Print Form

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2020070378

Project Title: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Lead Agency: County of Nevada

Contact Name: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

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Project Location: N/A (*City*) Nevada (*County*)

Project Decription (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The proposed project's surface components would be located on approximately 175.64 acres consisting of the Brunswick Industrial Site, the Centennial Industrial Site, and a 0.30-acre portion of East Bennett Road for off-site improvements associated with a potable water pipeline easement. The aforementioned sites are all located in unincorporated Nevada County. The proposed project would re-initiate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period. Following completion of mining and processing activities, the project sites would be reclaimed to open space and industrial uses. The project would involve: (1) dewatering of the underground mine workings; (2) construction and operation of aboveground processing and water treatment facilities at the Brunswick Industrial Site; (3) engineered fill placement for potential future industrial pad development at the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites; (4) installation of a potable water pipeline for residential potable water supply; and (5) reclamation of the project sites in accordance with the project's proposed Reclamation Plan. Of the total 175 acres included in the project sites, approximately 104 acres would be disturbed as a result of construction of the facilities proposed to support dewatering, mining, and processing at the Idaho-Maryland Mine, as well as engineered fill placement. The much larger mineral rights boundary encompasses approximately 2,585 acres.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the proposed project identified potentially significant impacts related to the following environmental issue areas: Aesthetics; Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise and Vibration; Transportation; and Wildfire.

The environmental issue areas in which the EIR identified feasible mitigation measures to reduce the potentially significant impact to a less-than-significant level include the following: Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; and Wildfire. Impacts that were determined to result in a significant and unavoidable impact, even with incorporation of feasible mitigation, included Aesthetics; Noise (construction); and Transportation.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Areas of controversy that were identified in Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment letters include the following:

- Change in aesthetics, including effects related to lighting, topography, vegetation, scenic vistas, and building height;
- Effects of project operations on local agricultural operations;
- Increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Increased odors and dust;
- Explosion potential;
- Acid rain potential;
- Increase in electricity usage;
- Impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- Impacts to historical resources;
- Impacts to the local Native American tribes and their resources;
- Seismic stability concerns;
- Potential presence of naturally occurring asbestos;
- Landslides, settlement, and subsidence concerns;
- Dewatering impacts;
- Hazardous materials usage, transport, and storage associated with project operations;
- Potential soil and water contamination associated with project operations;
- Physical safety hazards associated with project operations;
- Impacts to groundwater quality and levels;
- Flooding risks;
- Increased noise and vibration;
- Increased demand for public services and utilities;
- Increased truck traffic on local roadways; and
- Fire safety hazards.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

- City of Grass Valley;
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District;
- Nevada Irrigation District;
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- State Office of Historic Preservation;
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- California Occupational Safety and Health Administration;
- California Department of Transportation;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation;
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and
- Mine Safety and Health Administration.