color is the average temperature for that hour and day.



The average hourly temperature, color coded into bands. The shaded overlays indicate night and civil twilight.

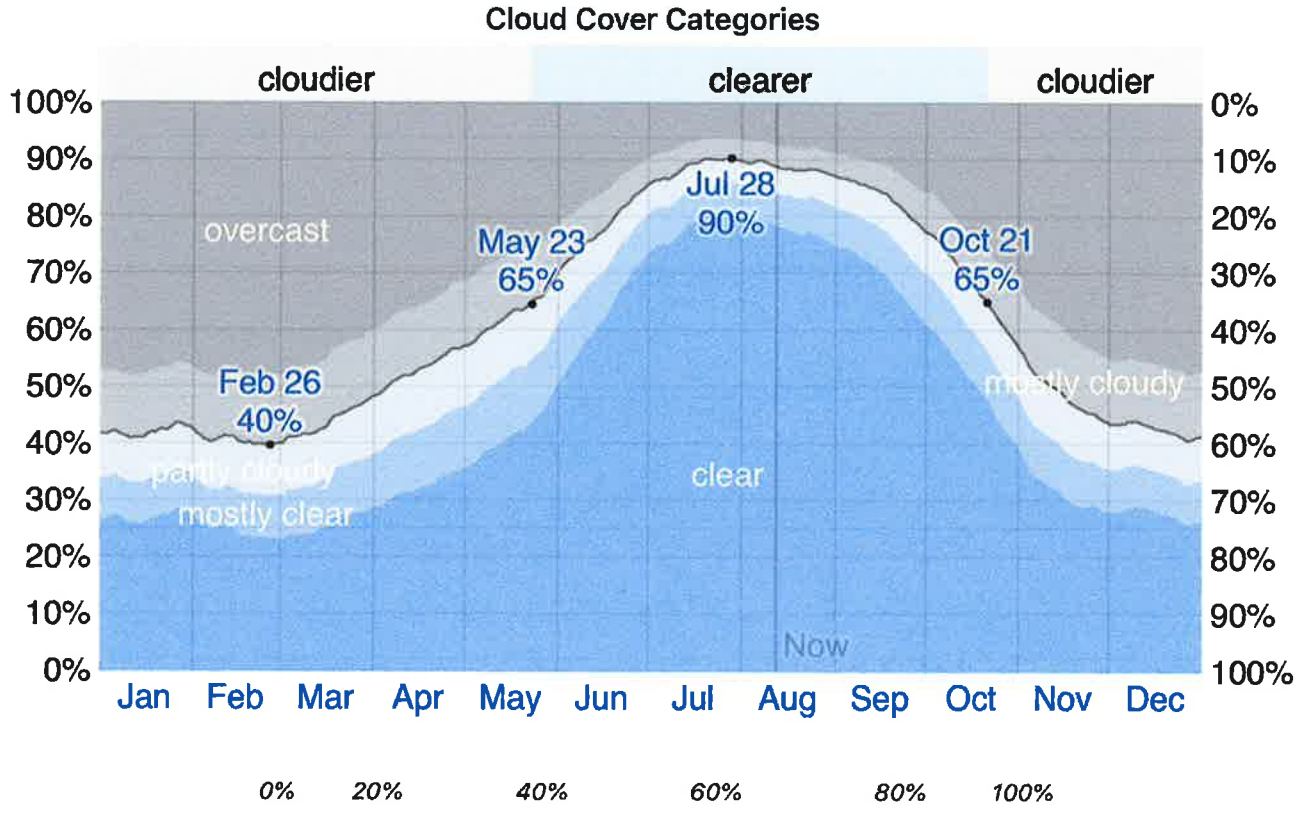
Rome, Italy (/y/71779/Average-Weather-in-Rome-Italy-Year-Round) (6,127 miles away) and Katoúna, Greece (/y/86661/Average-Weather-in-Kato%C3%BAna-Greece-Year-Round) (6,546 miles) are the far-away foreign places with temperatures most similar to Grass Valley (view comparison (/compare/y/1178~71779~86661/Comparison-of-the-Average-Weather-in-Grass-Valley-Rome-and-Kato%C3%BAna)).

Clouds

In Grass Valley, the average percentage of the sky covered by clouds experiences extreme seasonal variation over the course of the year.

The clearer part of the year in Grass Valley begins around May 23 and lasts for 5.0 months, ending around October 21. On July 28, the clearest day of the year, the sky is clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 90% of the time, and overcast or mostly cloudy 10% of the time.

The cloudier part of the year begins around October 21 and lasts for 7.0 months, ending around May 23. On February 26, the cloudiest day of the year, the sky is overcast or mostly cloudy 60% of the time, and clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 40% of the time.



The percentage of time spent in each cloud cover band, categorized by the percentage of the sky covered by clouds.

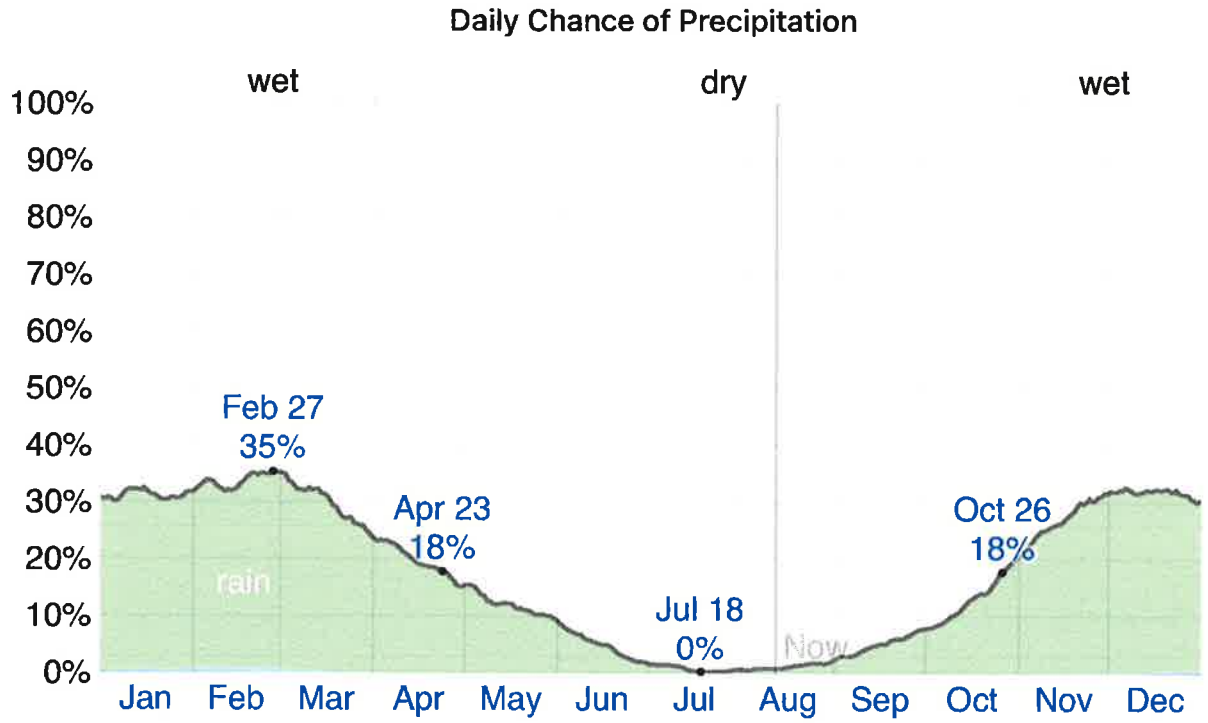
Precipitation

A wet day is one with at least 0.04 inches of liquid or liquid-equivalent precipitation. The chance of wet days in Grass Valley varies significantly throughout the year.

The wetter season lasts 5.9 months, from October 26 to April 23, with a greater than 18% chance of a given day being a wet day. The chance of a wet day peaks at 35% on February 27.

The drier season lasts 6.1 months, from April 23 to October 26. The smallest chance of a wet day is 0% on July 18.

Among wet days, we distinguish between those that experience rain alone, snow alone, or a mixture of the two. Based on this categorization, the most common form of precipitation throughout the year is rain alone, with a peak probability of 34% on February 28.



The percentage of days in which various types of precipitation are observed, excluding trace quantities: rain alone, snow alone, and mixed (both rain and snow fell in the same day).

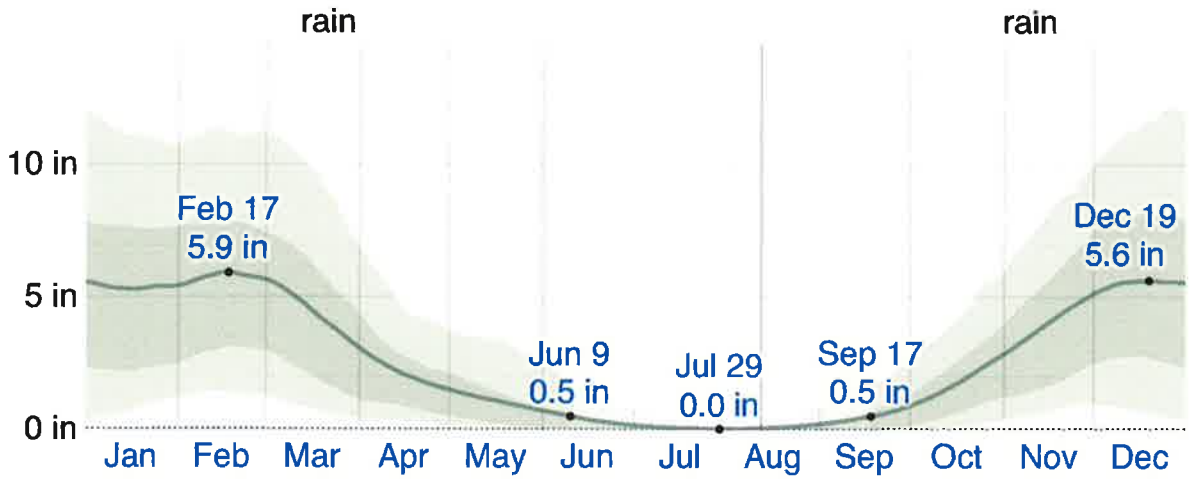
Rainfall

To show variation within the months and not just the monthly totals, we show the rainfall accumulated over a sliding 31-day period centered around each day of the year. Grass Valley experiences extreme seasonal variation in monthly rainfall.

The rainy period of the year lasts for 8.8 months, from September 17 to June 9, with a sliding 31-day rainfall of at least 0.5 inches. The most rain falls during the 31 days centered around February 17, with an average total accumulation of 5.9 inches.

The rainless period of the year lasts for 3.2 months, from June 9 to September 17. The least rain falls around July 29, with an average total accumulation of 0.0 inches.

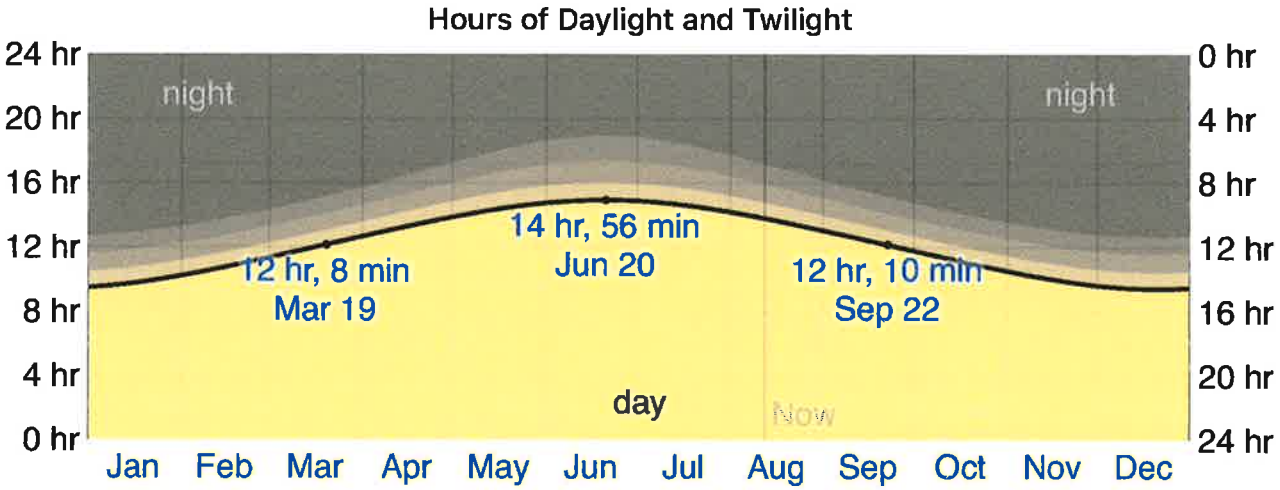
Average Monthly Rainfall



The average rainfall (solid line) accumulated over the course of a sliding 31-day period centered on the day in question, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands. The thin dotted line is the corresponding average liquid-equivalent snowfall.

Sun

The length of the day in Grass Valley varies significantly over the course of the year. In 2020, the shortest day is December 21, with 9 hours, 24 minutes of daylight; the longest day is June 20, with 14 hours, 56 minutes of daylight.

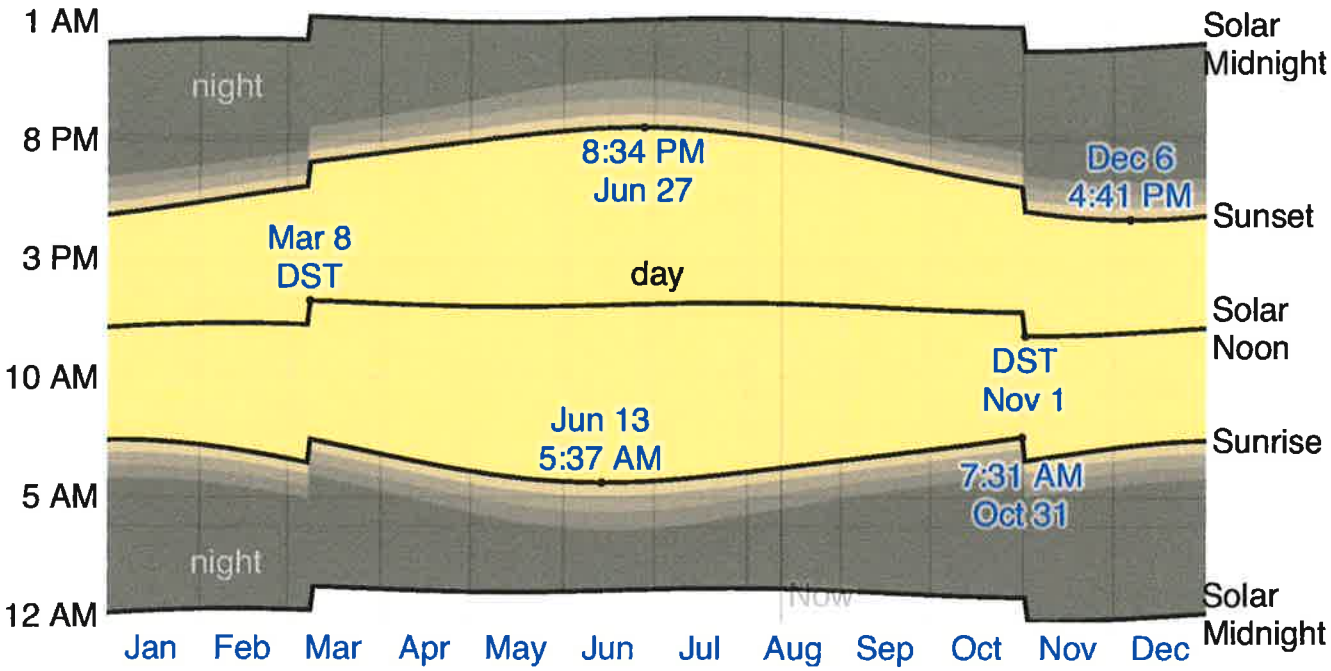


The number of hours during which the Sun is visible (black line). From bottom (most yellow) to top (most gray), the color bands indicate: full daylight, twilight (civil, nautical, and astronomical), and full night.

The earliest sunrise is at 5:37 AM on June 13, and the latest sunrise is 1 hour, 54 minutes later at 7:31 AM on October 31. The earliest sunset is at 4:41 PM on December 6, and the latest sunset is 3 hours, 54 minutes later at 8:34 PM on June 27.

Daylight saving time (DST) is observed in Grass Valley during 2020, starting in the spring on March 8, lasting 7.8 months, and ending in the fall on November 1.

Sunrise & Sunset with Twilight and Daylight Saving Time

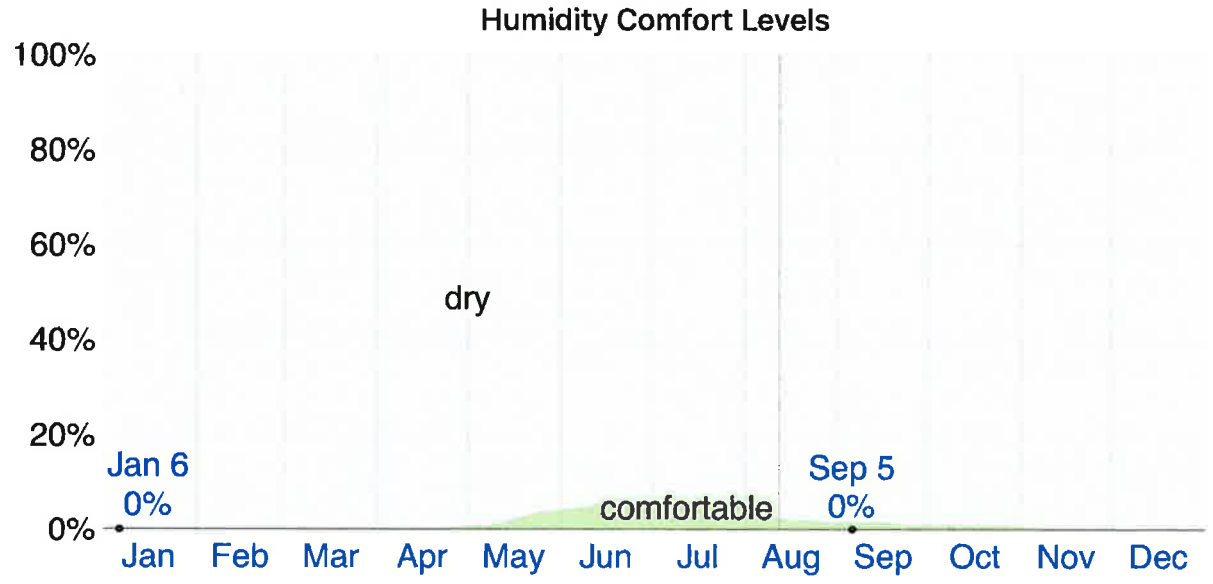


The solar day over the course of the year 2020. From bottom to top, the black lines are the previous solar midnight, sunrise, solar noon, sunset, and the next solar midnight. The day, twilights (civil, nautical, and astronomical), and night are indicated by the color bands from yellow to gray. The transitions to and from daylight saving time are indicated by the 'DST' labels.

Humidity

We base the humidity comfort level on the dew point, as it determines whether perspiration will evaporate from the skin, thereby cooling the body. Lower dew points feel drier and higher dew points feel more humid. Unlike temperature, which typically varies significantly between night and day, dew point tends to change more slowly, so while the temperature may drop at night, a muggy day is typically followed by a muggy night.

The perceived humidity level in Grass Valley, as measured by the percentage of time in which the humidity comfort level is muggy, oppressive, or miserable, does not vary significantly over the course of the year, remaining a virtually constant 0% throughout.



dry	comfortable	humid	muggy	oppressive	miserable
55°F	*60°F*	*65°F*	*70°F*	*75°F*	

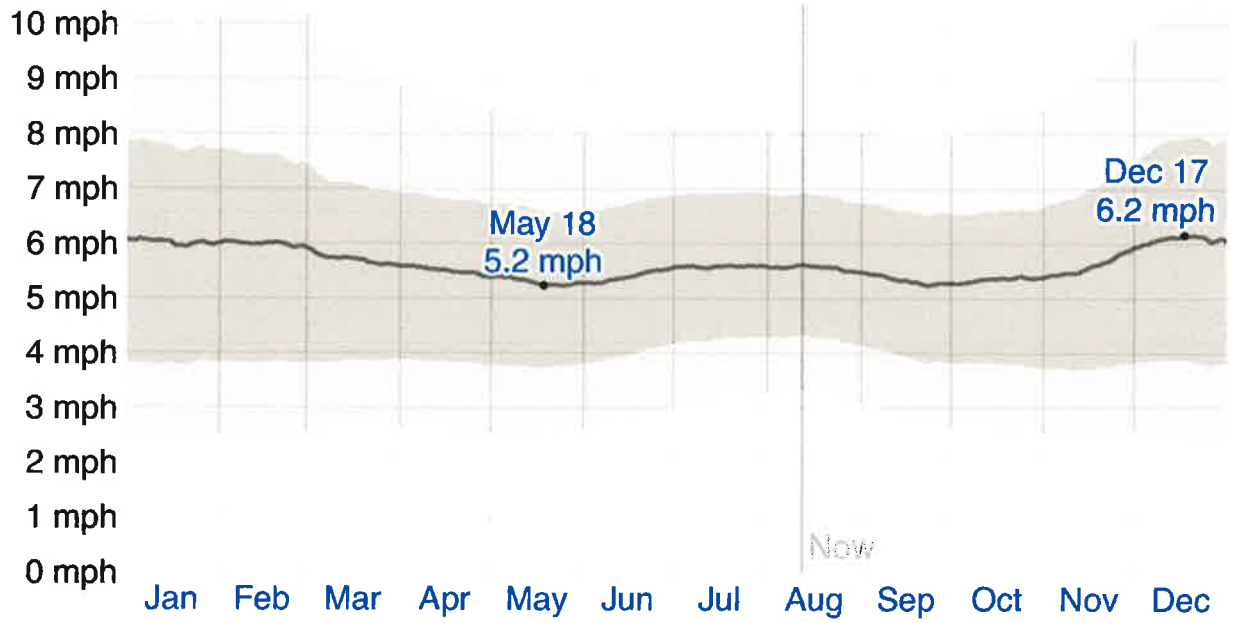
The percentage of time spent at various humidity comfort levels, categorized by dew point.

Wind

This section discusses the wide-area hourly average wind vector (speed and direction) at 10 meters above the ground. The wind experienced at any given location is highly dependent on local topography and other factors, and instantaneous wind speed and direction vary more widely than hourly averages.

The average hourly wind speed in Grass Valley does not vary significantly over the course of the year, remaining within 0.5 miles per hour of 5.7 miles per hour throughout.

Average Wind Speed

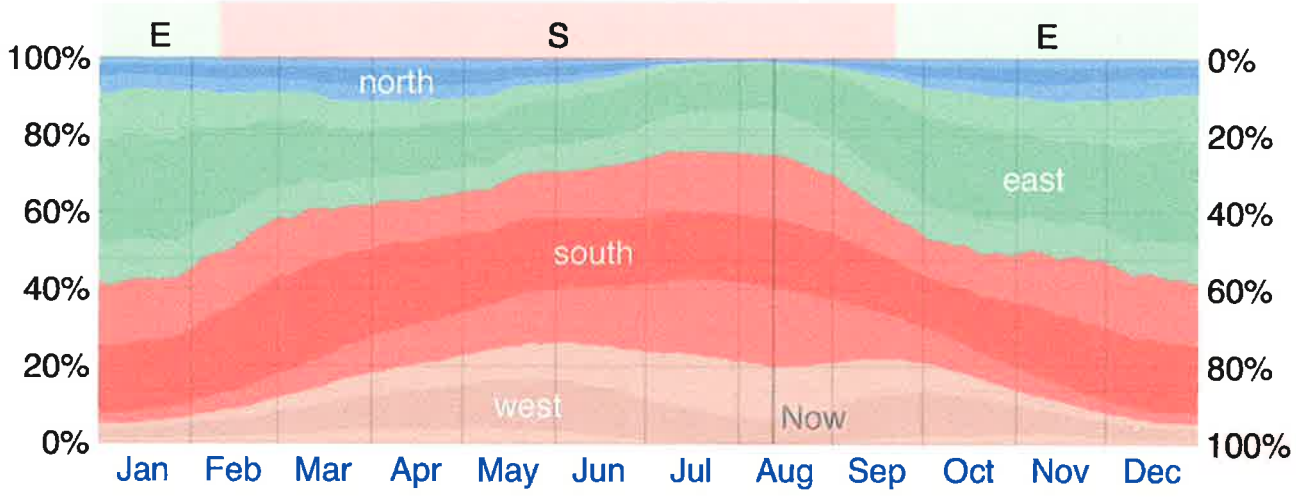


The average of mean hourly wind speeds (dark gray line), with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands.

The predominant average hourly wind direction in Grass Valley varies throughout the year.

The wind is most often from the south for 7.4 months, from February 10 to September 21, with a peak percentage of 55% on August 11. The wind is most often from the east for 4.6 months, from September 21 to February 10, with a peak percentage of 49% on January 1.

Wind Direction



The percentage of hours in which the mean wind direction is from each of the four cardinal wind directions, excluding hours in which the mean wind speed is less than 1.0 mph. The lightly tinted areas at the boundaries are the percentage of hours spent in the implied intermediate directions (northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest).

Best Time of Year to Visit

To characterize how pleasant the weather is in Grass Valley throughout the year, we compute two travel scores.

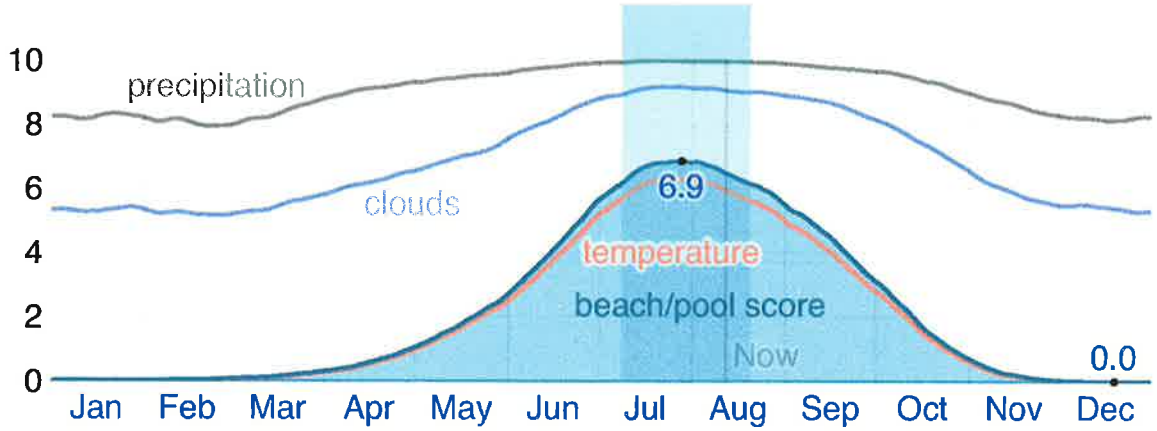
The tourism score favors clear, rainless days with perceived temperatures between 65°F and 80°F. Based on this score, the best time of year to visit Grass Valley for general outdoor tourist activities is from late June to mid September, with a peak score in the first week of August.



The tourism score (filled area), and its constituents: the temperature score (red line), the cloud cover score (blue line), and the precipitation score (green line).

The beach/pool score favors clear, rainless days with perceived temperatures between 75°F and 90°F. Based on this score, the best time of year to visit Grass Valley for hot-weather activities is from early July to mid August, with a peak score in the last week of July.

Beach/Pool Score



The beach/pool score (filled area), and its constituents: the temperature score (red line), the cloud cover score (blue line), and the precipitation score (green line).

Methodology

For each hour between 8:00 AM and 9:00 PM of each day in the analysis period (1980 to 2016), independent scores are computed for perceived temperature, cloud cover, and total precipitation. Those scores are combined into a single hourly composite score, which is then aggregated into days, averaged over all the years in the analysis period, and smoothed.

Our cloud cover score is 10 for fully clear skies, falling linearly to 9 for mostly clear skies, and to 1 for fully overcast skies.

Our precipitation score, which is based on the three-hour precipitation centered on the hour in question, is 10 for no precipitation, falling linearly to 9 for trace precipitation, and to 0 for 0.04 inches of precipitation or more.

Our tourism temperature score is 0 for perceived temperatures below 50°F, rising linearly to 9 for 65°F, to 10 for 75°F, falling linearly to 9 for 80°F, and to 1 for 90°F or hotter.

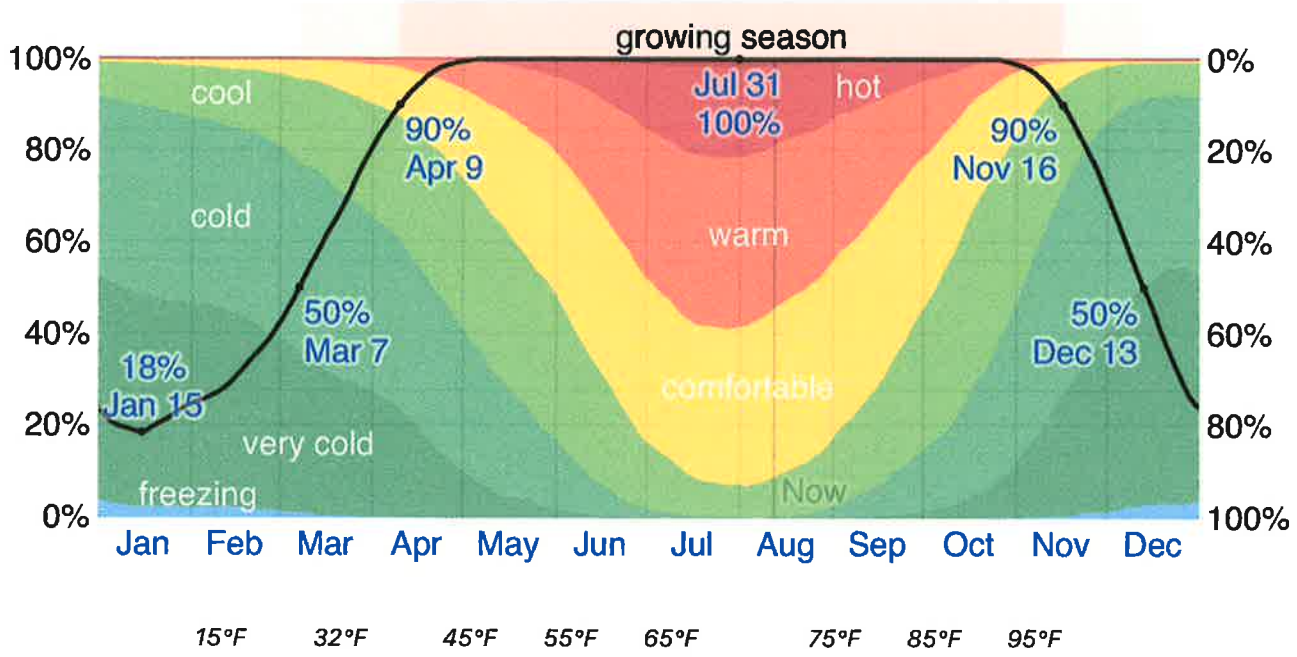
Our beach/pool temperature score is 0 for perceived temperatures below 65°F, rising linearly to 9 for 75°F, to 10 for 82°F, falling linearly to 9 for 90°F, and to 1 for 100°F or hotter.

Growing Season

Definitions of the growing season vary throughout the world, but for the purposes of this report, we define it as the longest continuous period of non-freezing temperatures (≥ 32°F) in the year (the calendar year in the Northern Hemisphere, or from July 1 until June 30 in the Southern Hemisphere).

The growing season in Grass Valley typically lasts for 9.2 months (281 days), from around March 7 to around December 13, rarely starting after April 9, or ending before November 16.

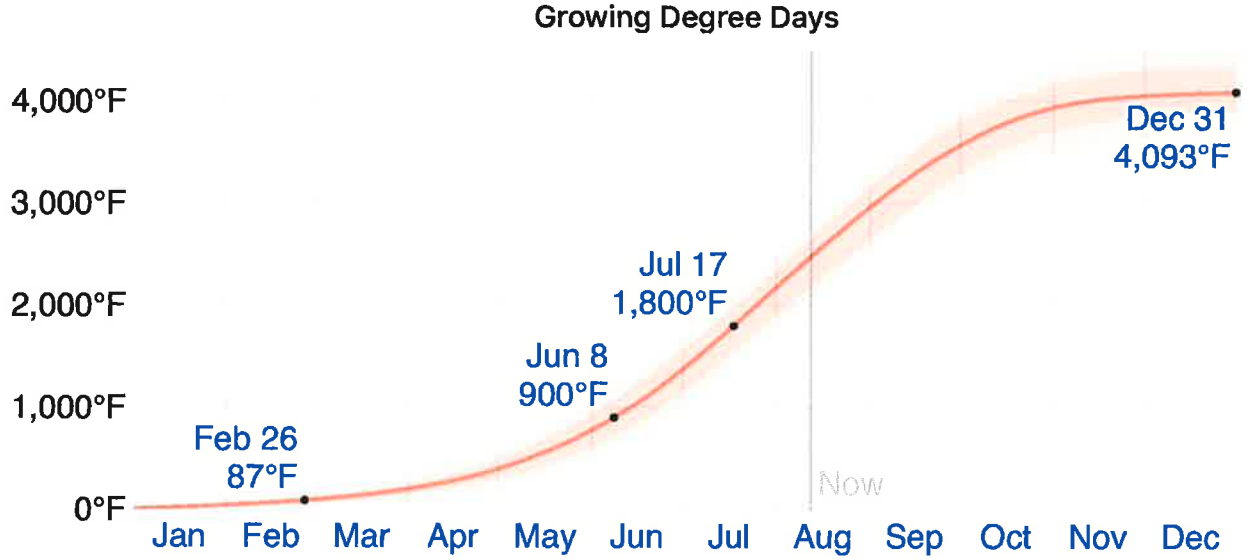
Time Spent in Various Temperature Bands and the Growing Season



The percentage of time spent in various temperature bands. The black line is the percentage chance that a given day is within the growing season.

Growing degree days are a measure of yearly heat accumulation used to predict plant and animal development, and defined as the integral of warmth above a base temperature, discarding any excess above a maximum temperature. In this report, we use a base of 50°F and a cap of 86°F.

Based on growing degree days alone, the first spring blooms in Grass Valley should appear around February 26, only rarely appearing before February 5 or after March 26.



The average growing degree days accumulated over the course of the year, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands.

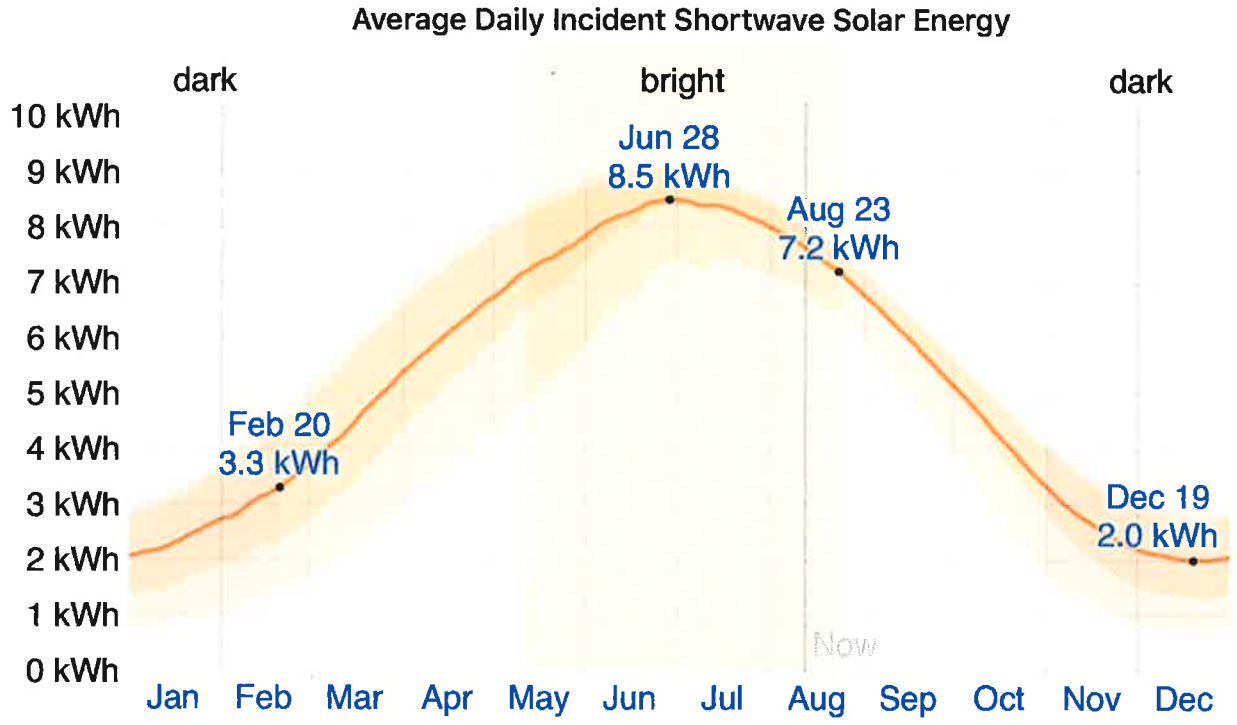
Solar Energy

This section discusses the total daily incident shortwave solar energy reaching the surface of the ground over a wide area, taking full account of seasonal variations in the length of the day, the elevation of the Sun above the horizon, and absorption by clouds and other atmospheric constituents. Shortwave radiation includes visible light and ultraviolet radiation.

The average daily incident shortwave solar energy experiences extreme seasonal variation over the course of the year.

The brighter period of the year lasts for 3.4 months, from May 11 to August 23, with an average daily incident shortwave energy per square meter above 7.2 kWh. The brightest day of the year is June 28, with an average of 8.5 kWh.

The darker period of the year lasts for 3.6 months, from November 1 to February 20, with an average daily incident shortwave energy per square meter below 3.3 kWh. The darkest day of the year is December 19, with an average of 2.0 kWh.



The average daily shortwave solar energy reaching the ground per square meter (orange line), with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands.

Topography

For the purposes of this report, the geographical coordinates of Grass Valley are 39.219 deg latitude, -121.061 deg longitude, and 2,477 ft elevation.

The topography within 2 miles of Grass Valley contains significant variations in elevation, with a maximum elevation change of 764 feet and an average elevation above sea level of 2,545 feet. Within 10 miles contains significant variations in elevation (3,412 feet). Within 50 miles also contains extreme variations in elevation (9,298 feet).

The area within 2 miles of Grass Valley is covered by shrubs (61%), artificial surfaces (19%), and trees (13%), within 10 miles by shrubs (52%) and trees (35%), and within 50 miles by trees (45%) and cropland (19%).

Data Sources

This report illustrates the typical weather in Grass Valley, based on a statistical analysis of historical hourly weather reports and model reconstructions from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 2016.

Temperature and Dew Point

There are 3 weather stations near enough to contribute to our estimation of the temperature and dew point in Grass Valley.

For each station, the records are corrected for the elevation difference between that station and Grass Valley according to the International Standard Atmosphere (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Atmosphere), and by the relative change present in the MERRA-2 satellite-era reanalysis (https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/reanalysis/MERRA-2/) between the two locations.

The estimated value at Grass Valley is computed as the weighted average of the individual contributions from each station, with weights proportional to the inverse of the distance between Grass Valley and a given station.

The stations contributing to this reconstruction are: Nevada County Air Park (/y/149703/Average-Weather-at-Nevada-County-Air-Park-California-United-States-Year-Round) (67%, 5.0 kilometers, east); Auburn Municipal Airport (/y/145263/Average-Weather-at-Auburn-Municipal-Airport-California-United-States-Year-Round) (24%, 29 kilometers, south); and Beale Air Force Base (/y/145271/Average-Weather-at-Beale-Air-Force-Base-California-United-States-Year-Round) (9%, 33 kilometers, west).

Other Data

All data relating to the Sun's position (e.g., sunrise and sunset) are computed using astronomical formulas from the book, Astronomical Algorithms 2nd Edition (https://www.amazon.com/Astronomical-Algorithms-Jean-Meeus/dp/0943396611), by Jean Meeus.

All other weather data, including cloud cover, precipitation, wind speed and direction, and solar flux, come from NASA's MERRA-2 Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis (https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/reanalysis/MERRA-2/). This reanalysis combines a variety of wide-area measurements in a state-of-the-art global meteorological model to reconstruct the hourly history of weather throughout the world on a 50-kilometer grid.

Land Use data comes from the Global Land Cover SHARE database (http://www.fao.org/land-water/land/land-governance/land-resources-planning-toolbox/category/details/en/c/1036355/), published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Elevation data comes from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) (http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/), published by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Names, locations, and time zones of places and some airports come from the GeoNames Geographical Database (http://www.geonames.org/).

Time zones for airports and weather stations are provided by AskGeo.com (https://askgeo.com/).

Maps are © Esri, with data from National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, and iPC.

Disclaimer

The information on this site is provided as is, without any assurances as to its accuracy or suitability for any purpose. Weather data is prone to errors, outages, and other defects. We assume no responsibility for any decisions made on the basis of the content presented on this site.

We draw particular cautious attention to our reliance on the MERRA-2 model-based reconstructions for a number of important data series. While having the tremendous advantages of temporal and spatial completeness, these reconstructions: (1) are based on computer models that may have model-based errors, (2) are coarsely sampled on a 50 km grid and are therefore unable to reconstruct the local variations of many microclimates, and (3) have particular difficulty with the weather in some coastal areas, especially small islands.

We further caution that our travel scores are only as good as the data that underpin them, that weather conditions at any given location and time are unpredictable and variable, and that the definition of the scores reflects a particular set of preferences that may not agree with those of any particular reader.

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 17, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Rise Mine Idaho-Maryland Project

To Matt Kelley and Planning Commission,

My name is Tom Heard. I am a Board Certified Entomologist Emeritus and have an undergraduate degree in Economic Zoology from Clemson University. Professionally, I have worked in urban entomology and pest control for the past 40 years. I reside at 11500 Brunswick Pines Road in Grass Valley CA.

A primary concern with respect to air quality, is how diesel fuel emissions will have a negative impact on honeybee pollinators. Following is an abstract from a peer reviewed scholarly journal for your perusal:

The Effects of Diesel Exhaust Pollution on Floral Volatiles and the Consequences for Honey Bee Olfaction - PubMed

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26424685/
NCBI homepageLog in

Access keysNCBI HomepageMyNCBI HomepageMain ContentMain Navigation
Advanced
Full-text links

The Effects of Diesel Exhaust Pollution on Floral Volatiles and the Consequences for Honey Bee Olfaction
Inka Lusebrink et al. J Chem Ecol. 2015 Oct.
Show details
Full-text links
Cite

Abstract

There is growing evidence of a substantial decline in pollinators within Europe and North America, most likely caused by multiple factors such as diseases, poor nutrition, habitat loss, insecticides, and environmental pollution. Diesel exhaust could be a contributing factor to this decline, since we found that

diesel exhaust rapidly degrades floral volatiles, which honey bees require for flower recognition. In this study, we exposed eight of the most common floral volatiles to diesel exhaust in order to investigate whether it can affect volatile mediated plant-pollinator interaction. Exposure to diesel exhaust altered the blend of common flower volatiles significantly: myrcene was considerably reduced, β-ocimene became undetectable, and β-caryophyllene was transformed into its cis-isomer isocaryophyllene. Proboscis extension response (PER) assays showed that the alterations of the blend reduced the ability of honey bees to recognize it. The chemically reactive nitrogen oxides fraction of diesel exhaust gas was identified as capable of causing degradation of floral volatiles.

In summary, the honeybees are unable to smell the flowers- leaving them unable to locate and therefore pollinate said flowers.

Here is another link regarding honeybee colony collapse due to diesel fume exposure:

Are Diesel Fumes Contributing to Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder?

https://entomologytoday.org/2013/10/03/are-diesel-fumes-contributing-to-honey-bee-colony-collapse-disorder/

This is an extremely valuable and necessary resource for local farms, orchards and apiaries contributing millions of dollars to our economy. Honeybees are also critical to food production and the entire food chain.

Sincerely,

Tom Heard
11500 Brunswick Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 277-3891

HANK MEALS
Research, Interpretation, Writing & Photography
PO Box 111 Nevada City CA 95959
hmeals@nccn.net
530.478.9637/ 530.559.5508

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley,
Senior Planner Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

August 17, 2020

RE: Environmental Scoping of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelley,
Below are my concerns about the proposed large-scale mining operations in our neighborhood:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Page 2 of the NOP:

"The proposed project would reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration / 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 industrial uses."

An 80-year permit? That's outrageous. Are there any other contracts with this long of a permitting period that Nevada County is currently engaged in? Are there monitoring provisions in place to insure that safety and land use provisions are followed?

CULTURAL/TRIBAL RESOURCES
Page 8 of the NOP:

"An approximately 1.25-mile-long by two feet-wide (approximately 0.30-acre) section of East Bennett Road would be temporarily disturbed to bury the potable water pipeline. Installation of the buried potable water pipeline would generally involve trenching, pipe placement, backfill, and cover replacement. Initially, an approximately 24-inch- wide by 42-inch-deep open trench would be developed."

A good part of this trenching would be in, or adjacent, to a southwesterly facing meadow with a gradual slope that runs to the South Fork of Wolf Creek. Given the elevation, aspect and

availability of water there is a high probability of finding indigenous archaeological sites, as well as historical sites, in this area. This is a good opportunity to randomly sample what, if any, sub-surface archaeological evidence there might be. As you know most archaeological surveys only address surface finds and visible features. To assure proper assessment of a site or "isolated find" the trenching should be monitored by an archaeologist, a cultural resource specialist or a member of the local Nisenan tribe.

Other Operations Details (Table 4):

The table shows hauling 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM, 7 days a week for 80 years and aboveground facility operations 24 hours a day for 80 years. This has to have impacts to air quality, water quality and wildlife habitat. It would definitely create a lot of noise. Please discuss the impacts in detail. Historically gold mining in Nevada County is notorious for encountering the unforeseen.

WOLF CREEK
I am also concerned with the health of the South Fork of Wolf Creek and its biota. A 100' setback is a pittance for a foreign company that hopes to make a fortune here.

Thanks,
Hank Meals

Dear Canadian Investors and Nevada 8-17-20
County supervisors hopefully not stup-
ervisors. Our County is one of the
fastest growing counties in calif-
ornia. Californians are choosing
our county as their move to des-
tination. Realistate is swarming in
the Residential industry. Minning
produces tailings and our rain is
Adidic Rain which falls on tailings
which occur in all minning oper-
ations. They Leach out Minerals and heavey
metals into our water here. The
Arsenic here is of the form of
a very water soluable Type which
is very hard to filter out, note
the Empire mine state parks huge
investment in pumps and huge ponds
and they are still unable to remove
the arsenic.

Nevada County has the highest
average per capital of Melanoma's
and Limph cancers in or state. There
-fore it is un appropriate to start
up minning again in this area due

too that we have not even recovered from the mining that was done over 100 years ago. (2

We also suffer from constuents of Air polution comming at us from china S.F. Bay area and sacrament that are combining with the mining waste on the ground that is already here. This is causing the formation of other notcious supstances like Bromate and Potassium Bromate a substance that is carsnegenic.

Myself and many of my retired friends moved up here years ago to get away from the toxic Legacy of mining and Industrial Develop-ment. Nancy Weben an E.P.A. Director for our area Did this above Listed study some 30 to 32 years ago right before she became an E.P.A. Director. The mining sites that were abandonded here were being cleaned up under the carter and ~~a~~balma administrations. But all cleanup has stopped since then. so no thanks

for more, or 265-7313, william Deleman (530) 557-5672

Martha Turner

10860 Dolores Drive

Grass Valley, CA 95945



8/17/2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

To all whom it may concern.

I am a local woman who has lived in Grass Valley and Nevada City since 1960, except for a few years when off to college. I've seen the evolution of our community over the years. My father was a weekend gold panner on a number of creeks and as kids we would play while he picked and panned for gold. We even had a mining claim off Jones Bar Road for a few years as my dad dreamed of riches. My sister lived at the gardeners' cottage on the Empire mine grounds before it was a State Park. I attended evangelical events at the North Star mine house when it was a private dwelling. I share this to make it known I have deep roots here and fond associations with the history of mining in the area.

When I learned about the intention of the Idaho Maryland mine reopening, I had to look more closely at what this would mean and what impact it would have on our beloved community. I have been reading and studying on the matter and have grave concerns on what an active mine, on the scale being proposed, and so close to town, would mean. I think it is easy for thinking based on ignorant nostalgia to influence common sense. I am grateful the application process is long and complex and that there are many thoughtful agencies responsible for making sure such an endeavor is closely examined and is not given an automatic nod. The consequences would be enormous.

From soon after Rise Gold Corp. purchases the mine from Emgold Mining in November 2017, concern for their not following the county grading guidelines for set-backs from the creek when building a simple road and pad. What sort of confidence can we have that they will comply with the myriad of environmental protection of greater magnitude when making money is their prime directive? I can only hope that we can learn from the history of mining and destruction to communities it brings.

I have read the Notice of Preparation line by line and from it comes my questions which are guided by common sense for I am not an expert on these matters. I request that the EIR addresses the following matters:

- The impact of dewatering the mine on the wells of people living, not just along Bennett Road, where they will pay for NID to put in a potable water line, but the people who live in the 2,585 acres of underground owned area that will be mined.
- Will the mining after dewatering continue to impact water aquifers and wells even when 500 feet below ground surface
- What will the blasting do to the aquifer?
- The noise and vibration for blasting and crushing and trucking so close to town and homes.
- 500 tons/day of barren rock is anticipated to be moved around the two sites so what is the impact on noise and the streets the trucks will drive on?
- 2.2 million tons of rock are expected to be moved in 6 years, what comes after that?
- Did I read this right.... A site will be built with all the barren rock the size of 44acres that will be 80-90 feet tall?! How will that impact the aesthetics of that area of our community? This is just the Brunswick site.
- What will be involved in decontaminating, consolidating and capping the Centennial site from the previous mine operations? (will humans ever learn?)
- What sort of dust will be generated affecting air quality?
- What security do we have that a 30,000 gallon diesel tank on site, on a known fault line?

- The exact composition of the "treated" water that will be discharged into South Fork Wolf Creek. Iron and Manganese seem to be only two of the possibility of many more contaminants.
- How will the water be treated? And how will 2500 gallons a minute being pumped out of the shafts be treated?
- What will the impact of so much water have down stream on the creek and the impact when the water is stopped? What will the erosion potential be?
- If the treated water is sent from the Brunswick site to the Centennial site by an above ground pip along Idaho Maryland Road and released into the creek on their own property, how will this be securely monitored?
- How safe is the clay lined pond they intend to use? Was it last used in 1956 when the mine closed?
- Will the value of private properties and homes in the area be lost due to the 24/7 noise, dust, traffic?
- Will the company bring in their own mine workers?
- Where will these mine workers live in a community that is short on affordable housing
- Will other similar mining operations be assessed as to their impact on all the things we are concerned about?
- If the Zoning is changed from M1-SP to M1-ME, what other industrial possibilities will our community have imposed upon us?
- What does it mean that there will be volunteer merger of property lines? Is this like eminent domain?
- What technical studies have they submitted to our county and how are they vetted?

I am sure I will have more questions but I need to get this submitted before 5pm today! Thank you for considering my "public input".

Sincerely,

Martha Turner - Martha Turner

530.632.3187

August 17, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
RE: Proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

Mr. Kelley,

In addition to all of the negative environmental impacts being considered, the EIR should further analyze:

1. ***The potential impacts on the health of surrounding forests due to aquifer draw down from dewatering the mine, and the resulting increase in fire danger.***

My name is Jared Dozal and I have been a citizen of Grass Valley, CA for five years. I grew up in South Lake Tahoe CA and studied environmental engineering science at UC Berkeley's College of Engineering. I am an environmental consultant that assists industrial facilities with environmental compliance and am very familiar with companies like Rise Gold Corp who have no interest in protecting our water and environment while lining their pockets with gold (literally). After reviewing the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, the Final Project Description from November 2019 by Benchmark Resources, and various other Project Application Materials available on the County of Nevada website, I am deeply concerned with the unavoidable environmental impacts that reopening this mine will entail.

So far, Rise Gold Corp has had a very hard time complying with some of the most basic Nevada County land use regulations that even a 10 year old could understand and implement so I am not confident in their ability to protect the local environment when the real dirty work begins. From removing a healthy stand of trees without a Timber Harvest Permit to neglecting to follow the simple minimum 100-foot riparian setback requirement for streams in Nevada County, Rise Gold Corp has already proved themselves as poor stewards and bad actors as this potential environmental catastrophe unfolds.

Despite the difficulty this company had with following the most basic rules in the book, they submitted an application to Nevada County for a use permit and reclamation plan to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine. As stated in your notice letter, "The proposed project would reinitiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration/mining to operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week during full operations."

Rise Gold Corp has likely already damaged local aquifers and ground water with their exploratory drilling that had no county or state oversight. Underground aquifers are complicated systems and any damage caused by Rise Gold Corp may result in irreversible harm to local ground water supplies (I studied Hydrogeology, Ground Water, and Seepage while completing my engineering degree at UC Berkeley).

August 17, 2020

Gold is extracted and goes away as lucrative profit for the mine owners while the local community will have to deal with the traffic, noise pollution, air pollution, water pollution, and serious health effects and other quality-of-life impacts left in the wake of Rise Gold Corps endeavors. Previous attempts to revive the gold mine in the 1950s, 1980s and 2010 have all fallen short due to financial complications AND community pushback. Public benefit from hard rock mining is extremely insignificant while the Public burden is enormous.

My family vehemently opposes the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We moved up here and purchased a home in Cedar Ridge for the peace and quiet of this rural community and brought our incomes along with us. My wife and I are both professionals working remotely and could have set up shop anywhere in California and we decided to spend our hard-earned money in this foothill town that we now call home. There are a lot of new residents in the area that moved here for the same reasons and work remotely as professionals, which is the equivalent of bringing jobs to the community. We support local businesses and pay local taxes and will seriously consider relocating if this project goes through.

The following are a few of the reasons for my concerns and objections to this project:

1) Benn Mossman's (current CEO of Rise Gold and former CEO of Banks Island Gold) history of fines and citations due to as many as 35 violations of Canadian Fisheries, Environmental Management, and Water Acts.
2) Significant noise pollution and ground vibration due to rock grinding, compaction, blasting, tunneling and haul trucks adversely impacting our roads and the tranquility of the surrounding areas.
3) Mine tailings dumped by haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day, at the southern end of the Brunswick Site near and behind homes on Mink Court, Elk Lane, Brunswick Drive, Cedar Ridge Drive and Beaver Road; and off Whispering Pines at the Centennial Site off Idaho Maryland Road along the edge of Wolf Creek. Dust from these operations will contain asbestos, lead and arsenic from the massive amounts of tailings, which must first be remediated.
4) Dewatering of the mine, which entails pumping treated (contaminated) water from the old mine, treating the water to remove toxic chemicals then discharging it into little Wolf Creek. Proposed discharge rates are approximately 2500 gallons per minute OR, 3,600,000 gallons per day, a flow roughly equivalent to flood stage for the creek until the mine is drained. Then, after the initial dewatering, ongoing dewatering would send approximately 850 gallons per minute OR, 1,224,000 gallons per day for the life of the project into Wolf Creek to keep the mine from re-filling with water. There is also the potential for negatively impacting local water quality resources and threatening privately owned wells. Contaminants mobilized in tunnels and waterways with increased discharge will impact water quality problems as well.

5) In addition to four industrial-size back-up diesel generators, the exhaust created from the daily use of diesel trucks, bulldozers, graders and compactors will greatly increase greenhouse gases and impact air quality in the area.
6) A seriously damaging drop in property values will occur for both residential and commercial properties surrounding the industrial complex and beyond, including the home I own on Cedar Ridge Drive.
7) The application to reinitiate the Idaho Maryland Mine states 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of these jobs, 242 are specialized technical positions likely to be filled by people recruited from outside the area. This would leave the remaining balance of only 70 jobs available to local residents which poses a question: would there be locals with the specific skills to fill those specific requirements for those jobs?
8) A potential decrease in tourism dollars could also impact our economy. According to a report by Visit California with help from market research firm, Dean Runyan Associates on May 7, 2019, "Tourism has generated millions of dollars for Nevada County. In 2018 alone, the county saw over $361 million in total visitor spending, $114.7 million in the food service industry and 3,770 jobs generated to accommodate for tourism. During that same year, county tourism created $31.6 million in local and state receipts."
9) Negative impacts on trees due to aquifer drawdowns resulting in more dead trees and increased fire danger.
10) No local public revenue would come to our community from mining beyond property taxes and any sales tax levied on purchases made by employees of the mine. The State of California imposes $5 per ounce of gold mined as an assessment fee collected by the California Department of Conservation for remediation of legacy mines on public lands. At the current gold price of approximately $1,500 per ounce, the Department of Conservation would receive $3,333 for each million dollars of gold extracted by Rise, Inc. None of these fees would come to Nevada County to remediate the toxic impacts of this proposed operation.

Green lighting this project will cause significant, irreversible harm to the environment, our community, and will leave another mess that requires remediation. The fact that reopening this mine is even a consideration is just plain insane. Do not allow Rise Gold to go through with this.

Sincerely,

Jared Dozal
Environmental Compliance Specialist
Sidera Environmental, Inc.
PO Box 1562, Cedar Ridge CA 95924
11388 Cedar Ridge Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contact Information
Phone: 530-648-4500
Email: jared.dozal@siderah2o.com

Jeff Brownwood, DO
16400 Lake Vera Purdon Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959
Jobcomm1203@yahoo.com
530 615 6649

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 13, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelly
Regarding the application of Rise Mine to reopen and work the Idaho-Maryland mine site: it is unconscionably short sighted to even allow the possibility of reopening via the process of NOP and DEIR because of long term health, safety, livability of our community. Just say no. I suppose the owner of the mine and mineral rights must be allowed due process. I thought the prior EM Gold owners had already been through this process and were denied.

I am a Nevada county resident of 22 years (7 years in Grass Valley and 15 years in Nevada City). We raised our family here because of the great community and the beauty of our area. Opening this mine would compromise both. The risks exponentially outweigh any potential benefit to our community. This is clearly a win-lose situation. Rise might indeed make some money, good for them, but at the significant cost and losses to our area. The balance of all aspects of the proposal must be considered.

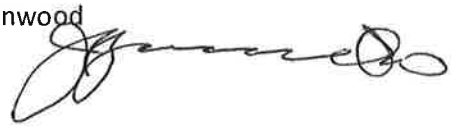
Concerns to be addressed in the NOP and DEIR
Health: Air quality of large trucks on the road 24/7, noise of the same plus running the mine, impact to water (wells, ground water and drainage) proximal to the project. What is the impact of the mine operations on well water over 80 years?

Safety: Impact to surrounding areas by disturbing the existing mine and dislodging hazardous material into ground and water. Trucks causing congestion and motor vehicle accidents or pedestrian and bicyclist injuries. Trucks damaging surface and highway roads, creating hazards.

Livability: Significant negative impact to Grass Valley especially, but to Nevada County as a whole. Who wants to live near or next to such a negatively impactful industrial process, tailings and such? Though I love our community and area, reinstating of mine operations this close to residential town centers would cause me to reassess my long-term commitment to living here. Regarding residents in the area, who will reimburse them for the loss of property value or impact to their water? What are the impacts to the natural resources, Bennett drainage, Wolf Creek?

These are just a few of the multitude avenues of erosion and destruction of the tangible and intangible valuable resources our community relies on. Please ensure that all facets of the impact of mine operations are considered in the NOP and EIR

I am glad to discuss further anytime. I appreciate you, and your department's, due diligence in this process.
Sincerely,
Jeff Brownwood



Rebecca Robles
12975 Mink Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945
408-394-9370
Beccar1r6@hotmail.com

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My name is Rebecca Robles and I am writing this letter to oppose the opening of the former Idaho- Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corp. My home is very close to the border of the mine property, I live at 12975 Mink Court which will be significantly impacted if mining operations commence.

The fact that mining operations have ceased in other areas due to various hazardous health, environmental and noise impacts should halt this consideration in the first place. Our county and its residents should not have to experience a repeat of history, with an industry proven to do more overall harm, then benefit from any financial gains presented.

My concerns with the mine operations are listed below:

- Health Concerns – Air Contaminants such as Silica Dust, Asbestos
  The proposed level of mining operation will essentially be a full-time construction site which will expose the air to many contaminants. One main factor of living in Grass Valley and within Nevada County is the fact that we have fresh air, nature and we are far away from any pollution. The appeal for residents and tourists/visitors is to come experience hiking trails and the beautiful outdoors we offer in this town.
    - Silica Dust – This dust is present in the airborne particles of sand and rock. The mining operations will expose an extensive amount of dust particles into the air. The exposure to Silica dust can cause a lung disease called Silicosis. The reality is that with this newly introduced exposure residents, including myself and neighbors I care about can become ill to the point of death in just a few weeks after exposure to high levels of this dust. The blasting, loading, dumping, hammering, cutting, drilling of rock or sand will cause toxic clouds of Silica dust.
    - Asbestos – Excavations, mining will expose asbestos from the rock if operations commence. The simple inhalation of asbestos will lead to serious illness such as lung cancer, Mesothelioma and Asbestosis.
    - How will this exposure be controlled to prevent such health hazards and what types of mitigation will be presented if such health impacts develop within the communities?
- Well Water – Primary concerns are wells potentially turning dry as a result of mining operations and water being contaminated with newly introduced particles.
- Traffic and Noise - After air pollution, noise and traffic will affect the health of our community, including wildlife. Traffic noise is heavily linked to stress-related health problems such as high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease. It can also be a major cause, not only of hearing loss, but also learning problems in children and sleep disturbance. Mining operations can be predicted to exceeded safe noise levels limits within the mine and nearby

residential area. Additionally, animals will choose to nest away from the noise, leaving their accustomed habitat and altering our ecosystem as a result. Allowing the noise will drastically impact the animal world and our human world which will diminishes the quality of life for all!

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the reopening of the Idaho- Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corp.

Thank you for your genuine consideration and time!

Rebecca Robles
Beccar1r6@hotmail.com
408-394-9370



PAMELA DISQUE HALL, DC
14981 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945
pdhall8@icloud.com
530-477-1829

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 17, 2020

Matt Kelley – By Delivery & Email

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I've lived in Nevada County for 35 years, from 1975 to the present, excepting a 10-year stay in the S.F. Bay area. I live on Greenhorn Road, 2.25 miles from the main processing center of the proposed Rise Gold Mine. I've continued to live here because of the abundance of natural beauty, the thriving artistic and literary community and the extensive locally grown and raised organic food.

Out of the vast number of threats Rise Gold portends for our community, and environs, I've chosen to focus my questions on the so-called Tailing Piles.

* Both tailing piles will go up to 70 feet in height, covering a total of 41 acres at the Centennial site and 31 acres extending from the main Brunswick mine area down along Brunswick Road. These would not be mere "piles"; they would be mega-mausoleums, commemorating what once was a vibrant cultural community in one of California's prime gems of nature.

* Would these toxic mausoleums be visible from the hospital, our junior college, business areas, residential areas, and along both Brunswick Road, and Highway 49, two of the four major approaches to our once beautiful community?

* Would this create an ominous architectural signature for our area?

* Would their height, in the event of an earthquake, create an unstable structure that could fall onto surrounding areas, causing devastation and death of people, animals, and vegetative life?

* Would the immense weight of these toxic mausoleums cause catastrophic collapse of the underling mineshafts, causing death and injury of people, animals and destruction of property?

* Could such a collapse, create it's own earthquake, causing further damage and deaths in the surrounding area?

Soil samples of the legacy tailings currently at the Centennial site show contamination from arsenic, cobalt, barium, mercury, thallium, chromium, copper, lead, zinc, cyanide, vanadium and nickel.

* Wouldn't the same toxins be found in the RG mine tailings?

* Would the great height of the tailing mausoleums increase the interaction with the wind blowing around and through them, causing toxins and particulates to create toxic smog and fallout?

* How far could the wind carry these toxins? Would there be a toxic metal dust covering our community?

* Would residents have to purchase air filters and frequently vacuum their interiors in an effort to feel clean and safe from contaminated air?

* Would there be a toxic powdery residue in our near by lakes, rivers, streams and *irrigation ditches*?

* Would the height of the toxic mega-mausoleums increase interaction with rain and snow, causing increased toxic dispersal into ground water, and Wolf Creek?

* Would these toxic residues sicken and kill humans, vegetation, wild animals, pets, horses, and farm animals?

* Would our organic farmers lose their organic certification because of contamination with toxic metals produced by the Rise Gold's toxic mega-mausoleums?

* Would those farmers then go bankrupt, perhaps lose their farms?

* Would people commit suicide because of the ongoing, ever increasing multifaceted devastation caused by the two toxic tailing mausoleums?

* Wouldn't the adverse health effects be greatly increased compared to the previous Idaho-Maryland mine, because of the massive increase in size of the toxic tailing mausoleums?

* Are there any scientific studies or data, of the health effects of the legacy tailings at the Centennial site that could be used to project the increased negative health and environmental devastation of RG's two toxic mega-mausoleums?

* Would the increased toxins in our air and water produced by Rise Gold's tailing mausoleums effect tourists?

* Would tourists choose to avoid our toxic area? Would the loss of tourism devastate our once thriving economy?

Sincerely,

Pamela D. Hall, D.C.

Pamela D. Hall, D.C.

Cc: Ms. Hall, Board of Supervisors

August 15th, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Matt Kelley,

I am writing to put forth my personal concerns, and those of my family, about the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I moved here from a metropolitan area to escape the pollution and forest degradation and water contamination. I want my home in these hills to be sustainable for many generations to come. I feel the reopening of this mine will counteract this goal, and sabotage my child's future.

Can you please explain the mitigation techniques to prevent runoff into our water table? What percentage effective have they proven in other such operations?

How will the increased Co2 from trucks/transports/etc. be offset?

How much additional traffic will be imposed on the surrounding neighbors?

What extraction chemicals are used in this type of mining?

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Jacob Brandon

2036 Nevada City Highway #430

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Mr. Kelly,

Regarding the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine: to be brief:

1. What is our relationship with this Canadian corporation?
2. What do we gain? Are we beholden to them and/ or to due process?
3. What is the reality of the importance of gold in this era, this economy? Is it really necessary to risk so much for the extraction of gold?
4. Can we resist this corporation's desire to pillage our community?

Please consider asking how gold will benefit the world right now.

Thank you,

Sara Brownwood

16400 Lake Vera Purdon Rd.

530-265-5732

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

EDSON HOLMES

13010 Mink Court
Grass Valley, California 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 16, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for a close, detailed evaluation of the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine by Rise Gold and to express our concerns and opposition to the proposed reopening.

Numerous attempts have been made in the past 25 plus years to reopen the mine. Each attempt has been met by many concerns from residents and environmental groups resulting in the ultimate abandonment of plans. Each time residents have been given the assurance that the mine would never reopen. In 2005 when the Fire Safe Council proposed operating a biomass energy plant at the old Bohemia Mill site, plans were abandoned because it was deemed by attorneys that zoning laws prohibited heavy industry at that location. Changing the zoning to industrial/mining use in a residential community seems ill-advised and sends the message to neighbors and the community that their health, security and property values are of no concern to County officials.

Our property located on Mink Court is in close proximity to the mine. Please study the effects and ramifications that dewatering will have on the water table in the surrounding area. Previous attempts to resurrect the mine have included monitoring of neighborhood wells and provisions that property owners would not be left high and dry. The proposed use permit states: "Construction of a potable water pipeline along a portion of East Bennett Road." Please address all other potentially affected properties and the need to provide potable water at no additional expense to them. Will Rise Gold cover the cost of lost water and of drilling wells to deeper levels to reach the revised water table?

Operating drilling rigs, pumps, and gravel crushing machines 24/7, plus the loading of up to 100 truckloads of rock and gravel per day is not a compatible operation in a residential neighborhood. Also, please include the effects of exposure to airborne toxic mine dust as it would take a toll on the health and well-being of the citizens in this community now, and for the 80 year projected operation of the mine.

The EIR also needs to address the problems associated with the use of explosives in a residential area close to schools and daycare facilities, plus the effects of blasting, drilling,

pumping and rock removal. What type of explosives will be used and how and where will they be stored? What security measures will be taken to secure the explosives?

Economic impacts on local technology companies also must be studied, along with the potential decline in property values. Findings could result in substantial tax loss to the County.

We feel an independent in-depth Environmental Impact Report is required to address these and many other concerns, setting forth detailed plans prior to any consideration being given to discussions of reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Sincerely,



Edson Holmes

August 16, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Department, Nevada County

Matt Kelley

Subject: Opposing Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine

I am so utterly concerned about this possible mine re-opening, I want it on record that I am DEEPLY OPPOSED to it. I am a homeowner off Greenhorn Rd.

After watching the disastrous events from the mine reopening in Jones Ridge area, it was made very clear that we are dealing with a lot of unknowns. Even if the EIR report were to come back with minimal impact (which I cannot imagine happening), unexpected things can happen when mining. Hitting an aquifer and draining water from all our wells, putting toxic waste in our water supply – not intended, but obviously could happen as past experience clearly shows.

Mine tunnels run near or under our property. What guarantees do we have of their stability when they begin dewatering?

What guarantees do we have that Rise Gold will be held accountable for appropriate clean -up of toxic waste they intentionally or unintentionally produce?

We moved here to be in clear air, near clean water and away from noise pollution. All of these basic qualities of life are now being threatened.

Our home value is also being threatened. We are retired seniors and are counting on our home appreciation for future options. This mine re-opening would certainly devalue our home.

There are so many negatives proposed by this mine re-opening with potentially disastrous impacts for our community and local watershed. The potential for profit, most of which will not even benefit our community, is NOT a good enough reason to risk our beloved community.

PLEASE STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW. DO NOT APPROVE PROPOSED REZONING OR REOPENING OF THIS MINE.

Sincerely,

Judy McGrain

Tom and Robin Milam
530 263-1483 • robin@the-milams.com
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 14, 2020

Board of Supervisors, Nevada County
Grass Valley City Council
Matt Kelley, the Senior Planner of Nevada County ✓

Subject: Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine - Accountability

We have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine and are adamantly opposed to the mine reopening. We are both long time Nevada County residents and homeowners off Lost Lake and Greenhorn Rd.

The potential for a disastrous environmental impact stems from all aspects of the mine operations. Gold and mineral mining is a "dirty" industry that creates toxic waste and has a legacy of environmental contamination. Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine poses a host of critical risks including accountability of the mining corporation.

This letter raises questions about **Rise Gold's long-term accountability** considering their history.

1. **How can our community be assured that Rise Gold/Rise Grass Valley assumes the FULL responsibility, accountability, and cost of preventing and mitigating a wide range of issues both identifiable now and the unknown?**

   a. **What vested interest does Rise Gold have in our Community?**

   Rise Gold Corp (formerly Rise Resources, Inc.) is an exploration-stage mining company incorporated in the state of Nevada, USA and is headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The company's CEO is Benjamin Mossman, a Canadian mining engineer. The company's principal asset is the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine purchased in January of 2017.

   Rise Grass Valley is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rise Gold Corp, also incorporated in the state of Nevada. Formed in December 2016, it is the named applicant for the permit application.

   This tiered corporate structure and Canadian headquarters raises questions about whether Rise Gold has a vested interest in our community. In the event of failing financial performance or an environmental disaster, are they prepared to maintain a long-term investment and accountability in our community? Their historical track record suggests not.

   b. **Should a mine failure or major contamination occur, what will prevent Rise Gold from declaring bankruptcy, dissolving the Rice Grass Valley entity, and abandoning our community as CEO Benjamin Mossman did with Banks Island Gold Mine?**

   The fact that the Centennial site needs contamination clean up after all these decades plus our own local Lost Lake / Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site are prominent reminders that failures do occur here at home. Furthermore, the Banks Island Gold Mine disaster is indicative of Benjamin Mossman's propensity to walk away when the going gets tough. Consider these actions taken under Benjamin Mossman's leadership:

   - Mining company's former president fined $15,000 for violating environmental legislation https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications/mining-company-former-president-fined-violating-environmental-legislation.html

Prince Rupert, British Columbia, CA – January 9, 2019, Environment and Climate Change Canada
On December 6, 2018, Benjamin Mossman, former president and CEO of Banks Island Gold Ltd., was ordered to pay a combined penalty of $15,000, in the Provincial Court of British Columbia, for violations of federal and provincial legislation. On July 13, 2018, Mossman was found guilty of one violation of the *Fisheries Act* ($7,500) and one violation of the provincial *Environmental Management Act* ($7,500).

On July 9, 2015, Environment and Climate Change Canada enforcement officers conducted a joint inspection on Banks Island with British Columbia's Conservation Officer Service; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. During the inspection, officers found evidence that Banks Island Gold Ltd. was discharging mine effluent into an unnamed creek and into Englishman Slough, both fish-bearing bodies of water. Mossman failed to notify any regulatory agencies of this issue, and, as a result, he was charged for and subsequently convicted of failing to notify a fishery officer or other designated person as required by the *Fisheries Act*.

- **GOLD: Banks Island files for bankruptcy** http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/news/gold-banks-island-files-for-bankruptcy/

  Vancouver, British Columbia, CA – January 11, 2016 by Canadian Mining Journal
  Banks Island Gold has filed for bankruptcy protection because it can no longer meet its obligations as they become due. D. Manning & Associations will act as trustee. Benjamin W. Mossman will remain president, CEO, and the sole director of the company. The rest of the board has resigned.

  Banks Island put its Yellow Giant project 120 km south of Prince Rupert on care and maintenance July 31, 2015. Commercial production was declared at the mine in January 2015.

  More information about the Yellow Giant project is posted at BanksIslandGold.com. [Note, this site no longer exists.]

The only realistic conclusion is that our community has no assurance that in the face of irreparable harm, Rise Gold Corp will maintain responsibility and accountability. In fact, we need to expect them to walk away which would leave our community ill equipped to handle the mess they abandoned.

In conclusion

What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative – potentially disastrous impacts for our community in both the short term and longer term. The only potential upsides being profit for the corporation (most of which will NOT stay in our community) and a questionable short-term profit for Nevada County. The long-term irreparable impact risk does not justify potential short-term revenues.

This proposal carries with it a high probability that if this mine runs into devastating impacts, Rise Gold will fold up and walk away leaving us and our beloved community bearing the brunt.

Please STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW and do not approve the reopening of this mine.

Most sincerely,

Tom and Robin Milam

Tom and Robin Milam
530 263-1483 • robin@the-milams.com
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 14, 2020

Board of Supervisors, Nevada County
Grass Valley City Council
Matt Kelley, the Senior Planner of Nevada County

Subject: Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Environmental Impact Report

We have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine and are adamantly opposed to the mine reopening. We are both long time Nevada County residents and homeowners off Lost Lake and Greenhorn Rd.

The potential for a disastrous environmental impact stems from all aspects of the mine operations. Gold and mineral mining is a "dirty" industry that creates toxic waste and has a legacy of environmental contamination. Locally we note the Centennial site requires cleanup of historical tailings and Lost Lake/Banner Lava Cap is an EPA Superfund site.

Furthermore, the Idaho-Maryland mine tunnels have been filled with water for almost 80 years and will require millions of gallons of continual dewatering. Water is our most critical life sustaining resource. It is a more valuable resource than gold. Reopening the mine poses a host of critical risks not the least of which is the impact to local and regional water in the face of a future in which water is becoming ever more precious.

This letter addresses questions relative to the **Environmental Impact Report.**

1. **From an EIR standpoint, all these areas and more need to be tested and clearly assessed:**
   - Poor air quality related to mining, waste rock and tailings removal, increased truck traffic, etc.
   - Pollution of our local creeks from mine water. The proposed treatment of water coming from the mine and increased flows will change and therefore endanger the natural habitat of Wolf Creek and beyond. Treatment of the water does not mitigate the impact to the natural habitat.
   - Greenhouse gas emissions generated by the tremendous amounts of energy used to extract tons of rock from depths of 5000 to 10,000 feet below surface level and pulverize them to extract the ore.
   - Noise pollution and vibration levels related to mining excavation/explosives, mineral processing, waste removal, traffic, etc.
   - Clean up of the current Centennial site and safe, effective ongoing cleanup of all mine operations and related sites estimated to be 1500 tons of waste rock and tailings removed a day.

2. **Without dewatering, what tests can be done to determine the stability of the mine shafts throughout the tunnels and thus the safety aspects of dewatering?**
   Testing water toxicity of the current state of the mine will reveal a set of diluted water numbers. Without dewatering, tests cannot reflect the residue levels of toxicity occurring from seepage, etc. after millions of gallons of water have been removed. Nor will Rise Gold know the stability of the tunnels until that point.

   What happens if after dewatering, the toxicity levels are too high and/or the tunnels are not stable? At that point damage to the habitat and potential damage to local wells will have already occurred.

3. **What will happen to our wells several years after the mine is in operation? Why would you consider pumping millions of gallons of water per day from our local underground aquifers for 11 years and then expect NID to provide water for those homes and properties whose wells cease to produce or are fouled?**
   - Rise Gold and NID have identified a small area around the site which is much too small a boundary.
   - Given the expanse of mining tunnels throughout our region (as demonstrated by the tunnel model on display at Empire Mine), what is the full potential impact to private wells in the area?

- Our home is less than 3 miles from the mine site. Our well is 630 feet with only a few gallons per minute. Many of our neighbors' wells are also already low performing.
- A dry well significantly devalues one's property and puts the onus for a new water source on the owner.
- Our home is beyond the range that NID has suggested they could provide water.
- Even if NID could extend its water systems infrastructure, what will be the cost/burden to NID's available water sources and the unknown impact of changing climate conditions? Who will pay for the infrastructure needed to expand NID's service?

4. **What will be the impact to our broader local watershed ecosystem? How can the EIR accurately assess the longer-term impact of 11 years dewatering millions of gallons of water per day.**
   As a community, we have been grappling with the projected impact of climate change and the unpredictable future snowpack will have on the watershed of Western Nevada County including surface and subsurface aquifers. As such, water is becoming an ever more precious resource. Disease, drought, and other watershed related issues have fueled major fire threats. The initial and continued dewatering of the mine will further stress our beautiful ecosystem and poses an unknown threat to local wells.

   We need NID focused on ensuring the health of our greater watershed, not attempting to backfill for water being pumped at rates proposed.

5. **What will be the impact to the Bennett Street Grasslands Preserve?**
   The Bennett Street Grasslands Preserve is a 7.64-acre Open Space Conservation Easement just below the Brunswick site and is bisected by South Wolf Creek. The preserve is owned by California State Parks and was a joint project of Bear Yuba Land Trust, State Parks and The Nature Conservancy. A small local treasure, the site hosts very large madrones, cottonwoods, and prime habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Birds, bears and small mammals frequent the meadows. Stands of native grasses and forbs cover the open meadows.

6. **What do traffic studies include with respect to a major fire disaster and evacuation in the Greenhorn/East Bennett/Brunswick area in addition to day to day impacts?**
   Fire season is upon us and our Firewise Communities are working actively with local officials to define evacuation plans and routes. In the event of evacuation, Greenhorn Road will be a seriously impacted. In a firestorm emergency, we could have over 1 thousand residents evacuating out Greenhorn to Brunswick. We are already extremely concerned about the number of vehicles that will be exiting that route. Add 250 employees of the mine and their trucks, it could exacerbate an extremely dangerous bottleneck.

In conclusion

What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative – potentially disastrous impacts for our community and our greater watershed in both the short term and longer term. The only potential upsides being profit for the corporation (most of which will NOT stay in our community) and a questionable short-term profit for Nevada County. The long-term irreparable impact risk does not justify potential short-term revenues.

This proposal carries with it a high probability that if this mine runs into devastating impacts, Rise Gold will fold up and walk away leaving us and our beloved community bearing the brunt.

Please STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW and do not approve proposed rezoning or reopening of this mine.

Most sincerely,

Tom and Robin Milam

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner,

Nevada County, California

Mr. Kelley,

I live in Grass Valley and am concerned about allowing the Idaho-Maryland mine to reopen. There are so many issues to consider:

Air Quality - What effect will the proposed 24 hour diesel trucking of mining waste for an unknown number of years have on our community and the climate. Consider the dust, the fumes, damage to our roads and tons of CO_2 added to the atmosphere. The CO_2 causes worldwide damage which should be mitigated perhaps by using battery powered trucks and loaders which also cause environmental damage during the manufacturing process.

Water Quality - Why should we allow the disposal of potentially toxic waste water into a local stream without processing to remove contaminates. The company is expecting to profit from the mine. The water disposed of should be as clean as the current water in the stream. It's time to make miners pay to mitigate damage to the environment. If the water is dumped without processing, what effect will the process have on ground water quality over an extended period of time. If local residents with water wells find their water quality compromised, who will pay the cost of hooking them up to NID and pay their future water bills?

Ground Water Quantity - How much water use is associated with mining operations? If it comes from a well on the mine property, Is it enough to lower local ground water. If so, who will pay to drill existing wells deeper? If it comes from NID how will that effect water availability and rates for existing residents?

Noise - The noise associated with 24 hour trucking is one of the unexpected issues associated with fracking. It can be rather severe. People can learn to live with it; but, why should they? It lowers the quality of life for the existing residents. How are they compensated?

I don't believe the mine should be reopened for all the issues above. The mine may benefit the mining company and it's shareholders; but, our community will absorb the externalities. Socialism for the mining company, capitalism for the community. Let's leave the gold in the ground where it belongs.

Sincerely,

Edward Nold, Jr.

191 Ryans Lane Grass Valley, CA 95945

H: 530-446-6826 C: 530-557-5215 E: edw-nold@sbcglobal.net

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

191 Ryans Lane

Grass Valley CA 95945

14 August 2020

Dear Nevada County:

I am writing today to express my concern for reopening the Idaho Maryland gold mine. Nothing good can come from an environmentally devastating concern that only benefits the wealthy owners and not the community. Please do not grant permission for this endeavor.

Sincerely.

Mary Rank RN MSN FNP

191 Ryans Lane

Grass Valley CA 95945

15 August 2020



Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Nevada County

Mr. Kelly:

I am a tax paying resident of Grass Valley and I have multiple concerns with the proposed reopening of Idaho Maryland mine. I am writing today to let you know my thoughts. Please include analyses of the impact on noise pollution, air and water quality, traffic, and hazardous waste in your environmental report.

Haven't we learned anything from our past mistakes? Mining is a community devastating endeavor that only benefits the greedy. Leave the gold in the ground and tell the mining industry to find another way to make a living (not a killing).

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mary F Rank

Mary F. Rank RN NP MSN

9/16/20

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To Whom it may concern,

I cannot believe that with your knowledge of the toxic gold mining history of Grass Valley and what past mining activities have left and the expense to try to clean it up, that you are even considering allowing a mine to open. New construction for a store or shopping center jump through hoops before approval and they certainly do not have the impact of what mining activity would have. How could you justify a noisy, dirty, toxic, traffic abomination, possibly well- draining activity like mining **in our town.** They want to run the mining operation 24 hours a day? Heavy noisy trucks every 5 minutes or so day and night?

Do you think the mine owners are concerned about what is good for Grass Valley? I think not! Your job is to review the impact a mine would have on our community and protect the quality of life in Grass Valley. Not let something as impactful as a mine disturb and destroy the tranquility of our area. This area is truly special. People come to visit and because of its qualities they return to stay.

I know the jobs that the mine **might** bring to the area and tax revenue are the main consideration for allowing the mine to re-open. It is always the money. What a shame. My question would be is it worth it? There are other options to bring revenue to Grass Valley. With the change in the job market that is developing due to covid19 our area is now positioned to be a prime area for relocation of high paying technical jobs for families that seek a better quality of life than is available in the big cities. Would it be a good decision to allow this mining operation in our town? No!

I have thought that it would be a wonderful idea to turn the corner of Brunswick and Bennett into a park. After the cleanup we would have to do because of the previous toxic mine operation we could have a park with a small lake for summer outings and then possibly an ice-skating rink in the winter. A park would be an asset not a liability. If there can be an ice-skating rink in Sacramento in the winter there sure could be one here. It seems like a natural. It would bring something special to our community. We would not be allowing a repugnant consequence of our decision.

Please think beyond the dollars. Think long term. What would be best for the people of Grass Valley and its future.

I encourage you to make the best decision for Grass Valley's quality of life..

Loretta Merritt

14619 Anchor Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

530 273 2907

I was sitting on my deck watching an eagle wheeling thru the trees.
My pleasure at this beauty clouded when I realized the new mine would probably chase the eagles away.
This season of COVID has shown us that the birds come back to the cities when the traffic dies down.

Our granddaughter came to be with us for her 2nd. Birthday.
She is the youngest living heir to the pooled family wealth
that enables us to inhabit this particular beautiful piece of Eden.
We think terms of living out our retirement days,
working with the water, soil, trees, gardens and buildings
and making it a nicer place for our progeny.
In the time the planned mine would run, 80 years,
that toddler will become a mother,.a grandmother, and a great grandmother.
All those children will be affected before that industrial curse is lifted.

While I don't have ready an engineer-like metric for computing as a number :"What price beauty?"
I know it is valuable and that people will move into or away from an area because of it.

Further, as this time of COVID has also shown us,
This is the information age and an increasing number of the highest paying jobs
yield products that are information, transportable electronically.
Such workers are not tied any longer to commute traffic lanes and tall buildings,
but are free to live anywhere the electronic networks reach.
Many of us have already chosen to live here and the trend is growing stronger.
Over the next 80 years people will decide to move here or not
depending on whether it is incessent noise, smog and toxic waste; or not.
This in turn will lower the price of our property for 80 years.
Perhaps from that a realtor can compute a metric, they will certainly be hit by it,
The mine would depress the housing market for 80 years.

Something easier to compute is water.
I am told the water is to be pumped out the mine and that the water table would be lowered.
People would lose their wells.
I am afraid of losing my well. I want to see proof that will not happen.
It is said that NID water would be provided to those that lose their wells,
Clearly well owners would need to be compensated for at least 80 years NID costs.

Arsenic and other toxins being brought out of the deep earth as water and dust to expose humans is another issue.
To see the problem one need only look at the Empire Mine State Park area only two miles away.
Tailings frrom the various mines have high levels of arsenic.
Somewhat heroic efforts to remediate the arsenic in the water with cat tail and willow ponds appear to yield only marginal results.
What expectation can we have that this Canadian company,
whose environmental track record, so I am told, is not so good,
will be able to do any better?

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Matt Kelley

From: Deborah Cole
Bruce Klimesh
13935 Glenn Pines
Grass Valley

RECEIVED
AUG 07 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 3, 2020

Just a reminder – Mining in Grass Valley

Does anyone remember, or looked up, what happens to old, unused mines?

The Banner Lava Cap mine is an example.

An old, rotted-out, settling-pond dam gave way and sent thousands of tons of sludge and contaminants down Clipper Creek to Lost Lake. We were on the Super fund list for a very long time while they did the cleanup—not to mention all the trucks that carried the waste away clogging traffic on Greenhorn Road for months...

Now back to the case in hand:

1. Where will all the ground water go that they plan to pump out? OMG Downhill—Watch out Penn Valley and all points South and East—Wasn't that part of the problem in the 50's?
2. Contamination will also be a problem. Arsenic was used as one of the chemicals when the Empire and Pittsburgh mines were in operation. There was a sign at the Empire that said, "Do not cross here—Arsenic contamination."
3. We are also talking about tons of sludge--not just rock—trucks running day and night, noise pollution.
4. Where is all this waste going to be dumped? Our dump is on a side hill (bad planning to begin with), water seeps downhill so that option is out. Oh, let's see, oh yes, Nevada sounds good—we'll grease some more wheels and contaminate some more of our world.
5. Have we forgotten fire evacuation? Two lane roads: 1) Greenhorn, 2) Brunswick, 3) Highway 174, 4) Highway 20, 5) East Bennett, and most of Highway 49...Really?

Now let's talk about all the many, many miles of old unused mines that already run underneath ground here. We could ask one guy up at Dutch Flat about that: it seems one fine day while sitting in his house a hole opened up, and down he went into a shaft, dead on arrival.

As we all know, Grass Valley, as well as a lot of the surrounding area, is over old mine shafts that are deep and full of water. So let's start pumping out more ground water and screw up hundreds (if not thousands) of wells and creeks and cross our fingers that downtown does not sink out of existence. The small businesses won't have to worry about Covid 19 because they will all be underground. Old Sacramento—Déjà vu.

The cave-in near Raleys is a very recent example of what can happen.

If the mines around here had continued to produce high-enough grade ore to make it feasible to continue, they would still be in operation today.

So now we may be forced to live with horrible noise pollution, emission pollution from thousands of trucks and mining equipment over a long period of time, as well as wells either running dry or ruined with pollution.

Our wonderful wildlife that depends on the creeks for their very existence will suffer. They have had to adapt their lives around all of us already. We do live in their house after all.

Our local government agencies need to stand up and say, "NOT IN OUR BACKYARD!"

PGE—SAY NO

NID—SAY NO

Court judges—SAY NO

Attorneys—SAY NO

Building permits and environmental agencies—SAY NO

Don't we have an existing low limiting building height somewhere on the books? No? Get it done—no exclusions please.

City Council—Please look beyond any money or special favors promised.

If we get to vote on this issue—PLEAE PLEASE VOTE NO.

Let's keep Grass Valley free of outside businesses that do not really care that our city and countryside would be ruined by their operations.

We moved here because it is so special... Let's keep it a wonderful place in which to live.

Very Concerned Citizen,

Marian Devincenzi

(530) 272-5201

To: Matt Kelley and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

We are strongly opposed to the re-opening of the mine at the corner of East Bennet and Brunswick. It will cause a major environmental and personal disaster. The loss of our pristine well is not acceptable under any circumstances. This is the outcome of mining operations in Nevada County. Most recently, it happened at the Siskon Gold Mine in N San Juan.

We want new, unbiased studies and reports on all the topics below. This is appalling and should NEVER be considered in a residential area. The mine site is only "light industrial" and should NEVER be rezoned to heavy industrial.

Aesthetics
Agriculture and Forestry
Air Quality
Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
Cultural Resources
Tribal Cultural Resources
Geology / Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Hazards & Hazardous Materials
Hydrology / Water Quality
Land Use / Planning
Mineral Resources
Noise
Population / Housing
Public Services Recreation
Transportation and Traffic
Utilities and Service Systems
Economic Study

Dr. Steven Goldman

Judith Goldman

august 5, 2020

12728 Baccarat Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-272-3120

RECEIVED
AUG 07 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 2, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RECEIVED
AUG 07 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. Kelley,

With regard to the Rise proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine at Brunswick Rd and Bennett St/Greenhorn Rd, I know you have heard the protests from my neighbors and many other residents within the County. Most of them are far more well-versed than I in stating all the detrimental effects this mine project will bring about so I will just say that the noise, dust, traffic, damaged roads, and air pollution could never be outweighed by the benefits our County may or may not receive from the mine. From what I have read, there will likely be no real benefits as most of the workers will come from out of the area and most of the profits will end up in Canada.

I have lived within a mile of the site, down Greenhorn Rd, for 26 years and I cannot even imagine how the County can entertain or even consider this proposal. How can the County consider risking the water levels of all our nearby wells, the purity of our water, the health of the air we breathe and the stability/safety/value of our land and homes? What kind of profit is worth taking a beautiful, near pristine residential area and turning it into an ugly, 24/7 industrial blight that would go on for 80 years?

The mine was closed in the 20th century and Rise wants to reopen it in the 21st century and run it right into the 22nd century. If the mine had only recently been closed, the area that grew up around it would be quite different from what it is now and reopening might make sense. But the mine was closed a very long time ago and what is being proposed makes no more sense than if we were to allow a nuclear testing site or a high-rise casino to move in. None of them fit the area!

I OPPOSE THE REOPENING OF THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE... AND YOU ALL SHOULD TOO!

Sincerely,

Linda Lanzoni

Linda Lanzoni
14149 Christopher Robin Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Matt Kelley

From: maryannemurphyesq <themislaw@protonmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: RISE GOLD- NOP Response/Murphy Response
Attachments: General Final Response to NOP.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see the attached Response to NOP

Murphy Law Firm
336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 802-5313
direct (408) 921-2338

This communication is confidential and intended for the recipient only. I

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

August 7,2020

Matt Kelley- By Certified Mail & Regular Mail & Email.

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please Consider this Response to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application. ("Project"). We reside at 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959.

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which if permitted would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City, Nevada County and in its neighboring counties.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas, and fuel.
15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exists sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.

19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, including but not limited to, neighboring County agricultural communities.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State and local routes, roadways, and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley, including but not limited to, those traveled by local school bus routes.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

NO ON MINE REOPENING

1) STILL CLEANING UP AFTER ALL THESE YEARS AT EMPIRE MINE. MASSIVE AREAS ARE ROPED OFF DUE TO MINING CONTAMINATES.
2) LAVA CAP MINE WAS FINED, NEVER PAID, STILL HASNT CLEANED UP & THATS RECENT.
3) NORTH SAN JUAN RESIDENT WELLS WERE RUINED WHEN MINE WAS OPENED NOT MANY YEARS AGO.
4) MINES DONT HELP ANY COMMUNITY. THEY USE AND ABUSE. CHECK OUT WEST VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY ETC. READ SOME HISTORY NOTHING CHANGES

SAME OLD THING
THE RICH GET RICHER
THEY USE AND ABUSE
THEY DONT DO WHAT THEY SAY
THEY HAVE NO CONSCIENCE, CONCERN OR CARE EXCEPT FOR MONEY AND
THEY CAN PAY AND GET AWAY WITH MURDER
THEY ARE GOING TO KILL US AND ALL ELSE THAT GROWS HERE

¡ FIRE IN THE HOLE !

RECEIVED
AUG 12 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Chanewalker

THE BRUNSWICK IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE SITE IS 1½ MILES FROM MY PROPERTY. SO IF THE CANADIANS GET THEIR WAY I'M SCREWED.

NO QUIET AT NIGHT / NO SLEEP
NO FRESH AIR / ONLY CONTAMINATES
NO MORE WATER / UNLESS I SUCK UP TO NID
NO MORE FOREST AROUND ME
NO MORE GARDEN / FOOD
NO HOUSE VALUE FOR GETTING OUT
NO PEACE OF MIND OR GOOD HEALTH

THANK YOU RISE GV.
(NOT)

Canewalker

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

RECEIVED
AUG 11 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 7,2020

Matt Kelley- By Certified Mail & Regular Mail & Email.

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please Consider this Response to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application. ("Project"). We reside at 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959.

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which if permitted would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City, Nevada County and in its neighboring counties.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas, and fuel.
15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exists sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.

19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, including but not limited to, neighboring County agricultural communities.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State and local routes, roadways, and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley, including but not limited to, those traveled by local school bus routes.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

July 20, 2020

10752 Alta Rd.

Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
JUL 23 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
LAFCo

LAFCo

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear LAFCo

I'm appalled that you are considering approval of a mining operation in Grass Valley by Gold Rise Corp. This is contrary to our peaceful way of life. Fifty huge trucks traveling on Brunswick a day, the noise and disruption, and the possible spreading of toxic dust will be detrimental to our community. Our area depends greatly on tourism. Such an operation will make our community less attractive to these tourists and their dollars. Let's look to the future, not to the past. I urge you to vote against moving forward with this project.

Sincerely,

Donna Levreault

George Chileski
P. O. Box 727
Cedar Ridge CA 95924
(530) 273-9777

August 7, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

My father came to Grass Valley to work in the Idaho Maryland Mine and other mines. Mining was and would be a good source of income, as the mines need workers. Those workers spend money locally which is a huge asset to the local economy.

Having lived less than a half mile from the mine when it was a sawmill, my wife and I experienced little to no noise from the work happening.

With the requirements from the State and the County, I feel strongly that the environmental impact would be mitigated making little impact on the neighbors, while being a good impact on the county as a whole.

I support reopening the mine.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the residents and the county as a whole.

Very truly yours,

George Chileski

George Chileski

Ron and Marsha Foster

14380 Mandolin Way

Nevada City, Ca. 95959

August 5, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170

Nevada City, Ca. 95959

Re: comments on opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine Project

We own the property at the corner of Centennial Drive and Whispering Pines Lane in Grass Valley, exactly across the street from where the tailings are to be deposited and then an industrial park implemented in the future. We think this is a great idea. This area needs a major industry with good paying jobs. Risegold has been a customer of our hydraulic hose shop for a number of years and they have been extremely pleasant to work with and we figure that they will continue doing business in this community the same way. People are going to complain about the noise and heavy trucks. 50 loads per day is not enough to worry about . We have heard that people think they are going to drive through Grass Valley creating more noise. Not true. They will take a direct route to this dump site from their Brunswick Road operation. Anyone in business knows that they will take the shortest route.

With the homeless population and the fires that are started in this area along with the drug trafficking and thievery this will be a welcome change. We are looking forward to getting rid of this homeless population as they are a problem everywhere they go.

Please open your eyes and see that this is an extremely regulated industry and it is not going to hurt the area . The regulatory guidelines are extremely strick when it comes to any mining operation and it will be good for the community. Both of our families lived through this mining in this area in the past as we will be able to in the future. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at the above address.

Thank you!

Ron and Marsha Foster

August 7, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley
Nevada City Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, Calif. 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I realized that I forgot to include a couple of points in my email to you, so am following up with a letter to include them.

I recommend that the draft report evaluate chronic environmental effects that this proposed mining project would have on residents and property in Nevada County, including the following:

1. Property values--how proximity to mine operations might adversely affect property values due to noise, air and water pollution, and aesthetics
2. The effect on private wells within a 10-mile radius of the mine, and what are their plans for monitoring them for water levels and low-levels of mining-related toxins and providing that information to homeowners on an on-going basis? How do they plan to compensate homeowners for failed wells and provide water to affected residences?
3. The impact of a massive discharge of water to Wolf Creek, watersheds, adjacent roads and land, and plans to mitigate it
4. Traffic studies--current traffic patterns in the area and with the Loma Rica development which proposes to build 250 residences in phase 1 with 1-3 cars / residence, and phases 2 and 3, which will increase it to 3 times that number. What will be the impact of an additional 50-100 round trips that the mine is expected to generate?
5. What are the benefits and detriments to the local economy? How many and what kinds of jobs will it provide? What kind of revenue will it provide to the City, and what services will the City be required to provide, and at what cost? How will opening the mine affect ecotourism, farming and cultural venues?
6. What kind of funding mechanisms will be set up by Rise Gold for clean-up of the site?
7. Is the City working with local advocacy groups, e.g. The Sierra Fund for effective information exchange to address issues of concern in order to inform enlightened decision-making by the Planning Commission?

I hope the City will take into consideration citizens' concern of the impact that re-opening the Idaho Maryland mine will have on their quality of life, and the attraction of this area to tourists, outdoor enthusiasts, and future residents.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Anne Bomberg

Anne bomberg
Grass Valley resident

Ann Somervell
13870 Cameo Ln
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
Asomer23@gmail.com
408-821-6678

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 6, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelly,
I have lived in my home in Grass Valley since 2007, 13 years of living in the most beautiful part of California. It is here that I am helping raise my grandchildren who live nearby. I am active in a spiritual community here, having developed very meaning relationships and have contributed to and volunteered in different organizations in this community. In short, I am very invested in whatever affects my home and community.

My letter today concerns the Idaho Maryland Mine. I am deeply concerned with several factors regarding this project and how it will affect the health of our community. I have a well that provides the best tasting water and has been tested to be very safe. That is very important to me. The quiet beauty of this community is very important to me. The health of the animals I live with as well as those animals that pass daily through my 3 acre property is extremely important to me.

I have been informed that the reopening of the mine could have a very harmful effect on everything I hold dear. Therefore I am respectfully requesting that the following items be carefully and fully addressed in the environmental Impact report.
1. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR should analyze the total number of wells that could potentially be impacted, with and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.
2. Hopefully the EIR would further analyze and consider the full cost of providing water to those home if wells became unusable, including connection neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply. How will private well owners be compensated for the higher costs of water if their wells are impacted by this mine as history has shown can and did happen to the Ridge residents years before.
3. A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised"water quality that would trigger action for private well owners remediation.
4. The full cost of treating wells for the full 80 year life of the lease if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.

In addition to the above. I am also very concerned about the noise and environmental pollution that will impact the whole Brunswick Basin and nearby areas. What measures will be taken to control these issues. How will traffic congestion and road deterioration from the heavy trucks leaving this mine daily be remedied?

I sincerely appreciate you addressing these concern fully in the EIR.
Thank you,
Ann Somervell

Ann Somervell

August 7, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Re: Environmental Impact Report study
Rise Gold Idaho Maryland Mine reopening study
Grass Valley, California

Dear Mr. Kelley:

In the following, we set forth our concerns for sufficient study that will result in identified mitigation measures that can be incorporated in an approval of the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine proposal:

As proposed for operation, there will be significant detrimental impact on nearby and surrounding properties as a direct result of projected increased traffic impacts (truck traffic), audible noise from operations and trucks, degradation of air quality, potential loss of well water from proposed mine dewatering, hazardous waste disposal and remediation, just to identify a few.

Under California real estate disclosure statutes, a Seller is required to disclose all known detrimental property conditions to a Buyer.[1] Unquestionably, the above cited potential impacts on nearby properties will require disclosure and that will very likely result in diminution or loss in property value.[2]

We would ask that the proposed environmental impact report study sufficiently study and quantify the economic impact on real estate values within the geographic region that can be reasonably projected to be impacted by the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Ketcham

Daniel R. Ketcham
11693 Brunswick Pines Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Cc. Community Environmental Advocates

1. See California Association of Realtors 1) Real Estate Disclosure Statement (required by CA Civil Code §1102 et seq); see paragraph C line 11; 2) Seller Property Questionnaire; see paragraph V. line 5 and paragraph K. line 1; 3) Seller Vacant Land Questionnaire; see paragraph V. lines 30, 41, & 42.
2. Randall Bell, MAI, "Real Estate Damages - Applied Economic and Detrimental Conditions", *Appraisal Institute*, 2008, 2nd Edition.

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

11367 Tree Top Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am opposed to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine.

The Canadian mining company, RISE Gold, proposes to reopen a long-closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley, CA. The health impacts associated with reopening this mine far outweigh any possible benefit. This project will:

- significantly and unavoidably increase local air pollution;
- increase noise, traffic and dust
- drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality
- inflict incessant blasting on the community, which will likely force several high-tech companies to relocate
- increase Green House Gas emissions by 20M tons
- create real potential for contamination from ammonia nitrate fuel oil
- severely impact residential property values if they change the zoning from residential to industrial.

I am so dismayed at even the consideration of allowing RISE Gold to reopen the mine. They are a company which simply wishes to profit from our county.

Please consider the population of this area and the devastating effects of mining now and into the future. This is a deeply unpopular idea and would only detract from the beauty of this land.

I oppose this gold mine.

Louise Renehan
Resident Nevada City

COMMENT LETTER - BARRY W MYERS

Date: August 4, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

From: Barry W. Myers, Resident of Nevada County, CA
(Home Phone: 530-477-8206)
(Email: bwmyers7@gmail.com)

Re: **Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by RISE GOLD Grass Valley**

After reviewing Nevada County's Notice of Preparation (NOP), I, as a Nevada County resident, have the following seven (7) concerns and need for additional information & data regarding the significant environmental and economic impacts of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal by RISE GOLD. **I request that each of these concerns and need for additional information & data be included and addressed in the County's upcoming Environmental Impact Report (EIR):**

1. **Economic Impact Study**: Nevada County residents need to see, review and collectively discuss with Nevada County governmental leadership the results of an independent, third party comprehensive economic **cost-benefit analysis** written study of RISE GOLD's proposed mining operation over the entire life of all mining activities. For example:

    a. *What will be the economic and environmental impact to Nevada County during, and arising out of, the proposed 80-year permit period of underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine?*

    b. *What is RISE GOLD's financial viability and track-record? What evidence is there that it is financially strong and able to perform each of the environmental plans, representations and other promises contained in its Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal?*

    c. *How will Nevada County be protected if RISE GOLD does not meet its obligations to the community? Will there be effective, demonstrable guarantees, such as 100 percent performance bonds, regarding timely remediation and environmental clean-up of the mining site, among other performance metrics?*

    d. **Note: Put the requirement of a full, independent environmental and economic cost-benefit analysis study into the EIR.**

2. **Public Hearings**: Nevada County residents need additional public hearings and better communication by Nevada County government to review this project's impact on the community and the anticipated scope of the EIR. To date there has only been one public hearing, held as a virtual webinar. As Nevada County leadership is aware, not everyone in Nevada County has access to nor adequate internet broadband to attend or view virtual webinars and ensuing video recordings.

a. *Is there any overriding justification for why Nevada County government could not extend the timeline by 45 days to allow for additional, timely communication and ensuing public input and comment?*

b. *What is Nevada County's plan to hold additional and timely public hearings for decision making on this project during its pendency?*

c. ***NOTE: Put requirement of a sufficient number of public hearings (with adequate public notice and multiple channels of communication) into the EIR to allow Nevada County Residents real opportunity to discuss, review and weigh in on EIR data and findings.***

3. **Noise Hazards**: Address and drill down on the noise hazards and their related environmental effects on the community arising out of 24 hours/7 days per week underground exploration/mining and above ground facility operations and gold mineralization processing and 16 hours/7 days per week for 80 years. (See Table 4 of the NOP on page 8).

   a. *How do we know what the environmental impact of these noise hazards will be on Nevada County residents? What data is there?*

   b. *What assumptions are being made?*

   c. *Has it been studied? If so, by whom and what were the results of the study?*

   d. ***Note: Put the noise hazard study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

4. **Traffic Hazards**: Address and drill down on the traffic hazards to the community and the related environmental effects on residents arising out of off-site large truck hauling of gold concentrate and engineered fill in large haul trucks 16 hours/7 days per week, plus freight deliveries to Brunswick Industrial Site 12 hours/day. (See Table 4 of the NOP on page 8)

   a. *How do we know what the environmental impact of these traffic hazards will be on Nevada County residents? What actual data is there?*

   b. *What assumptions are being made?*

   c. *Has it been studied? If so, by whom and what were the results of the study?*

   d. ***Note: Put the traffic hazard study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

5. **Environmental Cleanup Work at the Centennial Industrial Site**:

   a. Is it acceptable that such work be "voluntary" and not mandatory? (See page 7 of NOP).

   b. Could Nevada County require RISE GOLD to first complete the environmental cleanup work at the Centennial Industrial Site, before, they can commence mining exploration and operations at the Brunswick Industrial Site? **Put that requirement into the EIR.**

c. *Alternatively, could Nevada County require RISE GOLD to post a 100% environmental clean-up performance bond prior to any mining exploration or operation?* **Put that requirement into the EIR.**

d. Note: Mining operators' history throughout California, and more particularly, Nevada County, is littered with failed promises to start, let alone, complete environmental clean-up work. Nevada County needs to be proactive on this issue with a timely, enforceable, financial remedy/solution.

6. **Water Quality**:

   a. Water Treatment Plant at Brunswick Industrial Site: Address and drill-down on the proposed "water treatment plant that will use an above ground pipe to convey treated water from the water treatment facility to a discharge point at South Fork Wolf Creek. (See page 2 of the NOP).

      i. *How will the water quality from the Water Treatment Plan that is discharged into the South Fork of Wolf Creek be assured?*

      ii. *Has any third party examined RISE GOLD's plan/proposal regarding this?*

      iii. Note: Include the requirement that an outside, objective, qualified third-party assessment of the water treatment plan **be put into the EIR** and conducted with the results timely communicated and shared with the public & residents of Nevada County.

   b. **Dewatering**: Address and drill-down on the proposed solution for dewatering/treating the ground water that is present in the "underground workings", i.e., old tunnels, etc.

      i. *What are the arsenic levels in the ground water? Has it been tested? Adequately?*

      ii. *How will it be removed/treated?*

      iii. *Does the dewatering proposed plan (page 3 of the NOP) safely and adequately protect the environment?*

      iv. *Has RISE GOLD's proposed plan or solution been vetted and tested by an outside, objective, qualified third-party engineering firm? If so, what were the results?*

      v. Note: Include the requirement that an outside, objective, qualified third-party assessment of the dewatering plan, and arsenic levels, **be put into the EIR** and conducted with the results timely communicated and shared with the public & residents of Nevada County.

7. **Underground Explosives**: Address and drill down on how **explosives** are going to be transported to the mining site, moved, and **stored underground**. (See pages 3-4 of NOP.)

    a. *How secure are the explosive magazines that RISE GOLD proposes to use? What's the plan?*

    b. *What amount/volume of explosives will be placed underground? For how long?*

    c. *Has an outside expert been retained to analyze the plan for underground explosives?*

    d. *What is the possible danger to others, including miners/employees and nonemployees/public?*

    e. ***Note: Put an underground explosives study & detailed information requirement into the EIR.***

Respectively Submitted,

Barry W. Myers

Barry W. Myers
12465 Oak Circle
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 6, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley,

As a Forty plus year resident of Nevada County I would like to express my strong opposition to the Idaho Maryland Mine reopening. I feel it would have devastating effects on the area in general and the neighborhood in particular.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts. Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic

Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Sincerely,



Lauren Lewis
13859 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Tod and Donna Bowman
12467 Beaver Dr.
Grass Valley CA 95945

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave.
Suite 170
Nevada City CA 95959

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr Kelley,

We are writing you in regards to the proposed reopening of the mine at Brunswick and Bennett. We think this is a horrible project that is not in line with the spirit of the community in which we live. Yes, we live in a historic mining town, but historic means in the past. It is not good for the area NOW.

We live on Beaver Drive just above the proposed mine site. We currently have a productive well. We understand, chances of our well water being stripped away from us would be highly likely. Is that a fact? What provisions does Rise Gold and Nevada county propose to protect our water? Who is going to pay for our water when it goes away? Our home value would be decimated as evidenced by one of my neighbors losing buyers for his home already with just the fear of the mine opening. How will my home value be protected?

The traffic, noise and pollution generated by the mine and trucks will destroy the peaceful mountain area. We would only be able to remember the serenity, if the mine were to re-open. Again, what guarantees will Rise Gold provide so these issues will not affect our community, and our home and quality of life? Who would police this company so they don't further destroy our community.

Would the mine reopening really generate local jobs and tax revenue to out weigh the loss of our natural beauty in which we live? We think not.

Please know we are strongly against this project and think the planning department, the city of Grass Valley and Nevada County should be too.

Tod and Donna Bowman Tod Bow
Donna Bowman

John Mincks
12894 Greenhorn Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 5, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Dear Mr. Kelley, Senior Planner,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.

The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of

residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and operational noise impacts. Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and HWY 49/20 that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives. Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the

release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund cleanup site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund cleanup site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this cleanup is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term effects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive

analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compound; all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.

Additionally, if there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, which would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analyses must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting its conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be

any profit. This Canadian company will be making its profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every prospective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise Company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland.** For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Sincerely,

John Mincks
12894 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
530-274-1254

August 7, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Rise Gold, Idaho-Maryland Mine Notice of Preparation

ATT: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Please include answers to the questions the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening proposal raises. In reviewing the project description, background information, and a hard look at the history of mining in Nevada County and the legacy left behind there are many questions that need to be answered in the CEQA review before this project is allowed to advance beyond the EIR phase.

1. There are two projects seeking approval including the Idaho-Maryland Mine (IMM) reopening and the Centennial Mine clean up. Though they are under separate approval jurisdictions, implementation of both proposed project plans are dependent on both being approved. Centennial Mine is the destination for over one million tons of mine rock extracted from the IMM. Centennial Mine clean up requires massive amount of clean crushed rock to mix and cap the legacy contamination left behind from the last mining operation at that location. Should either project not be approved within the bounds of their current proposals, project descriptions would need to be revised and environmental review would need to start over.

   Question: How will the IMM project address not having the Centennial Mine land as a dumping location for one million tons of crushed rock should the Centennial project not be approved the way it is currently proposed? What would the IMM do with the one million tons of crushed rock if Nevada County conditioned the project to keep all rock at the IMM site?

2. What is the responsibility of mine owners to cleanup legacy contamination on their land and within their mineral rights before any improvement or utilization project is advanced?
3. When does the risk of harm to individual and community resources such as water quality and air quality over ride the rights of land owners to develop their property?
4. What steps can be taken to prevent mining operations from disrupting or contaminating underground water channels that serve local wells?
5. Is there a conflict between the economics of large scale mining and the economics of local tourism when the mine is close to residential, the City of Grass Valley, Rollins Lake, Cedar Ridge, and Wolf Creek?

6. Will an economic study of the impacts of the IMM project on the local and county economy be completed as part of the project review?
7. What will the public services required for project oversight cost on an annual bases, based on historical data from both the industry and Rise Gold past mining operations?
8. If the price of gold drops, at what point will Rise Gold walk away from the project?
9. Will bonds be in required at a sufficient level to complete cleanup and reclamation should Rise Gold suspend operations?
10. Will the IMM project hurt residential values?
11. Will the value of homes within one mile of the IMM project be impacted? Over one mile?
12. Is large scale mining compatible with residential neighborhoods?
13. Are there lessons, mitigations, conditions, or limits required to prevent a repeat of the problems the Siskon Gold Mine caused on the North San Juan Ridge?
14. Should old mines to reopened?
15. How will Wolf Creek be protected from past practices of the Rise Gold management?
16. What conditions are required to prevent legacy contamination from trucks hauling crushed mine rock from IMM to the Centennial Mine location?
17. Will the rock extracted from the IMM be tested for legacy contamination during the course of extraction?
18. During the life of the project will there be independent inspections to insure ongoing compliance with all permits, regulations, and rules?
19. What frequency of inspections do mining operations typically require?
20. Do mining operations in residential areas and close to small towns require higher levels of inspection than remote mining operations?
21. Rather than dumping treated water into Wolf Creek, can Rise Gold work with Nevada Irrigation District to capture the water for community use?
22. How will the EIR consultants screen out of their analysis any romantic mythology associated with Nevada Counties mining history?
23. How will the EIR consultants integrate into their analysis the legacy of contamination and waste left behind by previous mining operations throughout Nevada County to be cleaned up with public funds?

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the CEQA process.

Paul Schwartz

13812 Meadow Drive, Grass Valley CA 95945

530-272-2535

psschwartz@sbcglobal.net

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Robert White
13171 Wood Rose Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530 273-9679 bob@whitetool.com

August 11, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

RE: EIR for Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Since 1992 I have lived on Wood Rose Way across Brunswick Road from what is referred to in the project description as the Brunswick site. This letter represents my input to the Draft EIR for this project.

Ordinance 1853:

Ordinance 1853 adopted by the Board of Supervisors governs the use and development of the Bohemia mill site. That would be the site referred to as the Brunswick site with respect to the mining proposal. This means that simply changing the zoning will not suffice. This ordinance must first be abandoned or nullified by the Board of Supervisors.

The residents in the area have a "reasonable expectation" that the site plan accompanying ordinance 1853 would govern the use and development of that property.

Within the ordinance it dictates the site plan, use, and development that must be conformed to with regard to that property. For this reason the EIR must take into account the differences between the proposed mining activity and the comparable activity of the business park defined by that ordinance. As far as the EIR is concerned this aspect would affect the degree to which each mitigation measure is evaluated with respect to the effectiveness of that particular mitigation. This existing, and still valid, site plan would be the benchmark that the mitigation measures in the EIR for the mine would need to be measured.

Residential Expansion:

It must be kept in mind, and this is pertinent to the EIR with regard to evaluation of impacts, that the character of the surrounding community has changed drastically since the mine was last in operation. The use of the surrounding property has transformed from a very rural atmosphere to one of a high grade residential community. This was at least in part due to the absence of the mining activity. And after 1991 even the sawmill activity ceased. So the area affected by all the environmental impacts of the previous operations has been developed with that as an expectation. Especially when you consider that it was supported by law. "Ordinance 1853". So any suggestion or comparison stated in the EIR regarding previous use should be considered as invalid. In fact, if those mentions or comparisons appear in the Draft EIR they should be removed in the Final EIR.

Consider: If there were 200 homes affected adversely by reduced value of 10 percent as compared to where they would have been valued without the mine. And the average value of those homes was $500k. That would represent 10 million dollars of negative valuation to the neighborhood. That math is pretty simple. And I think you should agree that those numbers would be conservative approximations. I don't think the mine would be financially capable of offsetting that negative impact for the neighborhood.

I understand that the environmental impact report is prohibited by CEQA from considering social and economic considerations. That must be left up to the "lead agency" according to CEQA. I don't think the planning commission or the supervisors will perform their legally prescribed duty unless the public forces the issue into the process. If the County is formally notified of this economic impact and it is not addressed by the "lead agency" the County will be legally financially liable. Consider this letter as notification of the liability.

These are questions regarding the EIR and requests for inclusion in the EIR:

The project description indicates that the property at the Centennial site requires fill to be made usable for development. The EIR needs to include an assessment as to the benefit or detriment to the Brunswick site of the fill that is proposed for that area.

The project description indicates that the Centennial site and Brunswick site would be used for disposal of excess material removed from the mine for a period of approximately 11 years. The project is supposed to last 80 years. The EIR must address what would be done with that fill in the remaining 69 years.

There is an historical and nostalgic value to the aesthetics of the old silo. That silo would be enclosed by a building. This needs to be addressed under aesthetics in the EIR.

The project description indicates that post-project storm water discharge could be equal to or less than pre-project storm water discharge. How is that possible?

Only a small portion of Bennett Street is to receive NID treated water. The hydrology report assumes no other wells will be significantly affected by the mining operation. While that may be theory based on mathematical modeling it is by no means reliable. For that reason the area that must be offered NID hookup should be much larger. It should extend past the mineral boundaries of the mine workings. And the cost of that water should be supported by the ongoing mining operation for the full 80 years.

Because there is an existing site plan, backed up by an ordinance, the hours of operation must be the same or less of an impact than those that would be expected by the proposed business park. And as previously implied so should all other impacts.

The added fire risk associated with fuel storage on site should be addressed in the EIR.

These mining companies are notorious for violating the environmental conditions of their permits and the environmental regulations of the area they operate in. For this reason each mitigation measure that dictates conditions that must be met by the project, both in the initial stages as well as during the operational stages, must include effective enforcement requirements.

Because these enforcement guidelines must be part of the mitigation measures those mitigation measures should include the permitting for each phase be based on compliance of the mitigation measures. There should be prescribed measurable mandates set for each mitigation measure and permitting for continuation of the project should be contingent on the satisfaction of those mandates. Since this mitigation would be to protect the interests of the residents in the area a commission should be formed by the Board of Supervisors, made up of Nevada County residents, from areas affected by the mine operation, to oversee this evaluation of compliance to the mandates set forth in the permit for each stage.

Respectfully;

Robert White

Robert White

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To: Nevada County Planning Department

Attn: Matt Kelley

Re: Idaho-Maryland Mine

From: Robert and Margarita Fish

17222 Sky Oaks Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Senior Planner Kelley

I am writing to you today to comment on the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine, which has recently come to my attention. I will spare you the ranting, and raving that you are likely getting too much of regarding this proposed project however; I would like to – calmly – speak my mind, and raise some concerns that I know many of our neighbors are also worried about.

Dewatering of wells:

Our home has a well that produces only 3.5 GPM and sits due East of the mine. Very little change in the water table (aquafer) could render our home to be worthless. No water, no value, and NID is nowhere near us, nor do we wish to lose our well and replace it with piped water. We like being self-sufficient, i.e., not dependent on the City or County for water, sewer or (propane) fuel.

Rise Gold cannot guarantee that they will not encounter water bearing fractures, or water bearing faults, nor can they predict what impact said encounters would have on local wells. We know from experience what can, and often does happen to local communities when mining takes place in their midst. We need look no farther than the Siskon Mine on the San Juan Ridge.

Wells dewatered, wells polluted, aluminum poisoning, old legacy mercury disturbed and introduced into the aquafers and the air via crushed tailings.

Air Pollution:

A mine that runs 24/7 and exhausts the bad air from blasted rock within the mine, air that could be toxic depending on the explosives used, and the rock/mineral content encountered, will be a non-stop air polluter, including the release of vast amounts of CO2.

Will there be cyanide, asbestos, lead, arsenic, hydrochloric acid, aluminum, or other toxins that will ultimately leach into our soil? Moreover, will the filtration be adequate, and properly maintained? Moreover, how does one filter the dust from truckloads of crushed tailings? I am sure our Canadian friends will swear that all will be good, and that they will mitigate any issues that arise, but once this project has been approved individual homeowners will be fighting attorneys who are on retainer to the mine, and being financially drained when trying to gain restitution and reclaim their health, and quality of life.

Water Pollution:

How effective will the settling ponds be, especially during heavy rains? How much contaminated water will be sent down Wolf Creek, water that could include the toxins listed in the above paragraph? Moreover, during heavy rains, will the water leaving the settling ponds added to the heavy rain create erosion, or worse? Our creeks, lakes and rivers, and the wildlife depending on them are very sensitive to pollutants.

Transport of Explosives:

This one is self-explanatory; a mine that operates 24/7 will be using large amounts of explosives. Those explosives have to travel on our roads, streets and freeways. Will we have to worry for the next 80 years if the truck traveling next to us might have a faulty load of explosives that could explode, especially in the event of a traffic accident?

Highway Damage:

Speaking of roads, streets, and highways, how will the moving of 1,000 tons of crushed rock a day impact our streets? How will the corresponding truck traffic affect traffic patterns on our local streets? I understand that there will be a certain amount of tax revenue generated from the mine, but will it be enough to compensate for the destruction of our roads? I seriously doubt it. Having worked in the construction industry for over 45 years, I can say without any doubt that the damage caused by 40 to 50 ton non-stop loads will wreak havoc on our streets.

Noise Pollution:

What peace will the neighboring homes have with a mine operating near them 24/7? I have no problem with mines and see them as necessary however; starting up a mine in the middle of a city seems to me to be a horrible idea. Constant blasting, loading crushed rock on trucks, truck traffic; the surrounding homes will become worthless.

Property values:

Let us look at this from a financial perspective, a perspective from City, County and individual homeowners. Not only will the opening of this mine destroy the value of homes in the immediate vicinity, but due to all of the concerns listed above, it will lower the value of many homes in our area.

Even if the dewatering does not destroy wells, and I believe strongly that it will, this area will lose much of its appeal, especially to those looking for an area to retire, or for families with small children not wanting to risk the air pollution generated by the mine.

Lower property values equals' lower property tax revenue. Simply stated, this project will be a net financial loser for our City and County. Moreover, how will the lost revenue be made up? Well of course, our taxes will be raised to compensate.

In conclusion Mr. Kelley I can only see this as a win-win for the Canadian company (Rise Gold) that wants to open the mine, but a lose-lose for the citizens of Nevada County. In the best of outcomes, I do not see

a benefit for the good people of Grass Valley, Nevada City, but I can see far too many potentially devastating outcomes, and once approved, then how do we put the genie back in the bottle? How do we put the lid back on Pandora's Box? We do not!

Nevada County has a rich history of mining, but also has many scars and numerous unresolved environmental issues left behind due to mining. While we can romanticize about the days of the 49er's, there is nothing romantic about destroying the lives of hundreds, or even thousands of citizens of this community who have invested much, perhaps all of their life savings to purchase retirement homes or homes where they are raising their children.

The days of large-scale mining in Grass Valley and Nevada City are well behind us. Let us keep it that way.

Best Regards,

Robert and Margarita Fish

17222 Sky Oaks Lane

Grass Valley, CA 95945

bobnrita22@att.net

530-205-7512



Mrs. Judy Askins
14322 Talking Pines Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt Kelley, Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave. Ste. 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 9, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to you to express my deeply disturbing and extreme objections to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have a great many legitimate reasons on which I base my heartfelt beliefs.

First, I would like to express my emotional concerns. Grass Valley is steeped in history as an OLD mining town. This history should remain in the past. When we think of the past history, we are able to romanticize those days. However, the results from the mining in the past is a good lesson in terms of why this particular history should not be repeated. It is also important to note that every other attempt to open the mine has not been approved. Those reasons have not changed. I fear what has changed is the increased value of gold. Surely that is the developer's main incentive. Gold, at what price? While there would be additional jobs that would help our community, again, I ask "At what price?" I believe there are other, less damaging ways to improve our unemployment rate, that would not harm or disturb the citizens of our county.

Now on a statistical, factual level, here are the many reasons reopening the mine would be ridiculously counter productive and a down right despicable assault on the citizens of our county. By the way, I'm sure you are well aware of these facts, and I implore you to truly imagine the many severely negative impacts they would have on our peaceful, quiet, scenic community. As outlined, they would obliterate the very reasons the people of Grass Valley moved here in the first place and why they continue to find this region so desirable. I also believe these would diminish our important and profitable tourist trade and future residents.

The construction of the above-ground buildings is estimated to take 18 months, including a 65' tall processing plant. The exterior construction would occur between 7am and 7pm Monday through Saturday and constructions of inside the buildings would be done 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! The noise and traffic generated by this would have to be endured for 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, for a year and a half! This is not acceptable and totally unrealistic to expect the neighbors to tolerate.
In addition, the water flooding the mine will have to be pumped out before work could commence. The estimates vary, but we are talking anywhere from 576 million gallons, to 815 million gallons. Needless to say, that is a tremendous amount of water.

Next, take into consideration that mining operations both move ground and below ground would go on 24 hrs a day, every day of the week for 80 years! I repeat, 80 years! No possibility of turning back.
Then there is the intrusive and disturbing exterior lights that would be mounted 20 feet off the ground and would total 103,347 lumens that would be on every single night.

Let's now imagine the 1.500 tons of rock that would be removed from the mine. The rock would be hoisted 85' above the surface and dropped onto a steel chute located inside the existing concrete silo that we can see from Brunswick and Eat Bennet roads. From the silo, a chute and a 335' conveyor system would transfer the rock into the processing plant. Gold-bearing rock would be ground down in a grinding mill to facilitate extracting the gold. Each and every dy, 1,00 tons of non gold bearing would be loaded into metal trailers attached to diesel truck. The noise and pollution form this is unbearable and unacceptable. And for the next 4-5 years, the fill would have to be hauled from the Brunswick site to Rise GV's Centennial Industrial Site which is bordered by Idaho-Maryland Road, Centennial Drive and the DeMartini RV site. These trucks would make runs from 6am until 10:00pm, again, 7 days a week. I ask you to image the traffic and pollution this would cause.

In approximately 7 years, 2.2 million tons of fill would be deposited on 31 acres at the Brunswick site. In order to accommodate the fill, approximately 18.7 acres of tress would be removed from the forest between the mine site and the houses on Beaver, Mike, Elk Lane, and Cedar Ridge Drive. Are you imagining the impact of this on the residents of that area and the thousands of people that travel this route? Additionally, the fill would be piled 80-90 feet above ground level until it reaches about 2,800 feet in elevation. An eyesore to say the least. It would need to be compacted and worked by bulldozers and graders. Are you familiar with those annoying backup warning beeps? And how about the traffic? This would go on for about 5 years!

Furthermore, after the Brunswick site has reached capacity, the fill will again be hauled off site from 6:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night, 7 days a week! Trucks would be making this round trip between 50 and 100 times a day for the next 70 years ad we don't even know where this fill would be taken. I can't imagine anyone being willing to live under these conditions. What would happen to this quiet environment and the enjoyment it provided to so many?

Now let's consider the impact on air and water:
Air from the mine would be exhausted through the mine's head frame at approximately 165' above ground. The ventilation fan exhausting the air would operate continuously 24 hrs. a day, every day at 200,000 cubic feet per minute. Now factor in that the mine expects to use almost a ton of ammonia nitrate fuel oil and 257 detonators every single day to blast through rock! Added to the unbearable noise pollution this would produce, those fumes would be vented into our neighborhood and beyond, along with other chemical and physical contaminants. Keep in mind, that there is no way to calculate exactly where the wind would carry the exhaust and harmful particles. This is unacceptable from a health standpoint and an ethical one.

Now let's take the water issues into consideration. Once dewatered, natural groundwater would continue to flow into the underground workings. That water would also have to be pumped out at a rate of approximately 1,224,000 gallons a day! I ask you to seriously consider the houses that Rise Gold would have to pay along East Bennet Road to be hooked up to NID if the owners wish. Everyone knows that the quality of NID water is not comparable to natural well water. Plus, home owners who previously had free well water would now have to pay a monthly NID water bill. Would you be in favor of that? And imagine the impact on those whose well may go dry from dewatering. There are no provisions for them.

I honestly can not imagine how you or anyone else could possibly be in favor of these devastatingly negative and harmful impacts this would have in our lovely community.

On behalf of myself and the many people who are not aware of these facts, I implore you to prevent the reopening of the mine.

Most sincerely,

Judy Askins

Mrs. Judy Askins

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To whom it may concern August 2020

I do not want a mining operation just miles down the street from me. And to be running 24-7, besides the construction that has to take place prior to opening. I purchased my house on Greenhorn Rd for the privacy and serenity that the land and area has to offer. In 2019 someone started development on the corner lot of Greenhorn and Brunswick which is now sitting doing nothing after they clearcut trees, moved dirt and set concrete foundations. Just Sitting! That is an issue.

Now you want to destroy our natural settings and disturb wild life, and contaminate the ground water that fills our wells. Also the lowering of the water table to our home wells / drinking water.! The community has to hear the noise from construction and operation of the mine & machinery This will also bring more people and traffic to area that is already a problem

We can't even handle the traffic on the surface streets as it is. I am not in favor of this mine proposal too many negatives out weighs the good. Again noise factor, air polution, contamenated water and the lowering of the water table in our household wells.

Besides all this it would cause a drop in property values on the sale of the house.

Please consider the families that live in the surrounding area.

Lisa Cammarota

Don and Jane Pelton
15654 Rattlesnake Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 11, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us.

RE: Proposal by Rise Grass Valley to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Mr. Kelley,

In order to properly assess the impacts associated with re-opening the old Idaho Maryland Mine in Grass Valley, please make sure that the following issues are addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above project:

1) Full and complete analysis of the geology and hydrologic features of our watershed by independent hydrologists, including: a) identification of underground faults and fractures; b) the effects of perpetual de-watering on re-charge throughout the whole of the project area; c) the effects of perpetual de-watering on surface soils, trees, vegetation, and wildlife habitat; d) the effects of perpetual de-watering on wells throughout the whole ~2600 acres of the underground project area; e) risks of subsidence/sink holes under homes and roads throughout the whole ~2600 acres of the underground project area; f) the impacts to South Fork Wolf Creek and its riparian areas in all seasons; and g) how setbacks for both perennial and seasonal streams will be protected.

2) Comprehensive and independent analysis of both short and long-term risks to groundwater quality in connection with the Rise plan to contaminate the mined tunnels with cement paste.

3) Complete detailed description of the plan to treat the water pumped out of the mine tunnels, and drainage from the mine in perpetuity.

4) Complete detailed water monitoring plan to ensure that: a) the treated water feeding into Wolf Creek does not contain mining contaminants; b) a specific plan of action for when it does; and c) immediate stop work enforcement when (not if) mining contaminants are released into Wolf Creek.

5) Specific information about the types of equipment, fuels and chemicals that will be used in all phases of the proposed mining operation including: a) how explosives, fuels, and chemicals will be securely stored; b) a specific plan of action for when, inevitably, accidents occur; and c) immediate stop work enforcement when they do.

6) Full and complete description of how directional/slant drilling will be conducted, and

how mineral boundaries will be enforced.

7) Stipulate that the Centennial superfund site be cleaned up as the first order of business, before any de-watering or rock hauling is done from the New Brunswick site so that Rise cannot stockpile new mine waste at the New Brunswick site.

8) Full and complete independent analysis of diminished air quality from diesel exhaust, explosives, and dust from crushed rock and soil that is likely contaminated with naturally occurring arsenic and asbestos.

9) Comprehensive and independent analysis/quantification of greenhouse gas emissions for all phases of the mining operation.

10) Comprehensive and independent analysis of the cumulative effects of noise from mine blasting, trucks, and heavy equipment along with other construction projects in the area.

11) Comprehensive and independent analysis of impacts to Grass Valley traffic from large trucks carrying waste rock and supplies, including: a) the design of safe and rapid evacuation routes in the event of fire; and b) the costs for road maintenance and repairs.

12) Analysis of impacts to Grass Valley public services – fire, medical, police, City.

13) Comparative analysis of economic impacts (projected costs of boom/bust mining vs. no mine alternative) including an assessment of diminished property values n the vicinity of this massive mine, probable loss of tourism due to truck traffic, air and noise pollution, public health impacts, and probable loss and/or inability to attract new businesses.

14) Comprehensive and independent analysis of Rise track record and finances: a) does this mining junior have the financial capability to honor its promises to Nevada County; b) can Rise post a bond large enough to make whole residents who may be harmed by their activities *and* cover the County's cleanup costs when gold prices drop and investors disappear, and Rise blows town like the last Canadian junior (Emgold).

Grass Valley *was* a mining town, and the scars from that era are still visible today. So-called "modern" mining, with its heavy equipment vs. gold pans, is no panacea. It should be abundantly clear to *everyone* by now that gold mining is a dirty, destructive, accident-prone industry. County planners should prepare for the worst and not be lulled by the rosy scenarios put forward by Ben Mossman, who disregards the fact that hard rock gold mining in a populated region that is surrounded on all sides by homes, businesses, and schools, is in no way compatible with the community that Grass Valley has become.

Sincerely,

Jane Pelton Don Pelton

Don and Jane Pelton
Grass Valley, CA

August 16, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Department, Nevada County

Brian Foss

Subject: Opposing Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine

I am so utterly concerned about this possible mine re-opening, I want it on record that I am DEEPLY OPPOSED to it. I am a homeowner off Greenhorn Rd.

After watching the disastrous events from the mine reopening in Jones Ridge area, it was made very clear that we are dealing with a lot of unknowns. Even if the EIR report were to come back with minimal impact (which I cannot imagine happening), unexpected things can happen when mining. Hitting an aquifer and draining water from all our wells, putting toxic waste in our water supply – not intended, but obviously could happen as past experience clearly shows.

Mine tunnels run near or under our property. What guarantees do we have of their stability when they begin dewatering?

What guarantees do we have that Rise Gold will be held accountable for appropriate clean -up of toxic waste they intentionally or unintentionally produce?

We moved here to be in clear air, near clean water and away from noise pollution. All of these basic qualities of life are now being threatened.

Our home value is also being threatened. We are retired seniors and are counting on our home appreciation for future options. This mine re-opening would certainly devalue our home.

There are so many negatives proposed by this mine re-opening with potentially disastrous impacts for our community and local watershed. The potential for profit, most of which will not even benefit our community, is NOT a good enough reason to risk our beloved community.

PLEASE STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW. DO NOT APPROVE PROPOSED REZONING OR REOPENING OF THIS MINE.

Sincerely,

Judy McGrain

Tom and Robin Milam
530 263-1483 • robin@the-milams.com
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 14, 2020

Board of Supervisors, Nevada County
Grass Valley City Council
Matt Kelley, the Senior Planner of Nevada County

Subject: Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Environmental Impact Report

We have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine and are adamantly opposed to the mine reopening. We are both long time Nevada County residents and homeowners off Lost Lake and Greenhorn Rd.

The potential for a disastrous environmental impact stems from all aspects of the mine operations. Gold and mineral mining is a "dirty" industry that creates toxic waste and has a legacy of environmental contamination. Locally we note the Centennial site requires cleanup of historical tailings and Lost Lake/Banner Lava Cap is an EPA Superfund site.

Furthermore, the Idaho-Maryland mine tunnels have been filled with water for almost 80 years and will require millions of gallons of continual dewatering. Water is our most critical life sustaining resource. It is a more valuable resource than gold. Reopening the mine poses a host of critical risks not the least of which is the impact to local and regional water in the face of a future in which water is becoming ever more precious.

This letter addresses questions relative to the **Environmental Impact Report.**

1. **From an EIR standpoint, all these areas and more need to be tested and clearly assessed:**
   - Poor air quality related to mining, waste rock and tailings removal, increased truck traffic, etc.
   - Pollution of our local creeks from mine water. The proposed treatment of water coming from the mine and increased flows will change and therefore endanger the natural habitat of Wolf Creek and beyond. Treatment of the water does not mitigate the impact to the natural habitat.
   - Greenhouse gas emissions generated by the tremendous amounts of energy used to extract tons of rock from depths of 5000 to 10,000 feet below surface level and pulverize them to extract the ore.
   - Noise pollution and vibration levels related to mining excavation/explosives, mineral processing, waste removal, traffic, etc.
   - Clean up of the current Centennial site and safe, effective ongoing cleanup of all mine operations and related sites estimated to be 1500 tons of waste rock and tailings removed a day.

2. **Without dewatering, what tests can be done to determine the stability of the mine shafts throughout the tunnels and thus the safety aspects of dewatering?**
   Testing water toxicity of the current state of the mine will reveal a set of diluted water numbers. Without dewatering, tests cannot reflect the residue levels of toxicity occurring from seepage, etc. after millions of gallons of water have been removed. Nor will Rise Gold know the stability of the tunnels until that point.

   What happens if after dewatering, the toxicity levels are too high and/or the tunnels are not stable? At that point damage to the habitat and potential damage to local wells will have already occurred.

3. **What will happen to our wells several years after the mine is in operation? Why would you consider pumping millions of gallons of water per day from our local underground aquifers for 11 years and then expect NID to provide water for those homes and properties whose wells cease to produce or are fouled?**
   - Rise Gold and NID have identified a small area around the site which is much too small a boundary.
   - Given the expanse of mining tunnels throughout our region (as demonstrated by the tunnel model on display at Empire Mine), what is the full potential impact to private wells in the area?

- Our home is less than 3 miles from the mine site. Our well is 630 feet with only a few gallons per minute. Many of our neighbors' wells are also already low performing.
- A dry well significantly devalues one's property and puts the onus for a new water source on the owner.
- Our home is beyond the range that NID has suggested they could provide water.
- Even if NID could extend its water systems infrastructure, what will be the cost/burden to NID's available water sources and the unknown impact of changing climate conditions? Who will pay for the infrastructure needed to expand NID's service?

4. **What will be the impact to our broader local watershed ecosystem? How can the EIR accurately assess the longer-term impact of 11 years dewatering millions of gallons of water per day.**
   As a community, we have been grappling with the projected impact of climate change and the unpredictable future snowpack will have on the watershed of Western Nevada County including surface and subsurface aquifers. As such, water is becoming an ever more precious resource. Disease, drought, and other watershed related issues have fueled major fire threats. The initial and continued dewatering of the mine will further stress our beautiful ecosystem and poses an unknown threat to local wells.

   We need NID focused on ensuring the health of our greater watershed, not attempting to backfill for water being pumped at rates proposed.

5. **What will be the impact to the Bennett Street Grasslands Preserve?**
   The Bennett Street Grasslands Preserve is a 7.64-acre Open Space Conservation Easement just below the Brunswick site and is bisected by South Wolf Creek. The preserve is owned by California State Parks and was a joint project of Bear Yuba Land Trust, State Parks and The Nature Conservancy. A small local treasure, the site hosts very large madrones, cottonwoods, and prime habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Birds, bears and small mammals frequent the meadows. Stands of native grasses and forbs cover the open meadows.

6. **What do traffic studies include with respect to a major fire disaster and evacuation in the Greenhorn/East Bennett/Brunswick area in addition to day to day impacts?**
   Fire season is upon us and our Firewise Communities are working actively with local officials to define evacuation plans and routes. In the event of evacuation, Greenhorn Road will be a seriously impacted. In a firestorm emergency, we could have over 1 thousand residents evacuating out Greenhorn to Brunswick. We are already extremely concerned about the number of vehicles that will be exiting that route. Add 250 employees of the mine and their trucks, it could exacerbate an extremely dangerous bottleneck.

In conclusion

What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative – potentially disastrous impacts for our community and our greater watershed in both the short term and longer term. The only potential upsides being profit for the corporation (most of which will NOT stay in our community) and a questionable short-term profit for Nevada County. The long-term irreparable impact risk does not justify potential short-term revenues.

This proposal carries with it a high probability that if this mine runs into devastating impacts, Rise Gold will fold up and walk away leaving us and our beloved community bearing the brunt.

Please STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW and do not approve proposed rezoning or reopening of this mine.

Most sincerely,

Tom and Robin Milam

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Tom and Robin Milam
530 263-1483 • robin@the-milams.com
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 14, 2020

Board of Supervisors, Nevada County
Grass Valley City Council
Matt Kelley, the Senior Planner of Nevada County

Subject: Rise Gold and the Idaho-Maryland Mine - Accountability

We have read the impact studies of the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine and are adamantly opposed to the mine reopening. We are both long time Nevada County residents and homeowners off Lost Lake and Greenhorn Rd.

The potential for a disastrous environmental impact stems from all aspects of the mine operations. Gold and mineral mining is a "dirty" industry that creates toxic waste and has a legacy of environmental contamination. Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine poses a host of critical risks including accountability of the mining corporation.

This letter raises questions about **Rise Gold's long-term accountability** considering their history.

1. **How can our community be assured that Rise Gold/Rise Grass Valley assumes the FULL responsibility, accountability, and cost of preventing and mitigating a wide range of issues both identifiable now and the unknown?**

   a. **What vested interest does Rise Gold have in our Community?**

   Rise Gold Corp (formerly Rise Resources, Inc.) is an exploration-stage mining company incorporated in the state of Nevada, USA and is headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The company's CEO is Benjamin Mossman, a Canadian mining engineer. The company's principal asset is the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine purchased in January of 2017.

   Rise Grass Valley is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rise Gold Corp, also incorporated in the state of Nevada. Formed in December 2016, it is the named applicant for the permit application.

   This tiered corporate structure and Canadian headquarters raises questions about whether Rise Gold has a vested interest in our community. In the event of failing financial performance or an environmental disaster, are they prepared to maintain a long-term investment and accountability in our community? Their historical track record suggests not.

   b. **Should a mine failure or major contamination occur, what will prevent Rise Gold from declaring bankruptcy, dissolving the Rice Grass Valley entity, and abandoning our community as CEO Benjamin Mossman did with Banks Island Gold Mine?**

   The fact that the Centennial site needs contamination clean up after all these decades plus our own local Lost Lake / Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site are prominent reminders that failures do occur here at home. Furthermore, the Banks Island Gold Mine disaster is indicative of Benjamin Mossman's propensity to walk away when the going gets tough. Consider these actions taken under Benjamin Mossman's leadership:

   - Mining company's former president fined $15,000 for violating environmental legislation https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications/mining-company-former-president-fined-violating-environmental-legislation.html

Prince Rupert, British Columbia, CA – January 9, 2019, Environment and Climate Change Canada
On December 6, 2018, Benjamin Mossman, former president and CEO of Banks Island Gold Ltd., was ordered to pay a combined penalty of $15,000, in the Provincial Court of British Columbia, for violations of federal and provincial legislation. On July 13, 2018, Mossman was found guilty of one violation of the *Fisheries Act* ($7,500) and one violation of the provincial *Environmental Management Act* ($7,500).

On July 9, 2015, Environment and Climate Change Canada enforcement officers conducted a joint inspection on Banks Island with British Columbia's Conservation Officer Service; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. During the inspection, officers found evidence that Banks Island Gold Ltd. was discharging mine effluent into an unnamed creek and into Englishman Slough, both fish-bearing bodies of water. Mossman failed to notify any regulatory agencies of this issue, and, as a result, he was charged for and subsequently convicted of failing to notify a fishery officer or other designated person as required by the *Fisheries Act*.

- **GOLD: Banks Island files for bankruptcy** http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/news/gold-banks-island-files-for-bankruptcy/

  Vancouver, British Columbia, CA – January 11, 2016 by Canadian Mining Journal
  Banks Island Gold has filed for bankruptcy protection because it can no longer meet its obligations as they become due. D. Manning & Associations will act as trustee. Benjamin W. Mossman will remain president, CEO, and the sole director of the company. The rest of the board has resigned.

  Banks Island put its Yellow Giant project 120 km south of Prince Rupert on care and maintenance July 31, 2015. Commercial production was declared at the mine in January 2015.

  More information about the Yellow Giant project is posted at BanksIslandGold.com. [Note, this site no longer exists.]

The only realistic conclusion is that our community has no assurance that in the face of irreparable harm, Rise Gold Corp will maintain responsibility and accountability. In fact, we need to expect them to walk away which would leave our community ill equipped to handle the mess they abandoned.

In conclusion

What is proposed by Rise Grass Valley Corporation has multiple negative – potentially disastrous impacts for our community in both the short term and longer term. The only potential upsides being profit for the corporation (most of which will NOT stay in our community) and a questionable short-term profit for Nevada County. The long-term irreparable impact risk does not justify potential short-term revenues.

This proposal carries with it a high probability that if this mine runs into devastating impacts, Rise Gold will fold up and walk away leaving us and our beloved community bearing the brunt.

Please STOP THIS PROPOSAL NOW and do not approve the reopening of this mine.

Most sincerely,



Tom and Robin Milam

July 22, 2020

RECEIVED
JUL 27 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Hello Matt,
I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project.
I am a lifetime resident of Nevada County & would like to see the county promote more sustainable & environmentally friendly projects. We don't need to have something like this in our county.
I see where this would benefit the mine owners, the county building dept, & N.I.D. I don't see where it would benefit the citizens of nevada county, the environment, or any other benefit to the area. In fact it looks to me that it would be an actual detriment to our area. There are so many things that we can't forsee that will happen if this project is approved that will affect the next seven generations or more. It would be totally irresponsible to approve it."

David Wills
13550 Lower Anchor lane
Grass Valley, Ca. 95945

A Preliminary Assessment of the Proposal to Reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine

7/21/20

sierravoices.com/2020/03/12/a-preliminary-assessment-of-the-proposal-to-reopen-the-idaho-maryland-mine/

SVadmin

Mr. Kelly, Here are some of the many reasons I believe that this endeavor should be stopped now! Also, many of our wells would be impacted, not to mention the reduction of ground & surface water to our forests! Could easily weaken or kill trees & significantly increase fire danger!

Community Environmental Advocates

PO Box 972, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924-0972

www.ceainc.org / home@ceainc.org

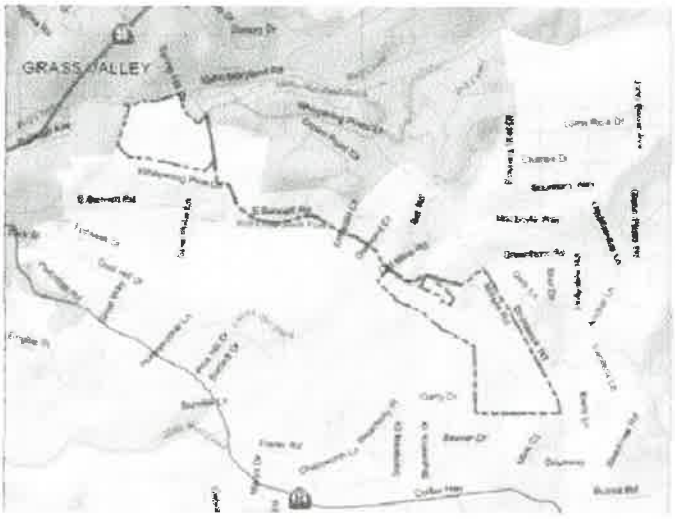
Dee Webster
Burma Rd.
Grass Valley

A Preliminary Assessment of the Proposal to Reopen Idaho-Maryland Mine

Grass Valley, CA – March 11, 2020

Rise Gold Corp's application to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine is not yet deemed complete by Nevada County Planning Department, but a review of currently available documents provides a glimpse into the nature of the project and how it may impact our community.

The main mine access and processing facilities will be located at the 119 acre New Brunswick site located at the corner of Brunswick and East Bennett Roads. Operations will also utilize the 56 acre Centennial site on Idaho-Maryland Road west of Centennial Drive to dispose of mine waste.[1]



Mining will take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. About 1500 tons of waste rock and tailings will be removed from the mine daily. Of this, 500 tons per day will be mixed with cement to form a paste backfill and re-deposited into the mine. The remaining 1000 tons per day will be deposited at the Centennial site and at a 31 acre area along Brunswick Road just south of the processing facility and bounded by neighborhoods on Cedar Ridge Drive, Elk Lane, and Mink Court.

RECEIVED
JUL 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Waste rock and tailings from the mine will be transported by trucks making up to 100 round trips per day, 16 hours per day, 7 days per week. To get to the Centennial site, they will turn left onto Brunswick Road about 0.4 miles south of East Bennett Rd, pass through the intersection of East Bennett and Brunswick and turn left onto Whispering Pines Lane to reach Centennial Drive.

At the Centennial site, an area of 44 acres will be built up with "engineered fill" to depths of up to 70 feet, eventually forming a 37 acre graded surface that may be utilized for future development. Similarly, the mine waste dumped at the Brunswick Road site will eventually cover an area of 31 acres and be built up as much as 90 feet to form a 21 acre graded area for possible future industrial uses.

The trucks will be loaded with rock with a front-end loader. Hauling will take place 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM, 7 days a week. After the rock is dumped, it will be graded and compacted 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM, 7 days a week, using bulldozers, graders, and rolling compactors. [2] This activity will take place continuously for 11 years or until both build-up areas are maximized. After that, mine waste materials will have to be hauled out via Brunswick Road to Glenbrook Basin in order to access Hwy 49 for transport to sites not yet identified.

In terms of energy use, the permit application estimates a PG&E power net load of 6000 Kilowatts

(KW). Planned diesel backup power generation capacity is 6000 KW. Electricity utilization is estimated at 42,757,000 Kilowatt-Hours (KWH) per year.[3] This is equivalent to the electric use of about 5000 houses.[4]

Full operations of the mine, including fuel for equipment, electricity, and other operational uses are estimated to produce around 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.[5]

Cement, explosives, diesel, and various other chemicals will be regularly transported to the site and stored. Cement will be mixed with tailings and pumped back underground and used to backfill mining voids. By one estimate, the backfill paste will use approximately 25 tons of cement daily. Explosives will include ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate and Fuel Oil), and Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion. Up to 28,000 lbs. of explosives will be stored onsite underground.[6] Diesel fuel storage will consist of a 30,000 gallon aboveground storage tank. A number of other chemicals will be utilized for processing the gold using the sulfide flotation system and other activities.

Industrial buildings covering 122,000 square feet are proposed for the New Brunswick site. Noteworthy among these would be the gold processing plant with dimensions of 425 feet by 70 feet and 65 feet high, and the shaft headframe building with a height of 165 feet. Running between these buildings will be a 365' long enclosed conveyor system. Tailings will be stockpiled onsite while waiting for transport.

The application to re-operate the Idaho-Maryland mine states that 312 jobs would be created by the mine operations. Of those jobs, 242 jobs are specialized technical positions likely taken by people recruited from outside the area. The remaining jobs, truck transport of mine waste, and mineral processing, could provide 70 jobs for current local residents.

Content provided by Community Environmental Advocates Foundation (CEA Foundation)
**** Visit the CEA website at www.cea-nc.org *** Contact via info@cea-nc.org ****

[1] Project application documents may be viewed at https://www.mynevadacounty.com /2882/Application-Documents—Rise-Grass-Valley . Unless noted, see Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Description, Nov 2019; https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/31023/Applicants-Project-Description

[2] Noise and Vibration Analysis, Table 9, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter /View/30467/Noise-and-Vibration-Study-Report

[3]*Air Quality and greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Technical Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project*, Feb 2020, pgs 73-74, https://www.mynevadacounty.com /DocumentCenter/View/33583/Air-Quality-and-GHG-Report—ADDED-392020

[4] Average energy usage per CA residence = 667 KWH / month = ~8000 KWH / year. https://www.electricchoice.com/blog/electricity-on-average-do-homes/
IMM will use equivalent to 42,757,000 / 8000 = 5344 houses.

[5] Ibid [3]

[6] Environmental Factors of Blasting Report for the Proposed Idaho-Maryland Gold Project, Sept 27, 2019, https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/30457 /Environmental-Factors-of-Blasting-Report

Shelley and Joe Murdock
10481 Banner Mine Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

RECEIVED
JUL 27 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

July 24, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley:

We received your letter regarding the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine and your invitation to provide feedback.

We are ADAMANTLY opposed to this project and quite shocked that it is even being considered. We moved here two years ago to enjoy the natural beauty, small town atmosphere, and local charm. Thus far, we love our decision and our new community.

We did NOT move here to live in the middle of heavy industry that will pollute the creeks and clog the streets with earth moving trucks. In the past few months, we have noticed an uptick in traffic noise from the highway and roads far below us. We attribute the increase to vegetation and tree clearing for fire prevention. We understand the need for this. However, the noise generated by hundreds of truck trips will be unbearable and there is no need for it at all.

Although we read most of the provided materials, no mention was made of the impact that the trucks will have on evacuation in the very real possibility of a wild fire. All the meetings we have attended about wild fire evacuations indicate that there is a shortage of exit routes. We do not need the added competition of big trucks in order to evacuate.

We could go on about the many, many ways this project will adversely affect the quality of life here but we feel there is no need. There is NOTHING this project will do to enhance this community and should not even be considered. On a recent visit to New Zealand, we stopped in a former gold mining town that had a similar bid made to reopen an old gold mine with the promises of jobs, etc. The residents did not "take the bait" and said no to the project. All the residents were happy with their decision to put quality of life over the profits of a corporation. We need to do the same.

Sincerely,

Shelley Murdock

Shelley Murdock

Joe Murdock

Barbara R. Dougherty
Pancro Mirrors Inc.
11972 Charles Drive
Grass Valley CA 95945
barb@pancro.com

RECEIVED
JUL 24 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

July 21, 2020

Matt Kelley
Sr. Planner, Co. of Nev. Community Dev. Agency
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: EIR for Idaho-Maryland Mine Project in Western Nevada County

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I am a business owner and an owner of commercial industrial property located within the Brunswick industrial area east of Loma Rica. I am concerned that my business will be greatly impacted by the activities of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, as well as fellow business owners and the residents living within the area proposed by this project in that the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project poses numerous risks to our environment concerning water, traffic congestion, air pollution, noise and the lowering of real estate values.

Water pollution. The Rise Gold Corp cannot be trusted to keep its promises. Though this proposal sounds like a clean process compared to the mining activity of the past, the oversight of "dewatering" has too many issues and makes no guarantees. In short, we have to trust this company and its oversight people which is doubtful.

The person spearheading the Rise Gold Corp project, CEO Benjamin Mossman cannot be trusted to follow through with the promises put forth in this proposal. According to The Union.com, Mossman was fined in 2018 by the Provincial Court of British Columbia for violating Canada's Environmental Management Act when failing to notify regulatory officials about the company for which he was in charge--the Banks Island Gold Ltd. mining company--for its "discharging mining effluent into two fish-bearing bodies of water." (TheUnion 5/15/2020)

This unchecked discharge of mining effluent is identical to what Idaho-Maryland Mine's CEO Mossman would be responsible to oversee. Can we really trust Mossman? The residents and business owners of Grass Valley do not want to see our pristine lakes and creeks, namely the riparian area on Wolf Creek polluted, nor do we want to see contamination of our

wells in our surrounding homes. We want to protect people and the environment.

Air pollution, noise and traffic. The rock processing and loading of the so-called "engineered fill" generated by the Brunswick Industrial Site will be transported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the Centennial Industrial Site located off Idaho-Maryland, the historical site for "tailing deposits" from Idaho-Maryland Mines of the past. This constant stream of trucks with payloads of 20 tons per truck requires 100 trips per day and is certain to jam up traffic on our local streets, including Idaho-Maryland, a narrow one-lane road. Traffic on Brunswick is already congested with only two lanes merging into one during business hours.

In addition, this activity of rock processing and loading of engineered fill will be noisy and dusty. The residents and business owners of Grass Valley do not want to breathe dust created by the processing of "engineered fill," nor do we want to hear rocks being dropped into trucks and the roar of truck engines barreling down our streets 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Real Estate Values. All of the above is certain to have a negative effect upon our real estate values, home and business rentals. After all, who's going to want to buy a home or a business space with such a constant nuisance in the area? The residents and business owners of Grass Valley do not want to see their real estate values plummet due to all the above activities. This not only affects our property values but depreciates our community economically. Do we want this?

In closing, this is the fourth time that an attempt like this is being made to resurrect the gold rush era. Corporate money has tried to do this three times before, and every time they do we residents fight back. But we only have until 5:00 pm August 17 to protest this project. Let's oppose this again, and let's just celebrate our Gold Rush heritage without re-enacting the mistakes of the past. I and the residents of Grass Valley oppose this project and want to see this kind of proposal put to rest once and for all.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Dougherty

Barbara R. Dougherty
Business Owner

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 7,2020

Matt Kelley- By Certified Mail & Regular Mail & Email.

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Please Consider this Response to the NOP concerning the Rise Gold Mining application. ("Project"). We reside at 13268 Woodstock Drive, Nevada City, CA 95959.

We note that the general plan of the County does not authorize the operations presented by the Project in its zoning regulations which if permitted would immediately interface and run under two major residential and business communities. General Plans express the communities' development goals and embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land use, both public and private.

Mining activities lead to the generation of large quantities of heavy metal laden wastes which are released in an uncontrolled manner. This causes widespread contamination of the ecosystem, water supplies, and the air; irreparable damage to the land, habitat, animals and plants; and potential risk of irreparable harm to the health and safety of those living near and around such activities. It also negatively impacts established communities with noise, light pollution; and the risk of encountering emergency and disastrous events from failures in the mining operations, and the risk of ground instability that may lead to property devaluation and leads to additional safety concerns.

Due to the Project's proposed activities and its likely impact to the environment and safety of the communities now and those planned for the future that it involves, we know that such land use should remain prohibited.

The following are areas we believe should be reviewed in relation to the Project: All areas of review are requested for the duration of the Project's request to mine for an 80 Year period and include a specific request for well-defined mitigation measures.

1. Potential Impacts to projected future housing and business community plans of Grass Valley and Nevada City incorporated and unincorporated communities, including but not limited to, a review of land use, population, and projected housing demands.
2. Potential Impacts to the approval for and development of single-family housing in Grass Valley and Nevada City.
3. Potential Impacts of the Project to the existing land use and regional growth pattern of the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.
4. Potential Impacts to Community development trends including existing forecasted growth patterns.
5. Potential Impacts to air quality including, but not limited to, an analysis of human consequences to air pollutants.
6. Potential Impacts from noise and vibration to neighboring communities, businesses, and residences in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City.
7. Potential Impacts from underground mining operations leading to earthquake activity in unincorporated and incorporated Grass Valley and Nevada City, Nevada County and in its neighboring counties.
8. Potential Impacts to water quality, groundwater resources, flooding and drainage, including but not limited to, an analysis of the issues related to wastewater and storm drainage and the capacity of the existing infrastructure to handle flows generated by the proposed Project.
9. Potential Impacts to water quality and supply from operations producing waste, including but not limited to, in underground mining operations and from waste storage.
10. Potential impacts to water supply, including but not limited to, an analysis of regional water supplies, estimates of water demand associated with the Project and an assessment of whether there is sufficient water supply to meet the demand.
11. Potential impacts to water supply in the event of contamination of the water supply such that water cannot be safely consumed.
12. Potential Impacts to single and multi-family and business well water supply.
13. Potential Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and supply.
14. Potential Impacts to the supply of electricity, natural gas, and fuel.
15. Potential Impacts to the waterways from wastewater in Nevada County and neighboring counties.
16. Potential Impacts for increased fire risks, cumulative wildfire ignition sources, firefighting hazards, and whether there exists sufficient fire protection services and monitoring to safeguard the residential and business communities.
17. Potential impacts to fire protection, emergency medical services, and police services to handle disaster response and the handling of hazardous materials to service the residential and business communities where the Project is located in the event of an emergency from the Project's operations.
18. Potential Impacts to Climate Change.

19. An Analysis of the Project's contribution to Green House Gas Emissions levels, including but not limited to, in relation to local climate action plans and regional air quality management district Climate Change projections.
20. Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, including but not limited to, neighboring County agricultural communities.
21. Potential Impacts to existing State and local routes, roadways, and traffic in incorporated and unincorporated Nevada City and Grass Valley, including but not limited to, those traveled by local school bus routes.
22. Potential Impacts of rock waste and water waste under all applicable State and Federal regulatory settings.
23. Potential Impacts to aesthetic and visual resources that could result from the Project with regard to visual quality, view blockage, nighttime illumination/glare, and shading.
24. Potential Impacts to Biological Resources.
25. Potential Impacts to Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.

Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

David J. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Ms. Hall, BOS

August 11, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave Ste 170
Nevada City CA 95959

This is in response to the "Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting" I received asking for public input.

Before providing my comments on scoping issues, I am protesting the County's decision to proceed with the Environmental Impact Report process during the COVID-19 restrictions. Since the Doris Foley Library for Historical Research and the California State Library are closed, residents have no opportunity to research the issues historic gold mines have created for our community. The library closure and short comment period severely limits our ability to identify all the issues that might need to be studied.

After reviewing the *Project Description, Noise and Vibration Analysis*, and *Air Quality and Green House Gas Emissions Analysis* submitted by Rise Grass Valley, Inc., I could not find information related to the questions I've listed below. My property borders the Brunswick site so I am very concerned about living next door to an industrial scale mine. Please ensure the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) addresses the following:

1. **What contaminants will be in the air exhausted from the mine shaft; where will the wind carry them; and where will the contaminants come down? What impact on the environment will these contaminants have during the 80 years the mine is expected to be open?**
2. The *Air Quality and Green House Gas Emissions Analysis* (AQGHG) Table 11, although labeled "Underground Blasting and Crushing," lists only the particulate matter that would be emitted from the crushing operation. **How many pounds of particulate matter will be created and exhausted by the blasting**?
3. The AQGHG makes no mention of whether methane might be encountered when blasting in the mine. **If methane is encountered and released how will that impact miners and air quality?**
4. The documents submitted have freight deliveries arriving between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. This means that explosives to be used in the mine will be traveling through Grass Valley during these hours. **How many tons of explosives will be transported and how frequently will they be delivered? Will ammonia nitrate fuel oil, packaged/bulk emulsion explosives and blasting caps be transported together? What plans are in place if one of the trucks carry explosives breaks down in route?**
5. There will be some blasting at the mine every day. **Will the draft EIR contain information about the explosives magazines? How many magazines will there be? How many tons of explosives will be stored? How deep will they be stored? How will explosives be secured? Will the draft EIR contain a disaster plan should the mine's stockpile of ammonia nitrate fuel oil, packaged/bulk emulsion explosives, and blasting caps accidently explode?** (Think Beirut.)
6. A good many of us would not have purchased our homes if an industrial-scale gold mine was in the neighborhood and we will not want live near one if the mine is approved. **How will the mine affect the salability and property values of homes near the mine**?
7. I believe the value of our homes will decrease significantly if the mine reopens. **What actions will the Nevada County Assessor's office take to mitigate the loss of value in homes and how Nevada County will make up the loss of property tax?**

8. We are very concerned about the noise the various mine activities will generate. **For example, how loud will the noise generated by the hoist and 335' conveyor be? How loud will the dumping of engineered fill out of the steel beds of haul trucks be?**
9. The *Noise and Vibration Analysis* predicts the noise from the mineral processing activity will be less than the ambient noise level. **Will the draft EIR explain how that is possible?**
10. My house is number 28 shown on Figure 3 (Nearest Sensitive Receptors) of the *Noise and Vibration Analysis*. Table 6 of the same report extrapolated the current baseline nighttime noise at my house as 44 Leq. I have spent over 4,000 nights at my property, so I can safely say that this figure is exaggerated. Except for crickets, occasional cars passing by, or a dog barking (often ours), it's usually quiet. **Will the draft EIR contain more accurate and reliable ambient noise figures?**
11. **Will the draft EIR explain how the non-stop noise will psychologically affect the residents hearing it 24 hours a day, every day of the week?**
12. A gold mine does not produce, repair, distribute, or warehouse any goods or equipment. **Will the draft EIR explain how an industrial-scale gold mine, removing and processing 1500 tons of rock daily, fits the County's definition of light industrial?**
13. At night, 103,347 lumens will light the exterior of the buildings and parking lot**. Will the draft EIR provide a simulation of what the Brunswick site will look like at night? How will nearby neighbors be affected by the nighttime light at the mine?**
14. I live next door to the proposed site and have seen coyotes, bear, deer, foxes, rabbits, owls, hawks, skunks, and raccoons in the forest of the Brunswick site property. **What will be the effect of removing 18 acres of forest habitat? What effect will the constant noise, traffic, nighttime lighting, and depositing of engineered fill have on the wildlife that inhabits the area around the mine site? Will there be an increase in animal-vehicle accidents? What affect will the mine have on seeps and natural springs used as a water source by forest animals. Will my grandchildren and pets be at increased risk because the animals have lost habitat and food supply?**
15. Rise claims that the majority of the 312 jobs that purportedly will be created will go to County residents. **Will the draft EIR provide job descriptions and job qualifications for mine employees to support their claim?**
16. **Will the draft EIR address the increased fire risk of the mine operation caused by the transportation and storing of explosives and blasting caps, the 30,000-gallon and 1,200-gallon above-ground diesel fuel tanks, the CO_2 generation, and the withdrawal of millions of gallons of groundwater?**
17. **How many gold mines has Rise Grass Valley successfully operated and for how many years?**

Please provide answers to each of these questions so I can adequately evaluate the draft EIR.

Sincerely,



Michael Shea
PO Box 927
Cedar Ridge CA 95924

cc: Dan Miller, District 3 Supervisor

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 10, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We are writing to express our conviction that allowing use of the Brunswick Industrial Site for gold mining is not appropriate, and not in the best interests of the people residing in the area. Since the Brunswick site was last used for industrial purposes over 20 years ago, a considerable amount of residential development has taken place in this area. A mining operation is not compatible with residential living, especially since the proposed mining operation is to be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Our major areas of concern are:

1) Water Tables and Wells. The necessary draining of the mine could drain the aquifer(s) used by most of the homes in the area for water. The loss of well water will make the homes uninhabitable. Even if the mine owners offer to provider water there will not be sufficient construction resources available build the infrastructure needed to bring water in a timely manner to all the homes that will need it if the aquifer is drained. If the aquifer is compromised in any way, it will have a huge negative impact on the values of all the homes in the affected areas; not to mention the quality of life of the inhabitants.
2) Sound Pollution. Mining is an extremely noisy operation, especially stamping machines for crushing rocks. Since mining is to be a 24/7 operation, we feel this use conflicts greatly with residential use of the area, and would be detrimental to the physical and mental health and well-being of the local residents.
3) Ground Vibration and Air Pollution. Vibrations and air pollution from the mining operation, stamping machine(s), heavy equipment, including earth moving equipment, and huge tractor/trailer vehicles constantly traveling back and forth to and from the mine, would certainly create both ground vibrations and air pollution issues.
4) Traffic on Brunswick Road and Highway 174. There are already many large tractor/trailer trucks which haul gravel from the quarry on You Bet Road. The addition of many, many more huge trucks, heavy equipment, and other mine-related traffic, will worsen and increase traffic which is already heavy, and dangerous at times.

Mining was discontinued over 65 years ago! We feel the character of this Grass Valley area has hugely changed since then. Mining is no longer appropriate for this area. Re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine would create substantially more noise, ground vibration, air pollution, and traffic congestion; in addition to potentially terrifying, and irreversibly dangerous, water availability and water purity disasters.

Thank you for your consideration of these critically important issues.

Scott Nance Betty Nance

Scott and Betty Nance
13404 Bass Trail
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 271-7286

Robert White
13171 Wood Rose Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530 273-9679 bob@whitetool.com

August 11, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 12 2020
NEVADA COUNTY CDA
Code Compliance

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

RE: EIR for Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Since 1992 I have lived on Wood Rose Way across Brunswick Road from what is referred to in the project description as the Brunswick site. This letter represents my input to the Draft EIR for this project.

Ordinance 1853:

Ordinance 1853 adopted by the Board of Supervisors governs the use and development of the Bohemia mill site. That would be the site referred to as the Brunswick site with respect to the mining proposal. This means that simply changing the zoning will not suffice. This ordinance must first be abandoned or nullified by the Board of Supervisors.

The residents in the area have a "reasonable expectation" that the site plan accompanying ordinance 1853 would govern the use and development of that property.

Within the ordinance it dictates the site plan, use, and development that must be conformed to with regard to that property. For this reason the EIR must take into account the differences between the proposed mining activity and the comparable activity of the business park defined by that ordinance. As far as the EIR is concerned this aspect would affect the degree to which each mitigation measure is evaluated with respect to the effectiveness of that particular mitigation. This existing, and still valid, site plan would be the benchmark that the mitigation measures in the EIR for the mine would need to be measured.

Residential Expansion:

It must be kept in mind, and this is pertinent to the EIR with regard to evaluation of impacts, that the character of the surrounding community has changed drastically since the mine was last in operation. The use of the surrounding property has transformed from a very rural atmosphere to one of a high grade residential community. This was at least in part due to the absence of the mining activity. And after 1991 even the sawmill activity ceased. So the area affected by all the environmental impacts of the previous operations has been developed with that as an expectation. Especially when you consider that it was supported by law. "Ordinance 1853". So any suggestion or comparison stated in the EIR regarding previous use should be considered as invalid. In fact, if those mentions or comparisons appear in the Draft EIR they should be removed in the Final EIR.

Consider: If there were 200 homes affected adversely by reduced value of 10 percent as compared to where they would have been valued without the mine. And the average value of those homes was $500k. That would represent 10 million dollars of negative valuation to the neighborhood. That math is pretty simple. And I think you should agree that those numbers would be conservative approximations. I don't think the mine would be financially capable of offsetting that negative impact for the neighborhood.

I understand that the environmental impact report is prohibited by CEQA from considering social and economic considerations. That must be left up to the "lead agency" according to CEQA. I don't think the planning commission or the supervisors will perform their legally prescribed duty unless the public forces the issue into the process. If the County is formally notified of this economic impact and it is not addressed by the "lead agency" the County will be legally financially liable. Consider this letter as notification of the liability.

These are questions regarding the EIR and requests for inclusion in the EIR:

The project description indicates that the property at the Centennial site requires fill to be made usable for development. The EIR needs to include an assessment as to the benefit or detriment to the Brunswick site of the fill that is proposed for that area.

The project description indicates that the Centennial site and Brunswick site would be used for disposal of excess material removed from the mine for a period of approximately 11 years. The project is supposed to last 80 years. The EIR must address what would be done with that fill in the remaining 69 years.

There is an historical and nostalgic value to the aesthetics of the old silo. That silo would be enclosed by a building. This needs to be addressed under aesthetics in the EIR.

The project description indicates that post-project storm water discharge could be equal to or less than pre-project storm water discharge. How is that possible?

Only a small portion of Bennett Street is to receive NID treated water. The hydrology report assumes no other wells will be significantly affected by the mining operation. While that may be theory based on mathematical modeling it is by no means reliable. For that reason the area that must be offered NID hookup should be much larger. It should extend past the mineral boundaries of the mine workings. And the cost of that water should be supported by the ongoing mining operation for the full 80 years.

Because there is an existing site plan, backed up by an ordinance, the hours of operation must be the same or less of an impact than those that would be expected by the proposed business park. And as previously implied so should all other impacts.

The added fire risk associated with fuel storage on site should be addressed in the EIR.

These mining companies are notorious for violating the environmental conditions of their permits and the environmental regulations of the area they operate in. For this reason each mitigation measure that dictates conditions that must be met by the project, both in the initial stages as well as during the operational stages, must include effective enforcement requirements.

Because these enforcement guidelines must be part of the mitigation measures those mitigation measures should include the permitting for each phase be based on compliance of the mitigation measures. There should be prescribed measurable mandates set for each mitigation measure and permitting for continuation of the project should be contingent on the satisfaction of those mandates. Since this mitigation would be to protect the interests of the residents in the area a commission should be formed by the Board of Supervisors, made up of Nevada County residents, from areas affected by the mine operation, to oversee this evaluation of compliance to the mandates set forth in the permit for each stage.

Respectfully;

Robert White

8/8/20

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I wrote a letter earlier to you on the reasons I oppose the re opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine but I believe this letter by one of my neighbors better explains the concerns we all have about this project.
Do not allow this project to be permitted.

David Wills
13550 Lower Anchor Lane
Grass Valley, Ca. 95945
530-903-0097

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)

We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the

sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts. Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic
Our area risks losing high tech companies that will move due to the combined impacts of this mine. The underground boundaries of this proposal reach near or below existing tech companies. Hundreds of residents will move out of the area due to the combined impacts. This must be studied and reported on, in terms of economic consequences in loss of revenue. Additionally, the devalued property will affect the county economically with the loss of property taxes. Real Estate reports must be ordered to assess the potential of lost property values.

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate

matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before

anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to

who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A

reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation

to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan:
https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

Tony & Lauren Lauria
13784 Greenhorn Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Jeff and Gale Peach
14242 Deep Creek Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 10, 2020

jpweach@gmail.com
ghpeach@gmail.com

530-265-6105

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We have been Nevada County residents for 35 years. We live up on the back side of Banner Mountain. We were drawn to this community's natural forested beauty and peaceful environment. We understand that growth cannot be stopped, but it can be managed properly for the good of all. We are hoping that the county fulfils that obligation.

We are very concerned about the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. We have an excellent well that is critical to our existence as we live beyond the reach of NID treated water. Below are my requests for analyses to be included in the Environmental Impact Report. Regarding impact to private wells in the area, the EIR must analyze the total number of private wells that could potentially be impacted, ***within and beyond the boundaries of the mine's mineral rights area.*** How can they possibly determine the outreaching impact which may not be evident for many years? The EIR should further analyze:

- The full cost of providing water to those homes if wells become unusable, including connecting neighborhoods to the NID system or providing a separate water supply
- The full cost of connecting each home to that system.
- The full cost of remediation to private well owners to compensate them for the higher ongoing price of water.
- The full cost of treating private wells for the full 80 year life of the lease (and beyond) if water quality is compromised and can be treated locally.
- A clear definition of what constitutes "compromised" water quality that would trigger action for private well owner remediation.

We feel we don't need this mine being reopened. The environmental impact could far outweigh any benefit this Canadian company would bring to our community. We would be happy to talk with you directly to clarify any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Gale Peach

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 8, 2020

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We have lived on Greenhorn Rd. for 34 years. We have raised a generation of family and always appreciated our quality of life living in Nevada County.

We strongly oppose the Idaho Maryland Mine operation. The list of reasons are many. The extremely high chances of destroying the well system for hundreds of homes, the noise pollution, the environmental pollution, high volume truck traffic and the very important loss of quality of life and the devaluation of surrounding properties are just to name a few. When the mines in this area operated decades ago, there were no surrounding neighborhoods like there are today. Allowing the mine to operate in our 2020 community will literally have the industrial mining operation in peoples backyards. It is nice to have the mining history but it should stay that way. History.

Allowing the mining operation to proceed will undoubtedly scar this community for generations to come. We urge you to do whatever you can to stop this process.

Sincerely yours,

Cal and Debbie McKitrick

14934 Greenhorn Rd

Grass Valley, Ca. 95945

MURPHY LAW FIRM

336 Crown Point Circle, Ste. C

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Direct Dial Cell No. 408.921.2338

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 10,2020

Matt Kelley- By Regular Mail and Email

Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Dept.

950 Maidu Avenue, Ste. 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: The County's Zoning Process Referencing the Rise Gold application.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for your response to my question about the zoning process in general in light of the current Rise Gold application.

We understand from you that the Project's application for rezoning is based on a claim that this is nothing more than a conversion from the existing Light Industrial (M1) with Site Performance combining District (SP) zoning for the Project site to Light Industrial with Mineral Extraction Combining District (M1-ME) zoning.

However, all that either of these M1 zonings would allow is "surface mining". Even the briefest review of the Project's description very clearly shows that the Project's purpose and operations are for "subsurface mining". Further, the extensive plans for buildings and heavy equipment for the Project may not even be allowed under a properly-submitted Heavy Industrial (M2) application.

As a result, separate and apart from the EIR process, we submit that the rezoning application filed for the Project is improper on its face. That is at least one reason why we requested information on the County's process for challenging a rezoning application.

Please send us the requested information about this process as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,



Maryanne Z. Murphy, Esq.

Cc: Heidi Hall, BOS

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 10, 2020

RE: Rise Gold, Idaho-Maryland Mine Notice of Preparation

ATT: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I am genuinely concerned about the impact that reopening Idaho-Maryland Mine may have on Nevada County. I submit below questions I would like addressed by Rise Corporation.

What is the risk of harm to individual and community such as water quality, air quality and noise?

Will the mine project hurt residential values? Please include an analysis of the economic harm to homeowners if the mine is opened and operating 24X7.

What conditions will Rise corporation take and implement to prevent contamination from trucks hauling crushed mine rock from the mine to the Centennial Mine location and degrading the local roads.

Respectfully

Rosalie Adduci
12465 Oak Circle
Grass Valley Ca 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 8, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Matt,

We have become aware of the proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine on Brunswick Road in Grass Valley. When my husband and I moved to Nevada County, we were alarmed by all the disclosures that we were required to acknowledge before purchasing our home on Lee Lane. The area had obviously been riddled with toxic practices stemming from the mid 1800's forward. We felt grateful that the land, trees and water were in the process of being restored to a healthy environment. Then we learned of the proposed reopening of mines in the area that threaten to continue polluting this beautiful land for the same reason it was so devastatingly destroyed more than a century ago, and continuing to be allowed into the late 20th century.

It is our understanding that if the Rise Corporation were allowed to open the Idaho Maryland mine, that there would be blasting of underground tunnels, threatening the homeowners that rely on private wells by potentially striking water bearing fractures and dewatering or contaminating local wells.

There have been many lessons learned about the devastating effects from mining that need to be remembered in order to protect our entire area. Simply walking in Empire Mine State Historic Park and seeing how many areas are still too toxic to be open to the public is a huge red flag as to how devastating this practice is, whether the operations are above ground or below.

Property values will be impacted tremendously if the pollution of truck traffic, the safety of our roads with the hauling of rock and mining debris, the noise of blasting, the inevitable public health issues of toxic metals being released into the aquifers are allowed, sacrificing the beauty of our natural environment for a proposed 80 years only for a few additional jobs and tax revenue. It's too great of a risk to take. Instead, we need to heal the devastating effects of the past mining operations, creating a healthy environment for those of us that have been born here or have migrated here for a better and healthier life.

Thank you for rejecting the proposed mine opening, promoting and sustaining the health of this beautiful land and its residents both now and in the future.

Sincerely, Letitia Jacobs & Robert Jacobs

Letitia and Robert Jacobs

13584 Lee Lane, Nevada City, CA

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave., Ste 170
Nevada City, CA 95945

8-10-20

Re: Opposition to the Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Kelley:

We oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine and it's devasting impacts to our community, neighborhoods and environment.

Our home is within one mile of the proposed mine site. We have live here for 36 years.

Water Well - We have a serious concern for our well water "QUALITY" and per minute gallons of water that we currently have in comparison to the decrease in both if the mine were to reopen.

Our property and well are in the potential impact area, determined by Emperor Gold (US) Corp. Our well was involved in the monthly well monitoring program from 1995 until the program ended in 2013.

Will Rise Gold have a well monitoring program? Has a study been done on the wells impacted? Are they going to supply us if we lose our well?

Are they going to cover connectivity and monthly supply cost with N.I.D.? For the lifetime of the home? We can't sell the home without a proper water source.

Noise Pollution - Last Summer when Rise Gold was taking core samples from the Bennett Road site it was unbelievably loud and noisy. Rise Gold is proposing to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. What is that going to do to our property values?

Air Pollution - What is the environmental impact, to our residential area, with a 24/7 operation running.

This is an 80 year permit. Do we want to bring this global climate crisis and added greenhouse gas to our beautiful Nevada County?

Traffic Impact - The Brunswick / Bennett Roads intersection is already a traffic hazard. There have been numerous accidents. I have personally so many vehicles running the stop light. With 100 truck trips per day added to the traffic pattern on Brunswick and Bennett Roads, it creates a very dangerous situation on these

two lane roads. A hazardous situation for first responders not getting through timely, icy/snowy road conditions.

Brunswick Road is one of only escape routes for many Greenhorn residents.

I use to work in the Whispering Pines Office Complex, Centennial Drive is completely impacted and backed up at 5:00 P.M. with everyone exiting work. How much more can that small two lane road and intersection handle?

Will our neighborhood have heavy metals, toxic volumes of asbestos, noise and environmental pollution for generations to come?

Please reject the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Janie McKenzie
14330 Anchor Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Greg McKenzie
14330 Anchor Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945

PLANNING DEPT., NEVADA COUNTY, CA

DEAR MR KELLEY,

PLEASE CONSIDER ALL POINTS THAT ARE LAYED OUT IN THIS LETTER.

PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST IN THIS COUNTY, IN THIS TOWN. THE STATE OF CA IS STILL PAYING FOR CLEAN-UP & CONTAMINATED WATER WAYS FROM THE MINING OF 100 YRS. AGO.

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT ANOTHER TERRIBLE DISASTER.

SINCERELY, MICHAEL ONEDORING
530-919-60003

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Idaho-Maryland Mine Proposal

Mr. Kelley,

The history of gold mining in Nevada County has shown us, time and time again, that devastating impacts to the community and environment go hand in hand with this invasive industry.

The current mine reopening proposal violates every tenet associated with a community that desires clean abundant water, air and a healthy sustainable life in our ideal peaceful foothill town. We depend on our home and property investment as a means to see us through our eventual retirement in these beautiful foothills of Nevada County. This proposal is a blatant, outrageous threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community.

It is imperative that you order non-biased, independent and comprehensive tests and analysis, for the complex issues of environmental impacts associated with this proposal.

Analysis and Reports necessary:

1. Hydro Geology (underground flow) & Hydrology (above ground flow)
We know there is underground water flow, shown by the need for dewatering and continuous pump out. We must have a comprehensive, before the fact, understanding of all facets of this water flow, including contamination and discharge to the environment.
The report submitted by Rise does not mention that underground water flow is dominated by fractures and faults. An expert report will demonstrate that these cracks are ubiquitous to Nevada County's geology. This is how the entire designated area, and beyond, will suffer the complete loss of all usable water, during mining operations. The dewatering alone, at the rate of 3.6 million gallons per day will drain the aquifer in a time when water is even more precious for the fire safety of the citizens. Hundreds of residential wells will go dry. There is no possible way to mitigate this impact to less than significant. Any proposed extension of NID public water, is highly troublesome. Besides residents facing the loss of their high quality, free, well water, they would be forced to pay for a public service. And, most of the potentially affected homes do not have that public water option, since the infrastructure is not in place.

2. Land Use and Planning - Zoning
The project's proposed rezone does exactly what zoning should not; create a nuisance to incompatible adjacent existing residentially zoned uses. The existing proposed sites are zoned "light" industrial. We do not approve of changing this, and did not purchase our home adjacent to a potential "heavy" industrial site. The underground operations are also "heavy" industrial and reach into residential areas above. These drilling and blasting impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant. A plan of 80 years of heavy industrial mining will cause this area to be a wasteland of contaminated grounds and air.

3. Heavy truck/equipment Noise, Blasting Noise and Associated Earth Tremors.
This will be unbearable for residents within several miles of the sites. Noise travels great distances. Wildlife and citizens alike will be impacted to a significant degree. CEQA requires a comprehensive study of the proposed projects impacts; both for construction noise impacts and and operational noise impacts.
Aside from this proposal, there are other construction projects approved and on the drawing board in the vicinity. The cumulative impacts, together with this project, must be comprehensively analyzed.

4. Transportation & Traffic
Ingress and Egress will be severely hampered with the constant truck traffic. With only one route to evacuation, Greenhorn residents will be trapped, should there be a wildfire. Road repair estimates for heavy truck/equipment traffic must be studied. The project appears to present a new impediment for citizens east of the site, to Grass Valley and hwy 49/20, that must be analyzed. Expected levels of service must be presented for the purpose of analyzing impacts, or alternatives.
Traffic Engineers, Cal Trans, and the CHP should be consulted for the purpose of reporting on this.

5. Economic

6. Air Quality - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Realistic measurements must be studied to determine the impacts on clean air, from the endless heavy diesel truck and machinery exhaust volume. The release of unhealthy particulate matter into the air, from blasting, drilling and loading of toxic asbestos, chemicals and heavy metals, must be analyzed. A separate study must be done for the release of chemicals into the air, caused by the ammonium nitrate blasting. The carbon emitted into the atmosphere will be in the thousands of tons per year. This must be accurately studied and reported on.

7. Agriculture and Forestry Impact
Valuable natural assets will be devastated by the loss of 3.6 million gallons of water daily. Noise and air pollution will further exacerbate problems. Even at their own admission, the Rise NOP indicates unique, rare or endangered species will be lost. We already have bark Beetles and drought affecting our forests. What can we expect from this operation to exacerbate conditions? Rise has no plan or study for the impact of such massive water loss and pollution.

8. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
A study must be done on the impacts to these natural conditions, as well as the potential loss of unique wildlife and species of vegetation. Both extremes exist; loss of water to keep everything alive, and the flood of toxic water on outflows, all the way to the Sacramento Valley and beyond. When a well is run dry and your animals cannot be given water, what are the options?

9. Existing Superfund clean up site
Rise places this secondary, when in fact, it's a primary concern. This needs to be studied and a recommendation proposed for immediate clean up. Another existing Superfund clean up site is Lava Cap Mine. After years of attempting to mitigate the contamination, Lost Lake is still highly toxic. Signs are posted to keep away from the water. Empire Mine has equally toxic areas which remain fenced off to the public, as well as numerous sink holes.
The impacts of these should be considered cumulatively. Before anything is done to open this project, these sites must be cleaned up to a level of impacts that will not invade the environment. Any action ahead of this clean up is blatant negligence.

10. Friable asbestos in serpentine rock
Our foothills are composed of much serpentine rock. This contains large amounts of asbestos, which can be expected to become friable upon processing. A complete expert report must be made in reference to this subject. Rise cannot mitigate releasing this toxic substance into the environment to a less than significant impact. Additionally, what are the long term affects of the paste that is mentioned, which is pumped back into the ground? What will an expert in the future report on this issue? Please explain the methodology for a report like this to be viable for an 80 year project.

11. Water Quality in/outflows
Sacramento Central Valley Water Quality Control Board must be contacted to review the proposed outflows of 3.6 million gallons of contaminated water, daily. An evaluation must be done by this agency before awarding a waste drainage requirements permit. Again, history has shown that highly contaminated outflows of mining operations are full of heavy metals in toxic volumes. This contaminated flow was known to reach the Bay Area during measurements of past mine outflows. A comprehensive analysis of this discharge effluent by downstream users, must assess the impacts to people and organisms affected by it, the entire distance of travel to the pacific.

12. Utilities and Energy Use Impact
It's stated that the equivalent energy used by 5000 homes would be required by this project. The overreach of this project cannot be understated. This is an impact of significance on our electrical infrastructure. A study and report must be made as to who will pay for PG & E to upgrade our systems, as well as what strain on existing service will impact residents until those upgrades are done, or not done at all. We're talking about a product that is mere ounces per ton, for the exchange of all this energy and impact.

13. Hazards
Trucks would be transporting explosives into the area. Should any one of these deliveries, or handlings go wrong, we will suffer a forest fire catastrophe on a massive scale. Our school bus routes are all around this area. In fact, the Durham School Bus Transportation yard is on Bennett St., less than a mile from the Centennial site. We should not allow these hazardous materials anywhere near the proposed area. There are also other hazards associated with a mining operation. Chemicals, oil, engine cooling systems compounds..all of which can leak and create an even more toxic environment. A study needs to be done on the potential impacts of these collateral issues.
Additionally, If there is no specific knowledge of the location of fractures and fissures underground, and an explosive charge is detonated, a significant hazard is eminent. How will the surrounding residential areas react beneath and above the ground? This must be studied and explained.

14. Impacts on the Aesthetics of the area must be studied and reported
Would an industrial wasteland fulfill the county's desire for a healthy sustainable, beautiful foothill area, that would benefit existing residents, and inspire tourism?

These required requests for analysis' must be comprehensive. They must contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. All reports must demonstrate the methodology and facts supporting it's conclusions. It must seek to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of all mitigation measures, and it must consider all impacts both individually and cumulatively. A reasonable range of feasible alternatives, including "No Project" must be proposed and analyzed.

This proposal is intensely stressful for all of us. The prospect of losing our precious water, and having to endure the impacts to our environment, is already affecting us severely, as we are now having to manage our emotional life in the face of such potential devastation to our homes and lifestyle. In a time of climate change, high fire danger, and drought conditions regionally, the loss of our precious water resource is unacceptable. The real costs of this project will be shouldered by the citizens of this area. Were it properly shouldered by the proponents of this project, there would not be any profit. This Canadian company will be making it's profit from the monetary and physical hardships of the citizens in the surrounding residential community. This type of project needs to be disclosed to every perspective buyer of property in the area, because they/we will be paying for the disaster that ensues by these mining operations.

Will the Rise company set aside a bond of millions of dollars to guarantee coverage for the draining of wells and loss of property value? How will they be made responsible for health claims from exposure to toxic substances, which has occurred in every other mine, and likely to occur with this one?

There are too many risks to the community to have another toxic mining operation begin the same devastation this industry has known in the past. **Please obtain all new extensive reports from every agency and expert possible. This disaster must not be allowed to cause our**

beautiful area to become an industrial wasteland. For the few temporary jobs it might bring, and the gold in the pockets of Canadians, hundreds, if not thousands, of residents will be impacted and likely be leaving the county.

As county government representatives, you have an obligation to protect us, our children, our jobs, our waters, our wildlife, our air and our forests.

In closing, I reference the facts, shared in this documentary of the Siskon Gold mine disaster in North San Juan: https://vimeo.com/120747168
This information is direct and factual. There is no way Rise can guarantee they will not devastate our water and community in the same manner. And who will pay for that damage? Rise? Nevada County?

RECEIVED
JUL 27 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

July 22, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Rise mine proposal

Dear Mr. Kelley,

We are writing to voice our opposition to the Rise Gold mining project, which seeks to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We have lived in Grass Valley since 1998, and moved here because it is generally beautiful and quiet. We live in Peardale off of You Bet Rd., and our daughter and 2 grandchildren live in Rough & Ready. We know from decades of experience what it's like to drive on roads full of gravel and sand trucks coming from Hansen Brothers' quarry on Greenhorn Creek. The trucks are noisy, polluting and spill their loads regularly. To get to the Brunswick Basin or Nevada City, we drive past the mine site. We don't want to have more polluting trucks full of toxic tailings on the roads.

Besides the traffic and noise concerns, the need for water will be a strain on our resources. I'm afraid only a few individuals from one corporation will benefit from this operation. All the rest of us (and the planet) will suffer. We have the opportunity to look forward to cleaner industry instead of looking back to the 19th century.

I strongly advise you to stop this project in whatever ways possible.
Thank you,

Stephen Barr & Pamela Whitman
14311 Cahill Ln.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

July 28, 2020

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior PlannerNevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I have been a resident of Nevada County for the past 40 years. I came here to raise my family in the foothills of the Sierra, leaving Los Angeles area because of massive air pollution, and traffic congestion.

1. I am very concerned about the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland mine in Nevada County, being a cancer survivor, and knowing that there is a high incidence of cancer, especially breast cancer, in this area. It concerns me that toxic chemicals could leach into wells, causing contamination that down the road can lead to cancer. What precautions are being developed to assure that there will not be spillage of toxins?

2. Air pollution, sound pollution, contamination of the waterways and underground wells are concerns. What preparations would guarantee in the EIR that no environmental contaminants are being released?

3. Does this project in any way impinge on Tribal/Indigenous lands? Is the local Nisenan tribe on board with this project?

Respectfully,

Dee Anne Dinelli

*13050 Little Deer Creek Lane * Nevada City, CA 95959 * deeannedinelli@gmail.com*

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Susan Mincks
12894 Greenhorn Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

August 3, 2020

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Matt Kelley, Senior Planner,

I am strongly opposed to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine. The Canadian mining company; RISE Gold, proposes to reopen a long closed gold mine in the middle of Grass Valley, CA.

I am certain that Grass Valley and all of Nevada County will be better off in both the short term and the long term WITHOUT the mining project. It is simply unacceptable to approve a project that would further increase air, noise, traffic and dust generated by the mine.

This project will:

- significantly and unavoidably increase local air pollution;
- increase noise, traffic and dust;
- drain wells in the vicinity of the project site and impact local water quality;
- inflict incessant blasting on the community;
- severely impact residential property values if they change the zoning from residential to industrial

My husband and I moved to Grass Valley seven years ago from Roseville because we wanted to be in the mountains, small community atmosphere, and more rural area. Then the county approves a "light industrial" facility at the corners of Greenhorn and Brunswick, which happens to be right next door to us! For three years now, we have had major dust and equipment noise from this construction site that starts at 6:00 am and continues all day. I can't imagine what a 24/7 operation would be like,

with blasting, trucks coming and going at all hours of the day and night, hauling away dirt and rocks. This will severely impact our already congested little town!

Our community has the capacity, resources, knowledge and wisdom to create permanent, sustainable 21st century jobs and to stimulate the local economy in ways that will not negatively impact the health of our community. I wholeheartedly support bringing high technology jobs, alternative fuel R&D, solar cell development and other 21st century jobs into our area.

I watched the video of Benjamin Mossman, CEO of Rise Mine, speaking to investors in May of 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sInx2b268I. There is no mention of fractures and faults in the geologic description. Groundwater flow is dominated by these fractures, and a good hydro geologist will report this. There must be a NEW and updated Hydrology report done for ANY biased reports already submitted by Rise. I request that the county gets an **updated hydrology report** and that you look into the impacts mentioned above. I ask the Grass Valley Planning Commission, the Grass Valley City Council, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to **REJECT the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, the rezoning of the site, the project plan and any and all other applications for this purpose.**

Sincerely,

SC Mincks

Susan Mincks
scmincks@gmail.com
530-274-1254

August 2, 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine NOP Comments

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Here some of the issues that should be studied.

Air Quality - Our area of Nevada County suffers from numerous days each year of poor air quality, including high Ozone levels. What sources of emissions will be discharged at the site? How much will they emit? Specifically what volume of greenhouse gasses will be emitted at the site and by associated traffic? How and how frequently will emissions be monitored and who will do it?

Hazardous Materials - What hazardous materials will be present on site? How will their use be monitored? How will they be transported? What spill or contamination procedures/resources will be in place. Since this area already has longstanding issues with toxic mining waste from previous mines, what regulations will be in place, what governing bodies will enforce, and how will Rise Gold be held financially liable if there is cleanup or remediation required in years ahead?

Dewatering - We have local history of unpredicted dewatering of private wells due to mining. What will be the process for addressing unpredicted drying of neighboring wells? How will the public be assured that Rise Gold has the responsibility and resources to address future problems?

Water Quality/Wolf Creek - How exactly will water be discharged into Wolf Creek? Hydrologic studies should be done to determine the impact on the creek. Since the settling pond is suggested as the solution to effluent control, how often will effluent contents, temperature and flow rates be monitored? What specifically will be monitored, and by what trained and credible agent? What would be the consequences of settling pond failure? How will the public be assured that Rise Gold has the responsibility and resources to address unpredicted problems?

Noise - What are the sources of on-site noise? What will the noise level be at the site boundaries and at the nearest residences? What will be the noise level of truck traffic on public roadways? How will on-site and off-site noise be monitored and what would be the required mitigation if noise exceeds predicted?

Traffic - Studies should be done of worst-case traffic scenarios, in particular at intersections. This should include both truck and auto traffic. How will traffic be monitored to insure it is within the limits established?

Power Usage - How much power will be used? What is the impact of this on our local utility capacity?

Economic Study - What amount of money in employment and profits will stay in our county? And for how long?

Existing Environmental Issues - There are currently significant environmental issues existing on the site due to past mining practices. How will these be addressed? How does this project contribute to/exacerbate our existing Climate Crisis? What alternative uses of this site could be explored that would help mitigate Climate Crisis?

Unanticipated Environmental Issues - How will the public be assured that Rise Gold maintains adequate financial resources throughout the project life in order to take responsibility for future problems they might cause? Will a bond be posted?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rob Ferroggiaro

Rob and Suzanne Ferroggiaro

13340 Lower Colfax Way

Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

12217 Cascade Way
Nevada City, CA
1 Aug 2020

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Sutie 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr Kelley,

I oppose the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland mine. There are several reasons:

Proximity to drinking water source for many families: My house on Banner Mountain is on a well. I could easily lose water. Or maybe even worse, the water could become tainted with deadly chemicals before I detected a problem. I doubt if Rise will honor any promise to restore drinkable water to our aquifer. They just won't be able afford it.

Other water concerns: Their hydrology report is incomplete. It didn't talk about forest health, water reserves for fire control, or the general uncertainty of the hydrological estimates.

Environmental destruction: The health of Wolf Creek is important to Grass Valley. They say they will be dumping 815 million gallons of water into this jewel. This water may contain mercury or cyanide or other mining chemicals.

Air pollution: The air will be polluted by the thousands of truckloads of rock per day that will be travelling in the area. The explosive byproducts and energy used by the mine itself will also be put into our air. The dust and particulates produced by grinding will drift toward somebody's house: Maybe my house, maybe your house, maybe downtown Grass Valley. How much asbestos will be in that dust?

Noise: Rise proposes to grind 1000 tons of rock per day, and detonate 257 blasts of ammonium nitrate per day. The diesel trucks will add an additional unacceptable level of noise to Grass Valley.

Traffic: Besides the increased traffic, the serenity of the rural neighborhood will be destroyed.

Property values: My house will be worth less when we become a dusty dirty industrial area instead of a beautiful place to raise a family or retire. Who is watching out for the value of my house?

Please stop this project right now!

Sincerely,

Barry Angell

Barry Angell

cc: Heidi Hall

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Rise GV Mine

From: Pat Rutter (utterone7@yahoo.com)

To: utterone7@yahoo.com; matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Date: Monday, July 27, 2020, 02:40 PM PDT

Good afternoon, Mr. Kelley,

We were informed about the mine project. We are off Greenhorn, up 3mi. from Brunswick.

This doesn't seem a sound idea...esp. for those who live right around that area. Many properties will
be effected unduly. We're not sure of the exact purpose of Rice's opening the mine....but I just have
one suggestion.

We spoke of a 'visitor center' for that area rather than the construction planned to pump, dig, impacting water with possible draining of wells....any blasting, pollutions of many kinds, etc. is devastating. It could draw in many people using the facility for maybe, trails, Picnic Areas, History lectures, engaging more with the community than blowing up the joint.

The opposition is a menace to the area, traffic congestion, detours, not to mention the contamination on many levels....esp. our water, the most valuable asset here. Please consider this idea for the ways & means to a better environment for all. We know $$$ are always the big interests for these companies....but please see the upside for hundreds living here and enjoying the 'Visitor Center' as a more friendly proposition.

Thanks for your time,
Pat & Ray Rutter

Pat & Ray Rutter

Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine

For the past 30 years we have lived on Diamond Court which sits directly atop the old Idaho-Maryland mine. As such, we're at Ground Zero for this project. Our property still has visible scars left over from historic mining operations including tailings, abandoned air shafts, and large high-pressure pipes (thanks to Newmont Mining).

This is our third go-around with a junior Canadian company trying to reopen the mine. Our primary concern has always been the dewatering impact on our well. As a result, we participated in local domestic well monitoring programs for 15 years. We have large baseline of data that establishes that our well level does not fluctuate seasonally. It is a highly reliable well with pristine water.

However, in the 2008 EIR to reopen the mine, Todd Engineering placed our well in the high risk group for dewatering. In fact, the *Hydrogeologic Assessment* listed our well as the third most at-risk well. It is likely that our well will fail as a result of the dewatering process. That is the conclusion of the Todd Engineering study. As a result, it is imperative that the applicant arrange to have permanent NID water infrastructure in place that's ready for immediate hook-up for high risk wells. This must be done prior to the beginning of the dewatering process. The applicant must also provide adequate financial bonding and a detailed plan for rapidly connecting well owners to NID water. The recent fire related PG&E outages gave well owners a painful lesson of what it's like to go for days without water. With proper mitigation, this is an entirely avoidable situation.

This project has clear winners and losers. The junior mining company from Canada is a winner. It may even produce a few more local jobs (though most experience miners will come from outside the area). The losers are the hundreds of home owners around the mine. If this project is approved, noise, pollution, traffic, dewatered wells, and plunging real estate values are in our future.

The applicant promises a clean mining operation. "Clean mining" is an oxymoron. Mining is one of the most environmentally destructive human activities. Nevada County has endless examples of the environmental damage caused by gold mining. There are better alternatives for this land use than starting another toxic legacy.

The most troubling aspect of this project is the lack of a modern vision from our local leaders. Reopening the mine is a radical experiment that will transform a beautiful, rural neighborhood into an industrial nightmare. In the state of California, operating a gold mine in a residential area is unprecedented. The applicant is essentially proposing dropping a 24x7 "rock crushing plant" into a peaceful neighborhood. This is outrageous.

The gold rush had its day, and there's a romanticized notion of the 49ers that is baked into our local culture. The reality is that gold mining was an environmental disaster that Nevada County is still battling. Are we doomed to repeat history? Perhaps it's time for our local leaders to step aside and make room for those who have a modern 21st century vision of the future –a vision that has a greener, friendlier relationship with the environment and one which is good for the community and for business.

This is not that project.

Jim & Renate Otto

RECEIVED
AUG 07 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

14069 Diamond Court
Grass Valley

RECEIVED
AUG 07 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 4, 2020

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to respond to the notice of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. I am a Grass Valley resident and have been for 26 years. I have worked as a research scientist studying the earth's Upper Atmosphere, working for SRI International for more that 40 years. I am currently a consultant for the University of Central Florida working remotely for them. I live off Greenhorn Rd, within a mile of the Idaho-Maryland Brunswick site. I have examined much of the environmental reports posted on the web site referred to in the notice. I have concerns.

Ground water.

- The ground water analysis reports are inconsistent. The modeling uses multiple data sets of rainfall over different periods.
- The model is based on a calculated average rainfall over those periods stating in the text. an average of 52.3 inches but showing 43 inches in figure 3-4. Figure 3-4 Annual Water Year Rainfall in Grass Valley, Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.
- The average rainfall does not consider climate change. A lower average rainfall will have negative effects on the modeling results. Climate change is real and will affect the analysis of impacts. It must be considered.
- Some years are drought years with only 30 or so inches of rainfall. The mine should not dewater during those years. We do not want to share our groundwater during periods of shortfall.
- If the mine uses 1000 gal/min, that will greatly diminish the insufficient groundwater during drought years affecting wells, streams, springs, wildlife, and us.
- According to the documents, the well on my property was not analyzed.

Air pollution

- I do not see sufficient study of air pollution dissipation.
- Chemicals and particulates will disperse somehow and will need monitoring.

Noise Pollution

- I do not see sufficient study of noise pollution due to mining activity and increased truck traffic.
- As you know noise is measured in decibels (a ratio) consequently noise compared to something. That something for me is quiet not someone's idea of normal noise.
- 20T trucks between 6 am and 10 pm will be a serious problem.

Property Value

- Property values will clearly be negatively affected with a nearby mine in full operation. Who will compensate for this loss?

I am happy to discuss these matters further if you wish. Feel free to contact me.
Sincerely,

John Kelly (530) 274 8819
12748 The Hollow
Grass Valley

Johnd4kelly@gmail.com

TO:

MATT KELLEY, SENIOR PLANNER

NEVADA COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.
950 MAIDU AVE.
NEVADA CITY, CA. 95959 - 8617

FROM:

DAVID T. BOWMAN
16463 TERRAPAX PL.
GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945-9354
530.798.6699, 273.7418

AUGUST 2020

RE: CITIZEN/COMMUNITY INPUT ON NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ON THE REOPENING OF THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE(S)

CONCERNS

I HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS THAT I WANT THE D.E.I.R. TO ADDRESS:

1. IMPACT OF DEWATERING OF THE MINE ON WELLS IN THE AREA

2. IMPACT OF DEWATERING ON THE GREATER AREA WATER TABLE (WITH AQUAFIRS RUNNING THROUGH 300± MILES OF INTERCONNECTED DRIFT SHAFTS etc.)

3. IMPACT OF ELECTRIC PUMPING ON THE AREA GRID CONSISTENCY AND QUALITY of SERVICE TO HOME OWNERS

4. IMPACT OF "RUNOFF" THROUGH "PARTIAL PIPELINE" etc. DOWN SO. FORK WOLF CREEK THROUGH STATE PARK MEADOW AND DESIGNATED PUBLIC TRAIL SYSTEM INTERFACE WITH TOXICS

5. IMPACT OF INCREASED VOLUME OF WATER, THE REMOVAL OF TOXICS * AND OTHER POLLUTANTS ON THE GRASS VALLEY WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

6. IMPACT OF INCREASED WEIGHTED TRUCKS WITH NOISE & ROAD WEAR ON NEARBY INTERSECTIONS AND SURROUNDING ROADS

7. IMPACT OF MINE ROCK REMOVAL AND PLACEMENT IN RELATION TO STATE MANDATES ON PROTECTION OF EXITING WATERCOARES AND TOPOGRAPHY

8. IMPACT OF NON-EXITENT FIRE RISK ASSESMENT PLAN FOR MINE AND SURROUNDING AREA (HEVALY FORRESTED)

BACKROUND INFLUENCING CONCERNS:

50yr + PROPERTY-HOME OWNER TAX-PAYER - (4MI. EAST JUST OFF GRNHRN RD - JONES RIDGE RD.)

25yrs + Clerk of G.V. GRNHRN RD. ASSN. AD HOC N.C. ADOPT-A-ROAD LITTER REMOVAL PROGRAM - CLEANING GRNHRN RD. AND EAST GRNHRN.

* ATTENTION TO MERCURY-ARSNIC

BACKROUND CONTD

8 yrs. So. YUBA RIVER CITIZEN LEAGUE (SYRCL)
RIVER MONITOR (WATER QUALITY +) AT SPRING
Creek (near EDWARDS CROSSING) (SYRCL
PUT A 24/7 "MONITOR" AT THE HEAD OF SPRING
CREEK because this was a runoff stream from
SIERRA MINING OPERATION)

18 yrs. N.C. ELEM. SCHOOL TEACHER (RET.)
TEACHING CALIFORNIA/LOCAL HISTORY,
ENVIRONMENTAL/HABITAT SCIENCE etc.

YOUR CAREFUL CRITICAL ATTENTION TO THESE CONCERNS
IS APPRECIATED AND MANDATED BY THE STATE, N.O.P etc.

THANK YOU, I remain sincerely,

David J Bruns

c: file
C.E.A., COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:
HALL, MILLER, SCHOFIELD,
HOEK, ANDERSON.

RECEIVED
AUG 07 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Ms. Mary Good
12333 Francis Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95949-6514

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Heather Anderson Date 8/7/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Frederick Finney
12333 Francis Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95949-6514

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed [signature] Date 8/8/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Mary Hood Date 8/7/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Fred Fenn Date 8/7/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

M Perrin
1175 Alpine Way
Colfax, CA 95713



RECEIVED
AUG 12 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959





RECEIVED
AUG 12 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

SACRAMENTO CA 957
08 AUG 2020 PM 5 L
John Kreilkamp & Ilka Nadler
10188 North Bloomfield Rd
Nevada City, CA 95959



RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Ariel Good-Phlegar
12333 Francis Dr.
Grass Valley, CA



RECEIVED
AUG 10 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Melanie Pennuk Date 8.7.20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed BB Date 8-9-20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Ellen Wardlaw Date 8/8/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

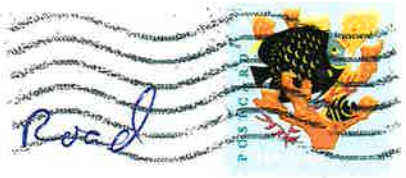
Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Date 8/7/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Tony Zumbra
12999 Quaker Hill Road
Nevada City CA
95959



RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



David Murphy
13268 Woodstock Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959

Anthony Asher
11267 Diamond Back Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945



RECEIVED
AUG 12 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

J. Moalem
14649 Hunter Pl.
Nevada City, CA 95959



RECEIVED
AUG 11 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Tom Jurs Date 8/9/2020

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Date

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Appendix B - Page 96

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Joel Mosier Date 8/7/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Marin Lowitz
PO Box 1693
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Lipowitz
PO Box 1693
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Cyrus Sweet
14494 Lake Wildwood Dr.
94946, Penn Valley, CA

SACRAMENTO CA 957
AUG 2020 PM 2 L



RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

SACRAMENTO CA 957





Ms. Wendy E. Hartley
14711 Banner Lava Cap Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959-8966

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed _____ Date 8-14-20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Richard Lyzwa Date 8-12-20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Cyrus Sweet Date 8/11/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

ACTIVE GOLD MINE NOT IN OUR BACKYARD!

Signed Wendy E. Hartley Date 8/8/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Laine Ignment Turner
13220 Woodstock Dr
Nevada City CA 95959



RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

SACRAMENTO CA 957

P. Turner
13220 Woodstock Dr
Nevada City CA 95959



RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Lillian Edwards
P.O. Box 2337
Nevada City CA 95959



RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

SACRAMENTO CA 957

Philip Turner
13220 Woodstock Dr
CA 95959



RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents--Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed _____ Date 08/10/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Paul Turner Date 8/10/2020

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed _____ Date Aug. 12, 2020

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Appendix - Page 76

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed _____ Date 08/11/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 **BY 8/17/20!!**

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

SACRAMENTO CA 957

Ms. Katherine A. Whitby
578 Sutton Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945

USA FOREVER

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

-869839

Robert Kelaghan
14539 Sun Forest Dr.
Penn Valley, Ca. 95946

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

SACRAMENTO CA 957

15496 Ridge Estates
Nevada City, CA 95959

FOREVER

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

SACRAMENTO CA 957

W. PETER CLARK
15496 RIDGE ESTATES RD
NEVADA CITY, CA 95959

FOREVER

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Katherine Whitby Date 8/12/2020

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Robert M. Kellephan Date 8/7/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Rhonda Clark Date 8/17/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown **#** of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

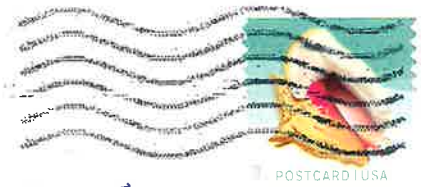
Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed W. Peter Clark Date 8.17.2020

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Collette Castro
Michael McClain
13607 Haas Ct.
Rough & Ready CA 95975



RECEIVED
AUG 17 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Chloe Metcalfe
290 Sierra Chief Dr
Grass Valley, CA



RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Paul Maxwood
15401 Zinfandel Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945



RECEIVED
AUG 14 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Rebecca Sweet-Engston
14494 Lake Wildwood Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946



RECEIVED
AUG 13 2020
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kelley / Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue / Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Collette Castro Date 8/13/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Michael McFadden

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed Chloe Metcalfe Date 8/8

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed [signature] Date 8/10/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

I oppose the Canadian firm Rise Gold's application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine **because**:

* Mining **24 hours/day/7 days/week.**
* Over **1,000,000 gallons** of groundwater and **1500 tons** of waste rock will be removed **DAILY.**
* Trucks w/ rock/tailings **16 hrs/day/7 days/wk.**
* Over **9,000 tons of CO2** produced **YEARLY.**
* Unknown # of local jobs created, many jobs would be specialized and recruited outside our county.

Mine documents can be viewed at: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2882/Application-Documents---Rise-Grass-Valle

Signed [signature] Date 8/11/20

phone / (530) 265-1423 BY 8/17/20!!

email / matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us