

Barbara Price

DI

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Please vote NO

Tine Mathiasen



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:35 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Please vote NO

[REDACTED]

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Barbara Edwards

[REDACTED]

February 5, 2024

Heidi Hall, Supervisor District 1
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Rise Grass Valley application to reinstate mining operations at the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Ms. Hall and Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on both approving the EIR and on the application for rezoning and any associated variances.

I did not attend the meetings in May or December; however, I did watch most of the proceedings on the broadcast.

Several presenters touched on the rights of the community. When Rise Grass Valley purchased the Idaho-Maryland property in January 2017 they had to know that there was significant opposition to reinitiating mining operations in essentially the heart of a community. For the past 30 years the county has adopted and followed a general plan which is completely counter to this proposal.

I wrote to you last spring to voice my opposition to the proposed application to reinitiate mining operations. At that time, I expressed my concern regarding: noise, traffic, my well, my property values, and the pollution caused by reopening the mine.

I have owned my home on Madrona Way since November of 1992. When we relocated to Nevada County, we were looking for a small town that provided a rural quality of life. Mining in 1992 was clearly a thing of the past. 1957 was 67 years ago. It is ridiculous for Rise Grass Valley to suggest that the mine wasn't shut down.

For the past 31 years we have invested in and been a part of the community. Our son attended local schools, I worked for a county hospital for 19 years, and my husband ran a business locally for 20 years. We have shopped locally and have spent many a day at the fairgrounds in a Treat Street Booth.

Our rights need to be protected. Please vote NO!

Sincerely,

Barbara Edwards

Barbara Price

DI

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Rise Gold Mine

Tine Mathiasen



Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 1:58 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Rise Gold Mine



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To the Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express my hope that you will deny Rise Gold Mine's proposed project to reopen the mine on Idaho Maryland Rd.

The project would jeopardize our environment; polluting our water and streams, adding air pollution, congesting the local roadways and adding the noise of underground blasting in the local residential neighborhoods.

The project will use a great deal of water and will impact the local residential wells. It will use the county's roadways and will create a great deal of trucking traffic in the area.

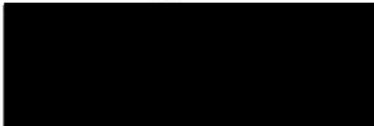
Although they promise jobs, the profits will most likely leave our community and when they are finished it is unknown what damage will have been done.

Our county is not an industrial area and most people come to visit because of the beauty and the peaceful environment. Most have moved here for those same reasons.

Please vote "no" on the mining project and protect our community and our environment.

Thank you for your time, consideration and stewardship in the matter.

Sincerely,
Donna Taggart and Peter Selaya



DI

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Special Meeting February 15, 2024

Tine Mathiasen



From: Randi Pratin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:56 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Special Meeting February 15, 2024

[REDACTED]

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To the Board of Supervisors,

I trust that this is the final time that I will need to comment on this matter re: the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I am unable to attend the meeting in person.

There are many issues at stake here if this project is allowed-

- ~Air pollution
- ~Water pollution
- ~Drains away water needed for much more vital needs than a mine
- ~Hurts local neighbors
- ~Too much traffic and heavy equipment on roads not designed for such
- ~RISE has proven to be untrustworthy and has a deleterious affect wherever they open up shop
- ~No certain financial return for our community

DO NOT SUBMIT TO THESE BULLIES

SAY NO PLEASE

Thank you for listening once again.

Randi Pratini

DI

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: No to Idaho/Maryland Mine and Rise Gold Corporation

Tine Mathiasen



From: Daniel J Desmond [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:42 AM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: No to Idaho/Maryland Mine and Rise Gold Corporation

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Board Members,

Thanks for the vision and leadership you provide for the Nevada County community. I am asking you to protect the integrity of the community by not allowing the opening of the Idaho/Maryland Mine. The idea of an extractive polluting industrial site at the edge of a thriving city in the heart of Nevada County is a bad idea at many levels. When you couple that with the proven irresponsible reputation of the Rise Gold Corporation, it seems that a no vote is the only responsible and ethical choice. The integrity of this community is based on many factors. Responsible and balanced economic growth is but one factor. Quality of life factors represent an equally important element of the community.

Daniel Desmond
[REDACTED]



2/5/24

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2024

Nevada County
Clerk of the Board
950 Maidu Ave Ste 200
Nevada City CA 95959

**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Board of Supervisors,

Nevada County offers a beacon of hope for communities being threatened by sprawl, both residential and industrial. To date, the County has maintained much of its natural beauty and has been governed by those who put people, nature, and quality of life as a first priority.

The reopening of the Idaho/Maryland mine would forever change the character of the community and lead to further extractive industrial growth.

The community has spoken in asking you to deny the reopening of the mine. Rise Gold has proven to be untrustworthy with no sense of community. Please vote "no."

The recent publication of "Dear Human at the Edge of Time" has an interesting paragraph by one of the editors (Aileen Cassinetta). The book was a product of the Fifth National Climate Assessment. I believe this paragraph has relevance to your decision and I have attached a copy I hope you'll read. The book also has a poem in it by local poet Molly Fisk.

Thanks for your work in the community.

Take care,

Daniel Desmond



Aileen Cassinetta, Editor
Dear Human at the End of Time

It wasn't so long ago that 300,000 prospectors rushed to California to earn a fortune. The quest for gold in the Old West forever changed the land – irreparably impacting local fauna and flora, impairing watersheds and food chains with mercury and displacing Indigenous American communities that, precontact, lived sustainably for thousands of years. Their descendants, possessing the knowledge and pathways needed to rebuild ties between people and land are a vital resource in envisioning a more viable and creative climate response.

DI

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: No Mine

Tine Mathiasen



[Redacted]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 9:15 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: No Mine

[Redacted]

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Hello, please don't allow the mine in our County. We don't need the money badly enough to make up for all the damage and issues it will cause the land and the residents. This is a community of older folks; and old people need peace and quiet and restfulness, not big dump trucks zooming up and down the road, potentially ruined wells, dirt and dust, noise, and other irritants. Besides, it is doubtful any of us will be running down there, looking for a job to make crock pot ceramics or dig for gold.

Thank you,
Hope Light

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

Barbara Price

DI

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Opposition to Idaho-Maryland mine reopening

Tine Mathiasen



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 7:50 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Idaho-Maryland mine reopening

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Dear Nevada County Supervisors,

I would like to support you in stopping the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine.

Kind regards,

Heidi Breuer

DI

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: No to Mine

Tine Mathiasen



[Redacted]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 4:23 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: No to Mine

[Redacted]

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On behalf of my entire neighbourhood here at Gold Flat and Pinewoods in Nevada City, we all urge a unanimous NO to the mine...we have neighbourhood talks and meetups, we all say NO to the mine, and are quite frustrated that it's taking so long to shut down the application.

thank you for listening!

John Alevizakis

DI

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Idaho Maryland Mine = NO

Tine Mathiasen

[REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 1:42 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine = NO

[REDACTED]

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Good afternoon.

NO to the mine please! There is no trust established that the mine is safe. Water, noise, jobs, etc.

Cynthia Bailey

DI

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Idaho-Maryland Mine

Tine Mathiasen

[Redacted]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:37 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

[Redacted]

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I urge the Board to vote in denial of the mining permit application by Rise Grass Valley.

Without reiterating all the reasons already stated in the staff report, I only wish to state that Nevada County's legacy is based on mining, logging, and agriculture.

That was then, today the population density, infrastructure and urban planning is not supportive of a 24/7 mining operation. The great potential for a deleterious impact on our precious ground water does not warrant taking a risk based solely on suppositions proposed by the Rise corporation.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns,

Oscar Jess Barba and Lorraine V. Barba

[Redacted]

DI

Barbara Price

From: Tine Mathiasen
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: RISE GOLD

Tine Mathiasen



Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:56 PM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: RISE GOLD



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Dear Supervisors,

Thanks for your work in keeping our community safe and beautiful. Your votes against the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine will continue to protect our lives here.

The bulk of the community and the Planning Commission agree that Nevada County is no place for Rise Gold. Water, air, and noise pollution; health concerns; environmental destruction; property devaluation; aesthetics - these are a few of my concerns. Gold mining no longer has a place in Nevada County. Please vote against the mine.

Thanks for your consideration.

Ronnie Paul



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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
www.avg.com

DI

RECEIVED

FEB 08 2024

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2-4-2024

Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

It is out of concern regarding the potential re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold that I write this letter (again). Having lived within the projected sphere of influence for forty-seven years, I know for a fact that the site has not been an active mine during this time.

My concerns are the degradation of air quality, noise pollution, increased traffic, harm to wells and water quality, harmful impacts on the quality of life to humans and animals, and the negative effects on home values.

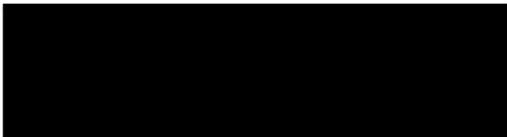
Our area has transitioned away from a mining and logging community. Rise Gold's attempt to bully our community into opening a mine is shameful. Their facts have been proven to be "alternative facts" and their actions in their own country have been criminal.

This is our community, not Rise Gold's. Please deny Rise Gold and any future attempts to open a mine in our area.

The Board of Supervisors has the unenviable task to decide the fate of Rise Gold, please listen to your constituents, follow the science not the money, and deny Rise Gold.

Thank you,

Mary Lee



D3

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Idaho Maryland Mine reopening

Tine Mathiasen



[Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:35 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine reopening

[Redacted]

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I seriously want to remind you of the seismic activity we experienced (May 11 2023 5.5 magnitude) during the Development Commission's public hearing. Specifically during Mr Terry McAteer's question as to why the fault lines were removed from the map used for the FEIR. Seems Western Nevada County received a wake up shaking. Remember too the Commissions unanimous denial of said ill advised and disruptive venture.in Grass Valley Please add your unanimous denial to the reopening of IMM and put a stop to any/all future mining ventures in Nevada County. Too many failures with cleanups at county/taxpayer expense.

Sincerely,

Charmian Railsback

[Redacted]

D3

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Mine

Tine Mathiasen



[Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:56 AM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Mine

[Redacted]

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If the mine opens it will cause a huge amount of traffic on our streets and highway.

Janet Ann Collins

[Redacted]

D3

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: Please don't authorize the mine!

Tine Mathiasen



Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:14 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Please don't authorize the mine!



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Rise Gold is making a last ditch effort to get approval for the Idaho Maryland Mine. Please say "no" to them! The amount of jobs it creates is not worth the impact of the mine!

I'm a registered voter.

Kathleen Fraga



D3

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: I vote against opening the Idaho-Maryland mine for mining. --Clay Olson, Grass Valley

Tine Mathiasen



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

[Redacted]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 11:53 AM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: I vote against opening the Idaho-Maryland mine for mining. --Clay Olson, Grass Valley

[Redacted]

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I vote against opening the Idaho-Maryland mine for mining. --Clay Olson, Grass Valley

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nevada County Community Development Agency <listserv@civicplus.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 2, 2024 at 11:39 AM
Subject: Staff Report Released for Idaho Maryland Mine Special Meeting

[Redacted]

Staff Report Released

Board of Supervisors
Staff Report for Rise
Grass Valley's Idaho
Maryland Mine
Project Now
Available



Staff Report Released for Idaho Maryland Mine Special Meeting

Extended evening meeting hours until 7 p.m. on Feb. 15 to encourage public attendance

Today, the Nevada County Planning Department released the [staff report](#) and [notice of public hearing](#) for the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project scheduled for public hearing at the Board of Supervisors Special Meeting on Feb. 15.

At this upcoming meeting, the Board of Supervisors will hear presentations from staff and the applicant as well as take public comment. The Board is expected to ask questions of the staff and the applicant before entering deliberations on whether to approve or deny the application to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley.

This Special Board Meeting follows the May 10-11, 2023, Planning Commission Public Hearing, where the Commission recommended that Supervisors deny the project and the Final Environmental Impact Report.

To encourage public participation and attendance, the Board will extend their meeting into the evening on Thursday, Feb. 15, ending at approximately 7 p.m. Members of the public who cannot attend during work hours are urged to attend in the evening.

The public can submit written comments by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb 14, to be considered by the Board before they make their determination. Written comments submitted after 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14 (including written comments submitted during the meeting) will not be considered by the Board prior to their deliberations. However, all written comments submitted by the conclusion of the hearing will become part of the public record.

Public Hearing Details:

1. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, from 9 a.m. to approximately 7 p.m., and may continue to Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, beginning at 9 a.m., if needed.

- Eric Rood Administrative Center, Board of Supervisor Chamber, First Floor, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City.
- View live online on [Nevada County's YouTube Channel](#).

Public Hearing Schedule:

- Presentations from the applicant and from County staff related to the Project and the Final Environmental Impact Report.
- Public comment. Members of the public who wish to address the Board of Supervisors should attend the Feb. 15 meeting as there may not be a second day of public comment on Feb. 16. Please see the "How to Participate" section below.
- Board questions and comments.
- Board deliberations. The Board will then make a final determination on whether to approve or deny the project.

How to Participate in Public Comment:

Verbal Comment:

- Community members will be given the opportunity to address the Board of Supervisors. Each speaker will be given up to three minutes to comment.
- To provide public comment, members of the public should obtain a number from staff outside the Supervisors' Chambers. Public comment numbers will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 8 a.m. on Feb. 15.
- Speakers will provide public comment to the Board of Supervisors within Chambers in groups of ten.

Written Comment:

Members of the public may submit written comments several ways and are encouraged to submit written comments by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14, to be reviewed by the Board before they make their determination. Comments submitted after 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14 (including comments submitted during the meeting) will not be considered by the Board prior to their deliberations. However, all written comments submitted by the conclusion of the hearing will become part of the public record.

- Email comments to BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov.
- Mail comments to the Nevada County Clerk of the Board at 950 Maidu Ave, Suite 200, Nevada City, CA 95959.
- Submit [eComment](#) online (only available Friday, Feb. 9 through Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 4 p.m.)
- Written comments and printed copies of comments may be submitted to staff in the lobby during the Board of Supervisors Public Hearing.

Parking and Transit:

- Carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited.

Food:

- [Java John's Nevada County Café](#) will be open both days from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to provide food and drinks for purchase.

Where to Find Project Documents:

The public can review the project-related documents and Final EIR at www.NevadaCountyCA.gov/IMMRise

 Share on Facebook

 Share on Twitter

 Share via Email

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950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959

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Supervisor Hardy,

February 5, 2024

D4

EACH SUPERVISOR REC'D.

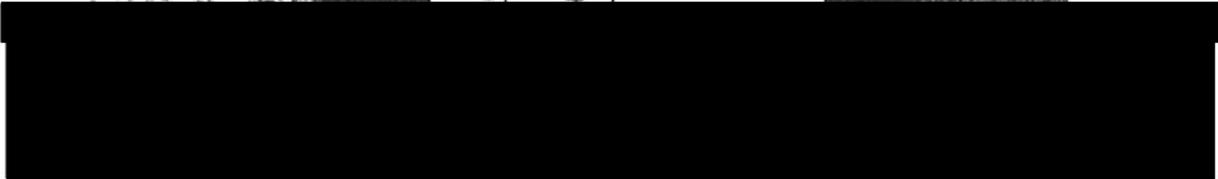
PLEASE DENY the application from Rise Gold to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

There are so many reasons to oppose this application and I'm certain you have heard and read hundreds of them. I appreciate your countless hours of studying the EIR and listening to the many discussions regarding this issue. I want to add my plea to you to oppose this application so that our County and State will be protected from such devastation to our land and water.

Thank you for reading one more "NO MINE" request.

Sincerely,

Shirley Moon



RECEIVED

FEB 07 2024

**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

?

Barbara Price

From: BOS Public Comment
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Barbara Price
Subject: FW: No mine!!!

Tine Mathiasen



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

[Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:14 AM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: No mine!!!

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NC Board of Supervisors,

Please, please, please do not allow the RISE corp to open the proposed Idaho Maryland mine!! Their proposal is greedy and selfish, and gives no concern to our community, quality of life, environment, children or future. I want to live in a Nevada County that sets the example for sustainable, ecological, equitable development. The mine is the antithesis of these principles. Thank you for all you do, and for your logical consideration and ultimate rejection of this heinous proposal.

Sincerely,

Esther Alice
Western Nevada County Resident since 1998

[Redacted]

From: [BOS Public Comment](#)
To: [Claire Swanson](#); [Lauriana Cecchi](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 7:53:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Tine Mathiasen



Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:00 PM

To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project

[. Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I have a short Public Comment concerning the Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project.

I own a home about a mile from the mine site in the Cedar Ridge area. Any mining and/or manufacturing at the Idaho Maryland Mine site would likely create noise, vibration and increased traffic that would be annoying, bothersome and reduce my property value. I would like the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to not approve and fully reject any mining and/or manufacturing at the Idaho Maryland Mine site.

Thank you,

Barney Dewey

From: [BOS Public Comment](#)
To: [Claire Swanson](#); [Lauriana Cecchi](#)
Subject: FW: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 7:53:31 AM

Tine Mathiasen

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:05 AM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

[REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at
<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please do not accept this company to mine in Nevada County.
We fought mining for years on the San Juan Ridge because of our water situations, noise, pollution and non-caring companies.
It is not worth ruining the lives of our citizens' life, air, water and properties.

Do not allow them here.
thank you
reed family

All is WONDERFUL in the Land of OZ
BE OF GOOD CHEER

--
This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

From: [Tine Mathiasen](#)
To: [Lauriana Cecchi](#); [Claire Swanson](#)
Subject: FW: Idaho Maryland Mine Financial Assurances Op Ed please read
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 8:05:01 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Tine Mathiasen



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:10 AM
To: Hardy Bullock <Hardy.Bullock@nevadacountyca.gov>
Cc: [bdofsupervisors](mailto:bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov) <bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Financial Assurances Op Ed please read

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hardy Bullock,

Below is the Other Voices Op Ed in The Union I wrote regarding Financial Assurances for the Idaho Maryland Mine. I respectfully ask that you please read.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration of this requirement.

I'm available if you have any questions.

Tim Ogburn
[REDACTED]

https://www.theunion.com/news/ideas-opinions-tim-ogburn-131-million-to-play/article_6b484d74-c21e-11ee-ba33-b3a27d0b410d.html

Ideas & Opinions — Tim

Ogburn: \$131 million to play

There is something no one seems to be talking about — Nevada County gambling with the possibility of going bankrupt! Why, because Nevada County has not required Financial Assurances as part of the Special Use Permit request to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine!

Financial Assurances have been an unspoken critical requirement of Rise Grass Valley to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine. This requirement, clearly stated in Nevada County's General Plan, seems to be lurking under the radar.

So what exactly are Financial Assurances? Simply put they're financial protections if the project goes south. For example, an environmental accident requiring a very expensive cleanup. So how does the County protect itself? Also as part of Special Use Permit application process how much Financial Assurance should the County require of Rise Grass Valley?

According to Nevada County's General Plan policy 17.13, the County "Shall (not may) require satisfactory forms of accessible security involving irrevocable letters of credit, cash deposits, escrowed negotiable securities, or performance bonds from all mining projects to

cover all damages that may stem from the project.” Note the reference to “mining projects.” “Accessible” is also a key word because it means backed by readily available secure monies.

Why are Financial Assurances important? Because if ignored or minimized, not requiring financial assurances could bankrupt the County! Sounds like an exaggerated statement but not really. Let’s look at what happened to our neighbors.

The Jamestown Mine in Tuolumne County and the Siskon Mine in Nevada County on the San Juan Ridge both experienced similar water breach accidents that ultimately cost each of these small communities tens of millions of dollars to clean up. Why? Because these small mining operations didn’t have sufficient Financial Assurances in place.

Jamestown Mine in Tuolumne County closed in 1994 because of groundwater contamination issues. It cost the county \$5.3 million to clean up the groundwater contamination (176 wells) in 1994. That’s \$10.2 million in today’s dollars. The Siskon Mine in Nevada County closed in August of 1997 also because of groundwater contamination issues. Their cleanup cost exceeded \$3 million, which is over \$5.8 million in today’s dollars. Remember, these are our neighbors. They both experienced essentially the same environmental accident and got caught without sufficient Financial Assurance

protections.

So Rise Grass Valley, if you want to be considered for a Special Use Permit to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine, it's not quite as simple as petitioning the County. According to County policy, you also need to prove that you have "accessible" financial resources to cover all damages that may stem from your project. How much is that you ask? It's going to cost you a minimum of \$131 million upfront. Think of it as a poker game. If you want to get in the game, it will take \$131 million to open!

Why \$131 million? After investigating the environmental cleanup costs our neighbors paid, plus reviewing standard environmental assurances required for gold mining projects throughout the United States, I came up with the following:

General Liability and Environmental Mitigation bond (Ten-Year Period): \$80,000,000.

General Environmental Clean-Up Bond:
\$15,000,000

Cash Account: \$5,000,000 to pay for County staff expenses and oversight of monitoring programs associated with the mine for the project's full duration.

Domestic Well Water Monitoring Bond (Not clean-up!): \$2,000,000

NID Requirement: \$14,000,000

Air Quality Monitoring and Dust Mitigation
Bond: 2,000,000

Water Discharge Quality Monitoring Bond:
\$2,000,000

Seismic Monitoring Bond: \$3,500,000

Centennial Site Clean-up Performance Bond:
\$7,600,000

Total: \$131,100,000

All these numbers, backed by references, will be presented at the FINAL Board of Supervisors public hearing for the proposed use permit and environmental report on the Idaho-Maryland Mine – Feb 15 & 16.

If Nevada County doesn't protect itself, it could potentially be exposed to a huge financial liability. There are many reasons not to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine, and they've all been discussed at great length. Except for one. Financial Assurances. To put it simply, if we don't want to expose our community to great financial risk, if we don't want to potentially bankrupt Nevada County, our Supervisors must, as required by it's own policy, secure from the Rise Grass Valley over \$131 million in Financial Assurances, up front, as part of any request to reopen the mine.

It doesn't cost the County anything to require Financial Assurances! It could cost the County millions if it doesn't.

\$131 million is the minimum to get into the game. Let's call their bluff!

Tim Ogburn

From: [BOS Public Comment](#)
To: [Claire Swanson](#); [Lauriana Cecchi](#)
Subject: FW: Rise Gold Public Comment -- Capitalization and Bonding
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 7:53:54 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Tine Mathiasen



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 7:49 AM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Rise Gold Public Comment -- Capitalization and Bonding

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My name is Luke Hunt. My family and I live at [REDACTED]. My wife Heather and I own a business in Nevada City and through her, our children are 4th-generation Nevada County residents. All three of Heather's siblings and their families have homes and businesses here.

Rise Gold (RYES) is a penny stock that trades over the counter. In 2014, the share price peaked at \$136. The current price is fifteen cents, barely 1/1,000th the value at peak. If we decide to bet on this horse, can it even make it to the racetrack? If it dies and takes others down with it, we will have to answer why such a liability was ever allowed on the track. Like racing, part of the allure of mining investment is the assurance of the unexpected. Something exciting is almost certain to happen. If the unexpected happens to be on the downside, is RYSE sufficiently capitalized to be able to recover? Who would loan to a company trading at 0.1% of its former value?

The public is always the final backstop after insurance, bonding and assets are exhausted. Mining near population centers is risky for everyone with ties to those towns, especially when the affected towns thrive on the promise of an exceptional quality of life. The North San Juan Mine should figure prominently in our risk assessment. What level of disaster is so unlikely that the public (aka our families' health and our community's wealth) is indeed an appropriate financial backstop. Since

we could be footing the ultimate bill, is there sufficient reward, and for whom?

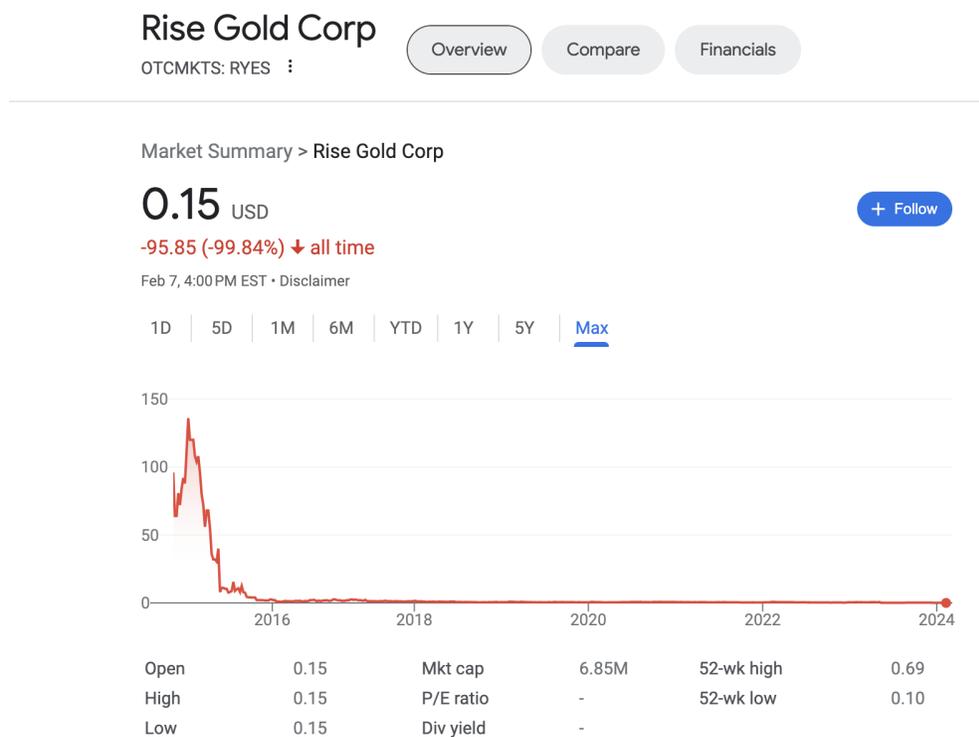
During the Planning Commission meeting, we heard Nevada Irrigation District's recommendation for a bond in the amount necessary to expand water delivery to properties with wells that may be affected by mining operations. The bond was a nominal amount, less than \$15M, but RYSE balked. NID limited the bond amount to a clearly-defined risk that would cause an emergency (water shut off) for those affected. Those affected should not have to wait for years of litigation to turn on their tap. A bond is an obvious solution. Furthermore, it is not an unexpected outcome; in fact, it's one with an (albeit minimalist) mitigation plan that happened recently in our neighboring North San Juan Ridge community. This is obviously a bad sign. Nevada County should require security for the truly unexpected. The children who spoke at the public hearings have some ideas what those risky outcomes might be and the impacts are not limited to a few wells.

RYSE proposes an unusual business that is fraught (or blessed) with uncertainty. The public shouldn't backstop this kind of in-town prospecting by a penny-stock company.

Thank you,

Luke Hunt

attachment: Rise Gold's OTC Price History from Google Finance accessed 2/8/2024



From: [BOS Public Comment](#)
To: [Claire Swanson](#); [Lauriana Cecchi](#)
Subject: FW: For the Board's consideration regarding the Rise Mine reopening.
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 7:53:49 AM
Attachments: [EmpireMineSign.heic](#)
[image001.png](#)

Tine Mathiasen



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 4:59 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: For the Board's consideration regarding the Rise Mine reopening.

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Hi. I'm John Bianchi. My home, which has been in the family for over forty years, is near the proposed mine. I am out of the country and can't be there for the hearing.

The sign in this photo hangs on a fence separating the public walking trail from the dangerously contaminated land at the site of the Empire Mine.

The mine closed in 1956 - over sixty eight years ago.

Over its operation, the mine produced approximately 5.8 million ounces of gold. At the current price of gold, this would value around \$10 billion.

To paraphrase the cute T-shirts sold at tourist destinations:

"The mine company got \$10,000,000,000 and all we got is this contaminated land, this fence and this sign."

I would like to have this picture and the statement above presented at the hearing.

I wish I could be there to present this myself. I hope someone can be my proxy.

Thanks for all you do.

John Bianchi



CLOSED AREA

- **Areas within the fenced boundaries contain historic mine and mill related materials.**
- **WARNING** - These areas may contain certain naturally-occurring minerals (lead, arsenic, mercury, etc) known to the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- **Potential exposure could occur by breathing or ingesting these materials if park visitors fail to follow simple, safety guidelines.**
- **Public access to this area is currently restricted to keep the park visitors safe until further studies and any necessary environmental cleanup measures are conducted in the restricted areas.**
- **Your cooperation and assistance following these closed area restrictions is appreciated and will help expedite re-opening of the closed area following completion of necessary evaluations and environmental cleanup measures.**

