

Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

SCH# 2020070378

Final Environmental Impact Report

Volume IV of IX
(Chapter 2 *Continued*)

Prepared for
County of Nevada



December 2022

Prepared by



2. Responses to Comments ***(CONTINUED)***

Support Card 916

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) REBECCA FRENCH
Address PO BOX 219 WASHINGTON, CA ZIP 95986
Phone 530476-0493
Email Address rebeccafrench13492@gmail.com

Sup 916-1



SUPPORT CARD 916: REBECCA FRENCH

Response to Sup 916-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 917

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Reed Newcomb
Address 15443 Shannen Way ZIP 83450
Phone _____
Email Address cobareed@yahoo.com

Sup 917-1



SUPPORT CARD 917: REED NEWCOMB

Response to Sup 917-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 918

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Rhett Lewis
Address 19390 Hansen Ln GU ZIP 95945
Phone 530 277 4615
Email Address _____

Sup 918-1



SUPPORT CARD 918: RHETT LEWIS

Response to Sup 918-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 919

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Ricardo & Linda Fuentes
Address 2036 Nevada City Hwy, #263 ZIP 95945
Phone 209-323-8303
Email Address 6666350@gmail.com

Sup 919-1



SUPPORT CARD 919: RICARDO AND LINDA FUENTES

Response to Sup 919-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 920

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Rich Fox
Address PO Box 214 ZIP 95959
Phone - NA -
Email Address onefrankfox@gmail.com

Sup 920-1



SUPPORT CARD 920: RICH FOX

Response to Sup 920-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 921

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RICHARD BUCHER
Address 10112 Stone Arch Dr GV. ZIP 95949
Phone 530 798-8588
Email Address RWBucher@hotmail.com

Sup 921-1



SUPPORT CARD 921: RICHARD BUCHER

Response to Sup 921-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 922

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RICHARD CARTER
Address 800 FREEMAN LN APT 101 ZIP 95949
Grass Valley, CA
Phone (714) 299-0787
Email Address richcarter2001@me.com

Sup 922-1



SUPPORT CARD 922: RICHARD CARTER

Response to Sup 922-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 923

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard Cortez & Kathy Palmer
Address 12313 Starwood Ln Nevada City CA ZIP 95959.
Phone 661-505-3487
Email Address rcbiznes@gmail.com

Sup 923-1



SUPPORT CARD 923: RICHARD CORTEZ

Response to Sup 923-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 924

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Name(s) Richard Detending
Address 1111 Lakeshore South ZIP 95602
Phone _____
Email Address RCDetent@aol.com

Sup 924-1



SUPPORT CARD 924: RICHARD DETERDING

Response to Sup 924-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 925

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard French
Address 18247 INDIAN SPRING RD, PECK VALLEY ZIP 95826
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 925-1



SUPPORT CARD 925: RICHARD FRENCH

Response to Sup 925-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 926

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RICHARD GRAYDON
Address 13595 LIME KILN Rd ZIP 95949
Phone GRASS VALLEY, CA
Email Address _____

Sup 926-1



SUPPORT CARD 926: RICHARD GRAYDON

Response to Sup 926-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 927

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Sup 927-1

Name(s) _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____



SUPPORT CARD 927: RICHARD HANSEN

Response to Sup 927-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 928

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RICHARD HEATHER
Address 10199 RINCON WAY PAB ZIP 95602
Phone N/A
Email Address HEATHER@JUTTCABINETS.COM

Sup 928-1



SUPPORT CARD 928: RICHARD HEATHER

Response to Sup 928-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 929

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard J. Kuhwath, Sr.
Address 12252 Francis Drive, G.V. ZIP 95949
Phone 530-272-5723
Email Address ~~kuh~~ kuhwath@AOL.com

Sup 929-1



SUPPORT CARD 929: RICHARD KUHWARTH

Response to Sup 929-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 930

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Richard Okuma
Address 14729 MacDonald Rd ZIP 95949
Phone 530-268-1257
Email Address _____

Sup 930-1



SUPPORT CARD 930: RICHARD KUNA

Response to Sup 930-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 931

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard + Lisa Musa

Address 12200 Banner Lava Camp ZIP 95959

Phone 530 273-4746

Email Address Musaklan@gmail.com

Sup 931-1



SUPPORT CARD 931: RICHARD AND LISA MUSA

Response to Sup 931-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 932

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard Okuma
Address 14329 MacDonella Rd ZIP 95949
Phone 530-268-1257
Email Address RichardOkuma@gmail.com

Sup 932-1



SUPPORT CARD 932: RICHARD OKUMA

Response to Sup 932-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 933

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Name(s) Richard Preece & Laura Preece
Address 11999 Tree Top Cir, Nevada City ZIP 95959
Phone 530 - 274-7303
Email Address laura-preece@comcast.net

Sup 933-1



SUPPORT CARD 933: RICHARD AND LAURA PREECE

Response to Sup 933-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 934

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard Rodeck
Address P.O. Box 1379, Nev. City ZIP 95959
Phone 273-7721
Email Address _____

Sup 934-1



SUPPORT CARD 934: RICHARD RODECK

Response to Sup 934-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 935

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard Rodeck
Address P.O. Box 1379, Nev. City ZIP 95959
Phone 530-273-7221
Email Address zhiker@earthlink.net

Sup 935-1



SUPPORT CARD 935: RICHARD RODECK

Response to Sup 935-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 936

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard & Velva WASHBURN
Address 13061 ST GREGORY PL ZIP 95949
Phone 530-362-1197
Email Address RLCRAPP@GMAIL.COM

Sup 936-1



SUPPORT CARD 936: RICHARD AND VELVA WASHBURN

Response to Sup 936-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 937

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Richard Davis
Address 17247 Virginia Way GV ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address richdavis66@gmail.com

Sup 937-1



SUPPORT CARD 937: RICHARD DAVIS

Response to Sup 937-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 938

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) RICHARD TERRELL
Address 12189 WOODACRE RD G.V. ZIP 95949
Phone 530 2775385
Email Address FSPTERRELL50@GMAIL.COM

Sup 938-1



SUPPORT CARD 938: RICHARD TERRELL

Response to Sup 938-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 939

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine YES!

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Name(s) RICK & MARIKA LYNN
Address 11385 MIRROR LAKE COURT ZIP 95945
Phone 530.477.8301(H) 530.368.2772(M)
Email Address RICK.M.LYNN@GMAIL.COM

Sup 939-1



SUPPORT CARD 939: RICK AND MARIKA LYNN

Response to Sup 939-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 940

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) JOHN CARTER + RITADINA ARRIAGA

Address 10082 THREE SEVENS PL GRASS VALLEY CA ZIP 95949

Phone 530-477-2269

Email Address docjohn46@yahoo.com

Sup 940-1



SUPPORT CARD 940: RITADINA ARRIAGA

Response to Sup 940-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 941

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Rob & Rachel Baldwin
Address 10458 SIERRA DRIVE ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 477-5123
Email Address robaldwin75@yahoo.com

Sup 941-1



SUPPORT CARD 941: ROB AND RACHEL BALDWIN

Response to Sup 941-1

Please see Master Response 1.




Support Card 942

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Rob BEARM PENN VALLEY
Address 12189 LAKE WILLOWood DR. ZIP 95946
Phone 530 913 0566
Email Address 

Sup 942-1



SUPPORT CARD 942: ROB BEAM

Response to Sup 942-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 943

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tobias and Sabrelna Bosma
Address 11022 Juanita Ct. Grass Valley Ca. ZIP 95949
Phone (530) 205-8034
Email Address TobiasBosma@Yahoo.com

Sup 943-1



SUPPORT CARD 943: ROB AND SABREENA BOSMA

Response to Sup 943-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 944

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Rob Curry
Address 16405 Pasavale Rd. ZIP 95959
Phone 530 648-6532
Email Address RobC8746@gmail.com

Sup 944-1



SUPPORT CARD 944: ROB CURRY

Response to Sup 944-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 945

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Rob and Kathy Penn
Address 15347 Banner Lava Cap, NC ZIP 95959
Phone 530-265-8348
Email Address kf4fire@yahoo.com

Sup 945-1



SUPPORT CARD 945: ROB AND KATHY PENN

Response to Sup 945-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 946

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Rob Ullom CA
Address P.O. Box 2268 Grass Valley ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 277-8846
Email Address N/A Please send job application

Sup 946-1



SUPPORT CARD 946: ROB ULLOM

Response to Sup 946-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 947

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) ROBERT ASH
Address 13875 MEADOW DR ZIP 95945
Phone 916 496 1514
Email Address Robert1@ashlandfr.com

Sup 947-1



SUPPORT CARD 947: ROBERT ASH

Response to Sup 947-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 948

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert + Marilyn Chrisman
Business _____ Ph _____
Address 13028 Jones Bar Rd, Nevada City ZIP 95959
Email Address _____

PS: awesome logo!

Sup 948-1



SUPPORT CARD 948: ROBERT AND MARILYN CHRISMAN

Response to Sup 948-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 949

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert & Laura Crouse

Address 181 Arcadia Dr ZIP 95945

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Sup 949-1



SUPPORT CARD 949: ROBERT AND LAURA CROUSE

Response to Sup 949-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 950

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Robert W. Foster
Address 509 Holly Dr, Grass Valley CA ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 272-8736
Email Address _____

Sup 950-1



SUPPORT CARD 950: ROBERT FOSTER

Response to Sup 950-1

Please see Master Response 1.



I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Support Card 951

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Robert W Free Sr

Address 13801 Thoroughbred Way ZIP 95149

Phone 916-318-2518

Email Address r.w.free@col.com

Sup 951-1



SUPPORT CARD 951: ROBERT FREE

Response to Sup 951-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 952

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert and Linda Haught
Address 14949 Oak Meadow Rd, Pan Valley ZIP 95946
Phone 530-432-4408
Email Address bobhaight@gmail.com

Sup 952-1



SUPPORT CARD 952: ROBERT AND LINDA HAIGHT

Response to Sup 952-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 953

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert & Lynn Haight
Address 14949 Oak Meadow Rd Penn Valley ZIP 95946
Phone 530-432-9408
Email Address bob.haight@gmail.com

Sup 953-1



SUPPORT CARD 953: ROBERT AND LYNN HAIGHT

Response to Sup 953-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 954

Sup 954-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sean Miner / Robert Helder
Business Auburn Moving & Storage Ph 5308238685
Address 10000 Hill View Rd.
Newcastle, CA 95658 ZIP _____
Email Address info@auburnmoving.com



SUPPORT CARD 954: ROBERT HICKINS

Response to Sup 954-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 955

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert & MaryAnn Hudspeth
Address 13781 Auburn Rd, Grass Valley ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 955-1



SUPPORT CARD 955: ROBERT AND MARYANN HUDSPETH

Response to Sup 955-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 956

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) ROBERT E. INGRAM
Address 239 HARBOR ST EV. ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 273-7596
Email Address REINGRAM52@ATT.NET

Sup 956-1



SUPPORT CARD 956: ROBERT INGRAM

Response to Sup 956-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 957

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert + Elaine Johnson
Address 10262 Whitetail Lane ZIP 96161
Phone 530-582-8009
Email Address _____

Sup 957-1



SUPPORT CARD 957: ROBERT AND ELAINE JOHNSON

Response to Sup 957-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 958

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert D. Kilroy
Address 15318 71st way 20 NC. ZIP 95959
Phone 530-913-0329
Email Address [REDACTED]

Sup 958-1



SUPPORT CARD 958: ROBERT KILROY

Response to Sup 958-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 959

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert Hilroy
Address 15318 Hwy 20 Nevada City, Calif 95959
Phone 530-913-0324
Email Address 0

Sup 959-1



SUPPORT CARD 959: ROBERT KILROY

Response to Sup 959-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 960

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert Kelsoy
Address 15318 Hwy 20 Nevada City, Cal. ZIP 95959
Phone 530-913-0329
Email Address None

Sup 960-1



SUPPORT CARD 960: ROBERT KILROY

Response to Sup 960-1

Please see Master Response 1.




Support Card 961

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s)	 Robert J. Lang	
Address	12041 Lake Wildwood Dr Penn Valley, CA 95946-9480	ZIP
Phone	432-5346	
Email Address	None	

Sup 961-1



SUPPORT CARD 961: ROBERT LANG

Response to Sup 961-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 962

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert Lewis
Address 236 Quartz Street ZIP 95945
Phone _____
Email Address lewis mailbox 520 @ Gmail.com

Sup 962-1



SUPPORT CARD 962: ROBERT LEWIS

Response to Sup 962-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 963

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) _____ **Robert Lowenthal** _____
Address _____ **107 Bridger Ct.** _____
_____ **Grass Valley, CA 95945** _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ **ROLOW@FSACCESS.NET** _____

Sup 963-1



SUPPORT CARD 963: ROBERT LOWENTHAL

Response to Sup 963-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 964

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to support the re-opening of the

Sup 964-1

Idaho
Name **P-3 P57 217*****ECRWSH**R017**
Address **Robert Ray Lowenthal**
107 Bridger Ct
Grass Valley, CA 95945-9706
Phone
Email



SUPPORT CARD 964: ROBERT LOWENTHAL

Response to Sup 964-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 965

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) ROBERT J. MATSON
Address 360 BENNETT ST. #18 ZIP 95945
Phone GRASS VALLEY, CA.
Email Address _____

Sup 965-1



SUPPORT CARD 965: ROBERT MATSON

Response to Sup 965-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 966

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert M. McGee, Lynn D. McGee
Address P.O. Box 201 ZIP 95986
Phone (530) 386-2435
Email Address mikemcgee257@gmail.com
(all small letters)

Sup 966-1



SUPPORT CARD 966: ROBERT AND LYNN MCGEE

Response to Sup 966-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 967

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert Mills
Address 15339 Coastal rd ZIP 95940
Phone 272 5891
Email Address N/A

Sup 967-1



SUPPORT CARD 967: ROBERT MILLS

Response to Sup 967-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 968

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) _____

Address _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____



Robert Mills
15739 Burnette Pl.
Grass Valley, CA 95949-9738

ZIP _____

Sup 968-1



SUPPORT CARD 968: ROBERT MILLS

Response to Sup 968-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 969

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) _____  Robert Mills
Address _____ 15739 Burnette Pl.
Phone _____ Grass Valley, CA 95949 _____ ZIP _____
Email Address _____

Sup 969-1



SUPPORT CARD 969: ROBERT MILLS

Response to Sup 969-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 970

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert Newkirk
Address 10530 Sky Circle, Grass Valley, CA ZIP 95949
Phone 5306322072
Email Address gvk-530@hotmail.com

Sup 970-1



SUPPORT CARD 970: ROBERT NEWKIRK

Response to Sup 970-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 971

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) ROBERT W. PARKS
Address P.O. Box 1643 GRASS-VALLY ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 273-4567
Email Address _____

Sup 971-1



SUPPORT CARD 971: ROBERT PARKS

Response to Sup 971-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 972

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert and Alicia Rist
Address 10367 Owl Rd. GV ZIP 95945
Phone 530-575-7474
Email Address rist_22@yahoo.com

Sup 972-1



SUPPORT CARD 972: ROBERT AND ALICIA RIST

Response to Sup 972-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 973

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) ROBERT T SEIDLITZ
Address 10576 COMBIE RD #6506 ZIP 95603
Phone _____
Email Address R5BULLDOG55@LIVE.COM

Sup 973-1



SUPPORT CARD 973: ROBERT SEIDLITZ

Response to Sup 973-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 974


I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Sup 974-1

Name(s) _____		Robert Shrader	_____
Address _____		17665 Royal Oaks Pl	_____
		Grass Valley, CA 95949	ZIP _____
Phone _____			N/A
Email Address _____			N/A



SUPPORT CARD 974: ROBERT SHRADER

Response to Sup 974-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 975

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Bob E Tate
Address 214 Park Blvd. Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone 530 955 3179
Email Address Bob.Tate@RiseGrassValley.com

Sup 975-1



SUPPORT CARD 975: ROBERT TOTE

Response to Sup 975-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 976

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Robert H. (Bob) Wilder
Address 14297 WARDENS COURT ZIP 97945
Phone 870 273-2500
Email Address _____

Sup 976-1



SUPPORT CARD 976: ROBERT WILDEN

Response to Sup 976-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 977

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Robert + Dixie Wilson
Address 18528 Jayhawk Dr. Persimmon Valley, ZIP 95946
Phone 432-9580
Email Address bob21x152@comcast.net

Sup 977-1



SUPPORT CARD 977: ROBERT AND DIXIE WILSON

Response to Sup 977-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 978

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson
Address 18528 Jayhawk DR, Penn Valley ZIP 95946
Phone 530-432-9580
Email Address bobdixie2@comcast.net

Sup 978-1



SUPPORT CARD 978: ROBERT WILSON

Response to Sup 978-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 979

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert Zoellin
Address 16303 Shady Forest Ln ZIP 95945
Phone 530-368-7568
Email Address zoellinesbcglobal.net

Sup 979-1



SUPPORT CARD 979: ROBERT ZOELLIN

Response to Sup 979-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 980

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robert Birk
Address 10491 Little Hollow Lane ZIP 95949
Phone 530 305-9917
Email Address bandsbirk@MSN.com

Sup 980-1



SUPPORT CARD 980: ROBERT BIRK

Response to Sup 980-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 981

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) ROBERT SPENCER
Address 13344 GRASS VALLEY AVE, #6 ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 205-3343
Email Address ROBBIE@SEstudios.NET

Sup 981-1



SUPPORT CARD 981: ROBERT SPENCER

Response to Sup 981-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 982

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Robin & Jenny Kitts
Address 135 Huntington Ct ZIP 95945
Phone 916-607-0115
Email Address gv.kitts@yahoo.com

Sup 982-1



SUPPORT CARD 982: ROBIN AND JENNY KITTS

Response to Sup 982-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 983

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Robin Kittis
Address 135 HUNTINGTON CT ZIP 95945
Phone 916-604-0115
Email Address GV.Kittis@YAHOO.COM

Sup 983-1



SUPPORT CARD 983: ROBIN KITTS

Response to Sup 983-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 984

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Roger CarminE
Address 11431 Sandpiper Way ZIP 95946
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 984-1



SUPPORT CARD 984: ROGER CARMINE

Response to Sup 984-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 985

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) ROSEL L CHAPMAN
Address 14329 HANEL TRUCKEE CA ZIP 96161
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 985-1



SUPPORT CARD 985: ROGER CHAPMAN

Response to Sup 985-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 986

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ralf/Ann/Mark Ivey
Address PO Box 133 Smartsville ZIP 95977
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 986-1



SUPPORT CARD 986: ROLF, ANN, AND MARK IVEY

Response to Sup 986-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 987

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) ROMUALD CHORON
Address 18831 Hill Top Rd Penn Valley ZIP 95946
Phone 719 429 9788
Email Address N/A

Sup 987-1



SUPPORT CARD 987: ROMUALD CHORON

Response to Sup 987-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 988

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ron & Marsha Foster
Address 14380 Mandolin Way N.C. ZIP 95959
Phone 530 265 8535
Email Address ronmarsha@gmail.com

Sup 988-1



SUPPORT CARD 988: RON AND MARSHA FOSTER

Response to Sup 988-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 989

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ron & Marsha Foster
Address 14380 Mandolin Way Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone 530 265 8535
Email Address ronmarsha@gmail.com

Sup 989-1



SUPPORT CARD 989: RON AND MARSHA FOSTER

Response to Sup 989-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 990

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RON HENLEY, JACKIE SCHLOSSER
Address 3104 RELIEF HILL RD ZIP 95986
Phone 530 - 265 5145
Email Address _____

Sup 990-1



SUPPORT CARD 990: RON HENLEY

Response to Sup 990-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 991

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Row & Cara Higgins
Address 10100 Delewood Hwy. N.V. ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 991-1



SUPPORT CARD 991: RON AND CORA HIGGINS

Response to Sup 991-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 992

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ron & Cora Higgins
Address 10100 Dalewood Way N.O. ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 992-1



SUPPORT CARD 992: RON AND CORA HIGGINS

Response to Sup 992-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 993

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ron & Beckie Mewes

Address 12733 Mayflower DR ZIP 95959

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Sup 993-1



SUPPORT CARD 993: RON AND BECKIE MEWES

Response to Sup 993-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 994

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) RON SLAY
Address 15693 LORIE DR. ZIP 95949
Phone 530-277-2521
Email Address RONSLAY@G-MAIL.COM

Sup 994-1



SUPPORT CARD 994: RON SLAY

Response to Sup 994-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 995

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) RON & RHONDA SLAY
Address 15693 LORIE DR. ZIP 95949
Phone 530 277 2521
Email Address RONSLAY@GMAIL.COM

Sup 995-1



SUPPORT CARD 995: RON AND RHONDA SLAY

Response to Sup 995-1

Please see Master Response 1.



I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Support Card 996

Sup 996-1

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tom & Ethel Tuttle
Address 20105 Buck Ridge Rd ZIP 95949
Phone 530-346-7166
Email Address _____



SUPPORT CARD 996: RON AND ETHEL TUTTLE

Response to Sup 996-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 997

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) RON & VICKI WEISER

Address 13793 SUN FOREST DR., PENN VALLEY, CA ZIP 95946

Phone 530 271-2785

Email Address SCHNOOGIE7@ATT.NET

Sup 997-1



SUPPORT CARD 997: RON AND VICKI WEISER

Response to Sup 997-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 998

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ron & Beekie Meaus

Address 12133 MAYFLOWER DR ZIP 95959

Phone (530) 477-6405

Email Address _____

Sup 998-1



SUPPORT CARD 998: RON AND BECKIE MEWES

Response to Sup 998-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 999

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RONALD NEVIS
Address 11414 SEAN WAY ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address RON.NEVIS@C2I-CORPORATION.COM

Sup 999-1



SUPPORT CARD 999: RONALD NEVIS

Response to Sup 999-1

Please see Master Response 1.



I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine Support Card 1000

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Name(s) Ronald Picken
Address 101 W McKnight Way Suite B217 ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address rapontwo@gmail.com

Sup 1000-1



SUPPORT CARD 1000: RONALD PICKEN

Response to Sup 1000-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1001

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ronald Skewes
Address 10565 Sky Cir. Grass Valley ZIP 95949
Phone 530-575-4002
Email Address fredy's dadday@gmail.com

Sup 1001-1



SUPPORT CARD 1001: RONALD SKEWES

Response to Sup 1001-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1002

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RONALD G. SKIEWES
Address 10565 SKY CIRCLÉ ZIP 95949
Phone 530 - 575 - 4002
Email Address Fredlys daddy (@) gmail.com

Sup 1002-1



SUPPORT CARD 1002: RONALD SKEWES

Response to Sup 1002-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1003

Sup 1003-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Ronald Buzzard
Address 23127 Sunset Ridge Dr. ZIP 95602
Phone (530) 320-8673 (Auburn Ca.)
Email Address _____



SUPPORT CARD 1003: RONALD BUZZARD

Response to Sup 1003-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1004

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) RONNIE THOMAS
Address 16730 TIERRA RD, GV ZIP 95949
Phone (530) 448-2334
Email Address thomasrpe@gmail.com

Sup 1004-1



SUPPORT CARD 1004: RONNIE THOMAS

Response to Sup 1004-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1005

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) _____
Address _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Rosalyn F. Johansen
11371 Monarch Ct.
Auburn, CA 95602-8388

Sup 1005-1



SUPPORT CARD 1005: ROSALYN JOHANSEN

Response to Sup 1005-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1006

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) ROSANNE PALMER
Address 149 ST JOHNS DR ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 263-6997
Email Address rosannepalmerdesign@gmail.com

Sup 1006-1



SUPPORT CARD 1006: ROSANNE PALMER

Response to Sup 1006-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1007

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) ROSEMARIE MORRIS
Address 504 SILVA AVE N.E. CA ZIP 95959
Phone 707-718-7267
Email Address NONE

Sup 1007-1



SUPPORT CARD 1007: ROSEMARIE MORRIS

Response to Sup 1007-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1008

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Ross Crary
Address 12193 Pasquale Rd. ZIP 95959
Phone _____
Email Address rc222rem@comcast.net

222

Sup 1008-1



SUPPORT CARD 1008: ROSS CRARY

Response to Sup 1008-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1009

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ross Ciary
Address 12193 Pasquale RD Nevada City CA ZIP 95959
Phone _____
Email Address rc222111@comcast.net

Sup 1009-1



SUPPORT CARD 1009: ROSS CRARY

Response to Sup 1009-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1010

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) ROXANA HILL
Address 13529 WOLF RD GV, CA ZIP 95949
Phone 530-277-3639
Email Address r/hill.7@LIVE.com

Sup 1010-1



SUPPORT CARD 1010: ROXANA HILL

Response to Sup 1010-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1011

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Roy Ramey
Address 227 Nevada St. Nevada City ZIP 95959
Phone 530-559-5927
Email Address royramey21@yahoo.com

Sup 1011-1



SUPPORT CARD 1011: ROY RAMEY

Response to Sup 1011-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1012

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Russ Broughan
Address 11763 SKYLARK CT, AUBURN CA ZIP 95602
Phone _____
Email Address RussB98@gmail.com

Sup 1012-1



SUPPORT CARD 1012: RUSS BROUGHAN

Response to Sup 1012-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1013

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Russ & Janet Howell
Address 16068 Mackinaw Wy, G.V. ZIP 95949
Phone (530)615-8558
Email Address janethow214@gmail.com

Sup 1013-1



SUPPORT CARD 1013: RUSS AND JANET HOWELL

Response to Sup 1013-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1014

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Sup 1014-1

Name(s)		MR. RUSSELL H. PETERSON	_____
Address		12841 BUTTERFLY DR	_____ ZIP _____
Phone		NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8977	_____
Email Address	_____		



SUPPORT CARD 1014: RUSSEL PETERSON

Response to Sup 1014-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1015

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Russell King
Business Gregory Creek, LLC Ph 272-8328
Address 200 Auburn Folsom Rd., Ste. 201, Auburn ZIP 95603
Email Address russell.king@king-engineering-inc.com

Sup 1015-1



SUPPORT CARD 1015: RUSSEL KING

Response to Sup 1015-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1016

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Russell + Brigitte Lorang
Address 18062 Wildflower Dr. Peary ZIP 95946
Phone 916-709-1535
Email Address russtorang@gmail.com

Sup 1016-1



SUPPORT CARD 1016: RUSSEL AND BRIGETTE LORANG

Response to Sup 1016-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1017

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Russell Robert Prinz
Address 20488 California Street, N.S.D, California ZIP 95960
Phone (530) 648-7873
Email Address Russell.prinz55@gmail.com

Sup 1017-1



SUPPORT CARD 1017: RUSSEL PRINZ

Response to Sup 1017-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1018

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Russell Williams
Address 12861 Lakeshore North ZIP 95602
Phone 916 759 0773
Email Address rusty228@yahoo.com

Sup 1018-1



SUPPORT CARD 1018: RUSSEL WILLIAMS

Response to Sup 1018-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1019

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Ruth Foulter
Address 451 Holly Dr ZIP 95948
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1019-1



SUPPORT CARD 1019: RUTH POULTER

Response to Sup 1019-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1020

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Ryan Deniz
Address 562 Douglas Ave G.V. ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 380-4965
Email Address _____

Sup 1020-1



SUPPORT CARD 1020: RYAN DENIZ

Response to Sup 1020-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1021

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ryan Tidwell
Address 109¹ Martin St ZIP 95959
Phone (530) 557-5423
Email Address rtidwell333@gmail.com

Sup 1021-1



SUPPORT CARD 1021: RYAN TIDWELL

Response to Sup 1021-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1022

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) RYAN DeYOUNG
Address 427 Spring St New City ZIP 95959
Phone 858-880-6872
Email Address VON49197@gmail.com

Sup 1022-1



SUPPORT CARD 1022: RYAN DEYOUNG

Response to Sup 1022-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1023

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Ryan Holmes
Address 19678 Panther Ct Grass Valley ZIP 95949
Phone 760-792-0347
Email Address _____

Sup 1023-1



SUPPORT CARD 1023: RYAN HOLMES

Response to Sup 1023-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1024

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) S. Paulus & M. Paulus
Address ~~1000~~ PO Box 382 ZIP 95924
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1024-1



SUPPORT CARD 1024: S. AND M. PAULUS

Response to Sup 1024-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1025

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) S. FRANCOISE
Address 15757 Wolf Mtn. ID ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1025-1



SUPPORT CARD 1025: S. FRANCONI

Response to Sup 1025-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1026

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) SALLY SALIVAR

Address PO Box 910 Roughly, CA

ZIP 95975

Phone NO CALLS PLEASE

Email Address NOL

Sup 1026-1



SUPPORT CARD 1026: SALLY SALIVAR

Response to Sup 1026-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1027

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sam Griffith ☺

Address 10830 Battlett Dr. G.V. ZIP 95945

Phone 530-273-3477

Email Address _____

Sup 1027-1



SUPPORT CARD 1027: SAM GRIFFITH

Response to Comment 1027-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1028

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sam Griffith
Address 10830 Bartlett Dr G.V. ZIP 95945
Phone 530-293-3777
Email Address _____

Sup 1028-1



SUPPORT CARD 1028: SAM GRIFFITH

Response to Sup 1028-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1029

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SAM MacGregor G.V. NATIVE
Address 13878 COLFAX HWY. GRASS VALLEY ZIP 95945
Phone 630 - 273 - 8043
Email Address macgregorsam16@gmail.com
MacGregor SHEET METAL FABRICATION

Sup 1029-1



SUPPORT CARD 1029: SAM MACGREGOR

Response to Sup 1029-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1030

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SAM MARSICO/ SUSAN MARSICO
Address 15232 METCALF RD. GRASS VALLEY ZIP 95949
Phone 530 272 9310
Email Address SAM_MULE@ATT.NET

Sup 1030-1



SUPPORT CARD 1030: SAM AND SUSAN MARSICO

Response to Sup 1030-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1031

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sam Youngman
Address 591 Delta Ct Grass Valley CA 95945
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1031-1



SUPPORT CARD 1031: SAM YOUNGMAN

Response to Sup 1031-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1032

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Samantha Peebles
Address 516 whiting st ZIP 95945
Phone 530 802 6091
Email Address Samantha.Peebles@dps@gmail.com

Sup 1032-1



SUPPORT CARD 1032: SAMANTHA PEEBLES

Response to Sup 1032-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1033

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Samantha Randall
Address 15047 Kelly Way ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 277-3214
Email Address randallpetcare@gmail.com

Sup 1033-1



SUPPORT CARD 1033: SAMANTHA RANDALL

Response to Sup 1033-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1034

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Samuel R. Phillips
Address 20812 Brewer Rd, GV ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1034-1



SUPPORT CARD 1034: SAMUEL PHILLIPS

Response to Sup 1034-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1035

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Samuel Youngman
Address 591 Delta Ct ZIP 959457016
Grass Valley Ca
Phone 530-273-3091
Email Address

Sup 1035-1



SUPPORT CARD 1035: SAMUEL YOUNGMAN

Response to Sup 1035-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1036

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sam Youngman
Address 591 Delia Ct. Grass Valley CA 95945
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1036-1



SUPPORT CARD 1036: SAM YOUNGMAN

Response to Sup 1036-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1037

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Mike Pemberton and Sandra Collins
Address 13150 Ooti' Ct. Grass Valley ZIP 95949
Phone 530-913-8489
Email Address Mike n Sandi @peoplepc.com

Sup 1037-1



SUPPORT CARD 1037: SANDRA COLLINS

Response to Sup 1037-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1038

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Sandra Knapp
Address P.O. Box 933 North Sanduan ZIP 95960
Phone 530 292-1192
Email Address _____

Sup 1038-1



SUPPORT CARD 1038: SANDRA KNAPP

Response to Sup 1038-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1039

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sandra Tishlarich
Address 15734 Xcel Win Ct ZIP 95945
Grass Valley, CA
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1039-1



SUPPORT CARD 1039: SANDRA TISHLARICH

Response to Sup 1039-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1040

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) MIKE PEMBERTON & SANDRA COLLINS
Address 13150 COTI CRT, GV ZIP 95949
Phone 530 - 913 - 8489
Email Address MIKENSANDI@PEOPLEPC.COM

Sup 1040-1



SUPPORT CARD 1040: SANDRA COLLINS

Response to Sup 1040-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1041

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SANDY HALL / "I WANT TO SEE SOMETHING GET DONE
Address WITH THIS PROPERTY, BUT I NEED MORE INFO." ZIP GREENHORN RD,
75945
Phone (530) 272-1355
Email Address - NONE - (NO INTERNET)

Sup 1041-1



SUPPORT CARD 1041: SANDY HALL

Response to Sup 1041-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1042

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sarah Maslov

Address 10972 Allison Ranch Rd. G.V. ZIP 95949

Phone (530) 263-9613

Email Address Supergluegal@gmail.com

* Honored to be a part of the team - send me employment opportunities

Sup 1042-1



SUPPORT CARD 1042: SARAH MASLOV

Response to Sup 1042-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1043

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) SCOT LITTLE
Address 11596 MYNARD DR ZIP 98945
Phone (530) 203-9966
Email Address NA

Sup 1043-1



SUPPORT CARD 1043: SCOT LITTLE

Response to Sup 1043-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1044

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SCOTT LITTLE
Address 11596 MYRNA DR ZIP 95945
Phone 530 263-9966
Email Address N/A

Sup 1044-1



SUPPORT CARD 1044: SCOT LITTLE

Response to Sup 1044-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1045

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SCOTT & MARCI LANDRE
Address 1178 EDWARD DR GRASS VALLEY ZIP 95949
CA
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1045-1



SUPPORT CARD 1045: SCOTT AND MARCI LANDRE

Response to Sup 1045-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1046

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Sean Bergard
Address 11279 Kelly Ct. Grass Valley CA ZIP 95949
Phone 408 679 3964
Email Address hondo339@gmail.com

Sup 1046-1



SUPPORT CARD 1046: SEAN BERNARD

Response to Sup 1046-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1047

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SEAN DOLBEE
Address 20926 Clydesdale Rd ZIP 95949
Phone 530-315-7677
Email Address dolbee555@yahoo.com

Sup 1047-1



SUPPORT CARD 1047: SEAN DOLBEE

Response to Sup 1047-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1048

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sean Miner / Robert Helder
Business Auburn Moving & Storage Ph 5308238685
Address 10000 Hill View Rd.
Newcastle, CA 95658 ZIP _____
Email Address info@auburnmoving.com

Sup 1048-1



SUPPORT CARD 1048: SEAN MINOR

Response to Sup 1048-1

Please see Master Response 1.

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Support Card 1049

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sean O'Brien
Address 12978 Aurora Close Nevada City ZIP 95959
Phone (530) 265-0172
Email Address seano@thegrid.net

Sup 1049-1



SUPPORT CARD 1049: SEAN O'BRIEN

Response to Sup 1049-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1050

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Marie Wegener Camarada & Sean Reynolds
Address 18773 Easy St. Penn Valley, CA ZIP 95946
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1050-1



SUPPORT CARD 1050: SEAN REYNOLDS

Response to Sup 1050-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1051

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Shawn + Candace Kelly
Address PO Box 2921 ZIP 95945
Phone 530-575-1886
Email Address ShawnKelly56@gmail.com

Sup 1051-1



SUPPORT CARD 1051: SHAUN AND CANDACE KELLY

Response to Sup 1051-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1052

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Shawn Bratcher
Address 16242 LANCE DR, TRUCKEE ZIP 96161
Phone 530 591 6607
Email Address bratcherbuilt@gmail.com

Sup 1052-1



SUPPORT CARD 1052: SHAWN BRATCHER

Response to Sup 1052-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1053

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Shawn & Louise Kobliska
Address 23074 Sunset Ridge Auburn 95602
Phone 530.320.8936
Email Address _____

Sup 1053-1



SUPPORT CARD 1053: SHAWN AND LOUISE KOBLISKA

Response to Sup 1053-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1054

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SHAWN O'NEILL & LINDA MONTANO
Address PO BOX 678 GV ZIP 95945
Phone 530-330-0274
Email Address sducon1@gmail.com

Sup 1054-1



SUPPORT CARD 1054: SHAWN ONEILL

Response to Sup 1054-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1055

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sheri Anastasio
Address 55 Wendy Cir ZIP 95945
Phone 530-210-6253
Email Address firecopper@sbcglobal.net

Sup 1055-1



SUPPORT CARD 1055: SHERI ANASTASIO

Response to Sup 1055-1

Please see Master Response 1.



I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine Support Card 1056

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Sherri & Brent Oakley
Address 18211 Indian Springs Rd. ZIP 95946
Phone 530/432-9565
Email Address oakleysw@aol.com

Sup 1056-1



SUPPORT CARD 1056: SHERRI AND BRENT OAKLEY

Response to Sup 1056-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1057

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) BRENT/SHERRI OAKLEY
Address 18211 INDIAN SPRINGS Rd ZIP 95946
Phone 510.693.2024
Email Address OAKLEYSW@AOL.COM

Sup 1057-1



SUPPORT CARD 1057: SHERRI AND BRENT OAKLEY

Response to Sup 1057-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1058

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Shirley Weldemeer

Address 1125 School St #7 ZIP 95945

Phone _____

Email Address Lori Welde 777 @ G-mail . com

mailed Feb 23, 27

Sup 1058-1



SUPPORT CARD 1058: SHIRLEY WELDEMERE

Response to Sup 1058-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1059

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Shirley Waldemere
Address 112 S School St ZIP 959456444
Phone _____
Email Address Lori Welde 777 @ G mail. com

Sup 1059-1



SUPPORT CARD 1059: SHIRLEY WELDOMERE

Response to Sup 1059-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1060

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) SHIRLYN VOGEL
Address 19193 CHAPARRAL DR ZIP 95946
Phone 530-913-2005
Email Address SHIRLYN.Vogel@yahoo.com

Sup 1060-1



SUPPORT CARD 1060: SHIRLEY VOGEL

Response to Sup 1060-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1061

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Stephen Longacre
Address 13878 Meadow Dr. Grass Valley, CA ZIP 95945
Phone 530 271-3764
Email Address _____

Sup 1061-1



SUPPORT CARD 1061: STEPHEN LONGACRE

Response to Sup 1061-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1062

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Stephen Waterbrook
Address 3020 Somerset Dr ZIP 95945
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1062-1



SUPPORT CARD 1062: STEPHEN WATERBROOK

Response to Sup 1062-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1063

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Steve Bongni's
Address PO Box 252 CamRidge ZIP 95924
Phone 530-243-7100
Email Address SBongni@ATT.NET

Sup 1063-1



SUPPORT CARD 1063: STEVE BORGNIS

Response to Sup 1063-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Sup 1064-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steve Bongni's
Address Po Box 252 Camanche ZIP 95924
Phone _____
Email Address S.Bongni@ATT.net



SUPPORT CARD 1064: STEVE BORGNIS

Response to Sup 1064-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1065

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) STEVE CLIFTON
Address 13072 SOMERSET DR ZIP 95945
Phone 714 4128250
Email Address AZANUCUDOMAN@Yahoo.com

Sup 1065-1



SUPPORT CARD 1065: STEVE CLIFTON

Response to Sup 1065-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1066

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steve Downer Cloud
Address 11510 LAKESTONE N ZIP 95602
Phone 650-520-5898
Email Address Steve.Cloud57@gmail.com

Sup 1066-1



SUPPORT CARD 1066: STEVE CLOUD

Response to Sup 1066-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1067

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steve Elder, Christi Iamica
Address 140031 AUA CAPRINO Rd ZIP 95959
Phone 530-9139984
Email Address steve@140031AUA.com

Sup 1067-1



SUPPORT CARD 1067: STEVE ELDER

Response to Sup 1067-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1068

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) STEVE & Shirley ENGELL
Address 126 W. BERRY Hill DR #121 ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 477-7529
Email Address _____

Sup 1068-1



SUPPORT CARD 1068: STEVE AND SHIRLEY ENGELL

Response to Sup 1068-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1069

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steve Gonet
Address 12599 Francis Dr GV ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address Good job! Good luck!

Sup 1069-1



SUPPORT CARD 1069: STEVE GONET

Response to Sup 1069-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1070

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steve & Jennifer Gonet
Address 12599 Francis Dr. GN CA ZIP 95949
Phone 530-613-3740
Email Address _____

Sup 1070-1



SUPPORT CARD 1070: STEVE AND JENNIFER GONET

Response to Sup 1070-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1071

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Steve HURLIMAN
Address 15766 VANDEVERE Rd. ZIP 95949
Phone 916 663-1590
Email Address _____

Sup 1071-1



SUPPORT CARD 1071: STEVE HURLIMAN

Response to Sup 1071-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1072

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) STEVE O'BRIEN - (EX RANGER, EMPIRE MINE STATE PARK)
Address 12156 PINE CREST DRIVE ZIP 94959
Phone 530 273 5366
Email Address BULLSEYE50876@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Sup 1072-1



SUPPORT CARD 1072: STEVE O'BRIEN

Response to Sup 1072-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1073

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Stew Packard
Address 1557 Mulberry Dr Grass Valley, Ca ZIP 95945
Phone 530-802-1239
Email Address _____

Sup 1073-1



SUPPORT CARD 1073: STEVE PACHAUD

Response to Sup 1073-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1074

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) STEVE & BARBARA SHAPPERT
Address 15853 THIEL WAY ZIP 95949
Phone 530-446-3311
Email Address SHAPPERT.0261@GMAIL.COM

Sup 1074-1



SUPPORT CARD 1074: STEVE AND BARBARA SHAPPERT

Response to Sup 1074-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1075

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Barbara Shoppert & Steve SHAPPERT

Address 15853 Thiel Way C.V. ZIP 95949

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Sup 1075-1



SUPPORT CARD 1075: STEVE AND BARBARA SHAPPERT

Response to Sup 1075-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1076

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steve Smith
Address 11875 Rogue House Place ZIP 95945
Phone _____
Email Address jordrew@comcast.net

Sup 1076-1



SUPPORT CARD 1076: STEVE SMITH

Response to Sup 1076-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1077

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steve + Rachel Wade
Address 14522 Deerhaven Lane N.C. ZIP 95959
Phone 557-9655
Email Address _____

Sup 1077-1



SUPPORT CARD 1077: STEVE AND RACHEL WADE

Response to Sup 1077-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1078

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steven Barnes

Address 13773 Squirrel Creek Rd ZIP 95945

Phone _____

Email Address wanabunny@gmail.com

Sup 1078-1



SUPPORT CARD 1078: STEVEN BARNES

Response to Sup 1078-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1079


I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) _____
Address _____ ZIP _____
Phone 530-913-5025
Email Address Steve.Sharsmitt@att.net

 Steven E Sharsmitt
15560 Shannon Way
Nevada City CA 95959-8944

yes

Sup 1079-1



SUPPORT CARD 1079: STEVEN SHARSMITT

Response to Sup 1079-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1080

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) STEVEN B HOLLI
Address 304 SUTTON WAY #8 G.V. CA. ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 615-4139
Email Address _____

Sup 1080-1



SUPPORT CARD 1080: STEVEN HOLLI

Response to Sup 1080-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1081

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Steven Kuester
Address 17992 Jayhawk Dr Penn Valley ZIP 95946
Phone 530-798-0717
Email Address skuester1@gmail.com

Sup 1081-1



SUPPORT CARD 1081: STEVEN KUESTER

Response to Sup 1081-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1082

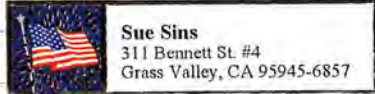
I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) _____
Address _____ ZIP _____
Phone 530-6156860
Email Address Sue1946Sins@gmail.com



Sup 1082-1



SUPPORT CARD 1082: SUE SINS

Response to Sup 1082-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1083

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Scimita Davis
Address 17568 Blue Tent School Rd ZIP 95959
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1083-1



SUPPORT CARD 1083: SUMITA DAVIS

Response to Sup 1083-1

Please see Master Response 1.



I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) SUSAN & Lonnie Jueck
Address PO Box 156 Rough + Ready, CA ZIP 95975
Phone 530 274-9104
Email Address susanj477e att.net

Sup 1084-1



SUPPORT CARD 1084: SUSAN AND LONNIE JUECK

Response to Sup 1084-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1085

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) SUSAN WALSH
Address 12376 VALLEY VIEW RD NEVADA CITY ZIP 95959
Phone 559-804-8993
Email Address SWALSH2008@gmail.com

Sup 1085-1



SUPPORT CARD 1085: SUSAN WALSH

Response to Sup 1085-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1086

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) _____

Address _____  Ms Suzanne King
10175 Grinding Rock Dr
Grass Valley, CA 95949 _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email Address ShortsassyLass@yahoo.com

Sup 1086-1



SUPPORT CARD 1086: SUZANNE KING

Response to Sup 1086-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1087

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Suzette + Doug Orlic
Address 11321 Northview Dr ZIP 95959
Phone 530-362-0837
Email Address Zette66@gmail.com

Sup 1087-1



SUPPORT CARD 1087: SUZETTA AND DOUG URLIE

Response to Sup 1087-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1088

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Suzie Bailey
Address P.O. Box 58 G.V. ZIP 895945
Phone 530-305-1816
Email Address N/A

Sup 1088-1



SUPPORT CARD 1088: SUZIE BAILEY

Response to Sup 1088-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1089

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) T. Trathen + B. Wiederhold
Address 14071 Tahoe View Dr. GV ZIP 95945
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1089-1



SUPPORT CARD 1089: T. TRATHAN

Response to Sup 1089-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1090

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tadha Hennessy
Address 14618 Tyler-Foote Rd., Nevada City, AZ ZIP 95959
Phone (530)470-2368
Email Address tadhenn@gmail.com

Sup 1090-1



SUPPORT CARD 1090: TADHG HENNESSY

Response to Sup 1090-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1091

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) TAMARA McFARLAND - WILLIAM ALLSOP

Address 17910 VINTAGE DR ZIP 95949

Phone _____

Email Address HISIERRA1@YAHOO.COM

Sup 1091-1



SUPPORT CARD 1091: TAMARA MCFARLAND

Response to Sup 1091-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1092

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tammy Andreozzi
Address PO Box 2660 NC ZIP 95959
Phone _____
Email Address livia.life08@gmail.com

Sup 1092-1



SUPPORT CARD 1092: TAMMY ANDREOZZI

Response to Sup 1092-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1093

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Taura Whitehead
Address 15526 Cascade Dr ZIP 95959
Phone 209 620-0004
Email Address taura.whitehead@gmail.com

Sup 1093-1



SUPPORT CARD 1093: TAURA WHITEHEAD

Response to Sup 1093-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1094

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) TAVA Riley
Address 10880 Alta St, Grass Valley ZIP 95945
Phone 530-559-8279
Email Address Tavariley@yahoo.com

Sup 1094-1



SUPPORT CARD 1094: TAVA RILEY

Response to Sup 1094-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1095

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) TED SCRUGGS
Address 101 W. MCKNIGHT WAY # 121 ZIP 95949
GRASS VALLEY
Phone 530 913-8116
Email Address TCRUGGS12@GMAIL.COM

Sup 1095-1



SUPPORT CARD 1095: TED SCRUGGS

Response to Sup 1095-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1096

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) TED SCRUGGS
Address 101 W. MCKNIGHT WY. #121 ZIP 95949
Phone 913816
Email Address LCORNSTAR@GMAIL.COM

Sup 1096-1



SUPPORT CARD 1096: TED SCRUGGS

Response to Sup 1096-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1097

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Gene & Tera Yeoman
Address P.O. BOX 711 North San Juan ZIP 95960
Phone 530 292-1135
Email Address tera.yeoman@gmail.com

Sup 1097-1



SUPPORT CARD 1097: TERA AND GENE YEOMAN

Response to Sup 1097-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1098

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Terence & Robin Prechter _____ ZIP _____
15071 Applewood Lane

Phone _____ Nevada City, CA 95959 _____

Sup 1098-1



SUPPORT CARD 1098: TERENCE AND ROBIN PRECHTER

Response to Sup 1098-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1099

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) TERESA BAUMGARTNER
Address 104 PARKSIDE DL, ZIP 95959
Phone 265-0784
Email Address _____

Sup 1099-1



SUPPORT CARD 1099: TERESA BAUMGARTNER

Response to Sup 1099-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1100

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) TERESA BAUMGARTNER
Address 104 PARKSIDE PL. / NEVADA CITY / IDAHO 83459
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1100-1



SUPPORT CARD 1100: TERESA BAUMGARTNER

Response to Sup 1100-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1101

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) TERESA BAUMGARTNER
Address 104 PARKSIDE PL/NEVADA CITY CA ZIP 95959
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1101-1



SUPPORT CARD 1101: TERESA BAUMGARTNER

Response to Sup 1101-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1102

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s)

Address

Phone

Email Address

John Thompson
1098 RINEON WAY ZIP 95602
indiamguy@gmail

Sup 1102-1



SUPPORT CARD 1102: TERRY THOMPSON

Response to Sup 1102-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1103

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) MR + MRS TERRYI MERRITT
Address 19788 OCELOT DRIVE ZIP 95949
Phone 650 477-3419
Email Address gem.merritt@sbcglobal.net

Sup 1103-1



SUPPORT CARD 1103: TERRYL MERRITT

Response to Sup 1103-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1104

Sup 1104-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Tereyssa Bonetti
Address P.O. Box 2093 ZIP 95946
Phone 530-305-7488
Email Address mom2chichi@gmail.com



SUPPORT CARD 1104: THERESSA BONETTI

Response to Sup 1104-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1105

Sup 1105-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Theresa Kingsbury

Address 10521 Dixon Rd, GV ZIP 95945

Phone 530-913-2566

Email Address theresa_kingsbury@yahoo.com



SUPPORT CARD 1105: THERESA KINGSBURY

Response to Sup 1105-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1106

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Thomas Burns
Business Burns Plastering Ph _____
Address Yuba City ZIP 95991
Email Address We need mines - Fact of life

Sup 1106-1



SUPPORT CARD 1106: THOMAS BURNS

Response to Sup 1106-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1107

Sup 1107-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) THOMAS GLENN COOPMAN II
Address 11070 BROCKWAY RD #122 ZIP 96161
Phone 530-562-7480
Email Address etommy410@gmail.com
I'M A REPUBLICAN 3RD GENERATION



SUPPORT CARD 1107: THOMAS G. COOPMAN

Response to Sup 1107-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1108

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Thomas McDermott
Address 12458 Muhlebach TracKee ZIP 96161
Phone 530 587-4786
Email Address NA

Sup 1108-1



SUPPORT CARD 1108: THOMAS MCDERMOTT

Response to Sup 1108-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1109

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Thomas Schmidt
Address 35 Wendy circle ZIP 95945
C. PHONE - 530-615-9590
Phone
Email Address Tom S @ G.MAIL.COM

Sup 1109-1



SUPPORT CARD 1109: THOMAS SCHMIDT

Response to Sup 1109-1

Please see Master Response 1.



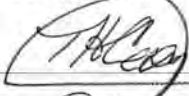
Support Card 1110

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) TIM CACY 

Address 10319 PEKOLEE DR, G.V ZIP 95949

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Sup 1110-1



SUPPORT CARD 1110: TIM CACY

Response to Sup 1110-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1111

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tim Callaway
Address P.O. Box 1780 Cedar Ridge ZIP 95924
Phone 530-559-1952
Email Address TAC@goldmineconsultant.com

Sup 1-1111



SUPPORT CARD 1111: TIM CALLAWAY

Response to Sup 1111-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1112

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tim Harrington
Address 17627 Greenhorn Rd, G.V. ZIP 95945
Phone 530-263-1377
Email Address minesearcher1963@att.net

Sup 1112-1



SUPPORT CARD 1112: TIM HARRINGTON

Response to Sup 1112-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1113

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tim Leach
Address 13949 Bitney Springs Rd ZIP 95959
Phone 530-955-5354
Email Address leachtim64@gmail.com

Sup 1113-1



SUPPORT CARD 1113: TIM LEACH

Response to Sup 1113-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1114

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tim McCall
Address 424 S. Auburn St. G.V. ZIP 95945
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1114-1



SUPPORT CARD 1114: TIM MCCALL

Response to Sup 1114-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1115

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Pim & Maria Archim

Address 25363 Rodeo Flat Rd Auburn ZIP 95602

Phone 916-825-2039

Email Address RelianceLaundryInc@icloud.com

Sup 1115-1



SUPPORT CARD 1115: TIM AND MARIA MCKIM

Response to Sup 1115-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1116

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tim & Maria McKim
Address 25363 Rodeo Flat Rd ZIP 95602
Phone 916-825-2039
Email Address TimMcKim12@gmail.com

Sup 1116-1



SUPPORT CARD 1116: TIM AND MARIA MCKIM

Response to Sup 1116-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1117

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tim, Shea, Becky & Jerry Merry
Address 12185 Woodland Ct. Auburn Ca. ZIP 95602
Phone 530-906-2523
Email Address TimMerry1@gmail.com

Sup 1117-



SUPPORT CARD 1117: TIM, SHEA, BECKY, AND JERRY MERRY

Response to Sup 1117-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1118

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) TIM PALUA
Address 338 N. School St ZIP 95945
Phone 530 - 277-7002
Email Address _____

Sup 1118-1



SUPPORT CARD 1118: TIM PALUA

Response to Sup 1118-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support
Card 1119

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) ROBINSON ENTERPRISES - TIM ROBINSON
Business ROBINSON ENTERPRISES, INC Ph 530-265-5844
Address 293 LOWER GRASS VALLEY RD NEVADA CITY ZIP 95959
Email Address Trobinson@robinsonenterprises.com

Sup 1119-1



SUPPORT CARD 1119: TIM ROBINSON

Response to Sup 1119-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1120

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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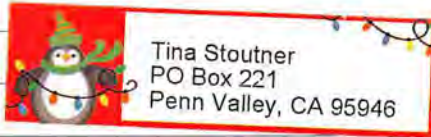
Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____



Sup 1120-1



SUPPORT CARD 1120: TINA STOUTNER

Response to Sup 1120-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1121

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Todd + Paula Newman
Address 11920 Spenceville Rd ZIP 95946
Phone 530-432-5036
Email Address mom2kt@rocketmail.com

Sup 1121-1



SUPPORT CARD 1121: TODD AND PAULA NEWMAN

Response to Sup 1121-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1122

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tom Amesbury
Address 415 Colfax Ave. Grass Valley ZIP 95945
Phone 530-945-6276
Email Address tom@forco-pp.com

Sup 1122-1



SUPPORT CARD 1122: TOM AMESBURY

Response to Sup 1122-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1123

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) TOM ANDERSEN
Address 420 MAIN ST, NEVADA CITY ZIP 95959
Phone 530 265 5565
Email Address JULIETZ@COMCAST.NET

Sup 1123-1



SUPPORT CARD 1123: TOM ANDERSEN

Response to Sup 1123-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1124

Sup 1124-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Tom ANDERSEN
Address 420 MAIN ST. N.C ZIP 95959
Phone 530 265 5565
Email Address JULIETE@COMCAST.NET



SUPPORT CARD 1124: TOM ANDERSEN

Response to Sup 1124-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1125

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Tom L FALLS
Address 18742 Lodes Tower Ct ZIP 95946
Phone _____
Email Address MARILYN FALLS @ A.H. NET

Sup 1125-1



SUPPORT CARD 1125: TOM FALLS

Response to Sup 1125-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1126

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tom Jacobson & Donna Salmonson
Address 15053 Arrowhead Ln ZIP 95945
Phone 530-613-1706 530-613-9582
Email Address tomjacobson63 deegeebeecee
@gmail.com

Sup 1126-1



SUPPORT CARD 1126: TOM JACOBSON

Response to Sup 1126-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1127

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tom Kempf
Address 15756 Rattlesnake Rd ZIP 95945
Phone 828-702-1337
Email Address tomk101@icloud.com

Sup 1127-1



SUPPORT CARD 1127: TOM KEMPF

Response to Sup 1127-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1128

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) TOM & KATHY SACKMAN
Address 23972 Redwood Court ZIP 95602
Phone _____
Email Address Tomsack@USAMEDIA.TV

Sup 1128-1



SUPPORT CARD 1128: TOM AND KATHY SACKMAN

Response to Sup 1128-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1129

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tom & Kathy Sackman
Address 10556 Combie Rd. Auburn ZIP 95602
Phone _____
Email Address TomSack@USAMedia.TV

Sup 1129-1



SUPPORT CARD 1129: TOM AND KATHY SACKMAN

Response to Sup 1129-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1130

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Tom & Korie Schultz
Address 15514 Ricky Ct. ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1130-1



SUPPORT CARD 1130: TOM AND KONNY SCHULTZ

Response to Sup 1130-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1131

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tom Stockton
Address 21348 John Born Rd, PV ZIP 95946
Phone 530 - 432.4166
Email Address t.stockton.px@gmail.com

Sup 1131-1



SUPPORT CARD 1131: TOM STOCKTON

Response to Sup 1131-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1132

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) TOMY AND CARI THAYD
Address 17313 Hwy 49 ZIP 95959
Phone 530-913-7314
Email Address TOMYTGPA@GMAIL.COM

Sup 1132-1



SUPPORT CARD 1132: TONY AND CARI TAMAYD

Response to Sup 1132-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1133

Sup 1133-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Travis Peckler
Address 516 Whiting St ZIP 96945
Phone (530) 210-7269
Email Address TravisPeckler93@gmail.com



SUPPORT CARD 1133: TRAVIS PEEBLES

Response to Sup 1133-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1134

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Trent and Michelle Wooster
Address 19400 Buck Ridge Rd ZIP 95949
Phone (707) 382-1190
Email Address trentwooster@hotmail.com

Sup 1134-1



SUPPORT CARD 1134: TRENT AND MICHELLE WOOSTER

Response to Sup 1134-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1135

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tricia Allen
Address 315 Alta St. Apt C ZIP 959415
Phone _____
Email Address tewolhin@gmail.com

Sup 1135-1



SUPPORT CARD 1135: TRICIA ALLEN

Response to Sup 1135-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1136

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) NATHAN HOOKER, TRISTA HENCKLEY
Address 158 WEST OLYMPIA DR ZIP 95945
Phone 530-575-6685
Email Address fordracing66@hotmail.com

Sup 1136-1



SUPPORT CARD 1136: TRISTA HENCLEY

Response to Sup 1136-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1137

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) TRISTA HEWLEY / NATHAN HOOKER GRASS VALLEY
Address 158 WEST OLYMPIA DRIVE ZIP 95945
Phone 530-440-3876
Email Address trista1988@gmail.com

Sup 1137-1



SUPPORT CARD 1137: TRISTA HEWLLEY AND NATHAN HOOKER

Response to Sup 1137-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1138

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Troy + Debbie Frederick
Address 11817 Squirrel Crk Rd. ZIP 95945
Phone 530 205-9597
Email Address debdeblovesbowling@gmail.com

Sup 1138-1



SUPPORT CARD 1138: TROY AND DEBBIE FREDERICK

Response to Sup 1138-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1139

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tucker Cirzins
Address 14899 Nugget Lane #2 ZIP 95975
Phone 530 913 1609
Email Address N/A

Sup 1139-1



SUPPORT CARD 1139: TUCKER CIRZIUS

Response to Sup 1139-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1140

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tyler & Elyse Harkrove
Address 15603 ROLFE ESTATES RD ZIP 95959
Phone (530) 263-4186
Email Address HARKROVET@GMAIL.COM

Sup 1140-1



SUPPORT CARD 1140: TYLER AND ELSYE HARGROVE

Response to Sup 1140-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1141

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Tyler Patchin
Address 13380 Rough and Ready Hwy ZIP 95975
Phone 530-788-6166
Email Address tylerpatchin@hotmail.com

Sup 1141-1



SUPPORT CARD 1141: TYLER PATCHIN

Response to Sup 1141-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1142

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Valmore & Mary Gauthier
Address 14184 Caroline Way Gr. V. ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1142-1



SUPPORT CARD 1142: VALMORE AND MARY GAUTHIER

Response to Sup 1142-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1143

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Valmore & Mary Gauthier
Address 14184 Caroline Way, G.V. ZIP 95949
Phone 530-559-3537
Email Address mgauthieruhsd@hotmail.com

Sup 1143-1



SUPPORT CARD 1143: VALMORE AND MARY GAUTHIER

Response to Sup 1143-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1144

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) VAN ANTHONY
Address 12590 NOTTINGHAM LN ZIP 95949
Phone 530-913-6087
Email Address VAN-ANTHONY@MSN.COM

Sup 1144-1



SUPPORT CARD 1144: VAN ANTHONY

Response to Sup 1144-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1145

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) VERN / CARROL ELKINS
Address 26871 TABLE MEADOW RD ZIP 95602
Phone 530-320-8079
Email Address ELKADRES@YAHOO.COM.

Sup 1145-1



SUPPORT CARD 1145: VERN AND CAROL ELKINS

Response to Sup 1145-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1146

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Vivienne Lahey
Address 114 Woodcrest Way ZIP 95945
Phone 530-205-9221
Email Address 8vivianandmax@ATT.net

Sup 1146-1



SUPPORT CARD 1146: VIVIENNE LAHEY

Response to Sup 1146-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1147

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) W. ALLSOP T. MCFARLAND
Address 17914 VINTAGE DR ZIP 95949
Phone _____

Email Address H.SIERRA1@YAHOO.COM (CLEANUP TAX MONEY SHOULD GO TO INFRASTRUCTURE & HWY 49)

Sup 1147-1



SUPPORT CARD 1147: W. ALLSOP MCFARLAND

Response to Sup 1147-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1148

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Walter Snook
Address 13246 La Bunk Meadows ZIP 95949
Phone (530) 274-1042
Email Address wsnook@gmail.com

Sup 1148-1



SUPPORT CARD 1148: WALTER SNOOK

Response to Sup 1148-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1149

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Warner Hooker
Address 13493 Grand Oaks place GR ZIP 95949
Phone 530 273 29 9708
Email Address _____

Sup 1149-1



SUPPORT CARD 1149: WARNER HOOKER

Response to Sup 1149-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1150

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) WARNER Hooker
Address 13493 GRAND OAKS pl. GU ZIP 95949
Phone 530 273 9708
Email Address _____

Sup 1150-1



SUPPORT CARD 1150: WARNER HOOKER

Response to Sup 1150-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1151

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) WARNER HOOKER
Address 13493 GRAND OAK PL ZIP 95949
Phone 530 273 9708
Email Address NONE

Sup 1151-1



SUPPORT CARD 1151: WARNER HOOKER

Response to Sup 1151-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1152

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) D. Wayne Glenn
Address 10193 Woodleaf circle GV. CA. ZIP 95949-7509
Phone 1-530-272-8204
Email Address wnlglenn@gmail.com

Sup 1152-1



SUPPORT CARD 1152: WAYNE GLENN

Response to Sup 1152-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1153

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) WAYNE KLAUER

Address 20020 OHM RD. G.V. ZIP 95949

Phone 530-913-4065

Email Address WAYNE KLAUER@YAHOO.COM

Sup 1153-1



SUPPORT CARD 1153: WAYNE KLAUER

Response to Sup 1153-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1154

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Wayne McKay
Address 143 Carpenter St Grass Valley CA ZIP 95946
Phone 530 277 6804
Email Address _____

Sup 1154-1



SUPPORT CARD 1154: WAYNE MCKAY

Response to Sup 1154-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1155

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) WAYNE SCHWARTZKOPF
Address 14969 N. COUNTRY RD ZIP 95945
Phone 1-530 277 6758
Email Address NONE

Sup 1155-1



SUPPORT CARD 1155: WAYNE SCHWARTZKOPF

Response to Sup 1155-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1156

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) WAYNE SCHWARTZKOPF
Address 14969 N. COUNTRY RD GV, CA. ZIP 95949
Phone 530 277 6758
Email Address NONE

Sup 1156-1



SUPPORT CARD 1156: WAYNE SCHWARTZKOPF

Response to Sup 1156-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1157

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

"Mining MADE This town!"

Name(s) Wendy M. Horn
Address 12201 ALTA SIERRA DR ZIP 95949
Phone (530) 575-4027
Email Address Wendy_horn@msn.com

Sup 1157-1



SUPPORT CARD 1157: WENDY HORN

Response to Sup 1157-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1158

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Wendy Hutton, Joseph Hutton
Address 18193 Fair Oaks Dr P.V. ZIP 95946
Phone 530 263 4099
Email Address wenhutton@gmail.com

Sup 1158-1



SUPPORT CARD 1158: WENDY AND JOSEPH HUTTON

Response to Sup 1158-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1159

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Wendy Norman
Address 275 Dorsey Dr. #22 G.V., CA ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 798-1245
Email Address Wenika1976@gmail.com

Sup 1159-1



SUPPORT CARD 1159: WENDY NORMAN

Response to Sup 1159-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1160

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine 5.15.22

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Wes Hawkins
Address 13322 Elderberry Ln, GV ZIP 95945
Phone 916 913-8583
Email Address whawhunter@gmail.com

Sup 1160-1



SUPPORT CARD 1160: WES HAWKINS

Response to Sup 1160-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1161

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Wes Mayfield
Address 13540 North Keystone Ct Penn Valley ZIP 95946
Phone 530-362-1243
Email Address wesma@hillsflatlumber.com

Sup 1161-1



SUPPORT CARD 1161: WES MAYFIELD

Response to Sup 1161-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1162

Sup 1162-1

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) Wis Mayfield
Address 13540 North Keystone ct. Penn Valley ZIP 95946
Phone 530-362-1243
Email Address wesma@hillsflatlumber.com



SUPPORT CARD 1162: WES MAYFIELD

Response to Sup 1162-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1163

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Wilbur Marshall
Address 13842 Sun Forest DR ZIP 95946
Phone Penelope & Robie
Email Address 916-216-0667

Sup 1163-1



SUPPORT CARD 1163: WILBUR MARSHALL

Response to Sup 1163-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1164

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Willard Schoellerman
Address 12505 COMBIE Rd Auburn ZIP 95602
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1-1164



SUPPORT CARD 1164: WILLARD SCHOELLERMAN

Response to Sup 1164-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1165

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) TAMARA McFARLAND - WILLIAM ALLSOP

Address 17910 VINTAGE DR ZIP 95949

Phone _____

Email Address HISIERRA1@YAHOO.COM

Sup 1-1165



SUPPORT CARD 1165: WILLIAM ALLSOP

Response to Sup 1165-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1166

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) WILLIAM BISHOP
Business REALTOR Ph _____
Address 12303 SHADY CREEK DR NEVADA CITY ZIP 95959
Email Address bishopssusa@msn.com

Sup 1166-1



SUPPORT CARD 1166: WILLIAM BISHOP

Response to Sup 1166-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1167

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) William & Gloria Burke

Address PO Box 1553 ZIP 95945

Phone _____

Email Address wburke84@gmail.com

Sup 1167-1



SUPPORT CARD 1167: WILLIAM AND GLORIA BURKE

Response to Sup 1167-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1168

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) William + Cherie Carlson
Address 13717 Torrey Pines Dr ZIP 95602
Phone 916-496-2697
Email Address CherieCCarlson@gmail.com

Sup 1168-1



SUPPORT CARD 1168: WILLIAM AND CHERIE CARLSON

Response to Sup 1168-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1169

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) William r Sandra Ferris
Address 2036 Nevada city Hwy #139
95945
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1169-1



SUPPORT CARD 1169: WILLIAM AND SANDRA FERRIS

Response to Sup 1169-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1170

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) William B Mudd
Address P.O. Box 2888, EV ZIP 95945
Phone 530-559-8583
Email Address willybmd@gmail.com

Sup 1170-1



SUPPORT CARD 1170: WILLIAM MUDD

Response to Sup 1170-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1171

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) William Mudd
Address 19432 Buck Mt Rd ZIP 95949
Phone 530-559-8583
Email Address willybmd@gmail.com

Sup 1171-1



SUPPORT CARD 1171: WILLIAM MUDD

Response to Sup 1171-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1172

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Name(s) MURRAY, William & Jan
Address 27350 Sweetland Rd ZIP 95960
Phone 530-388-8288
Email Address _____

Sup 1172-1



SUPPORT CARD 1172: WILLIAM AND JAN MURRAY

Response to Sup 1172-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1173

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Mr. + Mrs. William B. Ogilvie II
Address 15926 Sanford Rd., Grass Valley, CA ZIP 95949
Phone 916-588-0880
Email Address benogilvie2@gmail.com

Sup 1173-1



SUPPORT CARD 1173: WILLIAM OGILVIE

Response to Sup 1173-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1174

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) WILLIAM ASHER

Address PO Box 68, ROUGH & READY ZIP 95975

Phone 530 273 1569

Email Address wpasher@gmail.com

Sup 1174-1



SUPPORT CARD 1174: WILLIAM ASHER

Response to Sup 1174-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1175

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) William E. & Sandra M. Ferris
Address 2036 Nevada city Hwy #139 ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 205-6578
Email Address SMF(Lexa2@gmail.com)

Sup 1175-1



SUPPORT CARD 1175: WILLAM AND SANDRA FERRIS

Response to Sup 1175-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1176

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Wilma J. Wilkinson

Name(s) *Marvin L. Rackley*

Address *437 Sacramento St, Nevada City* ZIP *95959*

Phone *530 559 0814*

Email Address *mrack41@gmail.com*

Sup 1176-1



SUPPORT CARD 1176: WILMA WILKINSON

Response to Sup 1176-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1177

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

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Name(s) Wilton & Patricia Fryor
Address 10814 Red Ln, Smartsville CA ZIP 95977
Phone 530-432-6515
Email Address barwf@hotmail.com
(We are in Nevada Co)

Sup 1177-1



SUPPORT CARD 1177: WILTON AND PATRICIA FRYER

Response to Sup 1177-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1178

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Wilton B Fryer
Address 10814 Red Ln Smartsville ZIP 95977
Phone 530-432-6515
Email Address barw f@hotmail.com

Sup 1178-1



SUPPORT CARD 1178: WILTON FRYER

Response to Sup 1178-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1179

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Zeth Cooper & Jennifer Peterson
Address 13275 Lost Lake Rd ZIP 95945
Phone 530-320-4958
Email Address ZethCooper@yahoo.com

Sup 1179-1



SUPPORT CARD 1179: ZETH COOPER

Response to Sup 1179-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1180

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Zeth Cooper
Address 13275 Lost Lake Rd ZIP 95945
Phone (530) 320-4958
Email Address Zeth.Cooper@yahoo.com

Sup 1180-1



SUPPORT CARD 1180: ZETH COOPER

Response to Sup 1180-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1181

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Zola Rackley
Address 437 Sacramento St ZIP 95959
Nevada City
Phone 530 559 0815
Email Address Zolarack@gmail.com

Sup 1181-1



SUPPORT CARD 1181: ZOLA RACKLEY

Response to Sup 1181-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1182

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Beeman
Address 27715 Table meadow Rd ZIP 95602
Phone Auburn, CA
Email Address _____

Sup 1182-1



SUPPORT CARD 1182: BEEMAN

Response to Sup 1182-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1183

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Dodd
Address 251/2 Gro Valley Rd. ZIP 95660
Phone _____
Email Address ddsri4fne@hotmail.com

Sup 1183-1



SUPPORT CARD 1183: DODD

Response to Sup 1183-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Support Card 1184

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Name(s) Wyma
Address 23146 Sequoia Ct ZIP 95602
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Sup 1184-1



SUPPORT CARD 1184: WYMAN

Response to Sup 1184-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 1

From: [Aaron Zueck](#)
To: [Idaho NMEFB](#)
Subject: Rise Gold DEIR Comment
Date: Monday, February 7, 2022 7:32:12 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.

Ind 1-1

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong resistance to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. I am a resident of Nevada County for over eight years, and currently reside approximately 2 miles from the proposed mine site, along with my wife and two young children.

Ind 1-2

Of the many valid reasons to oppose the mine, my chief concern is energy usage. The mine intends to increase our county's electrical use by 12% at a time when our county's Environment Action Plan aims to *decrease* our power consumption.

Ind 1-3

I can't see a way for our county's leadership to responsibly support a project like this when it works against our goals of a more sustainable future, extracts a resource that is already abundantly available from previous mining, and primarily serves the goal of wealth generation for investors who do not live in this area.

I grew up in Wyoming, in an economy dependent on extractive industry, and moved here in part to flee the boom and bust associated with mining and drilling. I thought Nevada County had put the extraction mindset behind it. I hope it has.

Thank you for your time,

Aaron Zueck
arzueck@gmail.com
530-565-5232



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 1: AARON ZUECK

Response to Comment Ind 1-1

The commenter is a local resident and is opposed to reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 1-2

The commenter states that the project would increase energy demand in the County which would be inconsistent with the County's Energy Action Plan. The commenter is referred to Master Response 25 - Nevada County Energy Action Plan.

Response to Comment Ind 1-3

The commenter states that extractive industries are prone to boom and bust cycles and is opposed to the project. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 2

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



Ind 2-1

February 28, 2022

Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

I OPPOSE the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine being reopened by Rise Mining Company.

As a registered voter in Nevada County and a homeowner, I am deeply concerned about the proposed possibility of reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have downloaded and reviewed the EIR report.

Here are the reasons why I oppose reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine:

Ind 2-2

MINE WASTE and WATER POLLUTION

Gold mining produces huge amounts of mining waste, some of which contain heavy metals and other toxic substances. Both waste rock and tailings threaten to pollute groundwater and surface water. Our community is still dealing with arsenic and the leaching of heavy metals from the Gold-Era days. And now, Rise, a Canadian company comes along and wants to produce even more mine waste for more 80 years: 182,500 tons per year! More tailings that polluting big rig diesel trucks will need to haul away with the potential for leaching more arsenic into our waterways for generations to come.

Ind 2-3

INCREASE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Diesel haul trucks, up to 100 round trips PER DAY will be needed to transport this mine waste, significantly increasing the amount of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions into our community's air.

Ind 2-4

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

The increase of vehicles, specifically 20 ton haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day on Brunswick Road and the Cedar Ridge Y (Brunswick Road and Highway 174) intersection will be significant and unavoidable! This is according to the EIR report. Are the supervisors aware that the Union Hill School District, with over 800 students and staff, are within the boundaries of these dangerous roads and intersections? The same intersection and roads that school buses and parents use to transport students to school five days a week, twice a day. The same roadways that the EIR report states will have significant and unavoidable harm even after implementation of feasible measures. Reopening the Mine will threaten the safety of our children, their parents, and the over 100 school staff members from the nearby Union Hill School.

Ind 2-5

Is the pursuit of gold really worth so much environmental destruction AND the real potential for significant and unavoidable auto accidents between 20 ton trucks and children in cars/buses?
I think not. Vote NO to Rise Mining Company.

Sincerely,


Abby Velasquez, 12656 Banner Lava Cap Road, Nevada City, CA 95959



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 2: ABBY VALASQUEZ

Response to Comment Ind 2-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 2-2

Please see Master Response 8.

Response to Comment Ind 2-3

The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 2-4

As noted in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR and reiterated by the commenter, the DEIR concluded that a significant and unavoidable impact would occur associated with level of service (LOS) at the SR 174/Brunswick Road intersection (see page 4.12-66). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, if the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposal project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable." As such, the County would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations to address the aforementioned significant and unavoidable impact. Moreover, the DEIR addressed impacts regarding whether the project would substantially increase hazards to vehicle safety under Impact 4.12-6, and concluded that with Mitigation Measures 4.12-6(a) through 4.12-6(f), a less-than-significant impact would occur. Therefore, impacts related to intersection delay at the SR 174/Brunswick Road intersection and hazardous roadway conditions were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 2-5

The comment presents a concluding statement and does not address the adequacy of the DEIR.



Individual Letter 3

February 2, 2022

Nevada Co. Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City CA 95959

RE: REOPENING OF IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE

Please, please, when reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Report, consider the wishes of the current residents of our beautiful, and rapidly growing communities.

I am very concerned that the Rise Gold Mine will not put our best interests first. I have not read the report, but so many of my neighbors are sorely worried about the environmental impact of this type of industry. Not only the increase in traffic to our narrow, paved-over wagon roads, but the promise of high paying jobs might be great for unemployed or underemployed residents but if the administrators are opting to advertise for out of area workers, then this will also put another huge strain on our "unaffordable" housing.

Thank you for your thoughtful and informed consideration of this possibly toxic industry.



Addie Patrick
10701 Bragg Avenue
Grass Valley CA 95945

530-274-0492

Ind 3-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 3: ADDIE PATRICK

Response to Comment Ind 3-1

The commenter is encouraged to read the DEIR as the environmental impacts are disclosed throughout the document. Regarding the specific concerns raised in the comment, please see Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR, Master Response 1, and Master Response 2.



Individual Letter 4

Dist 3

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 2, 2022

Nevada Co. Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City CA 95959

RE: REOPENING OF IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE

Please, please, when reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Report, consider the wishes of the current residents of our beautiful, and rapidly growing communities.

I am very concerned that the Rise Gold Mine will not put our best interests first. I have not read the report, but so many of my neighbors are sorely worried about the environmental impact of this type of industry. Not only the increase in traffic to our narrow, paved-over wagon roads, but the promise of high paying jobs might be great for unemployed or underemployed residents but if the administrators are opting to advertise for out of area workers, then this will also put another huge strain on our "unaffordable" housing.

Thank you for your thoughtful and informed consideration of this possibly toxic industry.



Addie Patrick
10701 Bragg Avenue
Grass Valley CA 95945

530-274-0492

Ind 4-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 4: ADDIE PATRICK

Response to Comment Ind 4-1

The commenter is encouraged to read the DEIR as the environmental impacts are disclosed throughout the document. Regarding the specific concerns raised in the comment, please see Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR, Master Response 1, and Master Response 2.



Individual Letter 5

Ind 5-1

R.G.V

We support Idaho-Maryland
Mine. My Grandfather ^{worked in the} ~~was~~ in the mine
my father was a shift foreman
in the Gold Center. It is what
built Nevada City and Grass
Valley.

Good Luck

Al Mader

Mader's Grading & Paving



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 5: AL MADER

Response to Comment Ind 5-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Alan Emerson <saintjudethedude@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: DEIR for Idaho Maryland Mine Project

Individual Letter 6

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are not expecting this email or don't recognize the sender, consider deleting.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

To whom it may concern:

Ind 6-1

I am writing in regards to the DEIR as submitted to the NC Planning Commission for the proposed mining project at the Idaho Maryland site.

I have lived in Nevada County for over 20 years now in various locations within the GV/NC region. I do not live in the local area of the mine site itself, but this is an issue that has a potential impact on the entire community. I need to also say that I can't believe we are even talking about this mining project as even being a remote possibility, as it is my recollection that previous attempts to reopen this mine have come and gone in the past. But, here we are again.

Ind 6-2

It is my considered opinion that this mine would be an absolute disaster in so many ways if permitted, but I will only focus my comments on a central area of concern that is critical to our resources and quality of life here - water. This element is essential to life here, and yet the mine proposal and the DEIR has consistently minimized the impacts to our supply of groundwater as it will be directly affected by the initial dewatering of the mine as well as the constant dewatering during continuous mining operations. The DEIR is flawed in its assumptions regarding initial conditions, areal extent, and other hydrological concerns. The

Ind 6-3



- ↑
- Ind 6-3** considerations of effects related to dewatering cannot be adequately calculated, much less predicted in such a complex system of fractured granite and other subsurface features. Even with the best modeling and data, the risks of failure are just too great. Any well drilling company could tell you that water levels throughout the county have been falling for the last few decades and wells are being drilled deeper and deeper. The potential impacts of this proposal are serious and could very well be catastrophic. It's just not worth the risk, and as far as I can see...any rewards to be realized by the community are grossly overstated by Rise Gold.
- Ind 6-4**
- Ind 6-5** It is my overall conclusion that Rise Gold had a hand in crafting the shoddy DEIR in such a way as to downplay and in many instances - ignore potential serious harmful impacts of the project in general, because they are in it for the buck. They don't give one nugget about the community we have here. They are carpetbaggers and interlopers looking to exploit natural resources at our expense. We need a moratorium on ALL hard rock mining proposals and projects in perpetuity here in Nevada County. The gold rush did so much harm to the area over nearly 100 years. We can't go back to that era.
- Thank You ~ Alan Emerson



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 6: ALAN EMERSON

Response to Comment Ind 6-1

This comment is introductory in nature. The commenter is generally opposed to the project. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 6-2

The commenter states that the project would be “an absolute disaster” if approved. The commenter also states that the DEIR minimizes the potential impacts to groundwater supplies but does not state how. The commenter’s opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The DEIR discusses the project’s potential impacts to groundwater supplies in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality). The DEIR found that impacts to groundwater supplies would be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54–68.) The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 6-3

The commenter states that DEIR is flawed in describing the hydrological baseline of the underground mine workings and that impacts of the dewatering cannot be measured, but does not provide additional information. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR, Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 6-4

The commenter states that the impacts from the dewatering of the mine could be catastrophic and are not worth the risk, but does not provide additional information. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 6-5

Please see Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

The commenter states that the DEIR was prepared by the Project Applicant in such a way as to downplay the project’s impacts. CEQA does not require that the lead agency’s staff directly prepare the DEIR. (14 CCR 15084(d)(3).) Instead, the lead agency is responsible for independently reviewing and ensuring that the document complies with the content- and process-related requirements of CEQA and that it presents the independent judgment of the lead agency with respect to the significance of impacts and the selection of mitigation. (14 CCR 15084(e).) The DEIR was prepared by a consulting firm on behalf of the County, under direct contract with the County, and pursuant to the direction of County staff. The DEIR was independently reviewed by County staff and presents the findings of the County with regard to the project’s environmental effects. Numerous technical studies were provided by the Applicant to support preparation of the DEIR. The technical studies were independently reviewed by County staff and, where necessary, independent, third-party consultants with expertise in the relevant technical issue area to ensure adequacy. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.



Individual Letter 7

Formal Public Comments for the Idaho Maryland Mine DEIR

Ind 7-1

My name is Alecia Weisman,

I have a MS degree in Hydrology from the University of Nevada—Reno and a BS in Environmental Science. My work has focused largely on water quality, and I currently work in habitat restoration at the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL).

Ind 7-2

I formally oppose the mine due to the significant environmental impacts that would occur as a result of the proposed mining operations. As a citizen of Nevada and Placer Counties, I am concerned that, should the Idaho-Maryland Mine reopen, mining operations would introduce pollution into our waterways, dewater groundwater, and dry up private wells that are already being adversely impacted by long periods of drought. Further, legacy mining impacts include serious health impacts for community members who may be exposed to heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury.

Ind 7-3

Further health impacts due to the massive increase in greenhouse gases that will degrade local air quality are also of concern, especially in an area that already coping with poor air quality during extended fire seasons. Mining operations, which include heavy equipment and large trucks, are slated to occur 24 hours a day, seven days a week and produce 9,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Ind 7-4

I am especially concerned with water availability in our area and do not think sufficient data exists to support whether we have enough water security to support this Mining Operation. With drought predicted as the new norm, and increasingly less water as snow in the Sierra Nevada, the Community of Grass Valley is especially vulnerable to changes in precipitation and the associated impact on regional water security. NID reports in its Plan for Water that we do not have sufficient water to support population growth in our area. Furthermore, how consistent drought has impacted local groundwater catchments has not been determined, and we cannot make decisions on this large of a project with incredible water demands without such critical data.

Ind 7-5


The Draft EIR fails to meet appropriate soil and water quality standards and has insufficient mitigations. For example, soil sampling locations on page 4.7-6 are too few/sparse for the large project area. The potential for downstream impacts to Wolf Creek are too large and significant mitigation strategies have not been identified to outline how the mine would deal with potential leaks in the water treatment pond. Potential for natural disasters that could impact the integrity of the water treatment pond on-site are many: Earthquake, extreme rain driven flooding and erosion events, fire events that could damage surrounding infrastructure and cause prolonged power outages.

Ind 7-6

As a concerned citizen and community member with a background in water quality, I simply cannot understand why the reopening of this mine is being considered. I firmly oppose the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Ind 7-7

Kind Regards, Alecia Weisman


313 Railroad Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 7: ALECIA WEISMAN

Response to Comment Ind 7-1

The commenter provides an overview of their educational background. This comment is noted.

Response to Comment Ind 7-2

The commenter believes the project will lead to negative environmental impacts and opposes the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

The DEIR identifies and evaluates each of the environmental concerns raised by the commenter in DEIR Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality). Specifically, surface water quality is addressed by Impact 4.8-1 on DEIR, pages 4.8-41 through -53; and impacts to groundwater supplies are addressed by Impact 4.8-2 on DEIR pages 4.8-54 through -68. With implementation of the related mitigation measures, these impacts were found to be less than significant. The commenter is referred to Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 7-3

The commenter states that legacy mining impacts negatively affect the community. This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 9 - Historical Mine Waste at Centennial Site.

Response to Comment Ind 7-4

The commenter states that the project will result in the increase of GHG emissions. The DEIR acknowledges the project's potential to emit GHGs under Impact 4.3-7 on DEIR pages 4.3-92 through 4.3-99 and determines that with mitigation, the impact would be less than cumulatively considerable. The DEIR also acknowledges the project's potential to emit particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) under Impact 4.3-1 on DEIR page 4.3-66 and determines that with mitigation, the impact would be less than significant. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 18 - Air Quality Thresholds and Master Response 27 - Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 7-5

The commenter is concerned about the project's water usage in light of the current drought. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 7-6

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to meet appropriate soil and water quality standards. The commenter specifically states that soil sampling locations are too few for the project area. The commenter also states that the potential for impacts to Wolf Creek are too large. Lastly, the commenter states the DEIR does not address the potential for the water treatment pond to fail. The commenter does not explain how the number of soil sample locations conducted by NV5 in its Phase II investigation is inadequate. Regarding impacts to Wolf Creek, the commenter is referred to Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. Regarding the treatment pond, the geotechnical stability of the treatment pond is analyzed in Chapter 4.6 (Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources) of the DEIR and required mitigations would reduce the impact to a less than significant level. (DEIR, p. 4.6-41.) The commenter is also referred to Appendix H.1 of the DEIR.



The commenter is also concerned about the potential for natural disasters or wildfire and the possibility that the Idaho-Maryland Mine operation could be subject to a prolonged power outage. Earthquakes are analyzed in Chapter 4.6 (Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources) of the DEIR. Rain, flooding, and erosion are analyzed in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR. Wildfire is analyzed in Chapter 4.13 (Wildfire) of the DEIR. As stated on page 3-40 of the DEIR, backup power generation would be provided by four diesel generators with a capacity to provide approximately 6 MW on a continuous basis.

Much of this comment pertains to speculative scenarios in which natural disaster could disrupt the Idaho-Maryland Mine operation. CEQA does not require the analysis of speculative impacts. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.”

Response to Comment Ind 7-7

The commenter opposes the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 8

4 April, 2022

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

Alexander Lerch
17019 Pine Peak Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Idaho Maryland Mine Draft EIR Comments

As a private citizen, I find the DEIR's analysis of air impacts **inadequate** as it relates to emissions of criteria air pollutants and our county's non-attainment status under the National and California Clean Air Acts.

At the end of Appendix E-1, there is a memorandum stating that "no available modeling tools have been proven to provide a reliable and meaningful analysis to correlate an increase in mass totals or concentrations of criteria air pollutants from an individual project to specific health effects or estimate additional pollutant non-attainment days relative to the NAAQS or CAAQS due to a single project."

I find the DEIR's analysis distinctly inadequate as it cannot tell me the degree to which my health will be impacted. My home is just 4 miles from the mine and I have chronic asthma, so an accurate understanding of the proposed project's health effects is a necessity of very practical concern. Indeed, CA Health and Safety Code section 41700 states "a person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever quantities of air contaminants or other material that... endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any...persons or the public." I hope the County can offer an adequate analysis of these effects now, rather than seeking mitigatory funding once damage has been done years down the road.

An adequately considered EIR will answer the following, "How will my respiratory health be affected by this mine?" If this is an unanswerable question, then there is no adequate manner in which this project's impacts can be reviewed and conveyed accurately or meaningfully to the public.

Ind 8-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 8: ALEX LERCH

Response to Comment Ind 8-1

Please see Master Responses 18 and 19.

In addition, as detailed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, starting on page 4.3-40, the DEIR evaluates all potential air quality impacts required for analysis under CEQA in accordance with the standards of significance established by Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Where project impacts are determined to result in a potentially significant impact, the DEIR requires mitigation measures to reduce all potential air quality impacts to a less-than-significant level. As such, the discussions and analysis in the DEIR are adequate under CEQA.



From: ali zuur arnerich <azuuramerich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:25 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

Individual Letter 9

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To whom it may concern,
I am writing to strongly oppose the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.
We as a community are still dealing with the impacts of our mining history. Why in the world we would reverse progress in such a way to add a further burden to our community's future is beyond me?

I am appalled at the short sightedness of the agencies for even allowing the process to get to this point. As a former consultant to developers, and someone who is well versed in getting through the permit process and EIR's, I know full well the power of the dollar. With enough money to mitigate, we know most projects get through. I beg of you to not let that be the case here. This area is precious, our economy is not dependent on this income. I can assure you the other forms of revenue through tourism and home prices will be severely devalued. No reason to rob Peter to pay Paul.

There are families that have built there lives and invested greatly in areas surrounding the mine. How dare this company put at risk their groundwater, their investment, their ability to sell their home in the future or their ability to pass on that land to the next generation.

History will not judge kindly those who let this move forward. We must learn from the past, protect our valuable resources and listen to the community at large who does not support this re-opening.

Thank you for taking the time,
Ali Arnerich
Nevada City Resident.

Ind 9-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 9: ALI ARNERICH

Response to Comment Ind 9-1

The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required. Please see Master Response 1. Property values and quality of life concerns are outside the scope of CEQA – Please see Master Response 2. With regard to concerns about water quality, the commenter is referred to Master Responses 13 – Historic Hydrogeologic Assessments and 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model.



From: Alice Root <ramroot@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 3:57 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Opposed to Risegold mine proposal

Individual Letter 10

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Attn Matt Kelley:

I am a thirty plus year resident of Nevada County, living in Rough & Ready. Though we were in part drawn to Nevada County because of gold mining, we are opposed to this new mine proposal. We don't live near the proposed mining site, but think this is a terrible idea, at the wrong time and place. If it were proposed out in an unpopulated area, it might be somewhat viable, but to place this in the residential area of Grass Valley is horrific. The traffic and noise would be enough of a deterrent, but the environmental impacts beyond this do not make this a reasonable proposal. Also, this company is financially unstable, and out of the country. Please do not approve this proposal.

We vote in every election, and will vote and campaign against any supervisor that would approve this.

Sincerely,

Alice Williams-Root
Rough & Ready, CA

Ind 10-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 10: ALICE WILLIAMS-ROOT

Response to Comment Ind 10-1

The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please refer to Master Response 1. With regard to concerns about the Project Applicant, the commenter is referred to Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.



Individual Letter 11

From: [Alice Root](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Opposed to Risegold mine proposal
Date: Saturday, February 12, 2022 7:17:03 AM

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Attn Matt Kelley:

I am a thirty plus year resident of Nevada County, living in Rough & Ready. Though we were in part drawn to Nevada County because of gold mining, we are opposed to this new mine proposal. We don't live near the proposed mining site, but think this is a terrible idea, at the wrong time and place. If it were proposed out in an unpopulated area, it might be somewhat viable, but to place this in the residential area of Grass Valley is horrific. The traffic and noise would be enough of a deterrent, but the environmental impacts beyond this do not make this a reasonable proposal. Also, this company is financially unstable, and out of the country. Please do not approve this proposal.

We vote in every election, and will vote and campaign against any supervisor that would approve this.

Sincerely,

Alice Williams-Root
Rough & Ready, CA

Ind 11-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 11: ALICE WILLIAMS-ROOT

Response to Comment Ind 11-1

The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please refer to Master Response 1. With regard to concerns about the Project Applicant, the commenter is referred to Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.



Individual Letter 12

From: [Alison Alkon](#)
To: [BOC Public Comment](#)
Subject: The proposed Idaho-Maryland mine
Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 12:48:43 PM

Not a resident

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Dear Supervisors,

My name is Alison Alkon. I own a property on Flying Cloud Drive off of Greenhorn road. While I don't live there full time, I am very much invested in the land in Nevada County and want to ensure that it is protected and cared for in every way possible.

I'm an environmental sociologist, meaning I study the social side of environmental issues. I've been following debates about the proposed mine, especially RISE's recent claim that there will be no proposed impact on the local air and water. This is a common claim made by petitioners. It's easy to say there will be no effects and then to have those effects occur anyway. This is what we have commonly seen in mining projects throughout the country. There are many efforts to make mining more green and sustainable, but like coal, they do more to clean the industry's reputation than its actual effects.

Further, many of the new jobs tend to require specific skills and companies tend to bring folks in for them rather than hire locally. We are in a period of record employment so the argument about jobs needs more scrutiny. What kind of jobs are these? Long-term operating or short term development?

In my professional opinion, this project is not worth the risk.

Sincerely,
Alison Alkon
Professor of Sociology
University of the Pacific

Ind 12-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 12: ALISON ALKON

Response to Comment Ind 12-1

The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.



Individual Letter 13

From: Allison Bischofberger <akmccann38@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comments of DEIR

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To whom it concerns:

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine, specifically the DEIR's inadequacy in addressing the impact on local water quality.

Ind 13-1

I live in Chicago Park on a small farm off the Greenhorn watershed. Like many, if not most, Nevada County residents we rely on a well for our water, and already we have a high level of heavy metals present in our water, which we have tested regularly due to the history of mining and its negative impact on water quality. On page 51-52 of section 4.8 of the DEIR, it clearly states that the impact of this mine on water quality would be significant. While it does go on to suggest ways of mitigating this impact, I do believe it's enough to fully address the very real concerns for those of us who live in the vicinity, and truly the whole county. With so little rainfall this year, even the slightest of water issues cannot be ignored and will have a very detrimental impact on our quality of life.

Furthermore, my children attend Montessori House of Children, one of the schools mentioned in the report as being very close to the proposed mine, and the traffic and air quality impact is a huge concern for me in terms of their wellbeing as well as that of all the young children who currently attend that school and those who will attend in the future.

Ind 13-2

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the concerns of our community members.

Sincerely,

Allison Bischofberger
530-913-9929
14226 Greenhorn Access Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 13: ALLISON BISCHOFBERGER

Response to Comment Ind 13-1

The comment expresses a general opinion that Mitigation Measures 4.8-1(a) through 4.8-1(e) under Impact 4.8-1 (DEIR page 4.8-41) would not sufficiently reduce potential impacts to surface or groundwater quality, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response.

Please see Master Responses 15 and 16.

Response to Comment Ind 13-2

Please see Master Response 1, as well as the discussions and analyses in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, and Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR. As presented in Table 4.3-21 on page 4.3-80 of the DEIR, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact associated with increased health risks (including at the surrounding schools).

The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 14

From: Allison Roush <allisonmroush@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 8:22 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comments to EIR Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

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Dear Mr. Matt Kelly,

Please see the below for my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project published on January 4, 2022.

- Ind 14-1** 1. Page 4.7-37 There is the possibility during an 80-year mining operation that local groundwater could be contaminated, but there is no mention of monitoring it during operation to protect the local population. There are no mitigation measures mentioned later in the text other than at the groundwater treatment plant.
- Ind 14-2** 2. Page 4.8-5 The drainage calculations were done on the currently existing landscape conditions, not the future conditions. This makes the assessment null and void for future impacts. It is understood that future conditions cannot be fully predicted and might change, but a base level plan was presented for where drilling and work might occur and could be applied to the assessment.
- Ind 14-3** 3. Figure 4.8-4 needs directional groundwater flow arrows. This figure gives the reader no indication of how the local watershed plays into things and how the local wells will be affected.
- Ind 14-4** 4. If the mine is dewatered and there is no clean water pumped in to replace it, there could be migration of contaminated groundwater towards private wells. What is the plan to mitigate this? Are private wells going to be monitored at least on an annual basis?
- Ind 14-5** 5. Page 4.8-13 In the last paragraph on the page, they say the cyclicity of the mine shifts shows that there is no fracture that connects them to the private wells. Have they done groundwater sampling to confirm there has been no contaminate migration?
- Ind 14-6** 6. 4.8-48 – The report says that only during the mining phase is there a possibility that the hexavalent chromium (Cr6) could leach from the PCB. The mining phase is 80 years long. Does that mean there is an 80-year time period where people (workers and residents) could be exposed to an analyte consider that can be a human health risk? This also means that the Cr6 could get into the groundwater and move through the aquifer.
 - a. There is no attempt in the report to research if the known contaminants have been detected in the nearby potable wells. A base-level needs to be established at all wells within a one-mile radius so future impacts can be adequately tracked. Additionally, there is only a suggested monitoring program for the nearby vicinity and onsite treatment. Future seismic activity is unknown and cannot be predicted. Though fractures might not currently exist that allow for downgradient movement to private wells, fractures could be created in the future in the case of an earthquake. It is important to get base level data to take into account any future impacts on local residents and water supplies.
- Ind 14-7** 7. The report states that the mine will use up non-renewable resources (Chap 5-8), and the project will also consume energy and natural resources in an irreversible way. The project freely admits this. California has been in a decade-long drought, and with climate change, it is projected to continue. This project is not prioritizing the public interest. The mining company has touted that it will make roughly 300+ jobs through this enterprise, and



Ind 14-8

it is safe to assume that a majority of the job creation will happen in the first-year construction phase. Present-day mining is highly specialized, and due to the need for safety, it is highly mechanized. How many people will actually be employed from the local community on a long-term basis, 15? How many of these highly skilled jobs will actually be from people that currently live in the local community and not people that move in? It is not worth trading the local public's resources for the small number of jobs that are created. Additionally, the 80-year project could create environmental devastation in the area that is also not worth the public's health.

a. Page 6-6- the Project "would result in a substantial reduction in groundwater supplies, substantial alteration of drainage patterns...risk release of pollutants in flood hazard area." Again, the northern California population's water supply is not worth this alteration.

8. This EIR proposes mitigation efforts to offset the risk, but the "best choice" is to not implement the project. No implementation will not result in the community being worse off. The County and City has presented alternatives that could be utilized that would be less invasive than mining and could create local jobs. Alternatives were presented starting on page 6-12. Page 6-42 also states that the environmentally superior alternative is the "No Project (No Build) Alternative" by CEQA standards.

Thank you,

Allison Roush
614-496-9429
allisonmroush@gmail.com

--

Allison Roush

Phone: [614.596.9429](tel:614.596.9429)
email: allisonmroush@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 14: ALLISON ROUSH

Response to Comment Ind 14-1

The commenter states that there is a possibility that local groundwater could be contaminated by operations and references page 4.7-37. The DEIR assesses the project's impact to water quality in Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR and concludes that the project would not cause an exceedance of water quality standards, after incorporation of mitigation.

As stated on page 119 of Appendix E.1, during mining, there will be a net inflow of groundwater into the mine workings, such that any mining activities would not affect water quality within the fractured bedrock. After mining ceases, conditions would return to those currently exist. The proposed new mining activities would all occur at depths that are comparable to or much deeper than the historic mine workings. Due to the substantial reduction in hydraulic conductivity at those depths, compared to the depths of the domestic supply wells, it is highly unlikely that the proposed project would affect water quality in those wells.

Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(a) of the DEIR requires implementation of a Groundwater Monitoring Plan. As described in Section 8.0 of Appendix K.8, the groundwater monitoring includes groundwater quality sampling prior to the commencement of mine dewatering, during initial mine dewatering, and for the first year of maintenance pumping after the flooded underground workings have been dewatered. The commenter also asserts that groundwater monitoring is not required by the DEIR; however, the groundwater monitoring plan included in Appendix K.8 states that water quality will be monitored in the monitoring wells. Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(a) has been amended in the FEIR to clarify that water quality monitoring is required as part of the groundwater monitoring plan – please refer to Chapter 4, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, of this Final EIR for the final mitigation language.

Please also see Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, for an updated description of the proposed monitoring approach, which now also includes a proposal by the applicant to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 14-2

The commenter states that drainage calculations were done on the current landscape conditions and not future conditions and references page 4.8-5. This page of the DEIR discusses drainage calculations for the Centennial site. As stated on this page of the DEIR, the environmental baseline for the hydrology analysis of the Centennial Industrial Site is based on the existing conditions at the site and does not reflect the post-remediation condition that would exist following completion of the separate Centennial Industrial Site Clean-Up Project. The use of existing conditions at the Centennial Industrial Site for the hydrology analysis provides the most conservative approach for the drainage analysis. As stated on Page 4.8-5 of the DEIR, the use of existing conditions at the Centennial Industrial Site for the hydrology analysis provides the most conservative approach for the drainage analysis for the following reasons. The drainage calculations for existing conditions at the Centennial Industrial Site assume heavily wooded forest and understory cover as exists on the majority of the property at this time. Generally speaking, the existing Centennial land cover types generate less runoff compared to a post-remediated condition, whereon less absorption of runoff into the soil would occur. The on-site detention pond is designed and sized to reduce post-project stormwater flows exiting the site to not greater than



existing values. Using this standard, the detention pond for the Centennial Industrial Site would be required to hold back a greater amount of project runoff in order to equal the existing runoff condition of wooded forest and understory cover, as compared to holding back project runoff to equal the runoff that would be generated from the post-remediation condition. Therefore, using the lower existing conditions target value will result in a larger detention requirement to reduce post-development runoff to pre-development (existing condition) levels. In regard to future conditions, as explained on page 4.8-73 of the DEIR, the hydrologic calculations and detention studies for the Centennial site anticipates runoff at potential future industrial development levels, though industrial development is not proposed at this time, and separate environmental review and permitting through the County would be required prior to any on-site industrial development. Therefore, the sizing of the detention basins is conservative.

Response to Comment Ind 14-3

The commenter states that groundwater direction arrows needs to be added to Figure 4.8-4 to indicate how local watersheds effect the groundwater model and how local wells will be affected. However, Figure 4-5 of Appendix K.3 to the DEIR already shows simulated groundwater contours and flow direction can be determined from these contours. Regional groundwater flow is generally from the east to the west and approximately perpendicular to the groundwater contours shown on Figure 4-5 of Appendix K.3. As discussed in Section 4.1 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR, the Hydrologic study area (HSA) encompasses watershed boundaries and creeks, and as discussed in Section 4.3.2 of Appendix K.3, all the major rivers/creeks that are located within the HSA were incorporated into the model and simulated in the stream-routing package within MINEDW. The elevations of riverbeds in the area were based on the LIDAR data or topographic elevations. The stream-routing package simulates interactions between a routed river and an aquifer. Therefore, local watersheds have been considered in the model and used to determine how local wells would be affected by the project.

Response to Comment Ind 14-4

The commenter asserts that dewatering could cause contaminated water to migrate to groundwater wells if no clean water replaces the water removed from the mine. As stated on page 119 of Appendix E.1, during mining, there will be a net inflow of groundwater into the mine workings, such that any mining activities would not affect water quality within the fractured bedrock. The groundwater flows into the mine workings rather than water in the mine workings flowing out into the regional groundwater. Water quality sampling from groundwater monitoring wells, which are representative of the surrounding private wells, will be conducted as described in Section 8.0 of Appendix K.8.

As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 14-5

The commenter questions whether there is groundwater sampling to show whether contaminants have migrated towards groundwater wells from the mine. As stated on page 119 of Appendix E.1, there is no evidence to indicate that the historic underground mine workings have caused any water quality impacts at any domestic well. Water sampling has been conducted from groundwater present in the Brunswick shaft and draining from the mine at Idaho-Maryland Road. No water quality sampling has been conducted in private wells. Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(a) of the DEIR requires a Groundwater Monitoring Plan. As described in Section 8.0 of Appendix K.8



the groundwater monitoring includes groundwater quality sampling prior to the commencement of mine dewatering, during initial mine dewatering, and for the first year of maintenance pumping after the flooded underground workings have been dewatered. This will provide a baseline for the groundwater quality in the area of the mine and proof that no groundwater quality changes, attributable to mine dewatering, have occurred. Because the mining activities will not provide recharge to the domestic wells, the mining activities at the project site will not affect the water quality of the domestic wells.

As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 14-6

The commenter suggests a possibility that the hexavalent chromium could leach from cemented paste backfill and become a human health risk. The groundwater flows into the mine workings rather than water in the mine workings flowing out into the regional groundwater. Nonetheless, as discussed in the DEIR, hexavalent chromium will not leach into groundwater and workers and residents would not be exposed to hexavalent chromium from cemented paste backfill. As stated on page 4.8-48 of the DEIR, the project's strategy for addressing the potential leaching of Cr+6 from CPB is not reactive (i.e., removal at the WTP), but rather proactive, whereby, as part of obtaining WDRs from the RWQCB for use of CPB, test work would be completed on CPB samples to verify that leaching of Cr+6 would not be an issue and use of the selected cement and CPB admixture would meet applicable regulatory requirements. The RWQCB has jurisdiction over placement of CPB, and approval of WDRs from the RWQCB would be necessary prior to any placement in the underground mine, ensuring compliance with water quality standards, including Cr+6 levels. In this way, the potential water quality effects related to chromium would be addressed through selection of the appropriate cement source and product, along with the proper CPB mixture, rather than by water treatment.

The commenter suggests that a baseline of groundwater quality in a one-mile radius should be established. This suggestion is already implemented by the project. Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(a) of the DEIR requires a Groundwater Monitoring Plan. As described in Section 8.0 of Appendix K.8, the groundwater monitoring includes groundwater quality sampling prior to the commencement of mine dewatering, during initial mine dewatering, and for the first year of maintenance pumping after the flooded underground workings have been dewatered. As stated on page 15 of Appendix K.8, total chromium and hexavalent chromium will be included in all sampling events. The proposed monitoring well locations are dispersed throughout the project area over several square miles (see figure 1 of Appendix K.8). This will provide a baseline for the groundwater quality in the area of the mine and proof that no groundwater quality changes, attributable to mine dewatering, has occurred. Because the mining activities will not provide recharge to the domestic wells, the mining activities at the project site will not affect the water quality of the domestic wells. In addition, as noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells, including water level and quality, within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.



The commenter suggests that future seismic activity could cause fractures that allow for downgradient movement of groundwater to private wells. As discussed on page 4.6-2 of the DEIR, the overall project site is located within the Foothills Fault System. The Foothills Fault System is designated as a Type C fault zone, with low seismicity and a low rate of recurrence. The Foothills Fault System has been assigned a moment magnitude of 6.5. The nearest mapped active portion of the Foothill Fault System is approximately 25 miles northwest of the overall project site on the Cleveland Hill Fault. Notwithstanding the low seismicity and rate of occurrence in the area, a seismic event would not result in changes to groundwater flow and groundwater would continue flow into the mine workings, such that any mining activities would not affect water quality within the fractured bedrock.

Response to Comment Ind 14-7

The commenter implies that the project would result in wasteful use of energy. As discussed in Impact 4.3-9 of the DEIR, implementation of the project in combination with other cumulative development would not result in the wasteful or inefficient use of energy, resulting in a less-than-significant impact. Please also see Response to Comment Agcy 8-17. The commenter also states that the project's job creation benefits are not worth the environmental impacts. Please see Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts. The commenter asserts that the project "would result in a substantial reduction in groundwater supplies; substantial alteration of drainage patterns", citing page 6-6 of the DEIR, but the commenter omits the following sentence: "However, the EIR requires mitigation in order to ensure that impacts related to hydrology and water quality are reduced to less-than-significant levels." (DEIR, p. 6-7.)

Response to Comment Ind 14-8

The commenter states that the best choice is not to implement the project and notes that the DEIR presents alternatives to the proposed project. As the commenter notes, the No Project alternative is considered the environmentally superior alternative; however, the No Project alternative does not meet the basic project objectives. Please see Master Response 1.



From: amie ferrier <amie.l.fenwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 6:39 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comment on the RiseGold Draft EIR and mine proposal

Individual Letter 15

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Hi,

My name is Amie Ferrier, and I live in the Cedar Ridge neighborhood of Grass Valley, very near RiseGold's proposed mine site. My husband Eli and I are both local school teachers, and Eli was born and raised here as a life-long local. I am commenting on the Draft EIR and proposal from RiseGold regarding re-opening the mine.

We treasure living in this community and are engaged neighbors and friends. We're also avid lovers of the outdoors and spend as much time as we can soaking up river rafting, backcountry skiing, mountain biking our local trail network, and loving this land.

It is precisely for these reasons that we are so deeply opposed to the reopening of this mine. We know from decades of similar disingenuous marketing that projects such as these have destructively high price tags that our community will pay for a long time to come if this is approved. We should be looking to our county's future economic growth with innovation and stewardship of resources - not looking backward to such devastatingly harmful plans as this mine reopening.

For the health of our neighbors and their young kiddos whom we teach, and for the sake of the land that we love and the clean water that is already scarce enough, please condemn RiseGold's shortsighted proposal. While our community does need more jobs, please do not assume that we want such short-term, unsafe, costly jobs as this. We don't.

Please treat this as an opportunity to demonstrate strong and courageous leadership and strongly reject RiseGold's proposal. We need stewards of our foothills with a vision for a healthy, sustainable future, and this is a powerful chance to clarify our priorities and collaborate together as a community. We unequivocally do not want this mine to re-open, and we do not want RiseGold's business. Thank you for taking the time to listen to your community.

with gratitude,
-Amie Ferrier
cell 815 529 1468
PO Box 1322, Cedar Ridge CA 95924

--
[Whole Music Studio](#)

violin, fiddle, cello, and guitar instruction
plus: Baby Gang music for kiddos 0-4yrs
wholmusicstudio@gmail.com

Ind 15-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 15: AMIE FERRIER

Response to Comment Ind 15-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 16

From: [Amy Geiser](#)
To: [Idaho NMEIB](#)
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: Comments on DEIR for Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, April 3, 2022 9:51:17 PM

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April 3, 2022
Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Ind 16-1

I am writing to express my grave concerns with the recent Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) submitted for the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The DEIR appears deeply flawed. I urge this commission to reject several points in the DEIR.

Ind 16-2

Additionally, there are fundamental flaws with reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine that cannot be cured through mitigation. The analysis within the DEIR, even with these oversights and flaws, makes it clear that there is no place for the Idaho-Maryland mine reopening in such a populated area of Nevada County.

Ind 16-3

The Mine reopening cannot occur without deeply compromising the visual beauty of Nevada County, undermining the county's tourism appeal, which is centered on the arts and the outdoors, and threatening the health and wellness of our residents, communities and natural resources. The mine poses clear threats of noise pollution, dust pollution, water depletion, toxic releases into the air and water, extreme increases to traffic, visual blight, and the potential for traffic increases that threaten both key evacuation routes and key routes to reach hospital and emergency medical services.

Background on the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Ind 16-4

Rise Gold proposes to mine an average of 1,000 tons of rock per day in the reopened Idaho-Maryland Mine sites. The DEIR indicates this will require an incredible resource input to remove that much earth on a daily basis. This movement of earth will have a myriad of environmental and community impacts, and will require hundreds of trucks driving daily between the two mining sites in Nevada County, in addition to the truck movement needed to enter and leave the county.



My Background and Experience in Nevada County

Ind 16-5

As homeowners in Nevada County, my husband and I have invested our life savings to be able to call Nevada County home, for ourselves and our two children. We own a home less than a mile away from the proposed underground mining area for the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We rely upon our well for water, and we work closely with our neighbors to keep our area well-maintained and fire-safe. We continue to invest in our home to upgrade it for fire-safety, for ourselves and our neighbors. The health and safety of our children and the economic stability and longevity of this community are our top priorities.

Additionally, I also lived in Truckee, California for many years. I worked in the tourism industry, and I also worked in the schools during that time period. As such, I am deeply familiar with Nevada County and I cherish its rich beauty, wildlife habitats, art districts, outdoor activities, and tourist attractions.

Some of the many features I love about Nevada County are the following:

Ind 16-6

1. Beautiful, serene natural surroundings;
2. Terrific schools with dedicated teachers and staff;
3. Family oriented communities and activities;
4. Three cities that are Cultural Arts Districts (Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee);
5. A large regional hospital;
6. Wildlife habitat;
7. Outdoor sports;
8. An attractive county for tourists and friends to visit to enjoy the arts, beauty, and outdoors;
9. Many creative people who are entrepreneurs and self-starters, and who open really interesting businesses;
10. Many opportunities for music and food lovers to enjoy the area.

The Planning Commission's Responsibility as a Steward of Community Wealth and Resources

Ind 16-7

I enjoy living in Nevada County because I have noticed people are exceptionally kind. I have noticed that people work hard, and they invest their sweat equity into their communities and their property, and into each other. This is a form of wealth, albeit one that cannot always be measured through a formal accounting.

The Planning Commission is a steward of this community wealth. This wealth can cease to exist if county planning fails to support the spirit and dynamism that creates this wealth. We expect the Planning Commission to plan for the health and safety of our community. The Planning Commission is also responsible for the economic viability and environmental longevity of our community and its natural resources.

Flaws and Concerns with the DEIR

Ind 16-8

I have noted many flaws in the DEIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine, as well as many concerns that seem to be minimized in the DEIR, and cannot be mitigated. Among them are the following:

1. Visual Blight:

- Visitors and residents alike will have a huge blight on their views of this visually pristine region. This will also impact the view of tourists as they drive through the Grass Valley area up to Truckee.
- Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital employs almost 1000 employees

Ind 16-9



Ind 16-10	<p>and staff, and also hosts patients and visitors. The DIER made it clear that the Mine would significantly impair their daily view.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The visual blight would be visible from main roads and highways. This is unacceptable, as our county depends on our image of natural beauty and outdoor adventure for our many outdoor businesses.
Ind 16-11	<p>2. Air Pollution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nevada County already ranks one of the worst in the nation for air quality. We cannot afford to increase the daily dust and pollution in this county that the Mine will bring.
Ind 16-12	<p>3. Art and Tourism Revenue will decrease when we are Rebranded as an Industrial Waste Zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Mine is incompatible with the tourism and artistic activities in Nevada County. In 2019-2020, the Arts and Cultural sector brought in almost 47 million to Nevada County. ^[1] The art revenue in this county depends on our image as a natural, serene and creative community. Nevada County has a unique image of a highly artistic and creative community, and this image has been cultivated over decades. Our county stands to lose this image, and therefore millions of dollars in revenue annually, if we allow a singular foreign interest to rebrand our community as an industrial waste zone.
Ind 16-13	<p>4. The DEIR does not adequately address the impact to both the Groundwater and Watersheds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no room in our county for one company to take so much water for itself and its own financial gain, at the risk of all of our wells, our watershed, and our long term planning for drought and climate change. It is abhorrent that the DEIR indicates it will deplete or pollute a large percentage of our water resources in the county, and jeopardize hundreds, if not thousands, of wells – all the while claiming that only 30 wells will be potentially impacted.
Ind 16-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DEIR appears unsound in its assessment that only 30 wells will be impacted. With the dewatering, the pollutants flushed in the water, as well as the high amount of daily water needed for operation, the entire watershed in Nevada County is threatened by a reopening of the Mine. These are severe impacts that cannot be mitigated.
Ind 16-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally, there should be a guarantee to homeowners with wells in the county. If there is to be a new DEIR, I would like a <u>guarantee</u> that there will be bi-annual well testing throughout the county with any Mine re-opening, not just at the 30 identified sites. I would also like an agreement that if wells are compromised anywhere in Nevada County in the event this unsound Mine is reopened, that the planning commission agrees <u>that the county will pay the full cost</u> for homeowners to move onto municipal water lines. Any DEIR should factor in these costs, as a bond to the county or otherwise, so that the county can cover these costs in the (very likely) event that wells and the watershed in general shall be compromised beyond what is indicated in the DEIR.
Ind 16-16	<p>5. Emergency Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have concerns that the increase in daily truck traffic will hamper emergency evacuation routes for fire and other emergencies. At a time when homeowners are asked to take on additional costs and burdens of



Ind 16-17	<p>maintaining the fire safety of our property, it is disingenuous to suggest that one foreign company can come in with hundreds of trucks daily, and that this will not compromise our emergency preparedness or fire safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have concerns that the increase in daily truck traffic will cause emergency medical vehicles difficulty in accessing the hospital and residents throughout the county for emergency care and transport. This has the potential to compromise our hospital and emergency response services. This should be studied further.
Ind 16-18	<p>6. Vehicle Pollution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the sheer numbers of vehicles causing traffic and pollution, and jeopardizing emergency response, the DEIR indicates that the company will minimize diesel vehicle idling, only to the extent reasonable. This offers the community no assurances as to either the air quality or the noise issues concerning hundreds of diesel vehicles operating in the county on a daily basis.
Ind 16-19	<p>7. Endangering Residential Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 1940's when the Idaho-Maryland Mine was still operating, Nevada County had fewer than 5000 people in urban areas, and fewer than 20,000 residents total. Today the population of Nevada County is greater than 5 times that size, at approximately 100,000. The population of young people age 18-35 is on the rise. ^[2] This community is growing, and people are coming here to raise their families. In the past 70 years, whole communities and neighborhoods have grown up around this ancient defunct Mine. Our entire neighborhood was built in the 1970's, after the Mine was no longer operating.
Ind 16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is inappropriate to open a defunct industrial site in the middle of neighborhoods and communities. It destroys property value, it destroys community moral, and it degrades the health of the county citizens. Additionally, the noise that will be generated threatens the physical and mental health of county residents.
Ind 16-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This mine threatens the livelihood of all of the entrepreneurs and artists and spiritual leaders who have worked so hard to make Nevada County a special place to live, and an attractive place for tourists and visitors.
Ind 16-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The historic downtowns of Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee must be honored as both community centers and tourist destinations if Nevada County is to thrive into the future. Threatening the image of these city centers is a threat to the economic stability of all of Nevada County.
Additional Missing Assessments in the DEIR	
Ind 16-23	<p>In addition to the problems and flaws above, the DEIR should include the following costs and assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DEIR should realistically assess the loss of jobs and property value Nevada County will face due to the Mine. There are minimal jobs to be created by the Mine, and no quality jobs. There is no other financial benefit to Nevada county communities from the mine. However, the loss to our county's reputation as a beautiful, scenic, outdoor and artistic community will certainly cause a loss in tourism, visitors, and a loss in property value. These are real costs that should be assessed by an independent economic consultant. To ensure an independent assessment,



	<p>perhaps an economic consultant should be commissioned by the Planning Commission.</p>
Ind 16-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The DEIR should realistically assess the increased physical and mental health burden on our county system. Increased dust will likely cause a rise in asthma in the region. Increased water and air pollution from asbestos and other toxins will cause other health problems. Increased noise pollution can lead to mental health issues in our residents. The DEIR should address these additional costs to the community, and how Rise Gold will pay for increased access to healthcare services in Nevada County. A large percentage of Nevada County residents have MediCal coverage, and the county systems will bear the costs of an increased need for medical and mental health services if we do not require the DEIR to assess them, and to commit to paying for them.
Ind 16-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The DEIR should realistically assess the water shortage problems and well problems that opening the Mine will create, and bear the burden of proving that any future well or watershed damage is <u>not</u> due to the Mine. Due to the concerns and flaws in the DEIR analysis, there should be biannual testing of all Nevada County wells upon owner request, and a guarantee to all Nevada County homeowners that if a problem with toxicity is detected or a well dries due to Mine operations, that the county will cover the costs of securing a municipal water supply (and seek reimbursement from Rise Gold). Rise Gold should also commit to bearing the burden of proving that any subsequent well problems are not due to mine operations, as we know that absent such an agreement, the company will outspend any resident on attorneys in its efforts to evade responsibility for ill effects of its Mining operations. A single resident is simply no match against the deep pockets of a corporation like Rise Gold in litigation, and thus the county must preemptively commit to supporting its residents in recouping costs, if it allows this Mine to reopen.
Ind 16-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rise Gold should insure against any potential seismic activity resulting from Mine activity in Nevada County. It should not be the responsibility of individual citizens to insure against seismic damage that may be caused by this company, foreseen or unforeseen. In good faith, Rise Gold should guarantee it will bear the costs of any seismic activity reasonably thought to be caused by its mining activities.
Ind 16-27	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Many residents of Nevada County like me work, and cannot attend daytime meetings. However, please do not discount our voices. We are the residents who are investing daily in this community with our lives and our livelihoods.</p> <p>We are counting on you to challenge this DEIR for the many flaws and oversights, and to invest in us, our community, even if it means standing up to a powerful and well-funded foreign corporate interest. For the reasons identified above, and many more, if the Mine reopens it will threaten our physical and mental health, our safety, our fire preparedness, our income and property values, our natural resources, our water and wells, our visual beauty and our well-earned reputation as an artistic, creative, scenic, and outdoor-oriented community.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these concerns, and continuing to safeguard our future and the future of our children.</p>



Amy Geiser
(530) 219-1247

[\[1\]](#) 2019-2020 Nevada County, California Executive Report.

[\[2\]](#) Statistics from the 1940 Census and the 2019-2020 Nevada County, California Executive Report.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 16: AMY GEISER

Response to Comment Ind 16-1

The commenter states that the DEIR is flawed and urges the County to reject the project. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 16-2

The commenter states there are fundamental flaws that cannot be addressed through mitigation. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 16-3

The commenter states that the project threatens the health and wellness of the community's residents and natural resources. The commenter states that the project will have negative impacts to aesthetics, noise, air quality, hydrology, traffic, and evacuation routes. The commenter also states the project will negatively impact the region's tourism industry. The commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The project's potential impacts to aesthetics and visual resources are evaluated in DEIR Chapter 4.1 (Aesthetics). Impact 4.1-2 discusses the project's impacts to the existing visual character and quality of public views of the project site. Mitigation Measure 4.1-2 is provided requiring implementation of a landscaping plan for the project. However, as stated on DEIR page 4.1-22, the impact would be significant and unavoidable. The DEIR also analyzed noise in Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration), air quality in Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), traffic in Chapter 4.12 (Transportation), and evacuation routes in Chapter 4.13 (Wildfire). The commenter is also referred Master Response 5 – Evacuation Zone.

The portion of the comment regarding impacts to the tourism industry does not pertain to an environmental concern or the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 16-4

The commenter summarizes portions the project description relating to the number of truck trips generated during project operation. The environmental effects of the proposed transport and placement of engineered fill are evaluated throughout the DEIR. As shown in Table 4.12-8 on DEIR page 4.12-34, the DEIR assumes a worst-case scenario of 100 roundtrips (200 truck trips) per day. However, an average of 50 roundtrips (100 truck trips) per day is anticipated. (DEIR, p. 3-28.)

Response to Comment Ind 16-5

The commenter resides near the project site and is concerned about the potential impacts to the community. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 16-6

The commenter lists a number of desirable attributes associated with Nevada County. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1.



Response to Comment Ind 16-7

The commenter states that the Nevada County Planning Commission is responsible for ensuring the economic viability and environmental longevity of the community. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 16-8

The commenter states that the project would have negative aesthetic impacts and that the DEIR minimizes these impacts. The project's potential impacts to public views are evaluated under Impact 4.1-2, beginning on DEIR page 4.1-14. The potential impacts to public views are not minimized. The DEIR identifies the project's potential impacts and determines that, even with available mitigation, the impact would be significant and unavoidable at multiple public viewpoints.

Response to Comment Ind 16-9

The commenter states that the project would have negative aesthetic impacts and that the DEIR minimizes these impacts. The project's potential impacts to public views are evaluated under Impact 4.1-2, beginning on DEIR page 4.1-14. The potential impacts to public views are not minimized. The DEIR identifies the project's potential impacts and determines that, even with available mitigation, the impact would be significant and unavoidable at multiple public viewpoints.

Response to Comment Ind 16-10

The commenter states that the project would have negative aesthetic impacts and that the DEIR minimizes these impacts. The commenter also states that the aesthetics of the project would impact outdoor businesses. The project's potential impacts to public views are evaluated under Impact 4.1-2, beginning on DEIR page 4.1-14. The potential impacts to public views are not minimized. The DEIR identifies the project's potential impacts and determines that, even with available mitigation, the impact would be significant and unavoidable at multiple public viewpoints. Evaluation of impacts to business and the local economy is not required by CEQA. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 16-11

The commenter states that the Nevada County's air quality is already poor and afford to be degraded further. The commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in addressing air quality impacts. The project's potential impacts to air quality are evaluated in Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy). As demonstrated throughout the Chapter, with mitigation, the project's air quality impacts would be less than significant.

Response to Comment Ind 16-12

The commenter describes the project's potential adverse impacts to the local economy that could occur. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 16-13

The commenter states that the project would require an excessive amount of water and potentially impact thousands of wells. As demonstrated in Chapter 4.11 of the DEIR (Public Services and Utilities), there would be sufficient water supplies to serve both the project and other future planned development in the service area under normal and dry year conditions (see Impact 4.11-7 beginning on DEIR page 4.11-35). As stated on DEIR page 4.11-43, "sufficient water supplies would be available to serve the project, as well as existing and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years." With regard to potential impacts to



groundwater supplies and local wells, the commenter is referred to Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change. With regard to potential impacts to water quality, the commenter is referred to Master Response 36 - Discharges to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 16-14

The commenter states that the DEIR underestimates the number of groundwater wells the project could impact. The commenter also states that the dewatering of the mine would discharge pollutants to surface water. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 36 - Discharges to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 16-15

The commenter states there should be bi-annual well testing throughout the County and that that the County should pay for any impacted well to switch to NID service. Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(a) in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) requires the Project Applicant to implement a Groundwater Monitoring Plan (GMP) to monitor water levels in the project area and to perform a projected water-level impact assessment for individual domestic wells. Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(b) further requires the Project Applicant to provide a comparable alternative water supply to replace any wells that are significantly impacted by project operations. Regarding the bi-annual testing, the commenter is referred to Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 16-16

The commenter states that the project's truck traffic will impede an evacuation during an emergency. The project's potential impacts to emergency response and evacuation are evaluated under Impact 4.7-4 beginning on DEIR page 4.7-37. Please also see Master Response 5 – Evacuation Zones.

Response to Comment Ind 16-17

The commenter states that the project's truck traffic will impede emergency vehicles travelling to the hospital. The commenter is referred to Master Response 5.

Response to Comment Ind 16-18

The commenter states that the DEIR directive to minimize truck idling is permissive and offers the community no assurances as to air quality and noise impacts. Regarding the air quality impacts, the California Air Resources Board has adopted rules limiting idling of both on-road and off-road heavy-duty diesel trucks to less than five minutes. (DEIR, p. 4.3-25–30.) This is an existing regulation that is enforced by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) and through the inclusion of required technologies in newer equipment. Regarding noise impacts, the DEIR evaluated the noise impacts from diesel trucks and found those impacts less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR 4.10-31.)



Response to Comment Ind 16-19

The commenter states that the population of the community has grown in recent decades. The comment is noted. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 16-20

The commenter states that the location of the project near parcels zoned for residential is inappropriate and that the project will have negative noise impacts. The commenter also states the project will negatively impact property values. The project site is zoned for industrial uses. Regarding property values, the commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Issues. The project's potential impacts related to noise are evaluated in Chapter 4.7 (Noise and Vibration).

Response to Comment Ind 16-21

The commenter states that the project will cause negative economic impacts to the community. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 16-22

The commenter states that the project will cause negative economic impacts to the community. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 16-23

The commenter states the DEIR should assess the potential loss in jobs and property values to the community. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 16-24

The commenter raises numerous potential environmental impacts but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in addressing these impacts. Dust and air pollution concerns are addressed in DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy). A Health Risk Assessment was prepared for the project as described on DEIR page 4.3-61. The Project Applicant has prepared an Asbestos, Serpentinite, and Ultramafic Rock Management Plan (ASUR) which is designed to exclude asbestos containing material from the engineered fill produced by the project and from rock mined and processed. (DEIR, Appx. E.2.) All mined materials will be tested to ensure asbestos content does not exceed applicable standards and all engineered fill used for surfacing applications would have no detectable asbestos. Noise pollution is addressed in DEIR Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration). Increased community medical costs are not an issue required by CEQA for evaluation in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 16-25

The commenter states that the Project Applicant should conduct bi-annual testing of groundwater wells and should commit to covering the cost of switching to NID service. Groundwater quality is already required in the well monitoring plan from water monitoring wells which are representative of the surrounding domestic water wells. (DEIR, Appx. K.8.) Required well monitoring and mitigation already places the burden of proof on the applicant. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells, inclusive of water level and water quality, within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and



shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Additionally, a mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and is included as Chapter 4 of this Final EIR. The mitigation measures and conditions of approval will be enforced by the County. To the extent the applicant receives permits from other state and federal agencies, those agencies will be responsible for their enforcement.

Response to Comment Ind 16-26

The commenter states that the Project Applicant should be required to have insurance for any seismic impacts associated with the project. The project's mining activities would not induce seismic activity. The DEIR analyzed the project's ability to rupture an earthquake fault or cause a seismic-related ground failure and found the impact less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is referred to the NV5 memo attached to the Final EIR as Appendix P.

Response to Comment Ind 16-27

The commenter reiterates her concerns with various potential project impacts and urges the County to reject the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1. Each of the environmental concerns listed in the comment was evaluated in the DEIR in the appropriate technical section.



Individual Letter 17

Dist 3

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

NO MINE!!!

MAR 03 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Name(s) Amy Hobbs Todd Sutter
Address 314 HAZEL LN ZIP 95945
Phone 415.717.4324
Email Address ahbbs2@aol.com

Ind 17-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 17: AMY HOBBS

Response to Comment Ind 17-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Andrea Berry <andreaddailey@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 8:13 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Opposition

Individual Letter 18

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To Whom It May Concern,

Ind 18-1

As a homeowner adjacent to the Idaho Maryland Mine property, I am extremely concerned with the prospect of the mine reopening. Our family returned to Grass Valley after jobs and military deployments pulled us out of the area for a decade. We recently were able to fulfill our dream of buying a home in Grass Valley again and our three children are enrolled in schools and we are all happily readjusted. If the mine is approved, we will most certainly be forced to sell our dream home and move our family away from this appalling development.

Ind 18-2

While I have multiple concerns with this project, the impact of noise disturbance will be the most constant nuisance. Our home is adjacent to the south end of the Brunswick site and as the mine property is cleared for development and mining uses, the noise will travel even more efficiently. In the Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Efforts, the noise levels are deemed "significant and unavoidable". While "significant" noise disturbances alone should deem the project unfit for this property, the impact of noise is grossly underestimated as there has not been any clearing of the property at this point. Once the property is forested and cleared for development, noise will travel even more efficiently. Mitigation efforts should include reasonable hours of operation (i.e. not 24/7) as well as a 12-foot sound deadening fence along the property.

Ind 18-3

In addition to noise disturbances, I am concerned with the impact on traffic. The discussion of traffic impacts on DEIR page 102 is inadequate because while the responsibility is certainly on Rise GV to pay toward road improvements necessary to safely facilitate the traffic increase, it is unclear what those "improvements" may include, and only a 14.9% contribution of the project seems underrepresented. The mitigation efforts should include a detailed road improvement plan of Brunswick Rd to accommodate the influx of heavy trucks, including and not limited to the widening Brunswick Rd. The DEIR does not outline how CalTrans reports only 14.9% accountability for Rise GV but the calculations for this should be shared with the public, and potentially re-evaluated insuring the calculation is not only considering the per vehicle usage but also per vehicle weight (i.e. road deterioration).

Ind 18-4

Nevada County, along with much of California, has a rich history of mining. Let's keep it in our history and attract other, less environmentally harmful, and economically progressive businesses to redefine our community. A destructive mine in the midst of residential communities is harmful on various fronts and puts our community in jeopardy of losing significant revenue from home values dropping, tourism less attractive due to a loud mine operating 24/7, and an already-troubled air quality subject to even more stress. This is not an appropriate project for our community and I trust the Commission will accurately represent its constituents and not allow this project to move forward.

Regards,

Andrea Berry



12702 Beaver Dr, Grass Valley, CA 95945
andreaddailey@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 18: ANDREA BERRY

Response to Comment Ind 18-1

The commenter is opposed to the project. The commenter's opposition is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 18-2

The commenter states that clearing of the project site for construction would result in greater noise impacts on adjacent properties due to the removal of vegetation which would have served to attenuate noise generated at the project site. The noise modeling conducted for the project considered the effects of ground cover on noise attenuation. The DEIR states that "it was assumed that the project site would essentially consist of acoustically hard surfaces with little sound absorption." (DEIR, p. 4.10-24.) In other words, the DEIR noise analysis assumes a worst-case scenario of the entire disturbed area of project site being cleared of vegetation. The commenter states that different hours of operation should be considered. A reduced hours alternative has already been considered in the DEIR and dismissed from further analysis. (DEIR, p. 6-13.)

As discussed in Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration) of the DEIR, the noise impacts from the project, except for the construction of the water pipe along East Bennett Road, would be less than significant after mitigation. The construction of a 12-foot-high sound wall along the property boundary is not included in mitigation measures and is not required to lessen noise impacts below a level of significance.

Response to Comment Ind 18-3

The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate with regard to its mitigation measures for any damage to roadways caused by project traffic. The commenter is referred to page 207 of DEIR Appendix O (Traffic Impact Analysis), which details the recommended roadway and signal improvements for each scenario considered in the traffic study. Most of these improvements were previously identified in local and regional transportation plans and the project would contribute to the existing or projected need for the improvements.

The commenter suggests widening Brunswick Road but does not explain how that would lessen the impact of truck traffic on Brunswick Road. No such improvement is required based on the analysis in Section 4.12 (Transportation) of the DEIR.

The project's fair share contribution to the costs of roadway improvements was calculated by KD Anderson & Associates using Caltrans' standard methodology. The commenter is referred to DEIR Appendix O (Traffic Impact Analysis), Technical LOS Appendix IX, which provides the project's fair share cost calculations for each improvement. The fair share calculation is for intersection improvements to reduce traffic delay. The vehicle weight is not relevant to this calculation. In regard to road maintenance, Mitigation Measure 4.12-6(b) requires that prior to commencement of engineered fill hauling, the Project Applicant shall enter into separate road maintenance agreements with Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley to provide the project's fair share of funding for maintenance of roadways commensurate with the project's impact to pavement conditions on both Nevada County and Grass Valley roadways, including Brunswick Road between E. Bennett Road and SR 49, and E. Bennett Road between Project Driveway and Brunswick Road.



Response to Comment Ind 18-4

The commenter urges the County not to approve the project. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



From: Andrew Ribotto <ribotto@ribotto.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:41 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: no on idaho / maryland mine -

Individual Letter 19

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Greetings,

Andrew Ribotto here --

I own property here between auburn and GV in nevada county and I find it shocking that we would even consider squandering any water resources in our county whatsoever during a 1000 year drought and ever increasing wildfire risk. Its basically a guarantee that any EIR provided by Rise Gold is going to be a rosy painted "best case scenario" and from what I've gathered, their track record has plenty of worse case scenarios.

I can't even imagine how annoying it would be for residents in that neighborhood to have to deal with this and not really clear how anyone could claim to be representing their community's interest by having this non-local company come in and exploit this beautiful town.

please PLEASE NO on the idaho maryland mine.

thank you,
-Ribotto

Ind 19-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 19: ANDREW RIBOTTO

Response to Comment Ind 19-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3. Please note that the DEIR was not provided by the applicant and, in fact, was prepared under the direction of the County.



Individual Letter 20

From: andrew wilson <ahwilson48@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Rise Gold EIR

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Dear Mr. Kelley;

Please consider the following comments on the Rise Gold EIR:

Ind 20-1

It is painfully obvious that the EIR for the proposed Rise Gold re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine is fatally flawed in numerous respects which have been pointed out repeatedly by many comments I have read, and I am sure by many which I have not. The takeaway is the EIR failed to use the approach which would adequately address the many actual and potential harmful effects of the proposed project. Much of the data on which the EIR is based was compiled from secondary sources without identifying whether the data is reliable. Resulting noise and air pollution effects were minimized as was the potential effect on wells in the area and the effect of the discharges of water pumped from the mine into Wolf Creek. Based on mine developments in other areas, it seems very likely that properties in the Nevada City/Grass Valley area would experience a significant decline. Some areas have seen declines in excess of 20% which would result, if the properties were reassessed as they should, in a concomitant decline in property tax revenue.

Ind 20-2

The following specific deficiencies have been pointed out by CEA and its consultants, any one of which should require that the EIR be amended to address them: (i) The EIR essentially ignores the fact that the mine site has not been cleaned up as required and therefore does not address what steps would need to be taken to do so; (ii) the EIR uses meteorological data from Blue Canyon, many miles away from the site, rendering conclusions from that data insupportable; (iii) the EIR relied on an outside report for data on the drill core rock which was relied for the EIR's conclusion concerning impact on water quality – one of the most serious and long lasting consequences of the project; (iv) water quality samples were not taken from the Wolf Creek area, which is the most appropriate location.

Ind 20-3

Ind 20-4

Ind 20-5

The EIR dispenses with the risks it identifies by asserting that they can be addressed, mitigated and/or ameliorated. However, no estimate of the costs of this are given, which is extremely troubling since Rise Gold is severely undercapitalized and could not realistically expect to be able to do the work necessary to open the mine much less to perform the remediation efforts described in the EIR.

Ind 20-6

It is painfully obvious that the EIR for the proposed Rise Gold re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine is fatally flawed in numerous respects which have been pointed out repeatedly by many comments I have read, and I am sure by many which I have not. The takeaway is the EIR failed to use the approach which would adequately address the many actual and potential harmful effects of the proposed project. Much of the data on which the EIR is based was compiled from secondary sources without identifying whether the data is reliable. Resulting noise and air pollution effects were minimized as was the potential effect on wells in the area and the effect of the discharges of water pumped from the mine into Wolf Creek. Based on mine developments in other areas, it seems very likely that properties in the Nevada City/Grass Valley area would experience a significant decline. Some areas have seen declines in excess of 20% which would result, if the properties were reassessed as they should, in a concomitant decline in property tax revenue.



Ind 20-7

The following specific deficiencies have been pointed out by CEA and its consultants, any one of which should require that the EIR be amended to address them: (i) The EIR essentially ignores the fact that the mine site has not been cleaned up as required and therefore does not address what steps would need to be taken to do so; (ii) the EIR uses meteorological data from Blue Canyon, many miles away from the site, rendering conclusions from that data insupportable; (iii) the EIR relied on an outside report for data on the drill core rock which was relied for the EIR's conclusion concerning impact on water quality – one of the most serious and long lasting consequences of the project; (iv) water quality samples were not taken from the Wolf Creek area, which is the most appropriate location.

The EIR dispenses with the risks it identifies by asserting that they can be addressed, mitigated and/or ameliorated. However, no estimate of the costs of this are given, which is extremely troubling since Rise Gold is severely undercapitalized and could not realistically expect to be able to do the work necessary to open the mine, much less to perform the remediation efforts described in the EIR.

Ind 20-8

This raises what is perhaps the most troubling aspect of the project. One which the EIR does not, and possibly could not address. That is the track record of Rise Gold and its CEO. That track record alone should disqualify Rise Gold from ever getting permission for any construction project, much less the reopening of a gold mine with all of the potential harmful effects which it presents. Rise Gold's previous project resulted in numerous unlawful and hazardous conditions which were left unremediated when it went into bankruptcy. Rise Gold's CEO was indicted and criminally convicted for this and, although the conviction was overturned, the case will be retried. Whether or not there is ultimately a conviction for Rise Gold's violation of laws designed to prevent environmental destruction, Rise's track record makes clear that there is serious risk that it will not, or cannot, perform in accordance with the laws and regulations designed to protect the environment. It would be foolish in the extreme to allow a company and CEO with this track record to proceed with this project.

ne which the EIR does not, and possibly could not address. That is the track record of Rise Gold and its CEO. That track record alone should disqualify Rise Gold from ever getting permission for any construction project, much less the reopening of a gold mine with all of the potential harmful effects which it presents. Rise Gold's previous project resulted in numerous unlawful and hazardous conditions which were left unremediated when it went into bankruptcy. Rise Gold's CEO was indicted and criminally convicted for this and, although the conviction was overturned, the case will be retried. Whether or not there is ultimately a conviction for Rise Gold's violation of laws designed to prevent environmental destruction, Rise's track record makes clear that there is serious risk that it will not, or cannot, perform in accordance with the laws and regulations designed to protect the environment. It would be foolish in the extreme to allow a company and CEO with this track record to proceed with this project.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wilson,

12881 Low Hills Rd
Nevada City, CA 95959
phone: (530) 470-8888
cell: (530) 913-6401
email: ahwilson48@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 20: ANDREW WILSON

Response to Comment Ind 20-1

The commenter states that the DEIR is flawed but provides no specifics or evidence to support this statement. The commenter also states that hydrology, air quality, and noise impacts were minimized but provides no additional information. Noise is analyzed in Chapter 4.10 of the DEIR, air quality is analyzed in Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR, and hydrology and water quality are analyzed in Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR. Responses to detailed comments are provided below. Lastly, the commenter states that the project will result in reduced property values. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2- Social and Economic Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 20-2

The commenter states that the DEIR “ignores the fact that the mine site has not been cleaned up” which is presumably a reference to the Centennial Industrial Site. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 20-3

The commenter states that the meteorological data is not representative of the project location. The commenter is referred to Master Response 17 - Meteorological Data Used in HRA.

Response to Comment Ind 20-4

The commenter states that the DEIR relied on an outside report for data on the “drill core rock.” The commenter is referred to Master Response 8 - Mine Waste Characterization. The commenter also states that water samples were not taken from the Wolf Creek area. Water quality samples were taken in Wolf Creek. (DEIR, p. 4.8-23.)

Response to Comment Ind 20-5

The commenter is concerned about the Project Applicant’s financial capability. The commenter is referred to Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility, and Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 20-6

Please see Response to Comment Ind 20-1.

Response to Comment Ind 20-7

The commenter reiterates concerns addressed in responses above. Regarding the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 20-2. Regarding the air quality data, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 20-3. Regarding the sampling cores, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 20-4. Regarding water quality samples from Wolf Creek, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 20-4. Regarding the Project Applicant’s financial condition, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 20-5.

Response to Comment Ind 20-8

The commenter opposes the project and questions the Project Applicant’s reputation. The commenter’s opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers and is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.



From: Angie Pereira <mapereira@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 11:28 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Draft EOR (SCH # 2020070378)

Individual Letter 21

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April 3, 2022

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
(Sent electronically to Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us)
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Draft EIR (SCH # 2020070378)

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project (proposed project). The proposed project would reinstate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an 80-year permit period with gold mineralization processing and underground exploration and mining proposed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during full operations. The operations of the proposed would allow for unmitigable impacts on our community for 80 years resulting in significant and unavoidable environmental impacts as well as the damage the character and vitality of the community.

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

The Draft EIR has determined that the following project impacts would remain significant and unavoidable, even after implementation of the feasible mitigation measures:

• Aesthetics

The Draft EIR determined that the proposed project would result in a significant impact related to substantially degrading the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Even after mitigation, the impact would remain significant and unavoidable. The Draft EIR also determined that the project's incremental contribution to the significant cumulative impact related to substantial degradation of visual character or quality would be cumulatively considerable and significant and unavoidable.

• Noise.

The Draft EIR determined that during construction activities, the project could result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity (i.e., residents along East Bennett Road during construction of the potable water line). Even with implementation of mitigation, the impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

• Transportation and Circulation

The draft EIR determined that the proposed project would result in a significant impact at three study intersections under the EPAP Plus Project scenarios, one of which would be significant and unavoidable even after mitigation (Brunswick Road/SR 174). The Draft EIR also determined that the proposed project would have a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to two intersections under both Cumulative Plus Project scenarios, one of which would be significant and unavoidable Draft EIR Idaho-Maryland Mine Project December 2021 Chapter 6 – Alternatives Analysis Page 6-8 even after mitigation (Brunswick Road/SR 174). In addition, the project's incremental traffic would cause a significant impact at one intersection queue during both Cumulative Plus Project scenarios (Brunswick Road/Sutton Way). Mitigation measures are identified and required for the aforementioned cumulative impacts, but it cannot be guaranteed that the measures would reduce the incremental impacts to a less than cumulatively considerable level.

Preference of the No-Build Alternative

Preference of the Environmentally Superior Alternative, which is Alternative 1: No Project (No-Build) Alternative. The No-Build ensure that the project area and the public would not result in project related impacts in the following CEQA Appendix G sections:

Ind 21-1

Ind 21-2



- Aesthetics
 - The proposed project would result in a significant impact related to substantially degrading the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Even after mitigation, the impact would remain significant and unavoidable. The proposed project would result in tailings, the reduction of vegetative cover, the erection of industrial use buildings, mining equipment, engineered fill, and frequent trucks to transport materials. The No-Build would not impact the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.
- Air Quality
 - The proposed project would result in more truck traffic to the project area resulting in more air quality emissions, which may affect the health of the community even with the implementation of mitigation measures. The No-Build would not disturb naturally occurring asbestos as could possibly occur during underground mining.
- Biological Resources
 - The No-Build would not have the potential to impact special-status plants, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, California red-legged frog, California black rail, coast horned lizard, special-status bats, and non-special status raptors and migratory birds. In addition, the Alternative would not result in any substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat and/or other sensitive natural communities and/or have a substantial adverse effect on federal or State protected aquatic resources.
- Cultural Resources
 - The No-Build would not have a substantial adverse effect to the underground mine workings, which were determined to be historically significant pursuant to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). The No-Build would not impact any unknown cultural and tribal cultural resources should they be encountered during construction.
- Energy
 - The No-Build would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation. The No-Build would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.
- Geology/Soils
 - The No-Build would not include underground mining and generation of engineered fill, grading or other ground-disturbing activities, substantial soil erosion would not occur. In addition, the near-surface geotechnical features identified for closure due to dewatering of the mine would not be adversely impacted, though they may currently pose some level of risk that would continue under the Alternative. Other geotechnical issues that could pose a significant effect under the proposed project, but would not pose an adverse effect under the Alternative, include potential seismic hazards at the Brunswick Industrial Site and slope stability associated with temporary steep cut slopes at the new service shaft collar. However, the proposed project would fix a few existing geotechnical issues that would remain under this Alternative, including the safety concern related to the presence of the South Idaho Shaft on the Centennial Industrial Site, and an unstable portion of the clay-lined pond dam on the Brunswick Industrial Site.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - The No-Build would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment or conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
 - The proposed project could result in a significant impact related to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, specifically, the transport and underground storage and use of explosives at the Brunswick Industrial Site. Compliance with applicable federal (MSHA, OSHA), State (CCR), and local regulations, and the additional mitigation measures in the Draft EIR, would reduce the significant hazard related to transport, underground storage and use of explosives to a less-than-significant level. Because the use of explosives would be eliminated under the No-Build, the significant impact would also be eliminated. The Draft EIR determined that the proposed project could result in a significant impact related to creating a significant hazard through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment related to the Brunswick Industrial Site, given the presence of elevated arsenic in the southeastern paved area, potential residual petroleum contamination in a few locations, and presence of groundwater monitoring wells of unknown status. The No-Build would result in fewer
 - impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials.
- Hydrology/Water Quality
 - The No-Build would not result in on-site construction disturbance or above-ground operations such that the following project-related significant impacts to water quality would not occur: Centennial Industrial Site: engineered fill pad construction; Brunswick Industrial Site: operations within industrial area, underground placement of Cement Paste Backfill, use of clay-lined pond for water treatment process purposes, engineered fill pad construction, and treated water discharge in South Fork Wolf Creek. In addition, the No-Build would not necessitate dewatering of the mine; thus, there would not be a substantial reduction in groundwater supplies resulting in effects to nearby wells, though the proposed project includes mitigation to offset impacts to wells (i.e., provision of potable water



service). Further, due to the lack of on-site operations, the No-Build would not result in the substantial alteration of drainage patterns, and for the Centennial Industrial Site, risk release of pollutants in a flood hazard area.

- Noise
 - The No-Build would not result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity, nor a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project due to haul truck traffic. In addition, the Draft EIR concludes that the combined operational noise sources at the Brunswick Industrial Site could result in a significant noise impact. With respect to vibration, the Draft EIR determined that while blasting is not projected to exceed applicable thresholds, a ground vibration monitoring program should be implemented to determine the actual levels of ground vibration at commencement of mining. These operational noise and vibration impacts would not occur under the No-Build.
- Tribal Cultural Resources
 - The No-Build would not impact any unknown cultural and tribal cultural resources should they be encountered during construction.
- Transportation
 - The No-Build would not generate construction traffic or operational vehicle traffic on local roadways and, thus, unlike the proposed project, the Alternative would not result in a significant construction traffic impact, nor would General Plan LOS policy conflicts occur under the EPAP Plus Project conditions to the intersections of Brunswick Road/Idaho Maryland Road, Brunswick Road/SR 174, and Idaho Maryland Road/Centennial Drive; and under the Cumulative Plus Project scenarios to the intersections of Brunswick Road/SR 174 and Sutton Way/Dorsey Drive. The proposed project would also result in a significant effect to the intersection queue during the Cumulative Plus Project scenarios (Brunswick Road/Sutton Way), which would not occur under this Alternative. Further, the Draft EIR determined that proposed project (Brunswick Industrial Site operations) would have an impact related to truck turn movements at the Millsite Road/E. Bennett Road project egress at the Brunswick Industrial Site; this effect would not occur under this Alternative. The Draft EIR determined that some of the above-noted impacts would be considered significant and unavoidable due to the uncertainty concerning certain mitigation measures. The subject impacts are the EPAP Plus Project and Cumulative Plus Project intersection impacts to Brunswick Road/SR 174 and the Cumulative Plus Project intersection queue at Brunswick Road/Sutton Way. These significant and unavoidable impacts would be eliminated under this Alternative.
- Wildfire
 - The No-Build would not result in a significant impact related to exacerbating wildfire hazards, as compared to the proposed project. For example, above-ground machinery would not be operated at both project sites. Therefore, potential vegetation fires associated with on-site equipment operations would be substantially reduced under the No-Build.

Beyond the Scope of CEQA

CEQA can be narrow in scope and does not address various issues such as social or economic issues.

The Draft EIR is clinical and abstract in its review. In reality, this project will directly negatively impact in great and many ways people that I know and care for, and will impact our whole community in our daily (and nightly) lives. It does not appear to me that the benefit outweighs the burden. We appreciate our quality of life here in Western Nevada County and that is worth more than the financial and economic assets brought to the area in this project. It appears that long-term thinking is absent in planning decisions to the detriment of our community experience. You have a responsibility to the people who reside in Nevada County, and to take care of their needs and expectations, not enter into a situation with so many negative attributes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIR. If you have any questions or would like clarification, please contact me at mepereira@comcast.net

Sincerely,

Angie Pereira

Ind 21-3



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 21: ANGIE PEREIRA

Response to Comment Ind 21-1

The commenter provides a summary of the project and lists the impacts that the DEIR determined to be significant and unavoidable. The comments are noted for the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 21-2

The commenter prefers that the County select the “No Build” Alternative to the project and provides a variety of reasons as to why the No Build Alternative is environmentally superior. The comments are noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 21-3

The commenter states that economic and social impacts do not fall within the scope of CEQA. The commenter also opposes the project and urges the County not to approve it. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2- Social and Economic Issues.



From: Ani Kington <anikington@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: DEIR

Individual Letter 22

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Dear Mr. Kelley:

I have lived in Nevada County for 5.5 years and currently live and work in Grass Valley. I am writing to express my concerns about the shortcomings of the DEIR. Particulate-ly (see what I did there?) with regards to air quality. Grass Valley already gets an F on air quality from the 2020 "State of the Air Report" from the American Lung Association, and we all know how taxing fire season is with the smoke. The absolute last thing we need is something else to negatively impact our air quality! Especially when one of the best things about living here is enjoying the outdoors. Experts working with the CEA Foundation have determined there are significant errors and omissions in the DEIR with regards to air pollution. The affects of diesel exhaust and asbestos (to name a few) are understated and not thoroughly examined.

There are clearly lots of issues with the DEIR, and this email represents about 1% of my concerns surrounding the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine.

Thanks for reading,
Ani Kington
Grass Valley resident

Ind 22-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 22: ANI KINGTON

Response to Comment Ind 22-1

Please see Master Response 1. With regard to air quality concerns, please see Master Responses 18, 19, 22, and 23.



Individual Letter 23

From: [Anita Pearson](#)
To: [RCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Mine Comments
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 2:50:40 PM

Dist 4

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Ind 23-1

My name is Anita Lincoln Pearson. I am vehemently opposed to reopening the mine in Nevada County. I was born and raised in Nevada County. I am a home owner, tax payer and currently work and reside in Nevada County. I am an active member of the California Native Plant Society, a member of the local chapter of the National Audubon Society and a member of the Arbor Day Foundation. I am a steward for the land.

I oppose a small organization profiting off of the destruction of our healthy ecology by mining. Our local economy depends on our water and the natural resources. Our community's economy depends on the beautiful setting, tourism and peace. Mining is a backward quick profit for a conglomerate corporation that will destroy our land and water then leave us with the toxic waste and run.

Look at the Malakoff Diggins as an example. The mineral composition of the mined area has rendered so much land unusable and has decimated the mineral composition of the soil. it can no longer sustain a healthy ecology. And it's been over a hundred years since that region was destroyed by hydro mining.

We need to stop going backwards and think of the future. We are a sustainable community and I want to keep it that way. We already learned from our past mistakes of unsustainable mining practices. There is zero benefit to our community to provide gold for the pocket of one wealthy individual at the cost of our Northern California water, air and landscape. It's criminal. We can invest in other sustainable ways to make money while preserving our environment for our children and our grandchildren.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 23: ANITA PEARSON

Response to Comment Ind 23-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 24

**IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT
DRAFT EIR COMMENT FORM**

To document the author of comments received, please provide the following information. Thank you.

Name: Anita J. Wald-Tuttle

Address: 6 Rockwood Drive, Grass Valley, 95945

Organization (if applicable): Mine Watchers

Please provide us with your written comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR by **5:00 PM, April 4, 2022**. Comments may be placed in the comment box located in the back of the Board of Supervisors Chambers during the Special Public Meeting of the Nevada County Planning Commission. Written comments may also be submitted (email or hardcopy) to the address below:

**Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us**

(See attached copy)



Reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corporation

Anita Wald-Tuttle <anitaw113@gmail.com>
Draft

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 at 12:27 AM

Dear ^{Planning Commission ~~Representatives~~ and Staff} Supervisors,

Ind 24-1

I am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have reviewed articles in the local newspaper and have also checked those sections of the Environmental Impact Report regarding special concerns of mine. When I came to Grass Valley 33 years ago it was quiet and peaceful but had the desire to change its image in order to attract tourists and grow as a destination for those wanting a restful place to enjoy ~~all facets~~ of the arts. It has been quite successful, but now we face a problem.

Ind 24-2

In perusing the immense EIR I find very little addressing the problems of Noise and Vibration which Rise Gold has labeled as Significant and Unavoidable. They project that there would be a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity and offer no ideas for mitigation.

In regard to Vibration they propose a ground vibration monitoring program should be implemented and additional protective measures be available. The EIR DOES require mitigation in order to ensure that the aforementioned impacts ARE reduced to a LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT level.

I am hopeful that the Board of Supervisors will carefully question this portion of the EIR. Our concerts, plays, and other programs depend on quiet observance for happy audiences!

Ind 24-3

^{County} Portions of the EIR are directly contrary to the Standard of Review stated in Policy 17.14 and Policy 17.24

Sincerely,
Anita Wald-Tuttle
6 Rockwood Drive, Grass Valley, 95945
530-277-6195
anitaw113@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 24: ANITA WALD-TUTTLE

Response to Comment Ind 24-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 24-2

Regarding concerns related to noise and vibration please refer to Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR. As noted therein, the DEIR includes Mitigation Measure 4.10-1, which would reduce the temporary construction-related noise impact associated with installation of the potable water pipeline. However, because the noise reductions that would be achieved by the measures cannot be definitively determined to confirm that noise levels would be reduced to below a level of significance, the impact was considered significant and unavoidable.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, if the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposal project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable." As such, the County would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations to address the aforementioned significant and unavoidable impact. Therefore, impacts related to noise and vibration were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 24-3

It is unclear what Standard of Review the commenter is referring to. Policy 17.14 of the Nevada County General Plan states that already existing development as well as undeveloped private lands, shall be protected from adverse environmental effects caused by mining through enforced use permit conditions and mitigations measures, or denial of the projects. Further, Policy 17.24 of the Nevada County General Plan states that subsurface mining shall be conditionally permitted throughout the County, and shall be allowed only after impacts on the environment and affected surface land uses have been adequately reviewed and found to be in compliance with CEQA.

As discussed within the Impacts and Mitigation Measures section of each technical chapter included in the DEIR (Chapter 4.1 through 4.13), the effects of the project were evaluated based on the standards of significance set forth in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. As such, the DEIR is consistent with the requirements of CEQA, and impacts were adequately addressed within the DEIR.



Individual Letter 25

Senior Planner Matt Kelley
Director of Planning Brian Foss
Principal Planner Tyler Barrington

Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA, 95959

Sat, Apr 2, 2022 at 12:23 AM

Ind 25-1

Dear Supervisors,
I am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have reviewed articles in the local newspaper and have also checked those sections of the Environmental Impact Report regarding special concerns of mine. When I came to Grass Valley 33 years ago it was quiet and peaceful but had the desire to change its image in order to attract tourists and grow as a destination for those wanting a restful place to enjoy all facets of the arts. It has been quite successful, but now we face a problem.

Ind 25-2

In perusing the immense EIR I find very little addressing the problems of Noise and Vibration which Rise Gold has labeled as Significant and Unavoidable. They project that there would be a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity and offer no ideas for mitigation.

In regard to Vibration they propose a ground vibration monitoring program should be implemented and additional protective measures be available. The EIR DOES require mitigation in order to ensure that the aforementioned impacts ARE reduced to a LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT level.

Ind 25-3

I am hopeful that the Board of Supervisors will carefully question this portion of the EIR. Our concerts, plays, and other programs depend on quiet observance for happy audiences!

Portions of the EIR are directly contrary to the Standard of Review stated in Policy 17.14 and Policy 17.24

Sincerely,
Anita Wald-Tuttle
6 Rockwood Drive, Grass Valley, 95945
530-277-6195
anitaw1t3@gmail.com

Anita Wald-Tuttle



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 25: ANITA WALD-TUTTLE

Response to Comment Ind 25-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 25-2

Regarding concerns related to noise and vibration please refer to Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR. As noted therein, the DEIR includes Mitigation Measure 4.10-1, which would reduce the temporary construction-related noise impact associated with installation of the potable water pipeline. However, because the noise reductions that would be achieved by the measures cannot be definitively determined to confirm that noise levels would be reduced to below a level of significance, the impact was considered significant and unavoidable.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, if the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposal project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable." As such, the County would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations to address the aforementioned significant and unavoidable impact. Therefore, impacts related to noise and vibration were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 25-3

It is unclear what Standard of Review the commenter is referring to. Policy 17.14 of the Nevada County General Plan states that already existing development as well as undeveloped private lands, shall be protected from adverse environmental effects caused by mining through enforced use permit conditions and mitigations measures, or denial of the projects. Further, Policy 17.24 of the Nevada County General Plan states that subsurface mining shall be conditionally permitted throughout the County, and shall be allowed only after impacts on the environment and affected surface land uses have been adequately reviewed and found to be in compliance with CEQA.

As discussed within the Impacts and Mitigation Measures section of each technical chapter included in the DEIR (Chapter 4.1 through 4.13), the effects of the project were evaluated based on the standards of significance set forth in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. As such, the DEIR is consistent with the requirements of CEQA, and impacts were adequately addressed within the DEIR.



Individual Letter 26



Anita Wald-Tuttle
6 Rockwood Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
anitaw1t3@gmail.com
530-277-6195

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us
(530) 265-1423

Ind 26-1

DEIR Comment: 4.10. Noise and Vibration and Appendix L, Noise and Vibration Analysis

In general, the “significant and unavoidable” impacts of noise and vibration cannot be mitigated as reported in the DEIR.

Ind 26-2

First, though the DEIR claims that noise and vibration would happen mostly during initial construction activities, this interpretation is misleading in my opinion. In addition, my experience with noise is that it can be omnipresent when dealing with a VALLEY which “we are in” (Brunswick Basin and along the SR 49 corridor through Grass Valley City)! Even minor noises tend to be compounded in usual situations like accidents, fire engines, and even minor (so called) vehicle noise like motorcycles.

The DEIR overlooks that vibration also has significant impacts in an area like ours which has tourist traffic as its major industry. A visit to downtown Grass Valley reveals that numerous businesses use hangings, shelves, and wall displays to promote their merchandise. Vibration traveling up from underground blasting could create havoc with glass, ceramic, and other breakable products. It might be severe enough to put small businesses “at risk” because of accommodations to avoid breakage and disarray (see the “vibration level” from the DEIR below that I found). We need to keep the charming ambience for our tourists we have worked so hard to create over the years.

Ind 26-3

Second, The DEIR declares mitigations and specifically provides mitigations for blast vibration. **This is more than inadequate.** It is an insult to all of western Nevada County.

“Once mining operations commence, the project applicant shall hire a blast consultant to assist with the development of a 95 percent confidence level equation for the site-specific ground vibration. The blast consultant would take the data acquired by the seismographs set-up on the mine, run a linear regression and log-log confidence model to develop an equation that the mine can use to modify blasting, as needed, to ensure vibration levels remain below 0.4 In/s at sensitive receptors.

Results of the Ground Vibration Monitoring Program and the equation for site-specific ground vibration shall be submitted to the Nevada County Planning Department for review.” (page 2-97)



Monitoring at the several "receptor sites" listed, recording on seismographs the vibration levels, running an equation and submitting results to the County is not a mitigation measure! When an explosion reaches a surface vibration level of almost ½ inch of motion, you have an absolutely unacceptable impact.

DEIR consultants can say that explosive charges will be reduced if the "blast consultant" sees explosions over the level experts decided. Experts have reported that the explosions will occur 7 days a week for 16 hrs. or 24 hrs. per day. Anyone who thinks residents can live with vibration before it is reduced, as implied to be .4 inches per second or above, and as the tunnels proceed under 2,500 acres, should be removed from office or fired.

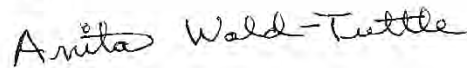
I appreciate the education and explanation about noise and vibration such as the classic textbook chart on noise measured in decibels from different sources like a shotgun. This is a service to anyone in the community who can read it.

But when the DEIR says "Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels" will be avoided, I think this is extremely subjective and must be called inadequate.

Finally, the "Summary of Applicable Vibration Standards" beginning on page 4.10-20 includes a plethora of government and expert information about vibration. What it is missing is the public health impacts of being a "sensitive receptor" of vibration in people's homes in a semi-rural community. The whole treatment vibration and noise is for industrial settings and places next to airports.

Ind 26-4

Sincerely,



Anita Wald-Tuttle, former Co-Owner of Tanglewood Forest Gallery

Ind 26-5

P.S. Related sections I am not going to analyze here but are relevant, and if this DEIR is accepted, we can further report on the inadequacy relative to our environment.

4.10-8 Groundborne Vibration Impact Criteria for General Assessment, section 4.10-21

4.10-9 Thresholds of Significance for Mine Blasting Vibrations, see 4.10-22

Table: 4.10-26 Ground Vibration Predictions at Downtown Grass Valley 4.10-57

Comments Received on the NOP: Noise and Vibration (4.10)



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 26: ANITA WALD-TUTTLE

Response to Comment Ind 26-1

Please see Responses to Comments Ind 26-2 through 26-4, below.

Response to Comment Ind 26-2

As discussed in Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR, a Noise and Vibration Analysis prepared for the proposed project by Bollard Acoustical Consultants (BAC) to assess project-specific noise impacts during both project operations and construction. As discussed in Impact 4.10-3 (see page 4.10-37 of the DEIR), impacts related to several long-term/permanent noise generating activities were assessed. Based on the analysis included therein, which was reliant on the technical study prepared by BAC, none of the individual activities associated with long-term operations of the proposed project would generate noise in excess of the applicable noise standards. However, because the project would include multiple processes which generate noise, and because compliance with the Nevada County Noise Standards is required, Mitigation Measure 4.10-2 was included in the DEIR out of an abundance of caution to ensure satisfaction with such standards and to reduce the potential for annoyance resulting from the proposed project to the maximum extent feasible.

Additionally, a Technical Blasting Report was prepared for the proposed project by Precision Blasting Services to assess potential impacts specifically related to vibration generated by blasting. Underground blasting was assessed on pages 4.10-52 through 4.10-58 of the DEIR. As concluded therein, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration levels. Nonetheless, in order to ensure that actual mining operations would generate vibration levels as expected, a Ground Vibration Monitoring Program is required. As such, Mitigation Measure 4.10-4 was included in the DEIR to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

Based on the above, impacts related to noise and blasting were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 26-3

Where a comment provides the opinion, preference, or observation of the commenter (e.g., opinions on the merits of the project that are unrelated to its environmental impacts), without substantiation, this is acknowledged for the record, and no further response is provided. All comments, whether substantiated by facts or simply reflecting the position of the commenter, will be considered by the County throughout this process. Please refer to Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 26-4

Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7, each lead agency holds the discretion to develop and publish thresholds of significance to be used to determine the significance of environmental effects. The lead agency, which, for this project, is Nevada County, approved all thresholds of significance that were used in the DEIR. The thresholds of significance used in Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, are based on the Nevada County General Plan and guidance from the Federal Interagency Commission on Noise.



Response to Comment Ind 26-5

Please see Master Response 1. The DEIR adequately addressed noise impacts pursuant to all CEQA requirements. The comment has been noted, and forwarded to decision-makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 27

From: [Ann](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIB](#)
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine. Water-Air Pollution
Date: Friday, April 1, 2022 4:26:54 PM

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Dear Mr. Kelley,

My husband and I recently started a search for a retirement home and Grass Valley seemed ideal—that is when we notice a “No Mine” sign in one of the pictures of homes for sale. Since both of us had spent many years handling environmental toxic tort/waste disposal litigation for a public utility (including numerous depositions of persons with health issues they believed to be caused by the toxic chemicals), we immediately started an inquiry into this mine.

Based on our research, we have decided not to purchase a home in Grass Valley. Benjamin Grossman, the C.E.O. of Rise Gold, is about to be personally criminally prosecuted for egregious flouting of the environmental laws for a mining operation on tribal lands in Canada. It is rare for a corporation to be criminally prosecuted and it is almost unheard of for an executive to be held personally liable. Ben Grossman left tribal lands and waters polluted and when sued, his company declared bankruptcy. Guess who picks up the bill for cleanup when a company goes belly up?

Also, it is my understanding that secured financing from banks is not available (a fact that should be verified). So, Rise Gold is underfunded and relying on its ability to raise unsecured funding. This again seems an m.o. for the company. Nevada County is walking a very dangerous line allowing a person with this past record to have such an environmental impact on the area.

Please reconsider.

Ann Finneran

Ind 27-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 27: ANN FINNERAN

Response to Comment Ind 27-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 28

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902
Phone: 530-266-1423
Email: Idaho.MMEIR@nevada.ca.us



February , 2022

Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

Ind 28-1

I OPPOSE the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine being reopened by Rise Mining Company.

As a registered voter in Nevada County and a homeowner, I am deeply concerned about the proposed possibility of reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have downloaded and reviewed the EIR report.

Here are the reasons why I oppose reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine:

Ind 28-2

MINE WASTE and WATER POLLUTION

Gold mining produces huge amounts of mining waste, some of which contain heavy metals and other toxic substances. Both waste rock and tailings threaten to pollute groundwater and surface water. Our community is still dealing with arsenic and the leaching of heavy metals from the Gold-Era days. And now, Rise, a Canadian company comes along and wants to produce even more mine waste for more than 80 years: 182,500 tons per year! More tailings that polluting big rig diesel trucks will need to haul away with the potential for leaching more arsenic into our waterways for generations to come.

Ind 28-3

INCREASE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Diesel haul trucks, up to 100 round trips PER DAY will be needed to transport this mine waste, significantly increasing the amount of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions into our community's air.

Ind 28-4

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

The increase of vehicles, specifically 20 ton haul trucks, up to 100 round trips per day on the Cedar Ridge Y (Brunswick Road and Highway 174) intersection will be significant and unavoidable! This is according to the EIR report. Are the supervisors aware that the Union Hill Elementary School District, with over 800 students and staff, are within the boundaries of these dangerous roads and intersections? The same intersection and roads that school buses and parents use to transport students to school five days a week, twice a day. The same roadways that the EIR report states will have significant and unavoidable harm even after implementation of feasible measures. Reopening the Mine will threaten the safety of our children, their parents, and the over 100 school staff members from the nearby Union Hill School.

Ind 28-5

Is the pursuit of gold really worth so much environmental destruction AND the real potential for significant and unavoidable auto accidents between 20 ton trucks and children in cars/buses?
I think not. Vote NO to Rise Mining Company.

Sincerely,

Ann M Torrissi Vogel
19633 Chaparral Cir
Penn Valley CA 95946
Ann M Torrissi Vogel



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 28: ANN VOGEL

Response to Comment Ind 28-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 28-2

Please see Master Response 8.

Response to Comment Ind 28-3

The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 28-4

As noted in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR and reiterated by the commenter, the DEIR concluded that a significant and unavoidable impact would occur associated with level of service (LOS) at the SR 174/Brunswick Road intersection (see page 4.12-66). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, if the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposal project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable." As such, the County would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations to address the aforementioned significant and unavoidable impact. Moreover, the DEIR addressed impacts regarding whether the project would substantially increase hazards to vehicle safety under Impact 4.12-6, and concluded that with Mitigation Measures 4.12-6(a) through 4.12-6(f), a less-than-significant impact would occur. Therefore, impacts related to intersection delay at the SR 174/Brunswick Road intersection and hazardous roadway conditions were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 28-5

The comment presents a concluding statement and does not address the adequacy of the DEIR.



Individual Letter 29

March 30, 2022

Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, California
95959-7902

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine re-opening

Dear Sir,

I am embarrassed to tell you that I was one of the respondents to the survey about Rise Grass Valley's reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. The questions and the way they were formulated led me to tentatively approve the reopening of the mine. I now wish to rescind my approval, and strongly oppose the reopening of the mine in our community.

There are far too many environmental hazards and few benefits to the land and people who live here to entrust our future to Rise Grass Valley. Please vote "no" on the draft environmental impact report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine project.

Sincerely,



Ann R. Wallace
11276 Via Vista
Nevada City, California
95959-9646

Ind 29-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 29: ANN WALLACE

Response to Comment Ind 29-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 30

To: Nevada County Planning Department
Attn: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA, 95959

DIER comment email: jdaho.mmeir@co.nevada.ca.us

Ind 30-1

As I write, I am hearing a neighbor some distance away chipping storm damaged wood. This irritation is minor, but irritating nevertheless. If I were a bird choosing a nesting site, I would try to find one further from the noise. If the Idaho Maryland Mine becomes a reality, similar and louder noises will become a permanent fixture in the landscape. This will drive birds to search for nesting habitat further from the mine that may already be inhabited; and unable to find a niche, may not breed at all.

There are several CDFW Species of Special Concern that have been documented at the portion of Empire Mine adjacent to the proposed mine sites: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Yellow Warbler.

The Willow Flycatcher, a California Endangered Species has also been documented at the Empire Mine meadow on Bennet Road.

Section 4.10 of the DEIR addressing Noise and Vibration makes no mention of this meadow as part of the Empire Mine Park, which should be addressed. Furthermore, no mention of noise effects on birds and other wildlife is mentioned.

www.livescience.com/4283 cites research finding that noise decreases pairing by almost 15% in a study done at a compressor station generating 90dBA.

Ind 30-2

CalTrans Technical Guidance for Assessment and Mitigation of the Effects of Traffic Noise and Road Construction Noise on Birds of June 2016 finds that "Any audible component of traffic and construction noise has the potential of causing behavioral or physiological effects independent of any direct effects on the auditory system of TTS (temporary threshold shift), PTS (permanent threshold shift), or masking.

Synthesis of Two Decades of Research Documentating the Effects of Noise on Wildlife in **Biological Reviews** V91 Issue 4 PP982-1005 finds reduced abundance of species in noisy habitats, changes in vigilance and foraging, impacts on individual fitness, and structure of ecological communities. These responses begin at 40dBA, and though the project sites are already subject to intermittent noise levels greater than 40dBA, consideration should be given to the effect of constant noise on Endangered and Special Concern species.

Ind 30-3

Section 4.10-24, **Effects of Ground Cover** cites trees and other vegetation in the area that will reduce noise pollution. This does not address the potential loss of this ground cover due to wildfire reduction efforts that are likely in the near future.

Ind 30-4

I am confused about the decoupling of the two sites of the project for the DEIR. It is one project, therefore it should be one DEIR.

Ind 30-5

I would like to see thorough and properly timed surveys of the two sites for endangered species of all kinds.



Ind 30-6

I would like to see realistic projections of how Nevada County is likely to change in the coming decades in terms of human growth and climate change environmental effects, and a reasonable estimate of how the mine activity would affect people and nature.

Thank-you for your consideration of my concerns.

Anna Sullivan
13419 Hillview Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Email: tmueck@att.net



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 30: ANNA SULLIVAN

Response to Comment Ind 30-1

Noise impacts to wildlife and bird species were analyzed in Impact 4.4-2 and determined to be less than significant.

Please see Impact 4.4-2 and Master Response 37 - Birds and Raptors, regarding impacts to protected bird species.

Response to Comment Ind 30-2

Noise impacts to wildlife and bird species were analyzed in Impact 4.4-2, Chapter 4.4, Biological Resources, of the DEIR and determined to be less than significant.

Regarding Empire Mine State Park (EMSP), Brunswick Industrial Site daytime and nighttime ambient noise level increases do not extend to the EMSP boundary (see DEIR Figure 4.10-7). Engineered fill placement at the Centennial Industrial Site is the closest project activity to the EMSP and could last approximately 6 years. The nearest receptor to the EMSP is number 8 (see DEIR Figure 4.10-3) and the closest noise and vibration measurement locations are numbers 7 and 8 (see Figure 4.10-3). As shown in DEIR, Table 4.10-12, Centennial Industrial Site engineered fill activity does not exceed existing baseline noise levels (see Table 4.10-6). As a result, wildlife species that may use the EMSP should not experience an increase in noise levels and therefore, such impacts would be considered less than significant.

Response to Comment Ind 30-3

As identified in CEQA Guidelines section 15125, the environmental analysis presented in the DEIR should normally compare physical environmental conditions as they exist at the time of the Notice of Preparation. The DEIR analyzed the project's potential impacts consistent with this requirement in addition to reviewing potentially significant cumulative impacts based on known or planned development in the region. Analysis of potential future impacts that may occur in the future because of unknown events (e.g., climate change, megafires, vegetation removal as part of wildfire reduction efforts) is speculative and not required by CEQA. (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15384.)

Response to Comment Ind 30-4

Please see Master Response 4 - Clean-Up Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 30-5

Please see Master Response 30, Biological Study Technical Adequacy, Master Response 31, Rare Plants, and Master Response 38, Foothill Yellow Legged Frog and California Red Legged Frog.

Response to Comment Ind 30-6

The DEIR presents analyses of the project's impacts in combination with impacts from reasonably foreseeable future growth based on local projections, including combined (i.e., cumulative) impacts on human health and wildlife. Cumulative impact analyses are provided at the end of each technical chapter of the DEIR (Chapters 4.1 through 4.13). Regarding climate change, please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.



Individual Letter 31

From: [Annie Costa](#)
To: [BCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: NO TO MINE!
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 1:15:18 PM

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Anne Costa
Penn Valley

Do NOT allow this mine to be opened! Financial benefits for the few NEVER OUT WEIGH the damage to so many!!!

We have TANNIN in our well water that we have to treat due to previous mine activities in the area. Tannin residue from wood used in the shafts contaminated our well! The "mines" are MILES away so this is an example of how toxins leach through, downhill!!!!

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE MINE TO OPERATE!

If you allow this and well water is decreased or contaminated due to mining activities; or our watershed is impacted, in any way; we all have the right to hold you responsible ... a new well is never guaranteed, so you can imagine the accumulated costs that those who are affected will be incurring; let alone the impact to wild life and geography ... do not risk this!

Ind 31-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 31: ANNE COSTA

Response to Comment Ind 31-1

Please see Master Response 1, 13, and 14.



Individual Letter 32

Anne Lyon
12206 Larkspur Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95949
H: 619-933-1618
mountan6@gmail.com

March 26, 2022

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



Re: DEIR Comment: Diesel Emissions

I am a retired teacher and have compromised lung function which has led me to focus on the impact of trucking on the quality of the air we breathe.

Based on expert analysis I have studied, diesel emissions, including both exhaust and particulate matter, or DPM, are not given adequate mitigation in the Rise Gold project DEIR, *Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy* (Chapter 4.3).

The impact of these emissions on public health is serious. Approximately 70% of all airborne cancer risk in California is associated with diesel particulate matter. The mitigation measures are inadequate (see p. 2-14, Executive Summary).

Diesel particulate matter has other public health effects as well. Because it is part of PM2.5, DPM contributes to the same non-cancer effects as PM2.5 exposure. These effects include increased ER visits and hospitalizations for exacerbated heart and lung disease, asthma, and premature death. It may affect the immune system, increasing the risk of allergies and susceptibility to infectious diseases. (See Table 4.3-1, and Page 4.3-8).

Diesel emissions will be constant throughout the life of the project starting with the remedial action on the Centennial site, followed by the construction phase of the Brunswick site, then delivery and placement of engineered fill on the Centennial site, and ongoing operations at Brunswick site.

This project will require the use of many heavy-duty diesel engine equipment: 20-ton haul trucks, bulldozers, graders, compactors and generators. Additional diesel trucks will be used for earth moving and the delivery and dispersal of materials such as waste rock, gold concentrate and aggregate. In addition, diesel trucks will be hauling explosives, water, diesel fuel, and cement.

Ind 32-1



- 32-2 The DEIR states that all diesel equipment “owned” by the mine would be equipped with Tier 4 Final engines, which is the current emissions standard for new trucks, requiring engine manufacturers to reduce particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) by 50-96% as compared to Tier 3 engines. Yet if you look closely at the plans, you can easily see there are several loopholes. For instance, another section of the report states that “If these engines are not ‘commercially available’, then they will use CARB certified Tier 3 engines with the most effective Diesel Emission Control Strategies available for the engine type. “Commercially available” will take into consideration factors such as critical path timing of construction and geographic proximity of the equipment location to the project site. What isn't covered is the question about what the “Tier” status will be required for leased equipment and outside vendors. These trucks will travel the same roads as our residents and school buses. They'll be bringing explosives, fuel oil and cement to the mine. There are no guarantees that Tier 4 engines will be used exclusively.
- 32-3 The DEIR must include a commitment to mitigate these emissions before they are in the environment and the human body.

Sincerely,



Anne Lyon



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 32: ANNE LYON

Response to Comment Ind 32-1

The commenter states that diesel emissions are not given adequate mitigation in the DEIR but provides no evidence or specific reason why mitigation measures in the DEIR are not adequate.

Diesel emissions from offroad and on-road vehicles are analyzed in Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR and are determined to be less than significant after mitigation. Please see Chapter 4.3 and Appendix E.1 of the DEIR, and Master Response 18 - Air Quality Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 32-2

Tier 4 engine standards are applicable only to off-road equipment. On-road trucks are subject to various diesel risk reduction regulations as discussed on pages 4.3-23 and 4.3-24 of the DEIR.

The commenter questions how the applicant will ensure the use of Tier 4 equipment. The project analysis incorporates applicant proposed measures (APMs) that serve to reduce project emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, including APM-AQ-1 that states “all off-road diesel-fueled equipment and emergency generators owned by Rise Grass Valley Inc. shall be equipped with Tier 4 Final engines” (DEIR page 4.3-65). APMs are mandatory conditions of approval and are enforceable by the County. Please see Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.

With regard to construction contractors, Mitigation Measure 4-3-1(b) requires a Construction Exhaust Emissions Minimization Plan and the use of Tier 4 Final engines or alternative sources of power. Tier 4 Final engines are commercially available now, so these would be used. The mitigated emissions presented in the Air Quality Analysis of the DEIR reflect the lower emissions that would be achieved by this mitigation measure.

Mitigation Measure 4-3-1(b), bullet point 2a, page 4.3-77 of the DEIR, has been modified in the Final EIR by striking out (deletion) “taking into consideration factors such as critical path timing of construction and geographic proximity of the equipment location to the project sites”, as follows:

- 4.3-1(b) **Construction Exhaust Emissions Minimization Plan.**
Prior to the initiation of construction, Rise Grass Valley Inc. or its designee shall submit a Construction Exhaust Emissions Minimization Plan to Nevada County or its designated representative for review and approval. The Construction Exhaust Emissions Minimization Plan shall detail project compliance with the following requirements:
- *Where access to alternative sources of power and alternative-fueled equipment are available, portable diesel engines shall be prohibited.*
 - *All diesel-powered equipment with engines equal to or greater than 50 horsepower (hp) shall be powered by California Air Resources Board (CARB) certified Tier 4 Final engines. If 50 hp or greater engines that comply with Tier 4 Final emissions standards are not commercially available, then the Project Applicant shall ensure that all diesel-powered equipment equal to or greater than 25 hp shall have at least CARB-certified Tier 3 engines with the most effective Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategies available for the engine type, such as Level 3 Diesel Particulate Filters (Tier 4 engines automatically meet this requirement).*



- a. *For purposes of this mitigation measure, “commercially available” shall mean the availability of the Tier 4 Final equipment, ~~taking into consideration factors such as critical path timing of construction and geographic proximity of the equipment location to the project sites.~~*
- b. *The Project Applicant shall maintain and submit records to Nevada County concerning its efforts to comply with this requirement.*

The above change is for clarification purposes and does not alter the conclusions of the DEIR.

A mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and is included as Chapter 4 of this Final EIR. The mitigation measures and conditions of approval will be enforced by the County. To the extent the applicant receives permits from other state and federal agencies, those agencies will be responsible for their enforcement.

Response to Comment Ind 32-3

Mitigation Measures for emissions are required in Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR.



Individual Letter 33

IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT
DRAFT EIR COMMENT FORM

To document the author of comments received, please provide the following information. Thank you.

Name: Anne + Ken Mendinger
Address: 323 Alexander Street Nevada City, CA 95959
Organization (if applicable): _____

Please provide us with your written comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR by **5:00 PM, April 4, 2022**. Comments may be placed in the comment box located in the back of the Board of Supervisors Chambers during the Special Public Meeting of the Nevada County Planning Commission. Written comments may also be submitted (email or hardcopy) to the address below:

**Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us**

Ind 33-1

* We believe the Governor should put a Moratorium on this project due to the water shortage.

* This project should be denied for a great many reasons: ① Rise Gold has used deceptive tactics in their attempts to generate support.
② The activities involved w/ the mine WILL/WOULD adversely affect the lives of community members and discourage tourism.
③ It is insanity to keep this issue viable!!!

Ind 33-2

Absolutely Opposed - along with EVERYBODY I know.
Stop the Madness!



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 33: ANNE AND KEN MERDINGER

Response to Comment Ind 33-1

Please see Master Response 1 and 16.

Response to Comment Ind 33-2

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 34

From: [Yahoo Mail 1](#)
To: [hbosupervisors](#)
Subject: Unhealthy mine
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 11:57:27 AM

Dist 3

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Board of Supervisors, Nevada County, CA US

To Whom it May Concern,

I am in opposition to Rise Gold reopening the Idaho Maryland mine.

It is a bad idea for our neighborhoods, community, our state, country and our Earth.

It is an old business paradigm of taking as much as you can from a submissive, yielding earth for the benefit of a few wealthy businessmen looking to get wealthier at the detriment of everyone else around. Those wealthy fat cats aren't even in our own country and their track record of negligence and poor management practices is trailing behind them uncleaned and unresolved.

Please do the best for our fragile and slowly growing county by voting what the people need and want.

Please deny Rise Gold's reopening of the mine.

Emphatically yours,

Antoinette Regan

Ind 34-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 34: ANTOINETTER REGAN

Response to Comment Ind 34-1

Please see Master Responses 1.



From: Antonio Dominguez <artandhomestead@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine STOP

Individual Letter 35

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To Whom it may concern,

Ind 35-1

I am deeply concern with the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. I am concerned for the residents, including the wildlife and the impact that it will have on our water and air quality that will be polluted in our county and region for many years to come. I am concerned for the well being of those generations after us, there is no excuse to put profits over the quality of human life, innocent children. It is tragic that that the thought of reopening the mine has even come to existence after the slow recovery we have faced from previous mining in this state, and especially this region. There are many damaging effects that could happen according to the report in the DEIR that are very concerning and have been known to happen.

Ind 35-2

I am concerned with the contaminants and hazardous materials from the process to reopen the mine which requires pumping water from an existing mine, filtering and released back to wolf creek. The leaching of chemical compounds that are used to separate target minerals from ore (sulphuric acid or cyanide). It is not worth the risk even with safeguards.

Ind 35-3

There is already heavy metals in our water supply from previous mining such copper, lead, mercury, arsenic that have leached into our ground water and surface water changing the ph, therefore making it non drinkable water for humans and destroying natural habitats that have been recovering from previous mining. The amount of water that will be used is unethical with the droughts that we have been experiencing in California for over a decade. Our water table is already extremely low and we should be using that water to combat wildfires and saving lives rather than to make profits. Our area is in short supply, many people rely on drilled wells for their water supply and the aquifers below. If the water table begins to lower residents have to drill deeper in turn its creating a financial stress on many residents. There is also potential of the collapsing of the aquifers creating an even bigger impact, perhaps loss of the aquifer permanently. We need to protect our watershed. The evidence is in the San Juan Ridge Mine. Lets not repeat the same mistake.

Ind 35-4

There is already a great concern with our air quality as we all know with our wildfires in the area, there is absolutely no need to add to the pollution of the air quality. Pollutants like ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and particulate matter all of which are a health concern and environmental concern. We don't want companies to come in and leave a mess for us locals to have to clean up. We are not signing up for this. This county and state and country has already experienced the detrimental damage from mining. People have died, indigenous peoples have been removed and killed and the environment has been tragically abused and disturbed at a micro level as well as a macro level, we all see it and we all experience it. We don't want to have more of that. I am not for the Idaho Maryland mine to reopen.

Concerned resident

Jose Dominguez
Artandhomestead@gmail.com
2142817677



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 35: ANTONIO DOMINGUEZ

Response to Comment Ind 35-1

The commenter is opposed to the project due to a variety of impacts to resource areas such as hydrology, air quality, and biology. The commenter does provide specific information as to why the DEIR is inadequate in addressing impacts to these resource areas. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The project's potential impacts to wildlife, air quality, and water quality are addressed in DEIR Chapters 4.4 (Biological Resources), 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), and 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), respectively. Regarding quality of life and historic mining, the commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 35-2

The commenter appears to be concerned with the potential disturbance of existing hazardous materials on the project site as well as the use of hazardous materials as part of project's operations. Impacts related to hazardous materials and water quality are addressed in DEIR Chapter 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) and Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), respectively. Specifically, surface water impacts resulting from mine dewatering are addressed under Impact 4.8-1 on DEIR page 4.8-42. Dewatering water would be discharged to a clay-lined pond for initial contaminant removal and then pumped to a water treatment plant for further treatment to meet applicable state standards, under oversight by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board, before discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. As stated on DEIR page 4.7-28, the project does not propose the use of mercury or cyanide. Sulfuric acid would be used and stored at the proposed water treatment plant. Sulfuric acid and all other potentially hazardous materials stored on the project site would be done so in accordance with applicable storage requirements, as verified by the Fire Marshall's Office prior to project's operation.

In addition, Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) of the DEIR requires that prior to the transport, storage, or use of hazardous materials or explosives at the site, the mine operator shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The County shall review and approve the HMBP prior to the use or storage of hazardous materials or explosives on-site.

The comment is noted for the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 35-3

The first part of the comment refers to environmental effects of historic mining. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers but does not address the project nor the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 9 - Historical Mine Waste at Centennial Site. The second part of the comment pertains to general concerns regarding water quality and the impact of the project on private wells, especially in light of the drought, but the commenter does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 29 - Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 35-4

The commenter is generally concerned with the project's adverse impacts to air quality but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The project's potential air quality impacts are addressed in DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy). The commenter's



opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.



From: April Webb <webb.renee.april@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:53 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: No mine

Individual Letter 36

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Ind 36-1

I am 24 I have lived in grass valley my whole life and I have always been proud of the air quality and cleanliness of the town.

Opening back up the mines means no more clean town. Soil holds literal tons of CO2 when you dig up soil it releases CO2, not to mention gold mining produces the most amount of toxic waste than other mining. Just one gold ring produces an Eiffel towers amount of waste. In just five days you can cover the city of Paris completely in waste. Not to mention the amount of mercury and cyanide that gets released into the surrounding soil and water. Grass valley already has cancer from our water and soil being the #1 death rate here, not to mention being bone here means you already have more lead in your system than what is healthy and opening the mine WILL make all of that EVEN WORSE.

Ind 36-2

I would also like to address the fact that some areas WILL need NID installed but there's a reason NID is in only parts of the town, because they weren't able to install on the outer ashes of town (where the mine is) so how exactly do you plan on taking away the surrounding water? If my well dries up I will sue the city and I can if my water dries up. I am not the only one with this thought process. We are mad, we are unhappy, we think those in charge should shove a sock in it and mind their business instead of being greedy for money.

"Who cares about the major environmental impact we want money and that's more important than the towns health" that's how y'all sound FYI greedy rude, and uncaring for anyone but yourselves

Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 36: APRIL WEBB

Response to Comment Ind 36-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 8.

Response to Comment Ind 36-2

Please see Master Response 14.



Individual Letter 37

To whom it may concern,

I manage a Trust which owns an industrial building in the Whispering Pines Industrial area.

We have the same renter since we built the building. 20 years ago.

Opening the mine will jeopardize our contract, they might move away, taking all the professional people they employ.

If the mine is allowed to open, we will claim that we were misled when we decided to build in that Industrial Park in Grass Valley.

How would we pay Property Taxes on an empty building? We would never find another renter.

My kids built a house nearby that area, we moved up here to be near them. They will be leaving, taking great losses, if they do not have water and can not breeze the air.

Most likely, we are not alone with our concerns. What is planned is a scam, sadly we all are going to suffer because of it.

We strongly disapprove of the mine opening and will make the responsible people accountable for the damage we will encounter.

Hoping that you are making the only right decision, and soon, before more people suffer...

Aque Bajla



Ind 37-1

INDIVIDUAL LETTER 37: AQUE BAILA

Response to Comment Ind 37-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 38

April 3, 2022

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project DEIR

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Ind 38-1

I am a 16 year resident of 11918 East Bennett Road, GV, living with my wife and young daughter. Our property is approximately in the middle of the proposed mine underground footprint, surrounded by large ponderosa pines, oaks and madrones, across the road from South Fork Wolf Creek. I am very familiar with the details and environmental impacts of this current, as well as former proposals to re-open this mine, shuttered for over 65 years. The impacts are many, and significant to the nearby residents. Our life would be disrupted forever should this proposal ever come to fruition. There are virtually no impacts identified in this proposal that would not directly change our life for the worse in our bucolic, peaceful neighborhood. In addition, real estate values in our neighborhood will clearly decrease, impacting our financial ability to retire as we have planned. Every legitimate local real estate agent will testify to this reduction of our home values.

There are many impacts that are inadequately described, but I will highlight a few that seem most egregious to me. The following sections of the DEIR are inadequate under CA law in describing the full impacts of this mine proposal:

CENTENNIAL SITE CLEANUP AND INCLUSION WITH THE MINE PROJECT DEIR

Ind 38-2

The Centennial Site owned by Rise Gold is a key and necessary part of their proposal. It is also a heavily toxic, (literal Superfund site), now under a superseding cleanup obligation imposed by the State of California on Rise Gold. My comments during the NOP DEIR scoping process were heavily focused on making sure that the complex cleanup project at Centennial is fully identified, and coordinated with any mine re-opening proposal, completed before any mine operation could be fully vetted by the Planners and Supervisors.. When I saw the DEIR did not include this full coordination after all those many months, it was incredibly surprising and a glaring flaw of the DEIR.

Ind 38-3

The DEIR simply assumes that the Centennial site will be cleaned up, making the baseline analysis severely flawed. No agency or approving entity can simply assume this complex cleanup will take place. Currently, the applicant has not started any cleanup (to my knowledge), and currently does not have financial means to accomplish the full and proper cleanup. Nothing about the cleanup can be assumed. The mandated cleanup is critically important to the health



	<p>of the community and a vital part of waste rock disposal at the heart of the mine project. Without the full cleanup of the Centennial site, and a new reworked waste rock disposal plan, the DEIR is severely flawed. This section of the DEIR is inadequate and will need a full reworking to include the cleanup process, and then a new and complete analysis of the impacts.</p>
	<p>HYDROLOGY- GROUNDWATER IMPACTS AND WELLS</p>
Ind 38-4	<p>Other than the glaring flaw in the analysis of the Centennial site, hydrology is, in my opinion, the section on hydrology contains inadequate evaluation of groundwater impacts and impacts on wells. This section is lacking any real detail, and limited modeling, and contains only a very limited analysis of the potential impacts to the water levels in the area (ie, streams, groundwater levels), and particularly wells both inside and outside of the small area on East Bennett Road. Water is the most important thing we value here in CA and the Foothills, and to use old, recycled and very limited data from previous applications without a new and comprehensive analysis, renders this section inadequate and severely flawed. Nevada County is no stranger to functioning wells being destroyed by mining operations, so detail and use of outside experts is paramount here. There are potentially hundreds of properties who are likely or potentially impacted by dewatering, and yet there are no outside expert models and analysis contained in the DEIR. The County requires immediate replacement of water supplies for residents being rendered inadequate by mining impacts, as well as use of outside experts, so this section of the DEIR is severely inadequate, necessitating a full rewriting of this section of the DEIR.</p>
Ind 38-5	<p>In addition, the mitigation plan for the limited amount of wells in the East Bennett Road area is inadequate. The applicant proposes to install NID water connections and "pay for" monthly expenses, but the applicant limits reimbursement of NID water usage to an arbitrary amount, and does not nearly account for a full replacement of water usage prior to decommissioning of each well. In addition, the applicant cannot demonstrate any financial ability to completely indemnify the residents from impacts. There is no comprehensive bond in place to account for resident's potential water usage above the arbitrary level set by the applicant. The replacement of our wells is not our choice. Our water usage cannot be set to some arbitrary number. This section of the DEIR is inadequate in mitigating the impacts of dewatering on wells.</p>
Ind 38-6	
	<p>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</p>
Ind 38-7	<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions studied in the DEIR are grossly inadequate in describing the full 80 year life of the mine proposal, and all of the associated sources of GHG. There is an arbitrary annual level of GHG assumed under the mining plan, but no detail to back this up. Since there is far from any assurance that the toxic Centennial site will be available for the initial storage of waste rock, there must be an analysis done of GHG emissions caused by further offsite hauling. The impacts from GHG emissions caused by offsite trucking of waste rock are severely understated if Centennial is not available. Since the mining plan does not adequately account for the coordination of Centennial cleanup and use thereafter, this DEIR section must be re-written to account for the strong possibility of much larger GHG emissions created by longer route hauling of waste rock.</p>



Ind 38-8

In addition, there is no analysis of GHG emissions from the cement manufacturing required for the cement paste backfill of waste rock, and does not account for GHG emissions from the hauling of the gold product to subsequent processing facilities offsite, far remote from Grass Valley.

Ind 38-9

The DEIR also neglects to mention and analyze the incompatibility of this DEIR and mining plan with the Nevada County Energy Action Plan, as well as the goals of the state of California (CARB). The goal is to reduce GHG by 50% by 2035. Incredibly, this single mining project would nearly emit the same amount of GHG as all of the current county non-residential use of GHG. Nevada County cannot possibly meet its emission goals with a project of this type. And under CARB, new projects should strive to achieve a zero-net impact on GHG emissions.

Ind 38-10

The entirety of the project flies in the face and contradicts County and State goals for GHG emission reductions. The DEIR does not nearly account for the entirety of GHG emissions from this project. The DEIR must conclude that the entirety of impacts from GHG increases are significant and unavoidable.

Ind 38-11

Thank you for allowing me to comment on 3 of the most obviously deficient areas of the DEIR. I am concerned with many, many more, but trust that they will be documented by other citizens and the many experts and agencies who will weigh in during this DEIR process.

Thank you,

Art Healy

11918 East Bennett Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 38: ART HEALY

Response to Comment Ind 38-1

The commenter expresses general opposition to the project, quality of life issues, and real estate value. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Issues. Responses to specific comments are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 38-2

The commenter states that the Centennial Industrial Site is a Superfund site and that the Project Applicant is under an obligation by the State of California to clean up the site. The commenter also states that the DEIR is deficient for not including a discussion of the Centennial Industrial Site cleanup. However, the Centennial Industrial Site is not a designated Superfund site. In 2005, the EPA identified the Centennial Industrial Site as potentially needing environmental remediation and in 2018 confirmed that environmental remediation is necessary for the site. (DEIR, p. 1-4.) The Project Applicant entered into a voluntary agreement with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to implement a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to clean up the site. (DEIR, p. 3-10.) The RAP is currently under review by the DTSC. (*Ibid.*) The commenter is referred to Master Response 9 - Historical Mine Waste at Centennial Site. For CEQA purposes, the cleanup project is a separate project and discussion of the Centennial Industrial Site cleanup need not be included in the Idaho-Maryland Mine DEIR. Please see Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 38-3

The commenter states that the DEIR assumes the Centennial Industrial Site will be cleaned up and that the DEIR is deficient because it does not plan for this outcome. The DEIR states that it is the Project Applicant's intent to place engineered fill at the Centennial Industrial Site. (DEIR, p. 3-26.) However, in the event that the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site is not complete upon the commencement of mining, or not complete within the life of the mining permit, engineered fill would be placed at the Brunswick Industrial Site or transported off-site to be used in local and regional construction markets. (*Ibid.*) The commenter is directed to Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA and Master Response 11 – Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets.

Response to Comment Ind 38-4

The commenter states that the DEIR's Hydrology and Water Quality section is deficient because the analysis and modeling are limited, but does not provide any additional information on why the section is limited. The commenter also indicates that the DEIR's Hydrology and Water Quality section underestimates the number of groundwater wells impacted by the project or does not rely on outside hydrology experts, but does not provide further detail. The commenter is referred to the DEIR, Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality). Regarding the adequacy of DEIR's analysis of impacts to private wells, the commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The commenter is also referred to the various studies upon which DEIR Chapter 4.8 relies – Appendix K.2 (Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis), Appendix K.3 (Groundwater Model Report), Appendix K.7 (West Yost Peer Review), Appendix K.8 (Idaho-Maryland Mine Groundwater Monitoring Plan), and Appendix K.9 (Idaho-Maryland Well Mitigation Plan.) Regarding the commenter's statement that water replacement is required for impacted wells, this is already required in the DEIR by Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(b) and General Plan Policy 17.12.



Note that the groundwater analysis was reviewed by the County's independent experts at West Yost, who provided input and concurred with the results of the analysis.

Response to Comment Ind 38-5

The commenter states that the DEIR's Appendix K.9, Idaho-Maryland Well Mitigation Plan, is inadequate because the impacted properties would be compensated at an arbitrary amount. The reimbursement rate for NID water in the Well Mitigation Plan is \$870, which assumes a daily use per house of 400 gallons per day at current water rates. (DEIR, Appendix K.9, p. 3.) This replacement amount was based on average usage data from NID, and the commenter provides no evidence identifying why this amount is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 38-6

The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate because it does not demonstrate that the Project Applicant has the financial ability to reimburse residents with impacted private wells above the 400 gallon per day threshold. The financial condition of the Project Applicant is outside the scope of CEQA review. However, Nevada County General Plan Policy 17.12, which is referenced in the Well Mitigation Plan, provides that the operator of the mine must guarantee a comparable supply of water to such homes or businesses through accessible forms of security or alternate sources of water. (DEIR, Appendix K.9, p. 1.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 15 -Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 38-7

The commenter assumes that if the Centennial Industrial Site were not available for fill placement, then that fill would be immediately hauled to offsite locations, which would result in CO₂ and NO_x emissions exceeding thresholds of significance. However, if the Centennial Industrial Site were not available, fill placement would take place initially at the Brunswick Industrial Site rather than being immediately hauled to local and regional construction projects. (DEIR, p. 3-26.) The DEIR states “[i]f the separate DTSC cleanup project is not approved by DTSC and completed within the term of the Idaho Maryland Mine Project use permit, engineered fill would be placed on the Brunswick site, but not the Centennial site, and the remainder would be hauled to local and regional markets.” (DEIR, p. 1-3.) Moreover, the DEIR already analyzed impacts related to hauling of material to local and regional markets. (DEIR, p. 1-3.) GHG emissions and NO_x emissions would not exceed thresholds in this scenario. Please see response to referenced Baseline comment, Response to Comment Grp 21-122. Finally, the applicant has agreed to a condition of approval requiring that if the Centennial Industrial Site is not available to accept engineered fill when project operations commence, then the following conditions apply: (a) the engineered fill material will be first placed at the Brunswick Industrial Site until that site is at capacity prior to selling waste rock or tailings offsite; or, (b) waste rock or tailings materials sold offsite will be transported in electric trucks.

Response to Comment Ind 38-8

The commenter states that the DEIR contains no analysis of GHG emissions from the production of the cement necessary for the cement paste backfill. This comment pertains to a “lifecycle” analysis, which is not required under CEQA. The commenter is directed to Master Response 26 – Life Cycle GHG emissions. The commenter also states that the DEIR does not discuss GHGs produced from the hauling of gold product to subsequent processing facilities. The air quality analysis analyzed emissions of gold concentrate hauling to the Port of Oakland, where the concentrate would be delivered to gold concentrate purchasers. The subsequent movement of that gold concentrate material is not required, as that would constitute a lifecycle analysis.



Response to Comment Ind 38-9

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to mention that the project is incompatible with Nevada County's Energy Action Plan (EAP) and the California Air Resources Board's statewide climate goals. The commenter also states that new projects should have a net-zero GHG impact. As stated in the DEIR, the EAP is not a Qualified GHG Emissions Reduction Plan under CEQA. (DEIR, p. 4.3-89; CEQA Guidelines § 15138.5(b)(1)(D).) Therefore, no CEQA document can tier from the County EAP. Nevertheless, the compliance of the project with EAP strategies has been analyzed and the project was found to be consistent with the EAP. The commenter is referred to Master Response 25 - Nevada County Energy Action Plan. CEQA does not require that the project achieve a net-zero threshold for GHG emissions. The commenter is referred to Master Response 27 - Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 38-10

The commenter states that the entirety of GHG emissions is not accounted for in the DEIR, but does not explain how it is deficient. The project's GHG emissions have been found to be less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is referred to the DEIR, Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), and Master Response 27 - Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 38-11

This comment is a closing statement expressing thanks for the opportunity to comment and concern about the project. Comment noted.



Individual Letter 39

From: Ashley Hall <hallas@sonoma.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 11:20 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: commgr@cea-nc.org
Subject: Comments on DEIR from Nevada County Resident Ashley C. Hall
Attachments: Comments on DEIR-Idaho Maryland Mine.docx

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Dear Mr. Matt Kelley and esteemed members of the Nevada County Planning Department,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine near Grass Valley by Canadian company, Rise Gold Corporation.

Ind 39-1

As a resident of Nevada County since 1978, father of two young children, professor of Native American Studies at Sonoma State University (Ph.D., UC Davis, 2006), and ally of Nisenan and other tribal peoples, I am deeply concerned about impacts to aesthetic resources, terrestrial and aquatic biological resources, and tribal cultural resources that are inadequately addressed in the DEIR. Given my professional expertise, I focus my comments here on the issue of Tribal and Cultural Resources in the DEIR.

Tribal and Cultural Resources:

On page 2-62 under 4.5-3, the DEIR acknowledges that reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine will likely disturb human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries; likewise, on page 2-63 under 4.5-4 the DEIR acknowledges that reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in PRC Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe. Under 4.5-3 and 4.5-4 the DEIR lists these impacts as significant ('S'). In light of the acknowledgements of these potentially significant impacts, I am concerned that on page 2-63 under 4.5-6, the DEIR claims that the potential cumulative loss of cultural resources is less than significant ('LS'). Under 4.5-6, the DEIR attempts to exempt the. Since the impacts under 4.5-3 and 4.5-4 are deemed significant, the cumulative loss of cultural resources should also be deemed 'S' and should require mitigation as outlined under CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(3) and any other applicable ordinances and policies. Alternative land use options should also be explored, e.g., purchase by Nevada County as cultural, historical, conservation easement.

Ind 39-2

I am also concerned with the proposed timeline, which calls for 'dewatering' of the mine prior to consultation with cultural resource experts, MLDs, or tribal members. Cultural resources at the project site should be evaluated prior to initiation of any phase of the project.

Ind 39-3



Ind 39-4

Rise Gold CEO, Benjamin Mossman's Track Record:

Along with the problems in the DEIR itself identified above, I am concerned about Rise Gold CEO, Benjamin Mossman's record of flouting Gitxaala (Canadian First Nation) tribal authority. As CEO of another Canadian mining corporation, Banks Island Gold, Mossman presided over a company that carried out a mining project in Gitxaala territory despite the stated opposition of the Gitxaala to mining operations on Banks Island, British Columbia, Canada, in an area Gitxaala Tribal Member, Leena Minifie describes as "part of the remote archipelago of islands that comprise Gitxaala territory. It is a central site for food gathering for the Gitxaala people, who live off the salmon, as well as halibut cod, mussels, cockle, seaweed and sea asparagus found in the area. Seaweed collection and drying camps are established there during the summer in order to build food stocks for the winter. Now that effluent is leaking into the streams and surrounding area, many people are afraid to harvest." (<https://ricochet.media/en/537/banks-island-gold-refused-to-shut-down-mine-after-spill-in-remote-coastal-bc> accessed 04/04 11:00 Accessed 04/04/22 at 11:00 AM). Given Rise Gold's CEO's documented unwillingness to honor the stated opposition of Gixaala objections to a mining project, the shortcomings and inconsistencies in the DEIR noted above, and the broader historical role of the mining industry in the dispossession, ecological destruction, and physical and cultural genocide of California Indian lands and people*, I am deeply concerned that Rise Gold will fail to provide adequate study and mitigation for the cumulative effects of their activities on tribal cultural, biological and other resources in Nevada County.

For the reasons detailed above, I urge you, Mr. Kelley and esteemed members of the Nevada County Planning Department, to order significant study and revision to the DEIR and to seriously consider the option of purchasing the land for a cultural, archaeological and conservation easement that would preserve those resources for Nisenan people, other residents of Nevada County, and the plant and animal communities who would be negatively impacted by reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Ind 39-5

*As a general note, the history of mining in Nevada County and throughout California must be viewed in the context of the genocide of California Indian peoples and the ecological devastation to Indigenous homelands precipitated by the Gold Rush.

--
Ashley C. Hall, PhD
Adjunct Professor
Native American Studies & American Multicultural Studies
Sonoma State University
1801 East Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park, CA 94927

Sonoma State sits on the land of the Coast Miwok & Southern Pomo people. Learn more about the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria [here](#):



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 39: ASHLEY HALL

Response to Comment Ind 39-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 39-2

Table 2-1 included in Chapter 2, Executive Summary, of the DEIR provides a table summary of the conclusions of the environmental analysis provided in Chapters 4.1 through 4.13 of the DEIR. A detailed analysis of Impacts 4.5-3 and 4.5-4 is included in Chapter 4.5, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, of the DEIR. As discussed therein, Mitigation Measures 4.5-3 and 4.5-4 would ensure that less than significant impacts would occur related to the disturbance of any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries, or the potential for the proposed project to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in PRC Section 21074. Furthermore, as discussed on page 4.5-34 of the DEIR, Generally, while some cultural resources may have regional significance, the resources themselves are site-specific, and impacts to them are project-specific. For example, impacts to a subsurface archeological find at one project site would not generally be made worse by impacts to a cultural resource at another site due to development of another project. Rather, the resources and the effects upon them are generally independent. Therefore, given that cultural resource impacts are generally site-specific and each future project within Nevada County would be required to mitigate such impacts, any potential impacts associated with cumulative buildout of the County would not combine to result in a cumulatively considerable impact. As such, impacts related to cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 39-3

As discussed on page 4.5-28 of the DEIR, the underground workings of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Company are not currently accessible to historic preservation professionals and the public because the tunnels are flooded with groundwater. Therefore, evaluation of any cultural resources located within the underground workings of the Idaho-Maryland Mine is not feasible.

Response to Comment Ind 39-4

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 39-5

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 40

RECEIVED 2nd Copy

To: Nevada County Board of Supervisors
From: Dave and Dianna Connell
Regarding: Idaho-Maryland Mine

MAR 21 2022
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ind 40-1

If you were building a new home, would you give that job to a contractor of questionable character? A company that went bankrupt with court cases continuing? The obvious answer is "No Way!" Yet here we are with Rise Gold wanting to reopen and work the Idaho-Maryland Mine for 80 years! This contractor is on shaky ground (literally and figuratively). We are definitely opposed to this mine reopening under any circumstances. There are many questionable issues surrounding the reopening of the mine for which we have concerns: noise pollution, air pollution, wells being depleted, dump trucks running 24/7, employment promises that are highly suspect, and a deceptive company running the show. Sounds like a recipe for disaster! Let's avoid this one!

- Dist 1 Ginger Van Wagner 12655 Butterfly Dr. Nevada City
- Dist 3 Karol McDonald 555 Seader Dr. Grass Valley, CA
- Dist 1 Lynda M Cooper 12963 Butterfly Drive Nevada City, CA
- Non-resident Jack Branstetter - non resident, but visited area for 51 years
- Dist 3 Patricia Haller 14648 Bradbury Pl. G.U.
- Dist 1 Carolyn & Larry Homan 11656 Thomas Ranch Cir. NC, CA
- Dist 1 Walt & Sharon Watson 13656 Pegasus Pl., N.C., CA
- Dist 1 Audrey & Greg Hight 12956 Mayflower Dr., N.C., CA



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 40: AUDREY HIGHT, CAROLYN AND LARRY HOMAN, GINGER VAN WAGNER, CAROL MCDONALD, JACK BRONEITH, LYNDA COOPER, PATRICIA HOLLER, AND WALT WATSON

Response to Comment Ind 40-1

Please see Master Response 1, and 3.



Individual Letter 41

Audrey Jacus
District 1
Grass Valley

Stop the Mine

To Whom It May Concern,

Ind 41-1

I grew up in this beautiful County, and after having lived in Washington for a few years, I believe that nothing compares to the beauty of our little town. I would like to protect that at all costs. I think that this mine will destroy life as we know it in Nevada County. I believe that we would become the next Flint, Michigan. Destroying our environment, air quality, water supply, and wildlife. As a young adult who grew up with an underground well supplying my drinking water, I don't want to see the actions of a greedy conglomerate destroy the peaceful beautiful town we have all called home for so long. If you truly believe going forward with this mining development will benefit anyone other than those in the company then you are grossly misinformed. This mine will not increase revenue or help our economy, it will simply line the pockets of a select few, while destroying the livelihood of many others. Our world already has enough problems when it comes to destroying the environment, let's do our part to not add to the destruction. I could go on for hours about all of the specific scientific reasons why this mine is a terrible idea, as I am sure many others are. I would simply like to say, this mine will be a disaster, and should be stopped at all costs. Do not let sweet words and empty promises talk you into making the biggest mistake of your life. If this mine is opened you will not only be destroying a community, and the environment, but you will be destroying a way of life. I strongly urge you to put this issue to rest.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 41: AUDREY JACUS

Response to Comment Ind 40-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 42

3/24/2022

Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, #170
Nevada City, CA 95959

225 South Auburn Street
Grass Valley, Ca
95945



Dear Mr. Matt Kelley,

Ind 42-1

Rise Gold, is The company that is 15 years old and never made any profits from any of their projects. All they've done is leave Canada in a mess. They dumped millions of pounds of toxic waste into a native river, that's exactly what they're going to do in the grass valley. Real estate professionals say that property value will drop down 5-20%. I believe that they should not reopen the Idaho Maryland mine because the grass valley air quality is already not that good and the mine will make it even worse.

Ind 42-2

All the escaped dust from the mine continuous rock loading, crushing hauling, and unloading. Chronic Lung disease will double in rates.

Ind 42-3

Water is one of the most important resources especially in California because of the drought Rise gold plans to pump 3.6 million gallons of water every day for 6 months. After the 6 months, they will pump 1.2 million every day. They also plan to "dewater" the abandoned tunnels which means treating the south fork and wolf creek like storm drains. 75 acres of land will be replaced with giant piles of mine waste that will kill all the wildlife in the area and destroy their habitat.

Ind 42-4

Our nice peaceful town will turn into chaos. Loud machines 100+ trucks dumping and taking thousands of pounds of mine waste through the town. Hard rock mining is the largest source of toxic waste in the United States.

Ind 42-5

Some people argue that the mine will open up thousands of jobs for the community. However, this company has proven that they cannot be successful, so these jobs won't last anyway. Others argue that the mine will also restore history. However, history isn't the most important thing when it comes to a thriving town. The US has some awful history that shouldn't be a part of who we are. The Idaho Maryland mine was once open but shut down because of the damage it caused To our town.

Ind 42-6

Because of the toxicity of the mine, many innocent people could die and this peaceful town could turn into chaos. They dumped millions of pounds of toxic waste into a native river, that's exactly what they're going to do in the grass valley. I believe that the mine will harm many innocent people and don't think that it's right. I love my town and how we do things. I wouldn't



↑
want to ruin it with a mine. We've already gone through this, we don't need to go through it again.

Sincerely,

Austin Fouyer *Austin Fouyer*



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 42: AUSTIN FOUYER

Response to Comment Ind 42-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 42-2

Please refer to Impact 4.3-2 in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy of the DEIR, which provides a detailed analysis of whether the project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial air pollutant concentrations.

Response to Comment Ind 42-3

Please see Master Responses 8 and 25. In addition, please refer to Impact 4.8-2 in Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR, which provides a detailed analysis of whether the project would substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.

Response to Comment Ind 42-4

Please see Master Response 8.

Response to Comment Ind 42-5

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 42-6

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



From: Avila Lowrance <paloma@sierraemail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:25 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: DEIR Idaho Maryland Mine

Individual Letter 43

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Ind 43-1

The DEIR does not account for how the proposed gold that is extracted from the mine would be transported to its final destination. Fort Knox? How many trucks would be needed along our roads to get the stuff out of here and get it all the way to Kentucky?

Ind 43-2

Doesn't it make more sense to leave the gold in the ground? That would leave the way open for Nevada County to continue on its bright path as a rural getaway, a mountain retreat, an arts center, a tourist destination, and a thriving community of active, smart folks who are working to protect and enhance the natural beauty of this area while we continue to move forward, not backward.

Ind 43-3

In summary, if this terrible project goes forward, the DEIR must address the carbon cost of transporting the refined ore to the final processing center, and also of the finished product (gold ingots) to their ultimate destination, including the cost of storing the ingots for the projected time of storage.

Respectfully submitted,
Avila Lowrance
11741 Alta Vista Avenue
Grass Valley 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 43: AVILA LOWRANCE

Response to Comment Ind 43-1

As discussed on page 3-28 of the DEIR, off-site haul of gold concentrate will average one truck trip per day, and up to five truck trips per day, using Brunswick Road to State Route (SR) 20/49, over the 80-year term of the use permit. Chapter 4.12, Transportation, provides an analysis of project trip generation and distribution, including trips associated with the off-site haul of gold concentrate. As such, off-site transportation of gold was adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 43-2

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 43-3

The comment refers to the cost of storing ingots, which is outside of the scope of CEQA. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Response to Comment 43-1 regarding trips associated with the off-site haul of gold concentrate, as well as Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, and Energy, of the DEIR, which includes an analysis of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) that would be generated by the proposed project. Project specific trip generation rates were applied to the greenhouse gas (GHG) modeling conducted for the proposed project. Therefore, the carbon cost of transporting goods from the mine has been considered in the DEIR. Please see also Master Response 26.



Individual Letter 44

From: [Barbara Gentry](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, March 11, 2022 7:11:19 AM

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Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

Please oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

As a 42-year resident of Nevada County, I urge you to retain the integrity of our community by opposing the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

What is at stake?

Mine and wastewater pollution

Noise pollution from mine operations and vehicles serving it

Increased greenhouse emissions

Increased traffic and safety concerns

Lower home values in the neighborhoods adjacent to the mine

For the sake of our community today and in the future, exercise your wisdom and integrity by opposing the reopening of the mine. Please don't let increased revenue sway you to agree to a plan that will deeply impact and degrade life in Nevada County.

Barbara Gentry
545 Jordan Street
Nevada City, Ca
530-559-4084

Ind 44-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 44: BARBARA GENTRY

Response to Comment Ind 44-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 45

From: [Barbara Jensen](#)
To: [hobosupervisors](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:16:29 AM

Dist 4

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Ind 45-1

I vehemently OPPOSE the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

My family & I moved to Nevada County from the Bay Area 20+ years ago to enjoy a cleaner, quieter life. We own a home (and have owned 3 others), eat, shop, recreate, and plan to retire here. The Mine is detrimental to our quality of life and will cause many of your constituents to leave the County.

Bad idea, Sups!

Thank you for your time.
Barbara Jensen
Rough & Ready, CA



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 45: BARBARA JENSEN

Response to Comment Ind 45-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 46

DO NOT
I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dist 3

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ind 46-1

Name(s) BARBARA KROCZAK
Address 145 Independence Ct ZIP 95945
Phone 510-742-8025
Email Address bkroczak@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 46: BARBARA KROCZAK

Response to Comment Ind 44-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Barbara Larsen <blarsen@nccn.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: no on the reopening of the Idaho Marilyn Mine

Individual Letter 47

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Dear Matt Kelley,

We are writing to state that we oppose the reopening of the Idaho Marilyn Mine!

Ind 47-1

In the over 43 years we have lived in Nevada County as citizens who provide safety net resources and services for our veterans and family caregivers who have a loved with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia this proposal is very out of step with the progress we have made to keep our lovely county the beautiful county in which tourists, family and friends enjoy coming to.

Ind 47-2

All corporations and businesses who gain profit from the destruction of our environment say, "we have it under control." That is until they DON'T.....and then who suffers.....the consumers. Just like PG&E. When they were held responsible for the Paradise Fire what was the outcome for the stricken residents: Even when they were able to rebuild many, many people could not purchase fire insurance. Shouldn't PG&E pay for their home insurance since they were the one's held responsible for the fire!!

Nobody has Mother Nature under control.....so, please, stop this nonsense and don't fall into the trap of the mine owner's idiot logic.

Thank you,
Bill and Barbara Larsen



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 47: BARBARA LARSEN

Response to Comment Ind 47-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 47-2

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Barbara Raymond <braymond@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Resident Comments on DEIR for New Mine
Attachments: rise6.png; rise5.png

Individual Letter 48

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Hello Mr Kelley,

Ind 48-1

Thank you for being a part of this community and helping to support the well-being of our local environment. I'm writing as a resident of Cedar Ridge for 47 years. My father bought the surface to 100' mineral rights access on our land from Mrs. Ghidotti herself in since 1975 and I looked for gold for years (sadly with no success).

Obviously, there are a number of important concerns about the environmental impacts a new mine would bring. I will focus here on water and the stability of the ground. I was fortunate to learn about local gold mining as a girl here and I was always intrigued by the fact that there are well more than 3000 miles of tunnels lattice-worked throughout the two towns and surrounding areas. I knew kids who would go into tunnels at known locations and try to work their way underground (that was not too successful either). I went to school with Footes and other well known mining families. And I heard plenty about mine accidents and the devastations that could occur.

As a result, I've understood that we are in a singular geographic situation here, with miles of tunnels filled with water. In fact, the extent of the tunnels was never fully known, to my knowledge. And Rise Gold has been clear in its investor materials that access to the USGS was denied by the prior mine owners, so no government institution had a record of what the mine owners knew (see attached screen shots from their you tube video – link below).

Ind 48-2

This arrangement, of water in tunnels underpinning the entire community, stabilizes our ground and provides a water table that protects our trees. Given these truly unique conditions, there is simply no credible way that the DEIR is accurate in forecasting the impacts and effects of the proposed massive dewatering. And properly understand it we must, given the scale of the risk the County would be assuming.

Ind 48-3

The proposed massive dewatering potentially jeopardizes the entire latticed area. How is the County to be certain of the effects of losing all that water? How are we not to have more and more sinkholes? How are our trees to not dry to tinder, at the same time that we are in the middle of an historic 'mega drought?' The State of California has issued emergency stoppages on a number of projects that have the potential to increase fire risk. Why would Nevada County, in the heart of fire country, entertain an intentional draining of the water table? Set the forecasting on individual wells aside. It's the water table that demands understanding. Who is responsible when a fire rages right along East Bennett into downtown Grass Valley?

Ind 48-4

It seems clear that for the Nevada County government to fully understand the scope of potential harm to the environment and community and to therefore limit its legal liabilities, a much more in-depth modeling with the exact details of this specific underground environment must be conducted. Analysis cannot be safely premised on simply the type of rock in the area. This is a mined-out area which the earth has been reclaiming and stabilizing for 80 years. There is so much more that needs to be understood.



Ind 48-5

To prevent a catastrophe that could devastate this community, there must be commensurate investment. Given the unprecedented situation here and the scale of the risk, a detailed model needs to be developed and run through scenarios. I'd like to see corroborating models run as well. This is standard of practice in many research institutions. I know that underwater drone technology is available and there are powerful computer models that can be developed and run. I urge the County to require these models be created and shared transparently with the local residents.

Ind 48-6

It is one thing for a child to pan for gold in the old mine irrigation ditch and be intrigued by tunnels. It is another thing entirely for a government entrusted with protecting its people and environment to proceed with a decision which has such monumental implications on inadequate, incomplete, and therefore necessarily incorrect statements such as presented in the existing DEIR.

Thank you again for your efforts toward keeping this community a wonderful place to grow up, do business, recreate, and retire.

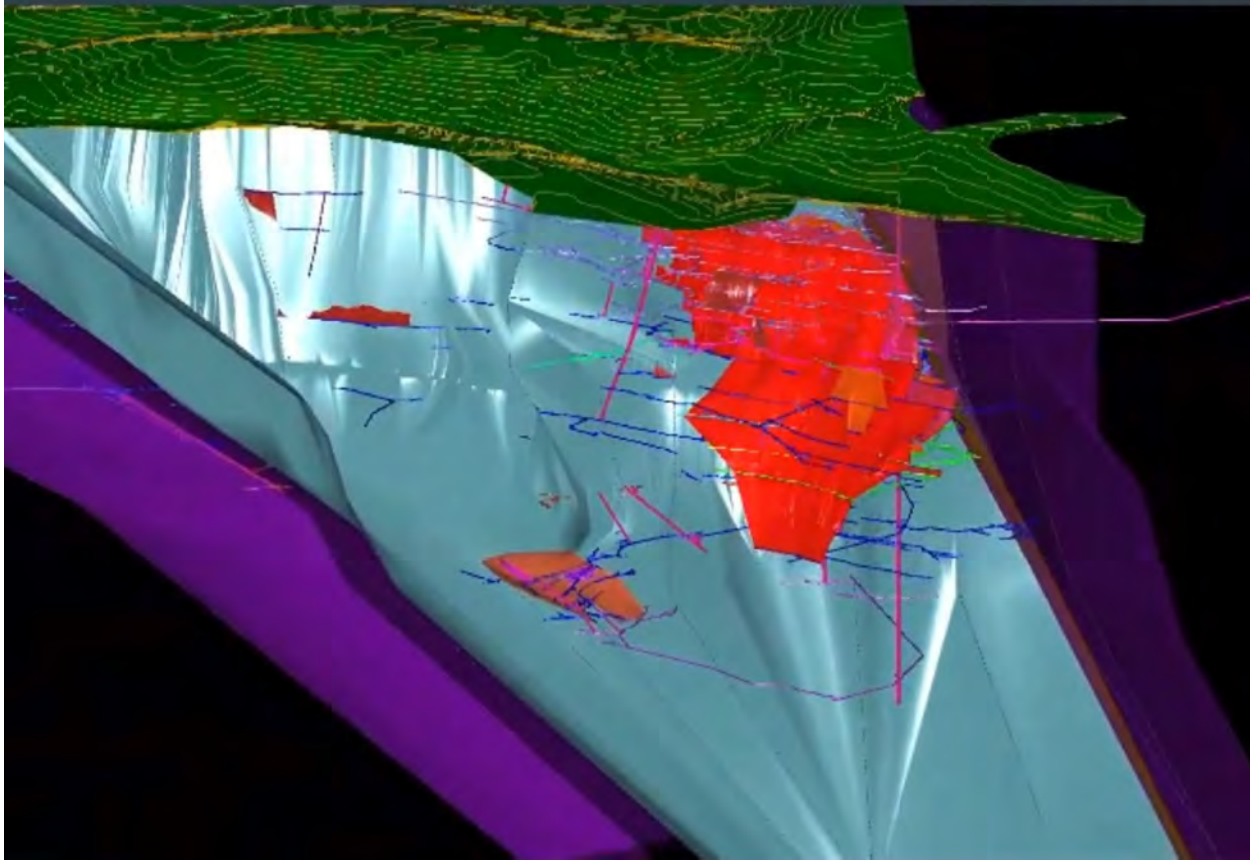
Sincerely
Barbara Raymond
PO Box 340
Cedar Ridge CA 95924

Ind 48-7

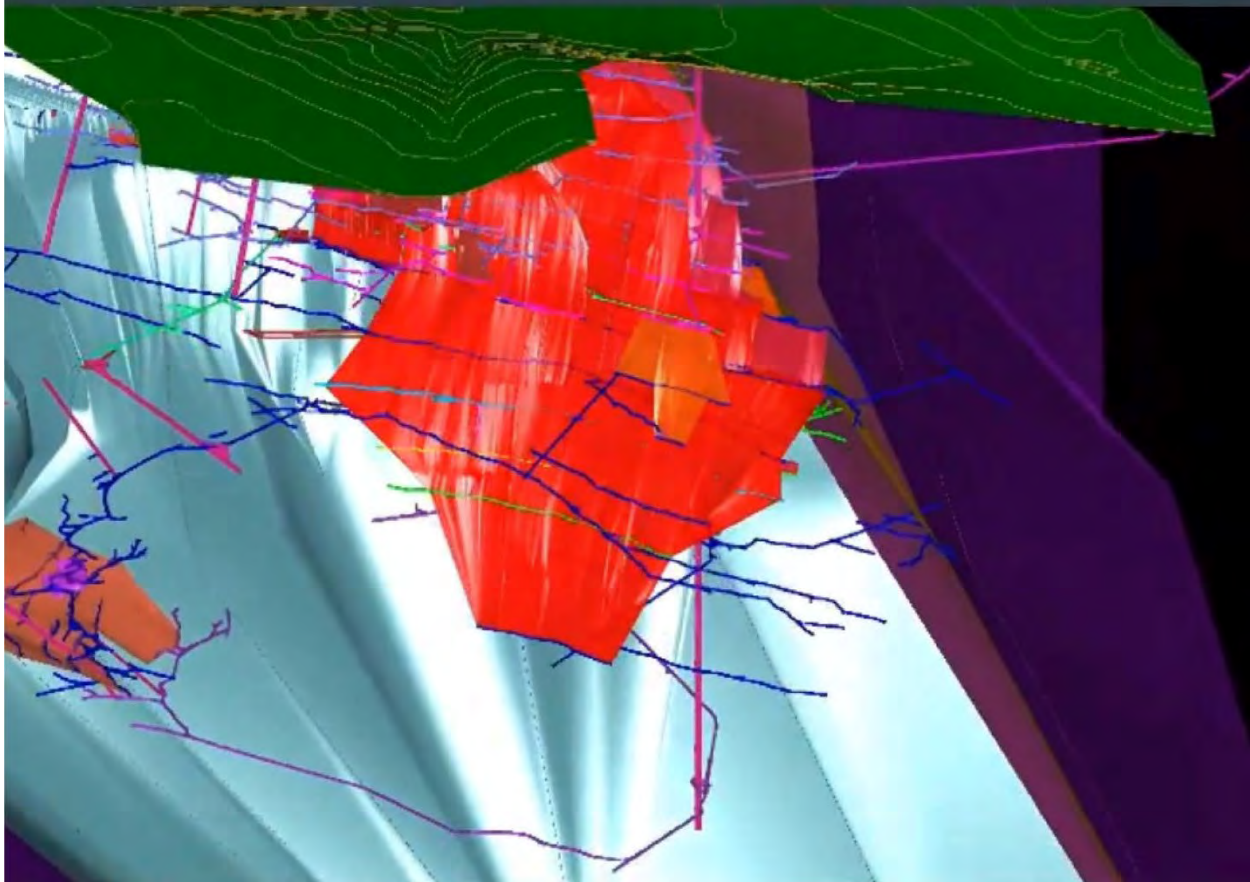
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3pM2dj-U0o&t=185s>



DETAILS OF THE MINE NEVER PUBLISHED



ANY REFUSED ENTRY OF USGS TO STUD



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 48: BARBARA RAYMOND

Response to Comment Ind 48-1

This comment is introductory in nature and the commenter discusses her upbringing in the area and familiarity with the mining history and operations of the region. The commenter also states that the full extent of tunnels was never fully known and that no government entity has a record of historic mine tunnels that was known by the mine owners. The Project Applicant has provided maps of the Idaho-Maryland Mine tunnels which are used in the analysis of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Appendices H.6, K.2, and K.3 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 48-2

The commenter is concerned that the dewatering of the mine will have adverse impacts to private groundwater wells, vegetation, and ground stabilization but does not provide specific reasons why the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, Master Response 29 - Near Surface Workings, and Master Response 33 - Groundwater Dependent Vegetation.

Response to Comment Ind 48-3

The commenter reiterates many of the same concerns in Comment Ind 448-2 regarding the dewatering of the mine. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, Master Response 29 - Near Surface Workings, and Master Response 33 - Groundwater Dependent Vegetation. The commenter also expresses concern regarding the dewatering in connection with the drought and wildfire risks. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change, and Master Response 6 – Wildfire Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 48-4

The commenter states that Nevada County need to further analyze the underground mine workings. However, the commenter does not explain how the DEIR's current analysis of the underground mine workings is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 29 - Near Surface Workings, and Appendices H.6, K.2, and K.3 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 48-5

The commenter reiterates concerns regarding the supposed lack of knowledge of the underground mine workings. The Project Applicant has provided maps of mine tunnels which are used in the analysis of the DEIR. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings, and Appendices H.6, K.2, and K.3 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 48-6

The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 48-7

The commenter provides a link to a YouTube video. No response is required.



Individual Letter 49

From: Barney Dewey <barney@deweys.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: bdofofsupervisors
Subject: Lack of Idaho-Maryland Mine Project noise and vibration analysis for the Cedar Ridge area

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Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

via email: Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

Mr Kelly,

I am strongly opposed to the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project and have significant concerns about the findings and inadequacies of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

I believe the report does not reflect what the actual noise level will be at my and my neighbor's homes. I live in The Cedars. My home is about 2,500 feet from the Brunswick mine property/operations. The report has only one noise receptor between our home and the mine (#30). Before this project goes forward, I ask that multiple noise receptors be used to obtain the actual ambient noise level in The Cedars and the other communities and streets in Cedar Ridge. Because of the lack of receptors, additional noise studies and predictions need to be performed for the Cedar Ridge community North of Highway 174.

Clearly, the study has ignored the Cedar Ridge area. There were zero Noise and Vibration Measurements performed between the mine and our home (Figure 4.10-3) in the report.

I ask that before any approval be granted for starting up the mine, that additional studies are performed to determine what the noise and vibration will likely be in The Cedars and Cedar Ridge. Excessive sound and vibration will cause serious health issues for us living in Cedar Ridge. Excessive sound and vibration would additionally create a significant loss of wealth for everyone living in the area from the loss of property values.

I want these comments to be seriously considered and acknowledged by Nevada County. If excessive sound and vibration occur from the mine project without additional Noise, Vibration Measurements and Analysis being performed, and appropriate mitigation implemented, this is notice to Nevada County for any and all legal action that anyone may make against the Rise Gold project and/or Nevada County.

Respectively submitted,

Ind 49-1



Barney Dewey

barney@deweys.org

13035 Somerset Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 49: BARNEY DEWEY

Response to Comment Ind 49-1

The commenter requests that noise measurements are taken at additional locations between the Brunswick Industrial Site and the Cedars Ridge neighborhood, located to the southwest, to more accurately determine the ambient noise levels in that area. The commenter also states that DEIR inadequately addressed the Cedar Ridge area. Note that the commenter mistakenly uses the term noise receptor when referring to noise measurement locations. Noise receptors are used to represent locations exposed to noise from project implementation, such as a residence or business.

The project Noise and Vibration Study (see DEIR Appendix L) explains the methods used for selecting the sensitive receptors analyzed in the study (shown on DEIR Figure 4.10-2) and for selecting ambient noise and vibration measurement sites (shown on DEIR Figure 4.10-3). As described on page 6 of DEIR Appendix L, rather than take noise measurements at every receptor in the project area, measurement locations were carefully selected to represent multiple similar receptors at the closest location to the project site to represent worst-case scenario noise levels. Noise data collected at measurement location 4 was extrapolated to represent ambient noise conditions at multiple sites located south of the Brunswick Industrial Site, including receptor 30. The DEIR concludes that noise produced from the operations at the Brunswick site would be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.10-31.)

Mitigation Measure 4.10-2 of the DEIR requires ongoing implementation of a comprehensive noise monitoring program using noise monitors around the Brunswick and Centennial Industrial Sites. The monitoring program will be independently verified by a third-party consultant under direct contract with Nevada County. Within 30 days of installation and operation of mine-related equipment at the Brunswick Industrial Site, the County's third-party noise consultant shall retrieve and evaluate noise monitoring data to evaluate whether mine-related operational noise levels are in compliance with County noise standards at the pre-determined Receptor locations. The results shall be submitted to the Nevada County Planning Department within one week from evaluation of the noise data. If the results indicate that the County noise standards are being exceeded either by individual equipment or processes, or cumulative noise generation of the entire facility, operations shall cease until additional engineering controls can be implemented as needed. Such measures could take the form of noise barriers, installation of sound absorbing materials, use of additional silencers, etc. After implementation of any recommended measures, follow-up noise level data evaluation shall be conducted to demonstrate that the resultant operational noise levels comply with the County noise level standards at nearby sensitive receptors.

Mitigation Measure 4.10-2 also requires quarterly noise monitoring by the County's third-party noise consultant during the first five years of project operation, and once per year thereafter for the life of the project.



From: Becky Smith <beck1155@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 10:04 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Fwd: Mine

Individual Letter 50

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Becky Smith <beck1155@sbcglobal.net>
Date: March 30, 2022 at 10:02:26 AM PDT
Cc: heidi.hall@co.nevada.ca.us
Subject: Mine

I oppose the reopening of the mine. We already have water issues in Nevada County. People losing their wells would catastrophic! In addition, the noise , the traffic and our wonderful community will be negatively impacted.

Ind 50-1

Sincerely,
Becky Smith
13017 Pine Tree Pl
Nevada City

Sent from my iPad



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 50: BECKY SMITH

Response to Comment Ind 50-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 14.



From: Ben Preston <obamabanjo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:37 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: opposition to the proposed mine

Individual Letter 51

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April 3, 2022
Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Dear Mr. Kelly,
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed mine. Mining was once the major industry of our area but those days are long gone and good riddance.

Rise Gold has a well-documented and long history of being irresponsible to their communities. Is it not clear by now that the health of our environment is essential to our quality of life as well as the health of our economy? Rise Gold's plans jeopardize both at a critical time when we are dealing with issues of smoke, fire and drought that are beginning to affect our economy and way from our area.

Why take the risk of the consequences of their business plans for so limited a benefit to our community? Do the responsible thing and protect our community from this haphazard and ill-conceived plan.

Sincerely,
Ben Preston

Ind 51-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 51: BEN PRESTON

Response to Comment Ind 51-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 52

Dist 2

February 21, 2022
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RECEIVED

MAR 03 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

Ind 52-1

Dear Supervisors Susan Hoek, Chair, Heidi Hall, Ed Scofield, Dan Miller, Hardy Bullock:

While I appreciate the large quantity of letters and DEIR comments you are receiving, I think it necessary to envision what this summer is likely to be like. Long periods of choking smoke, unusual heat waves and a severe drought will be a backdrop for your County business at hand. Despite this, Rise Gold will continue do everything in their power to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Ind 52-2

Meanwhile, fire insurance rates are becoming painful and insurance policies are being canceled as fire season extends to almost year-round. Your constituency knows that catastrophic forest fires could come at any time. Our air quality is being labeled as unacceptable more days every year. You may have to deal with restrictions on water use, maybe even rationing. Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine would only make these unacceptable conditions worse.

Ind 52-3

At least Nevada County has had the foresight to adopt the Nevada County Energy Action Plan, developed by the Sierra Business Council with support from PG&E in collaboration with your staff and community members.

Ind 52-4

We must also help mitigate the local dangers of climate change by reducing our air as well as water pollution. The Nevada County Energy Action Plan calls for reducing annual residential electric use by 12 percent which will help. **Rise Gold's planned electrical use would cancel this goal by annually using 12 percent of our County's total electricity**, equivalent to 5,000 new homes.

Ind 52-5

Despite Rise Mine's claims, they will have massive carbon emissions caused by diesel-powered heavy equipment used for: increased new diesel truck traffic (up to 100 round trips a day, seven days a week, 16 hours a day), constant construction during the first year and half; ongoing continuous excavating, underground blasting, drilling, rock crushing, loading, hauling, unloading, spreading, and compacting to create engineered fill up to seven stories tall; continuous mine dewatering by pumping, treating and sending millions of gallons of wastewater down Wolf Creek. These emissions would result in significant *increases* of greenhouse emissions rather than *decreases* planned in the county's Energy Action Plan.

Ind 52-6

Please, let's stop using your time and ours by seriously considering reopening



the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Everyone I know is opposed to this project and we will fight Rise Mine's false claims and paid supporters as long as it takes.

Sincerely,

Benell S. Scott
BENELL S. SCOTT

Signature, Name and address

588 ESTATON CIRCH
GRASS VALLEY CA 95945

CC: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 52: BERNELL SCOTT

Response to Comment Ind 52-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 52-2

Please see Master Response 1. In addition, impacts related to wildfire are addressed in Chapter 4.13, Wildfire, of the DEIR, as well as Master Response 6. Furthermore, see Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for concerns related to air quality, as well as Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Chapter 4.11, Public Services and Utilities, regarding water supplies.

Response to Comment Ind 52-3

The comment expresses a general opinion in support of the Nevada County Action Plan, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response.

Response to Comment Ind 52-4

Please see Master Response 25.

Response to Comment Ind 52-5

Impacts related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions are presented in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR. As noted under Impact 4.3-7, with the implementation of mitigation, the proposed project's incremental contribution to global GHG emissions and climate change is less than cumulatively considerable.

Response to Comment Ind 52-6

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 53

February 21, 2022
Grass Valley, CA 95945



Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Supervisors Susan Hoek, Chair, Heidi Hall, Ed Scofield, ~~Dan Miller, Hardy~~ Bullock:

Ind 53-1

While I appreciate the large quantity of letters and DEIR comments you are receiving, I think it necessary to envision what this summer is likely to be like. Long periods of choking smoke, unusual heat waves and a severe drought will be a backdrop for your County business at hand. Despite this, Rise Gold will continue do everything in their power to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Ind 53-2

Meanwhile, fire insurance rates are becoming painful and insurance policies are being canceled as fire season extends to almost year-round. Your constituency knows that catastrophic forest fires could come at any time. Our air quality is being labeled as unacceptable more days every year. You may have to deal with restrictions on water use, maybe even rationing. Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine would only make these unacceptable conditions worse.

Ind 53-3

At least Nevada County has had the foresight to adopt the Nevada County Energy Action Plan, developed by the Sierra Business Council with support from PG&E in collaboration with your staff and community members.

Ind 53-4

We must also help mitigate the local dangers of climate change by reducing our air as well as water pollution. The Nevada County Energy Action Plan calls for reducing annual residential electric use by 12 percent which will help. **Rise Gold's planned electrical use would cancel this goal by annually using 12 percent of our County's total electricity**, equivalent to 5,000 new homes.

Ind 53-5

Despite Rise Mine's claims, they will have massive carbon emissions caused by diesel-powered heavy equipment used for: increased new diesel truck traffic (up to 100 round trips a day, seven days a week, 16 hours a day), constant construction during the first year and half; ongoing continuous excavating, underground blasting, drilling, rock crushing, loading, hauling, unloading, spreading, and compacting to create engineered fill up to seven stories tall; continuous mine dewatering by pumping, treating and sending millions of gallons of wastewater down Wolf Creek. These emissions would result in significant *increases* of greenhouse emissions rather than *decreases* planned in the county's Energy Action Plan.

Ind 53-6

Please, let's stop using your time and ours by seriously considering reopening



the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Everyone I know is opposed to this project and we will fight Rise Mine's false claims and paid supporters as long as it takes.

Sincerely,

Bernell S. Scott

BERNELL S. SCOTT

Signature, Name and address

588 ESKATON CIRCLE

GARRO VALLEY CA 95945

CC: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department

950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170

Nevada City, CA 95959

Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 53: BERNELL SCOTT

Response to Comment Ind 53-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 53-2

Please see Master Response 1. In addition, impacts related to wildfire are addressed in Chapter 4.13, Wildfire, of the DEIR, as well as Master Response 6. Furthermore, see Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for concerns related to air quality, as well as Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Chapter 4.11, Public Services and Utilities, regarding water supplies.

Response to Comment Ind 53-3

The comment expresses a general opinion in support of the Nevada County Action Plan, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response.

Response to Comment Ind 53-4

Please see Master Response 25.

Response to Comment Ind 53-5

Impacts related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions are presented in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR. As noted under Impact 4.3-7, with the implementation of mitigation, the proposed project's incremental contribution to global GHG emissions and climate change is less than cumulatively considerable.

Response to Comment Ind 53-6

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



From: bernie zimmerman <berniez46@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 7:51 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Randall J. Newsome: Rise Gold, show me the money | TheUnion.com

Individual Letter 54

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

Ind 54-1

This piece appeared in the Union A few days ago. I think it makes some good points and should be made part of the record for your review of the draft EIR.

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.theunion.com%2fopinion%2fcolumns%2frandall-j-newsome-rise-gold-show-me-the-money%2f&c=E,1,gNrQJuUcIAgjiq0PuaT3TVBCjqZEvYu_K3w_nBqDp1NZVhXAtn_AMmCxePfYI1VFOPSpA-97XQH5IaMt4Ip1-kMqw_qlvYfISGg_RLsb6C4TrR02HSux7x5nYT0,&typo=1

Bernie Zimmerman



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 54: BERNIE ZIMMERMAN

Response to Comment Ind 54-1

The referenced article refers to the Project Applicant's financial wherewithal to complete the proposed project, which is outside of the scope of CEQA. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 3 regarding operator responsibility.



From: Bert D. Heinzelman <bheinzelman@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 3:54 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Objection to the Proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Individual Letter 55

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Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

To Whom it May Concern,

Please be advised that Helena & Bert Heinzelman residing at 11627 Thomas Ranch Circle, Nevada City, CA 95959, are strongly APPOSED to the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. We believe the project and proposed operation of the mine will have detrimental environmental impacts on our community and will negatively affect values and marketability of properties in our area. In addition, we DO NOT believe the mine's operation will contribute significant economic benefits to the county as claimed by the sponsor of the project.

NO MINE!

Sincerely,
Bert Heinzelman

Ind 55-1



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



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 55: BERT HEINZELMAN

Response to Comment Ind 55-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 56

Dist 3

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$22,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley is a responsible innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ZIP _____



betty232@gmail.com

Ind 56-1

OPPOSE THE MINE

FEB 28 2022



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 56: BETTY PEARSON

Response to Comment Ind 56-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 57

From: [Beverly Marling](#)
To: [hobosupervisors](#)
Subject: Rise Grass Valley
Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:38:09 PM

Dist 2

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are not expecting this email or don't recognize the sender, consider deleting.

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Supervisor Scofield

I am not a person who writes to my elected officials on a regular basis but I feel compelled to do so now. I am 100% against reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine.

How can this even be a consideration when we are going through another drought? To pump water from the mine, lowering the water table, sending that polluted water into Wolfe Creek with arsenic and other contaminants in it is unthinkable. If Rise Grass Valley pollutes our water and air, does the county have in place the ability to stop their actions and make them clean it up or fine them? And how much will this cost in taxes to county residents? Mr. Mossman does not have a good track record. I'm sure you're aware of his mining history in Canada. I don't want my county polluted to put money in the pockets of an out of country business.

Rise Grass Valley lies, touts high paying jobs for locals. Would you want your children or grandchildren working as a miner underground?

Then there is air and noise pollution. Also huge trucks hauling waste away on our roads that are not in great condition now and this will continue for 80 years.

Our area and tourism are known for its beauty and rural atmosphere not heavy industry. It kind of makes a mockery of our Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

If some county residents were so concerned about opening a Wendy's fast-food restaurant, imagine the negative opinions on reopening a heavy industry mine.

Please, no on reopening this mine. It is a lose, lose situation that will last a generation.

Beverly Marling
16726 Alexandra Way
Grass Valley

Sent from my iPad

Ind 57-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 57: BEVERLY MARTLING

Response to Comment Ind 55-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, 16, and 35.



Individual Letter 58

IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT
DRAFT EIR COMMENT FORM

To document the author of comments received, please provide the following information. Thank you.

Name: BEVERLY STOUT

Address: 312 HORIZON CIRCLE GV

Organization (if applicable): —

Please provide us with your written comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR by **5:00 PM, April 4, 2022**. Comments may be placed in the comment box located in the back of the Board of Supervisors Chambers during the Special Public Meeting of the Nevada County Planning Commission. Written comments may also be submitted (email or hardcopy) to the address below:

**Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us**



Ind 58-1

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE SUPERVISORS WOULD EVEN BE CONSIDERING A PROJECT WITH THIS COMPANY THAT HAS SUCH A POOR REPUTATION FOR PRIOR WORKS. THEY WERE UNETHICAL, IRRESPONSIBLE AND WALKED AWAY FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN CANADA, LEAVING A MESS BEHIND. THE ADVERTISING THEY HAVE DONE SO FAR ONLY HARDENS MY ANIMOSITY TOWARD THEM. I WAS A RECIPIENT OF THEIR PHONE SURVEY, WHICH I CONSIDER QUITE BIASED AND DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ONLY POSITIVE ANSWERS. QUESTIONS LIKE IF WE DID THIS AND SO ALL PROBLEMS WILL BE MITIGATED, WHAT ABOUT IF THEY DON'T? WITH COPD I AM OF COURSE CONCERNED ABOUT LOWER AIR QUALITY. AS TO THE WATER REQUIRED TO WORK A MINE, WHY ARE WE EVEN CONSIDERING THIS IN A COMMUNITY ALREADY PLAGUED BY DROUGHT AND FIRE, AND ALREADY RATIONING WATER USE?? NO. TRAFFIC & ROAD WEAR & TEAR ARE ALSO CONCERNS



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 58: BEVERLY STOUT

Response to Comment Ind 58-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 3, and 16.



Individual Letter 59

April 3, 2022

Bill Lawrence
10201 Ridgeview Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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

Dear Sir:

Please accept the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Ind 59-1

Chapter 1.4

It appears from the draft DEIR that Rise Gold could commence operations without using the Centennial site. It also implies that mining operations could proceed for some years without ever utilizing the Centennial site. Why isn't there a deadline date for the voluntary cleanup of the Centennial site? What assurances does Nevada County have that Rise Gold will clean up the site to the standards set by the Department of Toxic Substance Control?

Ind 59-2

Chapter 4.7 Use and Storage of Various Chemicals

1. There is no detailed description of the various processes used to recover the gold from the ore mined on the Brunswick site.

Ind 59-3

2. There is little mention of what is processed on site versus off-site. Are all processes completed on impermeable surfaces with secondary containment to ensure no contamination of surrounding ground?

Ind 59-4

3. A detailed description of the gold recovery processes including all chemicals utilized such Magnafloc10, methyl isobutyl carbinol (MIBC), soda ash, and Aerophine is needed. No material safety data sheets are provided for these materials. There are only references to "low potential for bioaccumulation" and "relatively non-toxic". There is no mention of the volumes of these materials that will be located on-site.

Ind 59-5

4. Are there other hazardous or toxic chemicals used in these recovery steps? This report must show a **flow chart** beginning with delivery to the storage areas showing secondary containment of the chemical vessels (55 gallon drums or large tank) and continuing to the separation process and removal of materials from the Brunswick site.



Ind 59-6	5. There is no mention of any hazardous wastes that may be generated during the gold recovery process.
Ind 59-7	6. Any hazardous materials that become airborne need to be documented and mitigation measures identified.
Ind 59-8	7. Wastes generated that are solid in nature need to be identified, characterized and methods used to manage these waste needs to be mentioned.
Ind 59-9	8. Liquid wastes generated during the gold recovery process are not identified. Management of these wastes is not discussed.
Ind 59-10	<p>Chapter 4.10 Noise and Vibration. This chapter addresses the impacts of noise and vibration upon the environment (community) surrounding the Brunswick site but does not mention the impact of noise and vibration on individuals working at the Brunswick site. There is also no mention of occupational health and safety impacts upon the deep mine workers who spend many hours in a cold and wet environment. It is well documented that such workers experience high rates of respiratory disease and skin infections.</p> <p>General comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report for Rise Gold</p>
Ind 59-11	1. Why is treated water from the mine shaft dewatering sent to South Fork of Wolf Creek when there might be other uses of this water? Are there assurances that only water from the mine shafts will be sent to the creek? What is the frequency of testing of this water to be sent to Wolf Creek?
Ind 59-12	2. Rise Gold has indicated that there may be local markets for the engineered fill from the mining. There is no mention of the frequency of testing this material to ensure that it meets state standards for use in various commercial applications.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 59: BILL LAWRENCE

Response to Comment Ind 59-1

The commenter states that the DEIR indicates the project could commence without the completion of the cleanup action at the Centennial Industrial Site. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 59-2

The commenter states that the DEIR does not describe the mineral processing to recover the gold. Mineral processing is described on page 3-25 and page 4.8-46 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 59-3

All mineral processing proposed by the project is done on-site inside of the enclosed mineral process plant building as described on page 3-25 of the DEIR. Certain thickening and stock tanks are located outside of the building, on paved impermeable surface and with secondary containment where necessary as discussed on page 3-26 and shown in Figure 3-8 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 59-4

The commenter states that the DEIR lacks a detailed description of the types and volumes of chemicals required for the project's mineral processing. The details of volumes of reagents located on-site are not required for the analysis of the DEIR and further, engineering level detail is not required in an EIR. (*Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 20, 26.). As stated on page 4.7-31 of the DEIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) requires that prior to the transport, storage, or use of hazardous materials, the mine operator shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The County shall review and approve the HMBP prior to the use or storage of hazardous materials on-site. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 10 - Explosives, Reagents, and Brunswick Fill.

Response to Comment Ind 59-5

The commenter states that the DEIR must show a flow chart of the mineral processing by stages. A flow chart of delivery to storage areas and details of storage of mineral processing reagents are not required for the analysis of the DEIR and further, engineering level detail is not required in an EIR. (*Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 20, 26.). As stated on page 4.7-31 of the DEIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) requires that prior to the transport, storage, or use of hazardous materials, the mine operator shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The County shall review and approve the HMBP prior to the use or storage of hazardous materials on-site. The commenter is also referred to Response to Comment Ind 59-4 regarding mineral processing reagent type and quantities.

Response to Comment Ind 59-6

The commenter states that the DEIR does not disclose whether mineral processing will produce any hazardous wastes. No hazardous wastes are generated during the gold recovery process. In regard to mine waste (barren rock and sand tailings), the commenter is referred to Master Response 8 - Mine Waste Characterization.

Response to Comment Ind 59-7

The commenter states that the DEIR must account for any hazardous materials that become airborne. All toxic air contaminants have been evaluated in the Health Risk Assessment and



analysis of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) and Appendix E.1 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 59-8

The commenter states that the DEIR must identify and manage any solid wastes produced by the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 8 - Mine Waste Characterization.

Response to Comment Ind 59-9

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to identify liquid wastes produced during mineral processing. As stated on page 3-26 of the DEIR, the process plant is a closed loop system. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 59-4.

Response to Comment Ind 59-10

Occupational (worker) health and safety in mines is governed the US Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The applicant is required by federal law to obtain a MSHA mine ID number and to comply with MSHA safety regulations. The DEIR appropriately evaluates the environmental impact of the project on the surrounding environment and health impacts to the surrounding public and is not required to perform an analysis of on-site workers and the adequacy of MSHA regulations. Compliance with a regulatory permit or other similar process may be identified as mitigation if compliance would result in implementation of measures that would be reasonably expected, based on substantial evidence in the record, to reduce the significant impact to the specified performance standards (CCR Title 14 Section 15126.4).

Response to Comment Ind 59-11

The commenter asks if the treated water to be discharged to South Fork Wolf Creek could have a more beneficial use and how frequent the water testing will occur. As stated on page 2 of Appendix N, the mine would have a positive effect on water supply. NID could adjust its flows upstream to use the extra water available downstream if it desired to.

Treated mine water would be discharged to South Fork Wolf Creek and site run-off would also be discharged to South Fork Wolf Creek. The frequency of water testing would be determined in the Notice of Applicability. The commenter is referred to Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 59-12

Please see Master Response 11 - Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets.



From: Bishop Randall <mantisglass33@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 7:43 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comments on DEIR

Individual Letter 60

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To whom it may concern,

"In order to arrive at what you do not know You must go by a way which is the way of ignorance. T. S. ELIOT, "EAST COKER"

OUR PURPOSE HERE is to worry about the predominance of the supposition, in a time of great technological power, that humans either know enough already, or can learn enough soon enough, to foresee and forestall any bad consequences of their use of that power. This supposition is typified by Richard Dawkins's assertion, in an open letter to the Prince of Wales, that "our brains...are big enough to see into the future and plot long-term consequences."

When we consider how often and how recently our most advanced experts have been wrong about the future, and how often the future has shown up sooner than expected with bad news about our past, Mr. Dawkins's assessment of our ability to know is revealed as a superstition of the most primitive sort. We recognize it also as our old friend hubris, ungodly ignorance disguised as godly arrogance. Ignorance plus arrogance plus greed sponsors "better living with chemistry," and produces the ozone hole and the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. A modern science (chemistry or nuclear physics or molecular biology) "applied" by ignorant arrogance resembles much too closely an automobile being driven by a six-year-old or a loaded pistol in the hands of a monkey. Arrogant ignorance promotes a global economy while ignoring the global exchange of pests and diseases that most inevitably accompany it. Arrogant ignorance makes war without a thought of peace.

We identify arrogant ignorance by its willingness to work on too big a scale, and thus to put too much at risk. It fails to foresee bad consequences not only because some of the consequences of all acts are inherently unforeseeable, but also because the arrogantly ignorant often are blinded by money invested; they cannot afford to foresee bad consequences."

-Wendell Berry

This (report) is riddled with errors, omissions, and legal flaws.

Recently CEA Foundation and its MineWatch coalition members on Wednesday delivered comments to the Nevada County Planning Commission on the draft environmental impact report for the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, a news release states.

Experts, volunteers, and legal minds reviewed the report's 1,000-plus pages to provide a review of the technical studies, impact assessments and proposed mitigations.

Ind 60-1

Ind 60-2



“Mining is our past, not our future,” said retired capital planner Paul Schwartz in the release. “Today’s economic engine is recreation-based, but we’re also facing historic drought and fire risk. Protecting precious resources like water, air quality, and our peaceful rural setting is job number one.”

Rise Gold Corp., was responsible for delivering the vast majority of the technical studies used by the county’s hired consultant to determine the impacts.

Dewatering the mine is a key concern

“Groundwater modeling in fractured rock systems is considered unreliable even when everything is done right,”

Rise Gold’s model has fundamental flaws in the initial start point of the model and baseline data assumptions — all of which throw off the entire analysis. The result is a report that concludes that groundwater levels would drop a maximum of 10 feet, and no more than 30 local wells would be a risk.

CEA’s experts, however, say there is an extremely high degree of uncertainty involved. (Siskon mine being an example)

OTHER CONCERNS

Dealing with mine waste is another major concern.

Ind 60-3

“Looking at the rock core sample analysis, it is abundantly clear that asbestos will be a gnarly problem that will require comprehensive management. Mining operations don’t get to just haul and dump rock like the days of old,” said Silberstein. “Air and water quality regulations will significantly restrict throughput and the costs will be exorbitant.”

Ind 60-4

CEA’s experts found the plans to mitigate fugitive dust to be inadequate. They also found no credible evidence that the mine tailings could be effectively sold to third parties for fill or off-site construction.

Ind 60-5

Climate change has increased forest fires and parched lands, resulting in the newest federal and state greenhouse gas reduction goals. The report used a threshold of 10,000 metric tons per year for greenhouse gas emissions, but failed to include some elements that put the project over that limit and make it a significant impact.

That limit defined in the report is likely to be found irrelevant, CEA claims. Recent changes mean the county’s threshold must be established at “net zero.”

Ind 60-6

CEA also said gaps in the report include the clean up of the toxic, pre-superfund Centennial site that would be used to dump mine waste and is not included in the report, but is required by the California Environmental Quality Act; missing construction time estimates throwing off the entire analysis of noise, traffic, and air; and the incorrect assessment of nighttime noise, and underestimation of the noise of dumping mine waste near established residential neighborhoods.



Ind 60-7

Additionally, air traffic hazards and aesthetic impacts need to be studied further due to the likelihood of a massive fog plume that could be created by warm, saturated air ventilation; blasting plans don't follow U.S. mining guidelines that restrict blasting during evening hours; the plan doesn't demonstrate that the impact on biological and aquatic resources would be less than significant; and meteorological data used to assess the health risk of airborne pollutants doesn't fit Grass Valley's profile or accurately reflect local conditions.

Ind 60-8

Given these many concerns and history regarding Rise Gold Co, I Bishop (Brian) Randall request BOS deny their permit to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Yrz,

B. Randall



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 60: BISHOP RANDALL

Response to Comment Ind 60-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 60-2

Section 15151 of the CEQA Guidelines (and related judicial opinions) directs that in situations where there is a disagreement between experts, the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement for consideration by the Board in reaching its decision. Disagreements between experts do not preclude the process from moving forward, nor do they preclude the Board from considering the evidence and making its decision(s). Please see Master Response 14 regarding the adequacy of the groundwater model.

Response to Comment Ind 60-3

Please see Master Response 8 and 22.

Response to Comment Ind 60-4

The comment provides general comments that lack the specificity to formulate a specific response to the claims of inadequacy. Fugitive dust was addressed in Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR with substantial evidence to support the conclusions included in Appendix E.1 of the DEIR. See also Master Response 3 regarding changes in circumstances under which the permit is granted.

Response to Comment Ind 60-5

Please see Master Response 27.

Response to Comment Ind 60-6

Please see Master Response 4.

Response to Comment Ind 60-7

The comment does not provide substantial evidence to support that significant additional fog formation as compared to existing conditions would be a reasonably foreseeable outcome from operation of the proposed project. Even if fog formed from the project, pilots and air traffic controllers are trained to safely operate during all natural weather patterns, such as fog. Therefore, the phenomenon of fog is not considered an “air traffic hazard” as claimed by the commenter. The DEIR does however address potential impacts related to the Nevada County Air Park being within one mile of the Brunswick Industrial Site. As noted in the DEIR, the proposed project would be required to be reviewed by the Airport Land Use Commission. In addition, fog is not considered an aesthetic impact pursuant to the standards of significance used in the DEIR by the County (please refer to page 4.1-11 of the DEIR).

Please see Master Response 1. Potential impacts from proposed blasting (particularly noise and vibration) are addressed throughout the DEIR, and noise and vibration from blasting is addressed in Chapter 4.10. Impacts related to biological resources, including aquatic features, is addressed in Chapter 4.4. See also Master Response 17.

Response to Comment Ind 60-8

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 61

From: [Bj Flint](#)
To: [hcbfsupervisors](#)
Cc: [Bj Flint](#)
Subject: NO MINE
Date: Friday, February 18, 2022 12:17:38 PM

Dist 4

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Dear Supervisors:

I understand there is not an official way presently, to oppose Rise Gold's intention to open the Idaho Maryland mine again.

I have done a lot of research regarding this matter and have come to the overwhelming conclusion that it is a very bad idea. I could go on and on about the reasons and I am sure you know what they are.

I just want to inform you that we do not want the mine reopened. The possible environmental impact is just too great.

Thank you and have a great day. A nice quiet, peaceful day filled with clean air and water and plenty of electricity for all. Go mingle with the locals, they are great people, who really appreciate what we have here in Nevada County.

BJ Flint

Disability Benefits

Accredited Social Security Disability Representative, EDPNA Approved

20902 Big Spring Drive

Grass Valley, CA 95949

FAX: 1 (866) 264-8797

email: gjflint@netscape.net

Ind 61-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 61: BJ FLINT

Response to Comment Ind 61-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 62

March 10, 2022

Mr. Matt Kelly, Sr Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902
Email: Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us



Dear Mr. Kelly:

The co-signers of this letter belong to a group of people in Nevada County called the RRRs. We are constituents of County Districts 2, 3, and 4, and our mission includes expression of our collective position on issues involving the county. We value our quality of life here and strive to educate and/or influence our neighbors to support these chosen issues.

Ind 62-1

We write as a collective at this time to strongly oppose reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine and request that the comments expressed here be included in the decision-making on the draft EIR on the proposed mine.

We are requesting a 120-day period for comments. A few of us are former federal government employees who have had extensive experience in the public comment process under the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine is a matter of significant impact. The controversy, economic considerations, water and air quality threats, noise pollution, increase in heavy trucking traffic, etc., are already documented in many comments, news articles and protest demonstrations. These are major impacts which deserve sufficient time for study, research, and consideration by an educated public. Further, because there is no search tool on the website for the draft EIR, one needs to read the full 1,070 page document before concluding whether specific factors are addressed. More time is needed to read.

Ind 62-2

Nevada County's characteristics and demographics have changed since gold mining was halted. The county is now considered one of the most beautiful in the state, treasured for its natural beauty, peaceful lifestyle, and recreational assets. Availability and quality of water is vital and the protection of these resources is one of the most important considerations for us. No further proof of this is needed than the Christmas, 2021, storm and the devastation of drought-stricken trees. It has single-handedly changed the face of the beautiful forested hills of Alta Sierra and the Colfax corridor.

Ind 62-3

To add to our well-documented water problems by allowing a mine to extract even more water would be unconscionable. To use our creeks as flumes for mine waste is unconscionable, too. Hauling away the tons of mine tailings will require 100 trucks a day. A truck every 10 minutes, will be traveling through the heart of greater Grass Valley, impacting the quality of the highways and the community with noise. To allow this to happen is unconscionable. Our quiet foothills communities will be assaulted day and night with loud machinery operating all the time. The loud din of the mine operation will be constantly in our ears.

Ind 62-4

In fact, the EIR does not even factor in the consequences we will face from climate change. This, too, is unconscionable. We support the draft EIR public comment from the California Native Plant Society which understands, too well, the climate change consequences upon our environment. Habitat Management Plans must be developed.

Ind 62-5

We urge you to reject the draft EIR if only for the lack of consideration of the potential for a disaster. We find the draft EIR - chapter 4, section 11, specifically troubling. It finds the mine



Ind 62-6

to be a less than significant impact on the public services and utilities in the county. It does not address what public services will have to support the mine. Injuries, collapses, and ignitions, among other factors need to be anticipated. Again, the Christmas storm is a wake up call to the entire county about what should be planned for in the event of an emergency. What happens when a major mine emergency requires multi-day support of public services?

The draft EIR does not adequately take into consideration the negative impacts of Rise Gold's past poor behavior, failed business, bankruptcies, and financial problems.

The County should not want to partner with such speculative performance. It needs to factor in how such a partnership will affect the Board of Supervisors solid list of identified priorities for fiscal stability, emergency preparedness, economic development, broadband, housing, homelessness, and recreation. The County needs to encourage reliable partners to support living wages for residents. We suggest the mine proposal of Rise Gold will pay living wages to the professional workers it will seek from outside the county. The jobs available to residents seem limited to laborers who may not see living wages allowing them to buy homes and permanence in the county.

The company claims the project will bring economic prosperity to western Nevada County. We call for the analysis of the impacts of a project that, if past is prologue, threatens to turn our area into an abandoned toxic waste dump. We believe it is deceptive to promise jobs and tax revenues that could result in negative impacts by **reducing** tourism, due to pollution of our water and air, and **declining** property values and tax revenues.

Mining is a dirty business. We find the draft EIR insufficient and strongly urge you to disapprove this project in its entirety. The very destruction of the quality of our County, our properties, our safety, and our peaceful lifestyles is at stake.

Sincerely,

BJ Griffin
Alta Sierra resident, District 2
griffinbj@mindspring.net

Barbara J (BT) Ziff
Margaret Burks

Margaret Burks
Jones Bar resident, District 4
peggyburks@gmail.com

Holly Bundock
Lake of the Pines resident, District 2
bundockink@gmail.com

Holly Bundock

Pat Sharp
City of Grass Valley resident, District 3
patsharpdesigns@hotmail.com

Pat Sharp

Gayle Crossley
Lake of the Pines resident, District 2
crossley.gayle@gmail.com

*GC approved
by phone*



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 62: BJ GRIFFIN, MARGARET BURKS, HOLLY BUNDOCK, PAT SHARP, AND GAYLE CROSSLEY

Response to Comment Ind 62-1

Please see Master Response 1. With regard to the public comment period for the DEIR, the comment period lasted for 91 days, starting on January 4, 2022 and ending on April 4, 2022.

Response to Comment Ind 62-2

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 62-3

Please see Response to Comment 1, 8, and 13.

Response to Comment Ind 62-4

Impacts related to climate change are discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR. In addition, as discussed in Chapter 4.4, Biological Resources, of the DEIR, a Habitat Management Plan was prepared for both the Centennial and Brunswick sites. In addition, Mitigation Measures 4.4-1(b) and 4.4-2(c) would require the preparation of additional Habitat Management Plans for any additional special-status plant and wildlife species identified during pre-construction surveys.

Response to Comment Ind 62-5

As discussed within Chapter 4.11, Public Services, of the DEIR, the chapter identifies potential new demands resulting from the proposed project on various public services and utility systems, including but not limited to fire protection, law enforcement, schools, parks and recreation, water supply, wastewater systems, solid waste disposal, and electrical utilities. As such, public services needed to support the mine were adequately addressed in the DEIR. In addition, Impact 4.7-4 analyzes whether the proposed project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and concluded that the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact.

Response to Comment Ind 62-6

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, and 8.



Individual Letter 63



March 10, 2022

Mr. Matt Kelly, Sr Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902
Email: idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Ind 63-1

The co-signers of this letter belong to a group of people in Nevada County called the RRRs. We are constituents of County Districts 2, 3, and 4, and our mission includes expression of our collective position on issues involving the county. We value our quality of life here and strive to educate and/or influence our neighbors to support these chosen issues.

We write as a collective at this time to strongly oppose reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine and request that the comments expressed here be included in the decision-making on the draft EIR on the proposed mine.

We are requesting a 120-day period for comments. A few of us are former federal government employees who have had extensive experience in the public comment process under the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine is a matter of significant impact. The controversy, economic considerations, water and air quality threats, noise pollution, increase in heavy trucking traffic, etc., are already documented in many comments, news articles and protest demonstrations. These are major impacts which deserve sufficient time for study, research, and consideration by an educated public. Further, because there is no search tool on the website for the draft EIR, one needs to read the full 1,070 page document before concluding whether specific factors are addressed. More time is needed to read.

Ind 63-2

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Ind 63-3

To add to our well-documented water problems by allowing a mine to extract even more water would be unconscionable. To use our creeks as flumes for mine waste is unconscionable, too. Hauling away the tons of mine tailings will require 100 trucks a day. A truck every 10 minutes, will be traveling through the heart of greater Grass Valley, impacting the quality of the highways and the community with noise. To allow this to happen is unconscionable. Our quiet foothills communities will be assaulted day and night with loud machinery operating all the time. The loud din of the mine operation will be constantly in our ears.

Ind 63-4

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Ind 63-6

↑ to be a less than significant impact on the public services and utilities in the county. It does not address what public services will have to support the mine. Injuries, collapses, and ignitions, among other factors need to be anticipated. Again, the Christmas storm is a wake up call to the entire county about what should be planned for in the event of an emergency. What happens when a major mine emergency requires multi-day support of public services?

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Mining is a dirty business. We find the draft EIR insufficient and strongly urge you to disapprove this project in its entirety. The very destruction of the quality of our County, our properties, our safety, and our peaceful lifestyles is at stake.

Sincerely,

BJ Griffin
Alta Sierra resident, District 2
griffinbj@mindspring.net

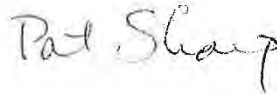



Margaret Burks
Jones Bar resident, District 4
peggyburks@gmail.com

Holly Bundock
Lake of the Pines resident, District 2
bundockink@gmail.com



Pat Sharp
City of Grass Valley resident, District 3
patsharpdesigns@hotmail.com



Gayle Crossley
Lake of the Pines resident, District 2
crossley.gayle@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 63: BJ GRIFFIN, MARGARET BURKS, HOLLY BUNDOCK, PAT SHARP, AND GAYLE CROSSLEY

Response to Comment Ind 63-1

Please see Master Response 1. With regard to the public comment period for the DEIR, the comment period lasted for 91 days, starting on January 4, 2022 and ending on April 4, 2022.

Response to Comment Ind 63-2

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 63-3

Please see Response to Comment 1, 8, and 13.

Response to Comment Ind 63-4

Impacts related to climate change are discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR. In addition, as discussed in Chapter 4.4, Biological Resources, of the DEIR, a Habitat Management Plan was prepared for both the Centennial and Brunswick sites. In addition, Mitigation Measures 4.4-1(b) and 4.4-2(c) would require the preparation of additional Habitat Management Plans for any additional special-status plant and wildlife species identified during pre-construction surveys.

Response to Comment Ind 63-5

As discussed within Chapter 4.11, Public Services, of the DEIR, the chapter identifies potential new demands resulting from the proposed project on various public services and utility systems, including but not limited to fire protection, law enforcement, schools, parks and recreation, water supply, wastewater systems, solid waste disposal, and electrical utilities. As such, public services needed to support the mine were adequately addressed in the DEIR. In addition, Impact 4.7-4 analyzes whether the proposed project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and concluded that the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact.

Response to Comment Ind 63-6

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, and 8.



Individual Letter 64

March 31, 2022

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner Nevada County Planning Department

Ind 64-1

We wish to state that the Idaho-Maryland Mine project should not be approved.

The pumping of water from the mine has too many risks. The increased traffic from trucks would be horrible for people now living in the area. Plus there is a large housing project starting that is very close to the mine. People will not want to live that close to the project.

Mining was our pass and does not need to be our future.

Bob Larimer



Betty Larimer



16092 Janet Way, Grass Valley, 95949



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 64: BOB AND BETTY LARIMER

Response to Comment Ind 64-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 65

From: [Ed Scofield](#)
To: [Julie Patterson-Hunter](#)
Subject: FW: ID-MD Mine
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:26:41 AM

Dist 2

From: Bob and Kay <zbobk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 2:10 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@co.nevada.ca.us>
Cc: Ed Scofield <Ed.Scofield@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: ID-MD Mine

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Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

2-27-2022

Once again a foreign company is attempting to open the Idaho Maryland Mine, the 3rd time I have seen this "once every decade" fiasco occur. Once again it is being portrayed as *beneficial to our community*. Another attempt to translate the now faded glory of the 1800's and early 1900's into today's very different world, it merely sucks up time and money from the county and local residents, rather than living up to the fables Rise Gold portrays. It is uncertain if they actually would resurrect the mine, or are simply hyping up the prospect to gather in money from stockholders to feather their nest – and bank accounts – before fading into the woodwork with the funds, as has happened before.

Ind 65-1

It is the wrong business at the wrong time and these new "mine owners" are once again putting their own benefits ahead of the needs and desires of this community. Yes, one can slant the numbers to show widespread support for another environmental disaster such as they have caused in in Canada, and are still in defensive litigation about for unmitigated environmental damage. A heavy trucking, noisy, air fouling industry is far from being in the best interests of the Grass Valley area. And if there is such widespread support as they claim, why is The Union filled with letters from those in opposition with most of the meager support coming from those with vested interests in the mine?

Ind 65-2

What the area does need is more of the High Tech industries such as were exemplified by Grass Valley Group and others, with that legacy now being carried on by the likes of Telestream and AJA Video and being supported by Training Programs such as those at Nevada County Media. Greater emphasis on the clean, well paying jobs they provide would be far more beneficial to the residents of Grass Valley, Nevada City and the rest of Nevada County.



↑
Bob Zuelsdorf PE, ret.
11163 Norager Way
Grass Valley CA



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 65: BOB ZUELSDORF

Response to Comment Ind 65-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 65-2

Please see Master Responses 1. The commenter's concerns regarding increased clean, well-paying jobs in the area is outside of the scope of CEQA. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 66

Dist 4

RECEIVED

Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

MAR 03 2022 February 28, 2022
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ind 66-1

Dear Commissioners Danny Milman, Laura Duncan, Robert Ingram, Mike Mastrodonato, and William Greeno

I, the undersigned, am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corporation. I understand that you will be reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Report and advising Nevada County's Board of Supervisors before they vote on the matter. I have read the Rise Gold Mine postcards they sent recently. The information is misleading and manipulative. They fail to adequately mitigate many significant negative impacts of this large industrial project at the detriment of our community.

Ind 66-2

Gold mining is the world's worst business. It's capital-intensive. It's labor-intensive. Gold miners are ultra-sensitive to movements in the price of gold. When gold moves higher a gold mining company can get capital. When it moves lower, and the investors had enough with the industry they leave and find another opportunity. The 2013-2019 downturn in gold prices was the final straw for many investors. And companies like Rise Gold had little ability to raise money to run the business. Rise Gold is a bit player in the industry. They won't be around when gold plunges.

Ind 66-3

They won't be around to clean up the toxic waste. They will go bankrupt and leave California and go back to Canada where they are well protected.

Ind 66-4

I have been a Nevada County resident since 2005 and see that Rise Gold wants to risk our environment and the people who live here for their profit. I am confident that you will value my input and comments and the comments from thousands of other residents. I hope all of you will be on the right side of history and protect our community from fraudsters like Rise Gold Mine.

Thank you,
Bonnie Lynn Murphy



11202 Oak Canyon Drive
Penn Valley, CA 95946
916-397-5443



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 66: BONNIE MURPHY

Response to Comment Ind 66-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 66-2

The commenter's concerns regarding the gold mining industry is outside of the scope of CEQA. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 66-3

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 66-4

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 67

From: Brandon Butrick <brandon@photoncreative.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: REJECT the Rise Gold proposal to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine

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From the desk of:
Brandon Butrick
13186 Nob Hill
Nevada City, CA 95959

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

Dear and Board of Supervisors and County Planners,

I understand you're still considering the Rise Gold proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Are you kidding?

No. No. No. No. No.

Let me start by reminding you that the individuals attempting to push this through were convicted by a Canadian court of environmental crimes, and despite their appeals on legal technicalities, this is a good indication of how they will probably do business here. Promise what we want to hear, then do whatever they please, and when it comes time to reconcile... they will skip town, like they did in Canada in 2015. We do not want to hear "I told you so" in 10 years from the Canadians. As far as I'm concerned, this alone should be reason to reject their proposal.

But wait, there are plenty more reasons to say "no".

Granted, Grass Valley has a long and colorful history as a mining town, and if this were the 19th century or even if the mine were a bit farther out of town, I might personally support a reputable, well-managed mining operation resuming gold production. BUT...

In addition to this not being a reputable organization, due to the CEO's previous track record, downtown Grass Valley and Nevada City now rely on 21st century industries like tourism and technology to support

Ind 67-1

Ind 67-2



↑ the local economy. These industries are NOT served by this mine proposal, and in fact may be substantially harmed by this project.

And there is little indication that this project will bring substantial economic benefit to the area. In the 1850's, gold mining was an entrepreneurial industry, and many people created and built businesses around the mining industry and some created lasting wealth for themselves and their families. Here, the only opportunity created for locals are in relatively low-wage labor and trucking positions, and the bulk of the money generated will immediately leave the area. This is NOT a win for the local labor force.

Saving best for last: for God's sake, think about the water!

The water situation in California is critical, due to climate change and increased population. Again, not the 1850's here.

Ind 67-3 An underground mine will impact underground water, and you genuinely do not know how bad it will be until you do it. No Environmental Impact Report can predict this accurately, and once it happens it cannot be undone. Just ask the people of Banks Island, Canada.

Not only will it impact water below the water table, but the operation will need a LOT of water above ground for it's operations, and presumably will get that water from our NID water system? Sorry folks, but that is not as ample as it has been in years past.

Ind 67-4 Other resources that will be stretched thin include our electric power grid, our roads which will take a heavy beating from heavy trucks, our air, which will absorb substantial pollution and noise, and our spirits, which will be pressed into hard service reconciling our wish for a clean, beautiful city with the realities of a large-scale industrial mining operation so near our downtown.

As our elected representatives, you need to hear and represent our concerns, not those of carpet-bagging industrialists who will not even be here to sue when the eventual problems arise. Note also that since Rise Gold is an "exploration company", they are neither appropriately capitalized to execute the submitted plan, nor intending to follow it through over the 80 years involved. THEY WILL SELL US OUT BEFORE THEY EVEN START, taking the money and leaving us with the mess.

Ind 67-5 80 years is a long time. Do the right thing, and reject the Rise Gold proposal.

Faithfully Yours,

Brandon Butrick
Nevada City, CA
brandon@photoncreative.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 67: BRANDON BUTRICK

Response to Comment Ind 67-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 67-2

Please see Master Response 2.

Response to Comment Ind 67-3

Please see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 67-4

Impacts related to electricity, and air pollution are discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, impacts related to traffic are discussed in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, and impacts related to noise are discussed in Chapter 4.10, Noise, of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 67-5

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 3 regarding operator responsibility.



Individual Letter 68

From the desk of:
Brandon Butrick
13186 Nob Hill
Nevada City, CA 95959

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



Dear and Board of Supervisors and County Planners,

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No. No. No. No. No.

Let me start by reminding you that the individuals attempting to push this through were convicted by a Canadian court of environmental crimes, and despite their appeals on legal technicalities, this is a good indication of how they will probably do business here. Promise what we want to hear, then do whatever they please, and when it comes time to reconcile... they will skip town, like they did in Canada in 2015. We do not want to hear "I told you so" in 10 years from the Canadians. As far as I'm concerned, this alone should be reason to reject their proposal.

Ind 68-1

But wait, there are plenty more reasons to say "no".

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In addition to this not being a reputable organization, due to the CEO's previous track record, downtown Grass Valley and Nevada City now rely on 21st century industries like tourism and technology to support the local economy. These industries are NOT served by this mine proposal, and in fact may be substantially harmed by this project.

Ind 68-2

And there is little indication that this project will bring substantial economic benefit to the area. In the 1850's, gold mining was an entrepreneurial industry, and many people created and built businesses around the mining industry and some created lasting wealth for themselves and their families. Here, the only opportunity created for locals are in relatively low-wage labor and trucking positions, and the bulk of the



↑ money generated will immediately leave the area. This is NOT a win for the local labor force.

Saving best for last: for God's sake, think about the water!

The water situation in California is critical, due to climate change and increased population. Again, not the 1850's here.

An underground mine will impact underground water, and you genuinely do not know how bad it will be until you do it. No Environmental Impact Report can predict this accurately, and once it happens it cannot be undone. Just ask the people of Banks Island, Canada.

Not only will it impact water below the water table, but the operation will need a LOT of water above ground for it's operations, and presumably will get that water from our NID water system? Sorry folks, but that is not as ample as it has been in years past.

Ind 68-3

Other resources that will be stretched thin include our electric power grid, our roads which will take a heavy beating from heavy trucks, our air, which will absorb substantial pollution and noise, and our spirits, which will be pressed into hard service reconciling our wish for a clean, beautiful city with the realities of a large-scale industrial mining operation so near our downtown.


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Ind 68-5

80 years is a long time. Do the right thing, and reject the Rise Gold proposal.

Faithfully Yours,


Brandon Butrick
Nevada City, CA
brandon@photoncreative.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 68: BRANDON BUTRICK

Response to Comment Ind 68-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 68-2

Please see Master Response 2.

Response to Comment Ind 68-3

Please see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 68-4

Impacts related to electricity, and air pollution are discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, impacts related to traffic are discussed in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, and impacts related to noise are discussed in Chapter 4.10, Noise, of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 68-5

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 3 regarding operator responsibility.



From: Brandon Hall <chrishansenesquire@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:44 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: NO MINE!

Individual Letter 69

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Ind 69-1

The Idaho Maryland mine is not in our interest as a community to have. It will poison our ground, our watershed, damage ecosystems, pollute and disturb the peace. The CEO of this company (Benjamin Mossman) is a hack. Even if this is to be green-lit, he will likely not even succeed in his goal. He's failed numerous times in the past, driving past projects into the ground spectacularly and has exemplified the selfishness and vanity of those who wish to exploit resources at the expense of all who share it freely. The average person of Nevada city, and Nevada county does not desire this and no person in their right mind should. Please, hear me and the many others who are pleading. This is an unnecessary dig.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 69: BRANDON HALL

Response to Comment Ind 69-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



From: Brian Swagerty <swagerty@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: Heidi Hall
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening DEIR

Individual Letter 70

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Brian Swagerty
14296 Tahoe View Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(819) 990-5618

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902
(530) 265-1423

Dear Mr. Kelly:

My name is Brian Swagerty, and I live in the Peardale area of Grass Valley. I have lived here for over four years, after raising our family in Shasta, California, an old mining community just west of Redding. For over twelve years, I worked for the Shasta County Office of Education and was the director of Whiskeytown Environmental School in the Whiskeytown Recreation Area, just west of Redding. We taught sixth and fifth grade students about the environment and how they fit into our ecosystem. The Whiskeytown area is full of old gold mines and areas where they processed the ore. We had plenty of examples of the damage gold mining does to the environment.

My wife and I moved to Grass Valley to live in the peaceful foothills of the Sierras. We love the balance of recreation, a slow-paced lifestyle, and opportunities for small businesses to survive. If the Idaho-Maryland Mine were to reopen under the conditions presented in the draft EIR, the character, lifestyle, and quality of life would be negatively affected. I don't agree that we should degrade our quality of life in order to enrich some Canadian investors.

My specific concerns gleaned from reading the draft EIR are in the areas of:

- Multiple water issues
- Increased truck traffic
- Air quality
- Lack of housing for new hires
- Misrepresentation in DEIR of economic benefits
- A general degradation in our quality of life for what?

Water Issues

When I worked for the Shasta County Office of Education, I was in charge of building a camp facility in the Manton, California area. We built a camp facility on property that was donated by Leslie and Marice Latieze. They were one of a very few properties that did not sell their water rights to PG&E. There was a time when PG&E bought most of the water rights in the area for their hydroelectric projects. Within a ten year period, the area was drained of its water and was transformed from a green oasis to a brown dry scrubland. I fear that the same fate could befall the Grass Valley area. The DEIR states that water will be pumped from the mine at a rate of 3.6 million gallons a day for six months and then 1.2 million gallons of water a day for 80 years. That massive amount of water being drained from the area on an on-going basis will have a negative impact to the environment.

Besides the massive loss of water from the mine area, Wolf Creek is expected to accept all of this water. The DEIR does not adequately address this issue. What will the increased flows do to the hydrology of the creek? How will the water temperature of the mine water affect the down flow streams? How will the increased flows affect the existing wildlife?

Increased Truck Traffic

Ind 70-1

Ind 70-2

Ind 70-3

Ind 70-4



	<p>A major concern of mine is the impact the increased truck traffic will cause. The DEIR states that there will be 50 round trip (100 trips), seven days a week, 16 hours a day of trucks hauling rock from the mine to the engineered mountain they will build. My wife and I travel Brunswick Road on a regular basis to access the Brunswick Basin from our home near Peardale. There is already too much traffic coming and going from You Bet Road onto Highway 174. Facing the constant truck brigade along Brunswick Road sounds awful. Just another negative effect of the mine. Besides the increased traffic and congestion and air pollution, what is the increased traffic do the quality of our roads? Is the county ready to increase their road maintenance budget? Are we as a community, willing to pay more taxes to pay to keep our roads in repair? Are we prepared to face increased road repairs and delays? Just another degradation to our quality of life.</p>
<p>Ind 70-5</p>	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>The death rate for chronic lung disease in Nevada County is twice the state average. The American Lung Association gave Nevada County an "F" for air quality. We cannot afford to add to the already poor air in our area. I thought I had moved into an area of clean air, surrounded by forests and wildlife. After experiencing several wildfire events and breathed the smoke they cause, I downloaded an app that shows the air quality on a daily basis. I noticed that Grass Valley often had worse air than Sacramento. I looked further into this and found that there is a natural wind tunnel that acts as an exhaust for Sacramento and the Valley's poor air that travels through our area on its way through the Sierras. I feel we cannot add to this poor air quality with the increased diesel fumes from the rock trucks and the dust from the mining and rock processing operations. If the mine operators truly wanted to keep the mine impacts to a minimum, they should use electric vehicles to move the rock. It would at least reduce their negative impact a little.</p>
<p>Ind 70-6</p>	<p>Housing Impacts by New Hires</p> <p>Something that isn't adequately addressed in the DEIR is the impact the opening of the mine will have on local housing. We currently have a severe housing shortage in Nevada County. It is getting harder and harder to make a living in our area when we have to pay such high costs for housing, if you can find it. The dream of home ownership for a young couple in our area is a nightmare, and the rental market isn't much better. What could easily happen to our community is that the jobs are filled with people who fly in to work for a two week period, and then fly out. The workers aren't tied to the community, they are just here while they are working. That happened recently when PG&E contracted with a Texas company to inspect and repair their electric lines. The trucks were parked at the Brunswick area of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, and the workers were housed in temporary trailers while they were here. This is a common practice in remote areas of Australia and other parts of the world. They are called FIFO workers. Fly In Fly Out. I don't want our area to morph into such a community. Let's not add to our lack of housing in our area.</p>
<p>Ind 70-7</p>	<p>False Economic Benefits</p> <p>Rise Gold asserts that they will create many jobs averaging \$90,000 a year. This is extremely misleading. How many people live in our area that have mining expertise? Most of the high-paying jobs will require engineering degrees with mining experience. In other words, the high-paying jobs will be filled by people who do not currently live here. Most of the jobs for locals would be truck drivers, equipment operators, and general workers in the mines. In other words, there may be some low-paying jobs available for our local work force. The slight uptick in area spending won't offset the lower land values the opening of the mine will create. It won't offset the loss of spending by people who would normally come to our area for recreation. No one in our area is going to get rich on gold because of Rise Gold Corporation, even if they invest in their stocks.</p>
<p>Ind 70-8</p>	<p>Quality of Life</p> <p>Even if the skewed assertions made in the DEIR were true, our quality of life would still be degraded. Just because the levels of pollution are under the legal limits doesn't mean that it won't damage our quality of life. The mine will degrade our water quality and quantity. It will increase our traffic on our roads. It will make our air quality even worse than it already is. It will impact our lack of housing. And for what? Why do we think this is a good idea? Even if Rise Gold Corporation can turn a profit, it will go to Canadian stockholders, not our community. What few tax receipts this project could generate won't pay for the negative impacts it would also generate and we would be left holding the bag.</p>
<p>Ind 70-9</p>	<p>For the reasons I state above, I feel this project should be rejected. The draft EIR was poorly researched or documented. It made poor assumptions and built conclusions on them. There are much better uses for that land which was not addressed as well. Let's not degrade our community to benefit a corporation with a poor track record of keeping their promises.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my thoughts on this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> <p>Brian Swagerly Nevada County Resident, District 1</p>



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 70: BRIAN SWAGERTY

Response to Comment Ind 70-1

This comment is introductory in nature and lists a number of concerns associated with the project such as hydrology, traffic, and housing. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. Responses to specific comments are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 70-2

The commenter states that that project's dewatering of the mine will have a negative impact to the environment but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The impact to groundwater from mine dewatering is analyzed in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 70-3

The commenter states that the DEIR does not adequately address water discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek due to increased flows, water temperature, and the impact of flows to wildlife but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR and Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, Master Response 36 - Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek, and Master Response 32 - Temperature of Mine Water Discharge.

Response to Comment Ind 70-4

The commenter is concerned about truck traffic on Brunswick Road due to congestion, air pollution, and road maintenance cost but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. Traffic impacts are analyzed in Chapter 4.12 (Transportation) of the DEIR and air quality impacts are analyzed in Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) of the DEIR. Mitigation Measure 4.12-6(b) requires that prior to commencement of engineered fill hauling, the Project Applicant shall enter into separate road maintenance agreements with Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley to provide the project's fair share of funding for maintenance of roadways commensurate with the project's impact to pavement conditions on both Nevada County and Grass Valley roadways, including Brunswick Road between E. Bennett Road and SR 49, and E. Bennett Road between the Project Driveway and Brunswick Road. (DEIR, p. 4.12-91.)

Response to Comment Ind 70-5

The commenter is concerned about the project's impacts to air quality but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. Diesel fumes from hauling are evaluated in the Health Risk Assessment that was prepared for the proposed project. While the effect of haul truck diesel emissions, in combination with all other project TAC sources, could result in a significant adverse health impact, Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 of the DEIR would reduce this potential impact to a less than significant level.

It is also noted that Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 of the DEIR requires the submission of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan (ADMP) to Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) for review and approval. The ADMP has minimum requirements as described in the mitigation measure. Additional measures, such as air monitoring if required by the NSAQMD, would be detailed in the ADMP.

The commenter is referred to Master Response 18 - Air Quality Thresholds.



Response to Comment Ind 70-6

The commenter is concerned about the project's impact to local housing from project employees moving to the community but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. Housing is analyzed in Chapter 4.9 (Land Use and Population and Housing) of the DEIR. As stated on page 4.9-27 of the DEIR, the project would provide employment opportunities that would result in indirect population growth. However, population growth resulting from the proposed project would not exceed the current housing stock in the area. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth, and this impact would be less-than-significant.

Response to Comment Ind 70-7

The commenter states that the project's economic benefits are misleading. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 70-8

The commenter states that even if the DEIR is correct in its estimation of the project's impacts, quality of life will still suffer. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 70-9

The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 71

From: [Brion Dunbar](#)
To: [hcbosupervisors](#)
Subject: Proposed Mine
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 5:33:30 AM

Dist 1

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*Hello County Supervisors,
I live in Nevada City CA, district 1. Have lived here since 1989.*

I am adamantly opposed to allowing the mine to re-open for the following reasons.

Ind 71-1

1) Rise Gold CEO Ben Mossman has a horrible track record. His company, Banks Island Gold Ltd., owned the Yellow Giant Mine in British Columbia, Canada. They had multiple polluting spills at the site. They ignored shutdown orders. In January 2016, Banks Island declared bankruptcy and walked away — leaving Canadians with only a \$420,000 reclamation bond to pay for a cleanup estimated to cost \$1.6 million. There were a total of 35 charges issued and in July 2016, Mossman and another Banks Island executive had 18 pollution charges filed against them personally. They were initially acquitted of the charges, though Mossman was fined \$15,000, but the B.C. Supreme Court subsequently overturned that acquittal. Despite attempts by their lawyers to block a new trial, a Court of Appeals judge recently issued a decision to reject those appeals. The two are set to face a new trial soon.

Is this the kind of company you want to open such a risky venture here in our beautiful county?!

Ind 71-2

2) Where the mine is located used to be 'in the country'. Now it is a residential area for hundreds of homes, who depend on wells for their domestic water supply. A mine puts their water at risk, no question about it. Would you want a mine next to your house and well? The mine tunnels go for miles in all directions. Stirring up contaminated mine waste underground is playing Russian Roulette with our water.

Ind 71-3

3). Mine Waste. The mine proposes to dump 3.6 million gallons of treated wastewater every day into South Fork Wolf Creek for 6 months, then 1.2 million gallons a day after that. Who can think this is an okay thing? Will there be monitoring of the quality of the water every day? This company has proven they will skirt environmental requirements. Please think of the DOWNSTREAM PEOPLE and animals.

Thank you for your consideration.
Brion Dunbar
11577 Bourbon Hill Rd
Nevada City CA
(530) 559-1422



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 71: BRION DUNBAR

Response to Comment Ind 71-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 71-2

Please see Master Response 14.

Response to Comment Ind 71-3

Please see Master Responses 8 and 35.



Individual Letter 72

Ind 72-1

Criminal Canadian polluters, who went bankrupt running the Yellow Giant mine, and left a \$1,600,000 mess for the government to clean up, now want to come here.

Meanwhile, waves of California workers, freed from commuting by the internet, are spreading out from the Bay Area looking for good places to live.

This is a good place to live if the mine doesn't wreck it for the next 80 years.

80 years.

Enough time for all of our children and grandchildren to curse the economic short-sightedness of letting this mine into our neighborhood.

Tell them to go back to Canada and clean up the mess they made there.

Bruce Klimesh & Deborah Cole
13935 Glenn Pines
Grass Valley



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 72: BRUCE KILMESH AND DEBORAH COLE

Response to Comment Ind 72-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 73

From: Cameron Brown <thecameronbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: Please Just Say No Mine

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Good Morning,

I write as another voice who believes re-opening this mine is an awful idea. We purchased our retirement home here a decade ago and while of course we expect changes, we never would've planned to retire here if it was still an active mining town. The environmental degradation, pollution and noise will be reason enough to change our plans, but beyond that, this Rise group seems a terrible choice for the endeavor. Their previous failure foretells what we can expect when the price of gold drops below their projections. Frankly, this seems more like a classic stock "pump and dump" scheme. The "investors" will do fine in an eventual bankruptcy but our county will be left holding the bag. I'd be surprised if the workers even get severance when it all falls apart. Please don't approve this project, it may be our past but should not be our future. Thank-you!

Cameron Brown
14161 Marigold Way
Nevada City, CA
530-265-2663

Ind 73-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 73: CAMERON BROWN

Response to Comment Ind 73-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



From: Carlyle Miller <carlyleholmes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR for the Idaho Maryland Mine

Individual Letter 74

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Dear Mr. Kelley,

Ind 74-1

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed plan to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I have concerns about the environmental impacts on the fine on our local water quality and air quality as well as its effects on wells in the area.

Ind 74-2

Specifically, I believe that the mitigation suggested in 4.8-2(a) does not require enough time for baseline monitoring before the mine re-opens. With the unpredictable climate of recent years, and recent drought years in particular, one year of monitoring does not give an accurate picture of well and groundwater levels. The levels should be measured for a minimum of 3 years to determine an average pattern.

Thank you for listening.
Carlyle Miller
609 Redbud Way
Nevada City, CA 95959



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 74: CARLYLE MILLER

Response to Comment Ind 74-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 74-2

Please see Master Responses 14 through 16. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 75

From: [ClBrady](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: attn: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner re: plan to re-open Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:42:43 PM

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Matt Kelly, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Dear Mr. Kelley,

As residents of Nevada County for more than 30 years, we are writing to add our voices to those who have already contacted you to express opposition to the plan to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

The Nevada County of today looks nothing like the community that existed during the mine's operating years. When the Idaho-Maryland Mine closed in the 1950s, Nevada County's population was somewhere around 20,000. The 2020 census records us at 98,114, and many of today's Nevada County households rely on residential wells for our water.

Ind 75-1

We know you've already heard from many of us regarding concerns over the impact mining operations could have on our residential wells. We know you understand these wells recharge through patterns in fractured rock, and the massive amounts of rock and soil dislodged during mining operations may disrupt those patterns. We're sure you're aware that mining operations de-watered local wells on the North San Juan Ridge in the 1990s.

Ind 75-2

We're guessing you've received input from residents worried about the potential for the increased contamination of our air and water. Our county still struggles with water quality concerns resulting from the area's mining legacy (NID continues to be burdened with removing mercury from our local water supply). Wildfire smoke already pollutes our air; surely we do not need additional air quality degradation precipitated by a mining operation's dust, exhaust and (possibly) airborne elemental mercury.

Ind 75-3

Rise Grass Valley promises investment in our economy and workforce, but our community pays heavily for those promised benefits. Health issues created by increased air pollution and water contamination are expensive. Loss of residential wells and subsequent property devaluation are expensive. Forfeiture of Nevada County's reputation as a healthy place to raise families is expensive. Re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine costs Nevada County too much. We hope the Planning Department will look beyond Rise GV's promises and protect the home we all love.

Sincerely,
Carol & Bill Brady



20191 Wolf Creek Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949
(530) 205-5256 and (530)305-0586



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 75: CAROL AND BILL BRADY

Response to Comment Ind 75-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 13, and 14.

Response to Comment Ind 75-2

Impacts related to water quality are addressed in Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR. See also Master Response 13. In addition, impacts related to air quality are addressed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, and impacts related to wildfires are addressed in Chapter 4.13, Wildfire, as well as Master Response 6.

Response to Comment Ind 75-3

Please see Master Responses 2, 3, and 14.



From: carol fenner <fenfrond@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 2:59 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: RE: Introduction and Comment Letter

Individual Letter 76

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Ind 76-1

To: Matt Kelley & The Planning Commission:

Introduction:

All of these time and energy expenditures for a gold mining project when no one really has any scientific geological info/estimates as to how much gold can even be obtained from it seems comical at best.

Ind 76-2

Comment re: DEIR:

1. Underground there would be "mining within an approximately 2,585-acre mineral rights boundary owned by the applicant..." How much private and air port property will be subject to "sinks" over time? I am from Franklin, NJ which was the site of the richest zinc mine in the world early in the 20th century. I am familiar with land above mined ground caving in, thereby displacing residents and ugly chain link fencing replacing parts of neighborhoods, plus parts of the town itself. The EIR did not take into account this specter.
2. The best plan emerging from the DEIR is Alternative 1: No Project (No Build) Alternative.

Ind 76-3

Best regards,

Carol F. Fenner

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 76: CAROL FENNER

Response to Comment Ind 76-1

The comment is an introductory remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 76-2

The potential for collapse associated with underground mine shafts is discussed in Impact 4.6-3 in Chapter 4.6 Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources, of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 76-3

The commenter states that the best plan emerging from the DEIR is the No Project alternative. As noted within Chapter 6, Alternatives Analysis, of the DEIR, the No Project alternative is considered the environmentally superior alternative; however, the No Project alternative does not meet the basic project objectives.



Individual Letter 77

From: [Carol Gicker](#)
To: [hdbosupervisors](#)
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022 10:13:07 AM

Dist 4

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Hello,

I just want to let you know that I DO NOT support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Mining companies in this county have a history of promises, promises, promises and then make the money and run. Our county is still dealing w/ after effects of mining from 100 years plus ago, including arsenic and cyanide water issues.

Ind 77-1

The mailer sent by Rise Grass Valley is full of promises - fire engine, no traffic effects, no health effects, potable water line. What kinds of guarantees are there that any of this would be enough to mitigate the common sense known issues caused by mining?

Please do what you can to stop this mine.

Thank you.

Carol Gicker

Nevada City



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 77: CAROL GICKER

Response to Comment Ind 77-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 78

From: [Carol Hansen-Dix](#)
To: [Idaho NMEIB](#)
Subject: Comment Regarding Mining Project
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 2:19:29 PM

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Ind 78-1

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Any large project, especially as large as this mining operation, is bound to have negative issues that come up and were not foreseen. Often to fix problems a lot of money is thrown at the problem and everybody works night and day to correct the problem. That said the potential for catastrophic things to happen with this project is imminent. It's very possible that the results are untenable. It's also very possible that the problems cannot be reversed and we all will have to live with a bad situation forever. We're talking about mistakes that could render a great number of people without clean water, with noise pollution and even without power. Often the issues do not become clear until it's too late. It's also impossible to foresee everything that could happen good or bad.

I don't mind saying that I would hate to be in your shoes. When things go wrong you're going to be the person everybody points the finger at. If you sign your name on the line then you have the responsibility for the outcome that goes along with it. Realistically, if you decide that this project should not go through very little is going to happen to you that's negative but if you decide that this project should go through, the potential for headaches and sleepless nights for you would be great.

I hope that you stand with the people and not with the corporation. It is a fact that you must live with the citizens of Nevada County from now on. If you don't support this corporation they will go away and you probably will never hear from them again and you will still have your job and you will still be able to sleep at night.

I truly wish you well. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,
Carol Hansen-Dix
115 Union Jack St. Grass Valley, Ca 95945
hansendix@yahoo.com
530-320-9649

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 78: CAROL HANSEN-DIX

Response to Comment Ind 78-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 79

Carol Hyndman
P O Box 1136
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
530-477-0693
carolhyndman@grandpad.me

April 2, 2023

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us



Re: DEIR Comment: Inadequate Mitigation of Air Pollution

My name is Carol Hyndman and I have been a resident of Nevada County for over 25 years. I am a retired educator and my focus was with those having special education needs. I have a longstanding pulmonary health condition which makes this topic especially important to me.

It is clear that there will be many airborne pollutants that will be released during mining processes which will seriously worsen my health and impact the health of many in our community. All the pollutants noted in the DEIR have the potential to cause respiratory problems, acute and chronic, from both short and long-term exposures.

Rise Gold's Brunswick site is just a half mile southeast of the city limit – so any pollutants that are released will funnel into the Brunswick Basin and the City of Grass Valley and beyond.

Based on expert analysis of Rise Gold's technical reports in the DEIR, unacceptable pollutants will be released if the Idaho-Maryland Mine reopens. This comment argues that air pollution is not adequately mitigated as claimed by the DEIR. The potential health impacts primarily relates to these four pollutants: diesel emissions, radon, silica, and asbestos. These pollutants must not be allowed to enter our air!

I am especially concerned because Nevada County already has such poor air quality much of the time. The EPA has classified Nevada County to "serious" nonattainment for 8- hour ozone levels. California Air Resources Board, CARB has designated Nevada County as a nonattainment area for the state O3 and PM10 standards. The American Lung Association has given Nevada County an F, a failing grade for air quality due to its high ozone and particle pollution levels.

Also recognize that the World Health Organization revised their air quality guidelines for the first time in 15 years in recognition of the harmful effects of air pollution on human health. They lowered limits for PM2.5, PM10, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

Ind 79-1



Nevada County also has a vulnerable population. According to the 2020 census, in NC, nearly a third, 28.6% of our population is 65 years or older, compared to the statewide rate of 14.3%. So, we have an older demographic. The 2019 Health Assessment for NC revealed that our mortality rate for Chronic Lung Disease is twice that of the statewide rate (69 deaths/100,000 people for the county vs 35 deaths/100,000 for the state). Our Heart Disease Mortality rate is 1.5 times higher than the statewide rate. The bottom line is that we have a vulnerable population with chronic conditions that will increase mortality by exposure to these pollutants.

For the DEIR to be certified, it must include an uncompressing set of mitigations to this pollution in the environment and the human body OR an alternative use for the Rise Gold property should be mandated.

Signed,



Carol Hyndman



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 79: CAROL HYNDMAN

Response to Comment Ind 79-1

Please refer to chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for more information related to air pollution. As evaluated under Impact 4.3-2, and shown in Table 4.3-21, emissions of toxic air contaminants (TACs) would not result in health risks to nearby receptors in excess of NSAQMD thresholds. Nonetheless, Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 was included to ensure an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan is prepared, as required by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Further information regarding the assumptions used when conducting the Health Risk Assessment for the proposed project is included in Master Responses 20 through 22.



Individual Letter 80

From: [Carol Kuczora](#)
To: [ROCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Rise Gold mine
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022 8:32:40 PM

Dist 3

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Ind 80-1

The science is clear: The mine is a killer.

We cannot afford to dump fossil fuel exhaust in the air if civilization is to survive. Really. Air pollution is rising relentlessly, and it is driving global warming progressively. You know that is because the carbon compounds in the atmosphere reflect much more solar heat back to the ground than normal, upsetting the delicate balance that had enabled life to thrive on earth. We've understood that for decades. If it continues, every generation will suffer much more than the one before.

So what are we doing about this? Considering reopening the Idaho-Maryland gold mine. That means diesel trucks hauling 1000 tons of waste rock, 100 trips every day, plus trucking in explosives. Add a large factory on Brunswick Road, and massive machines crushing 1500 tons of mine waste every day. That's just counting diesel exhaust, which contains hundreds of toxic chemicals plus carbon particulates small enough to enter your blood. Then the silicate rock dust includes asbestos. We will have a lot of sick people, and they will endure unprecedented killer temperatures.

This is just one reason the mine is a horrendous idea. Please vote to protect us.

Sincerely,

Carol Kuczora, 11198 Butler Road, Grass Valley



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 80: CAROL KUCZORA

Response to Comment Ind 80-1

Please see Master Response 1. In addition, Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy of the DEIR provides a detailed analysis of potential air quality and greenhouse gas impacts associated with the proposed project. Specifically, Impact 4.3-2 addresses whether the project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial air pollutant concentrations. As noted therein, a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was prepared to address air pollutant concerns related to diesel particulate matter generated by diesel trucks operating as part of the proposed project, as well as health risks associated with silica rock and asbestos (see Master Responses 21 and 22 for a description of the assumptions used to assess the aforementioned materials). Therefore, impacts related to air pollutant concerns were adequately addressed in the DEIR. Please see also Master Response 27.



Individual Letter 81

From: Carol Kuzner
To: Idaho MMEB
Subject: DEIR Comment
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022 7:45:12 PM

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Ind 81-1

The science is clear: We cannot afford to dump fossil fuel exhaust in the air if civilization is to survive. Really. Air pollution is rising relentlessly, and it is driving global warming progressively. That is because the carbon compounds in the atmosphere reflect much more solar heat back to the ground than normal, upsetting the delicate balance that had enabled life to thrive on earth. We've understood that for decades. If it continues, every generation will suffer more than the one before.

So what are we doing about this? Considering reopening the Idaho-Maryland gold mine. That means diesel trucks hauling 1000 tons of waste rock, 100 trips every day, plus trucking in explosives. Add a large factory on Brunswick Road, and massive machines crushing 1500 tons of mine waste every day. That's just counting diesel exhaust, which contains hundreds of toxic chemicals plus carbon particulates small enough to enter your blood. Then the silicate rock dust includes asbestos. We will have a lot of sick people, and they will endure unprecedented killer temperatures.

This is just one reason the mine is a horrendous idea. Please vote to protect us.

 Reply  Forward



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 81: CAROL KUCZORA

Response to Comment Ind 81-1

Please see Master Response 1. In addition, Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy of the DEIR provides a detailed analysis of potential air quality and greenhouse gas impacts associated with the proposed project. Specifically, Impact 4.3-2 addresses whether the project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial air pollutant concentrations. As noted therein, a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was prepared to address air pollutant concerns related to diesel particulate matter generated by diesel trucks operating as part of the proposed project, as well as health risks associated with silica rock and asbestos (see Master Responses 21 and 22 for a description of the assumptions used to assess the aforementioned materials). Therefore, impacts related to air pollutant concerns were adequately addressed in the DEIR. Please see also Master Response 27.



From: mcmillancar@cs.com
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:34 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: Heidi Hall
Subject: Comment regarding Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Idaho-Maryland Mine

Individual Letter 82

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Ind 82-1

The above report details many impacts and potential mitigations. I would specifically like to raise concerns about the claims regarding air quality. As noted at the beginning of the section regarding this issue, Nevada County currently faces specific challenges in this regard.

"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." (Chapter 4-3.11)

Nonetheless, the report maintains that only in the year of initial construction will the air quality be impacted significantly by greenhouse gas emissions totaling more than 340 metric tons. In succeeding years, despite the estimated emissions doubling to 7221 metric tons, the impact is considered not significant. It would seem that all the relevant figures in this section need to be reexamined.

Ind 82-2

Further, the mitigation strategy proposed is to purchase carbon offsets. Offsets used to mathematically match carbon stored with the greenhouse gases emitted, do not help ameliorate the pollution in the location impacted by the emissions. In fact, they are often seen as a false solution, since the trees planted, or wind turbines built don't really happen or if they do, their location is far from the site of the pollution.

Perhaps the proponents of the mine reopening are assuming that since Nevada County already experiences poor air quality, there is no reason to be concerned about adding to the mix. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Carol McMillan
516 Eskaton Circle
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 82: CAROL MCMILLAN

Response to Comment Ind 82-1

The commenter is referred to Master Response 27 - Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 82-2

The commenter states that the project's Mitigation Measure 4.3-7(b) (purchase of carbon offsets) is not an adequate solution to air pollution. The commenter is referred to Master Response 28 - Greenhouse Gas Credits and Master Response 18 -Air Quality Thresholds.



Individual Letter 83

From: [Carol Nelson](#)
To: [hcbosupervisors](#)
Subject: No to Rise Gold
Date: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:55:56 AM

Dist 4

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Ind 83-1

To the Nevada County Board of Supervisors,
Please do not allow Rise Gold Corp to reopen the Idaho Maryland mine. I live in Penn Valley (Lake Wildwood) and I often drive to and from Grass Valley and Nevada City on highways 20 and 49. There are already too many heavy, large trucks on these highways. Additional heavy truck traffic from Rise Gold operations will increase traffic and dangerous driving conditions on roads surrounding their operation.

Ind 83-2

In addition to my concerns about increasing dangerous traffic conditions, I am concerned about the negative environmental impacts including dust generation and use of scarce resources such as water and electricity.

Ind 83-3

Of all the people that I know in Nevada County, I know of no one who thinks reopening this mine is positive for Nevada County as a place to live.

Thank-you for your attention,
Carol R Nelson
18526 Lake Forest Dr
Penn Valley, CA 95946
650 868-9908



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 83: CAROL NELSON

Response to Comment Ind 83-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Regarding concerns about increased heavy truck traffic resulting from the proposed project, please refer to Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR. The DEIR addressed impacts regarding whether the project would substantially increase hazards to vehicle safety under Impact 4.12-6, and concluded that with Mitigation Measures 4.12-6(a) through 4.12-6(f), a less-than-significant impact would occur. Therefore, impacts related to heavy truck traffic and hazardous roadway conditions were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 83-2

Potential impacts related to dust generation and electricity usage are discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy of the DEIR. Potential impacts related to water usage are discussed in Chapter 4.11, Public Services and Utilities, of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 83-3

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



From: Carol Purchase <cpurchase52@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Project DEIR Comments

Individual Letter 84

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- Ind 84-1** Dear Mr. Kelley,
I am submitting the following comments on the DEIR:

I fully support the comments submitted by CEA Foundation (<https://www.minewatchnc.org/post/deir-comments-mar2022>)
- Ind 84-2** Additionally:
The DEIR and technical reports should use industry standard definitions and replace such terms as 'barren' with waste rock and 'sand tailings' with 'tailings'. A section with definitions should be included for these terms as well as definitions for project specific terms such as 'engineered fill', etc.
- Ind 84-3** The clean up of the Centennial site should be incorporated into the timeline of the project, and where would the waste rock and tailings be placed prior to the Centennial site being available for these materials?
- Ind 84-4** The tailings produced would likely be very fine grained material, vulnerable to transport as suspended sediment. It is likely this fine material would carry heavy metals, such as the iron and arsenic detected in the geologic analysis. As such, the stormwater detention and tailings ponds should be placed and designed such that they would not overflow or fail in the event of a 100 year + precipitation event. Failure of these ponds would have significant consequences locally and down Wolf Creek. As the 'engineered fill' on the Centennial site would be deposited over many years, the exposed areas of the fill should have adequate erosion control throughout the rainy season. The reclamation plan states the erosion control would be adequate for a 20 year rain event, which should be increased to be able to withstand a 100 year event.
- Ind 84-5** The tailings ponds, stormwater detention ponds, drainage structures and vegetation on site will need maintenance after the mining has ended. How will the County ensure that these sites do not end up being County liabilities in the future. The 90 foot tall mound perched above Wolf Creek will likely become covered with highly flammable vegetation (manzanita) as have other sites with poor soil productivity in our area. Without management this area will become vulnerable to high severity wildfire. A wildfire on that site would result in erosion and likely slope failures into Wolf Creek. Ponds and drainage structures without regular maintenance will eventually fail.
- Ind 84-6** The CEA Foundation analyzed the groundwater technical reports and found the analysis and sampling inadequate. Given that this project has the potential to permanently deplete groundwater resources, a more thorough and independently peer reviewed groundwater analysis is needed before the BOS can make an informed decision.
- Ind 84-7** As our climate changes, our region is experiencing increasing drought years as well as the potential for high precipitation events from back to back atmospheric rivers. With these climate patterns, this project has a significant potential to risk our most critical resource - a clean and reliable water supply. I urge the BOS to ensure they have all the needed information prior to making this decision that could have very long consequences into the future.



↑
Respectfully,
Carol Purchase
Grass Valley



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 84: CAROL PURCHASE

Response to Comment Ind 84-1

This comment is introductory in nature and does not discuss the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to the responses to comments submitted by CEA in Group Letters 7 and 8.

Response to Comment Ind 84-2

The commenter states that the DEIR should use different terminology for “barren rock” and “sand tailings.” Barren rock (with no gold values and not processed) is differentiated from mineralized rock (with gold values which is processed) in the DEIR to facilitate an understanding of the proposed project. Barren rock is also proposed to be sold in some cases and therefore would be a mineral product and not waste rock. The tailings particles are primarily of sand size gradation (DEIR, Appx. H.1, p. 14.) and therefore sand tailings is an appropriate description in the DEIR. Barren rock and sand tailings are compacted in lifts to engineering standards in order to provide a useful surface appropriate for construction of future buildings on the sites and is therefore described as engineered fill.

Response to Comment Ind 84-3

The commenter states that the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site should be incorporated into the DEIR. As stated on page 3-26 of the DEIR, if the remediation of the Centennial Industrial Site, currently under DTSC oversight, is not complete upon commencement of mining, engineered fill would be placed at the Brunswick Industrial Site and/or transported off-site to be utilized in local and regional construction markets. Likewise, if the remediation of the Centennial Industrial Site is not complete within the life of the mining permit, engineered fill would be placed at the Brunswick Industrial Site and/or transported off-site to be utilized in local and regional construction markets, and no material from the mine would be placed on the Centennial Industrial Site. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 84-4

The commenter states that the stormwater detention basins and the tailings pond should be sized for a 100-year storm event. No tailings pond is proposed for the project. The drainage calculations and detention basins are specifically designed to respond to the drainage requirements of the County of Nevada. The Nevada County drainage requirements indicate that new storm drain systems and channels shall be designed to convey the 10- and 100-year, 24-hour storm event. (DEIR, 4.8-40.) Impact 4.8-3 and Table 4.8-4 provides a discussion regarding the detention basins at the Brunswick and Centennial Industrial Sites and both basins are designed to contain stormwater runoff in a 100-year, 24-hour storm event. (DEIR, 4.8-69–75.)

Response to Comment Ind 84-5

The commenter states that the tailings ponds, stormwater detention pond, and drainage structures will require maintenance at the end of the project. The project does not propose to use a tailings pond.

As discussed on page 4.6-24 of the DEIR, to ensure that reclamation will proceed in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan, the County shall require as a condition of approval Security that will be released upon satisfactory performance. The Project Applicant may pose Security in the form of a surety bond, trust fund, irrevocable letter of credit from an accredited financial



institution, or other method acceptable to the County and the State Mining and Geology Board as specified in State regulations, and which the County reasonably determines are adequate to perform reclamation in accordance with the mining operation's approved Plan.

There is no evidence that the drainage facilities would fail due to lack of maintenance or the site would become overgrown, and wildfires would cause slope failures and erosion. This impact is speculative, and the County is not required to analyze speculative impacts under CEQA. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15384.)

Response to Comment Ind 84-6

The commenter states that the groundwater impact analysis in the DEIR is inadequate but provides no specific reasons why it is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR, Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 84-7

The commenter states that the project will have adverse effect to groundwater supplies because of drought and climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.



Individual Letter 85

April 3, 2022

RECEIVED

APR 04 2022

County of Nevada
County Law Agency
CDA Dept

RE: Rise Gold Corp. Securities & Exchange Commission Form S-1 Submitted 3/29/2022 to SEC
Purpose to Provide Major Shareholders Ability to Sell Shares
http://archive.fast-edgar.com/20220330/A82SQQ2CZ225OZZZ2G2C2Z05AKNKZZ22242/#page_1
or: <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1424864/00012735119000094/f191028riseforms1.htm>

To: Nevada County Planning Commission

I have discovered through our brokerage firm that the above document has been filed within the past week, and I am submitting a copy for your perusal. Also, the above website is the location where it can be found along with ability to see other reports, such as 10-K, etc.

It is important for our Nevada County leaders to be aware of the potential investment risk that future shareholders are being advised through the document that is prepared by Rise Gold Corp., itself.

You are aware of the past history of Rise Gold in Canada, but there is also another legal trial in Canada that is upcoming as soon as April 11, 2022 involving Mr. Ben Mossman as spelled out in this document.

Hopefully, you all can protect our community from an ultra- risky attempt to re-open the Idaho-Maryland mine. I don't think it is worth the numerous potential environmental impacts as well as the potential negative financial impact our wonderful residents in Nevada County could suffer.

Sincerely,



Carol Todd
PO Box 1191
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

P.S. My husband was born and raised in Grass Valley. His father worked in the Idaho-Maryland Mine. My husband remembers the dust and noise from this mine in Union Hill area where they lived. The noise from the Idaho-Maryland plus the Empire Mine could be heard 24-7.

Attachment: Securities and Exchange Commission – Form S-1

Ind 85-1

Ind 85-2



As filed with the Commission on March 29, 2022

File No. 333-_____

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-1

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

RISE GOLD CORP.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Nevada
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

1000
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification
Code Number)

30-0692325
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**Suite 650 - 669 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 0B4
Canada**

(604) 260-4577

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Nevada Business Center, LLC
701 South Carson Street, Suite 200
Carson City, Nevada 89701

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Dale A. Rondeau, Esq.
Thomas, Rondeau LLP
Suite 1120 - 625 Howe Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 2T6
Canada

J. Brad Wiggins, Esq.
Securities Law USA, PLLC
10 G Street, NE, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20002

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this registration statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933 check the following box:

Ind 85-3



If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company:

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer Non-Accelerated Filer Smaller Reporting Company
Emerging Growth Company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards pursuant to Section (7)(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(a), may determine.



The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The selling stockholders may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and the selling stockholders are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject To Completion, Dated March 29, 2022



12,840,000 Shares of Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the resale or other disposition from time to time by certain selling stockholders, as further described in this prospectus, of up to an aggregate of 12,840,000 shares of the Common Stock (the "Shares") of Rise Gold Corp. (the "Company", "Rise", "we", "us" or "our"). The Shares registered for sale are as follows:

- 6,017,500 Shares held by selling stockholders;
- 6,017,500 Shares issuable upon exercise of common stock purchase warrants held by selling stockholders issued January 28, 2022 and exercisable at a price per Share of \$0.60; and
- 805,000 Shares issuable upon exercise of incentive stock options held by selling stockholders granted February 7, 2022 and exercisable at a price per Share of \$0.65.

The Shares, warrants and options held by the selling stockholders were issued to such selling stockholders pursuant to private transactions between our company and the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders may sell or otherwise dispose of the Shares covered by this prospectus or interests therein on any stock exchange, market or trading facility on which the shares are traded or in private transactions. These dispositions may be at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market price, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. Additional information about the selling stockholders, and the times and manner in which they may offer and sell Shares under this prospectus, is provided in the sections entitled "Selling Stockholders" and "Plan of Distribution" of this prospectus.

We will not receive any proceeds from the resale of the Shares by the selling stockholders.

Our Common Stock is listed on the Canadian Securities Exchange (the "CSE") under the symbol "RISE" and quoted on the OTCQX under the symbol "RYES".

All dollar amounts reflected herein refer to U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted.

We are an "emerging growth company" as defined under federal securities laws and, as such, may elect to comply with certain reduced public company requirements for future filings.

Investing in the Shares involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 6 of this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the securities offered hereby or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2022



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

"Common Stock" means the issued and unissued shares of our common stock with a par value of \$0.001;

"CSE" means the Canadian Securities Exchange;

"Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended;

"February 2022 Stock Options" means incentive stock options granted on February 7, 2022 and exercisable at a price per Share of \$0.65 until February 7, 2027;

"I-M Mine Property" means the Idaho-Maryland Mine Property comprising approximately 93 acres (38 hectares) surface land and approximately 2,800 acres (1,133 hectares) mineral rights located near Grass Valley of Nevada County in northern California, USA.

"I-M Mine Project" means Rise's gold project located on the I-M Mine Property;

"January 2022 Warrants" means common stock purchase warrants issued on January 28, 2022, exercisable at a price of \$0.60 per share until January 28, 2024; and

"Securities Act" means the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

CURRENCY

All dollar amounts in this prospectus are expressed in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated. Some of our material agreements use Canadian dollars and our Common Stock is traded on the CSE in Canadian dollars. As used herein "C\$" represents Canadian dollars.

The following table sets forth the Bank of Canada rate of exchange for the Canadian dollar, expressed in United States dollars in effect at the end of the periods indicated, the average of exchange rates in effect during such periods, and the high and low exchange rates during such periods for conversion of Canadian dollars into United States dollars:

Canadian Dollars to U.S. Dollars	Fiscal Year Ended July 31		
	2021(\$)	2020(\$)	2019(\$)
Rate at end of period	0.8024	0.7460	0.7606
Average rate for period	0.7857	0.7433	0.7558
High for period	0.8306	0.7710	0.7811
Low for period	0.7465	0.6898	0.7330

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus. This prospectus is offering to sell, and is seeking offers to buy, the securities only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus speaks only as of the date of this prospectus (unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies), regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of the Shares.



We may provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of a particular offering by the selling stockholders, or their transferees. The prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in this prospectus. If information in a prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the information in this prospectus, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and, if applicable, any prospectus supplement hereto. See "Where You Can Find More Information" for more information.

This prospectus includes and incorporates by reference industry and market data and other information that we have obtained from, or which is based upon, market research, independent industry publications or other publicly available information. Any such data and other information is subject to change based on various factors, including those described below under the heading "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this prospectus.

We have not, and the selling stockholders have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any supplement to this prospectus or free writing prospectus, and neither we nor the selling stockholders take any responsibility for any other information that others may give you. This prospectus is not an offer to sell, nor is it a solicitation of an offer to buy, the securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of those documents, or that the information contained in any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of a security. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.



PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights certain information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the "Risk Factors" and the financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference herein. This prospectus includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. See "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements." References to "we," "our," "Rise," and the "Company" refer to Rise Gold Corp.

About the Company

We are a mineral exploration stage company incorporated in the state of Nevada, United States. Our current business operations are focused on exploring the I-M Mine Property located near Grass Valley of Nevada County in northern California. Our head office is located in Vancouver, BC, Canada, while certain members of the management team are now located in the United States.

We acquired our interest in the I-M Mine Project by exercising an option granted pursuant to an option agreement dated August 30, 2016 (as amended November 11, 2016 and December 23, 2016) with the owners of the property. A more detailed discussion of the I-M Mine Project and of the current status of our business operations is provided under the sections entitled "Business" and "Properties" in our Form 10-K annual report for the year ended July 31, 2021, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Our head office is located at Suite 650 - 669 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 0B4, Canada, and our telephone number is (604) 260-4577.

The Offering

Shares Offered by the Selling Stockholders 12,840,000 Shares of our Common Stock, including:

- 6,017,500 Shares held by selling stockholders;
- 6,017,500 Shares issuable upon exercise of common stock purchase warrants held by selling stockholders issued on January 28, 2022 and exercisable at a price per Share of \$0.60;
- 805,000 Shares issuable upon exercise of incentive stock options held by selling stockholders granted February 7, 2022 and exercisable at a price per Share of \$0.65.

Offering Price
Use of Proceeds

Determined at the time of sale by the selling stockholders.
We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the Shares by selling stockholders covered by this prospectus.

Common Stock Outstanding as of March 28, 2022

32,787,798 shares of Common Stock.

Trading Symbols

Our Common Stock is listed on the CSE under the symbol "RISE" and quoted on the OTCQX under the symbol "RYES".

Risk Factors

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors".



RISK FACTORS

Investing in the Shares involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the risks and uncertainties described below, together with all of the other information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, before deciding to invest in the Shares. If any of the following risks materialize, our business, financial condition, results of operations, and future prospects will likely be materially and adversely affected. In that event, the market price of the Shares could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to Our Company

Our business, financial condition and results of operations may be negatively affected by economic and other consequences from Russia's military action against Ukraine and the sanctions imposed in response to that action.

In late February 2022, Russia launched a large scale military attack on Ukraine. The invasion significantly amplified already existing geopolitical tensions among Russia, Ukraine, Europe, NATO and the West, including the United States. In response to the military action by Russia, various countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom and European Union issued broad-ranging economic sanctions against Russia. Such sanctions included, among other things, a prohibition on doing business with certain Russian companies, large financial institutions, officials and oligarchs; a commitment by certain countries and the European Union to remove selected Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications, or SWIFT, the electronic banking network that connects banks globally; a ban of oil imports from Russia to the United States; and restrictive measures to prevent the Russian Central Bank from undermining the impact of the sanctions. Additional sanctions may be imposed in the future. Such sanctions (and any future sanctions) and other actions against Russia may adversely impact, among other things, the Russian economy and various sectors of the economy, including but not limited to, financials, energy, metals and mining, engineering and defense and defense-related materials sectors; result in a decline in the value and liquidity of Russian securities; result in boycotts, tariffs, and purchasing and financing restrictions on Russia's government, companies and certain individuals; weaken the value of the ruble; downgrade the country's credit rating; freeze Russian securities and/or funds invested in prohibited assets and impair the ability to trade in Russian securities and/or other assets; and have other adverse consequences on the Russian government, economy, companies and region. Further, several large corporations and U.S. states have announced plans to divest interests or otherwise curtail business dealings with certain Russian businesses.

The ramifications of the hostilities and sanctions may not be limited to Russia, Ukraine and Russian and Ukrainian companies and may spill over to and negatively impact other regional and global economic markets (including Europe and the United States), companies in other countries (particularly those that have done business with Russia and Ukraine) and on various sectors, industries and markets for securities and commodities globally, such as oil and natural gas. Accordingly, the actions discussed above and the potential for a wider conflict could increase financial market volatility and cause severe negative effects on regional and global economic markets, industries, and companies. In addition, Russia may take retaliatory actions and other countermeasures, including cyberattacks and espionage against other countries and companies around the world, which may negatively impact such countries and companies.

The extent and duration of the military action or future escalation of such hostilities, the extent and impact of existing and future sanctions, market disruptions and volatility, and the result of any diplomatic negotiations cannot be predicted.

While we expect any direct impacts to our business to be limited, the indirect impacts on the economy and on the mining industry and other industries in general could negatively affect our business and may make it more difficult for us to raise equity or debt financing.

In addition, the impact of other current macro-economic factors on our business, which may be exacerbated by the war in Ukraine - including inflation, supply chain constraints and geopolitical events - is uncertain.

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic may negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.



The COVID-19 pandemic (including the emergence of variant strains of COVID-19), and measures taken in response by governments and health authorities around the world, has created ongoing uncertainty that has resulted in, and may continue to result in, restrictions on movement and on businesses being maintained, re-imposed or imposed on a stricter basis, which could negatively impact our business, results of operations and financial condition. These restrictions have adversely affected workforces, customers, supply chains, consumer sentiment, economies, and financial markets, and, along with decreased consumer spending, have led to an economic downturn across many global economies.

The extent to which COVID-19 ultimately impacts our business, financial condition and results of operations will depend on future developments, which are uncertain. It is impossible at this point to predict precisely the duration or extent of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our employees, customers, partners and business or when economic activity will normalize. There continues to be uncertainty surrounding the duration and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with respect to the emergence of new variants of the virus, including the Omicron variant, the long-term efficacy and availability of COVID-19 vaccines and rates of vaccination (including COVID-19 vaccine booster shots) and the impact of vaccine mandates as well as risks relating to the pandemic worsening in countries that are already afflicted with COVID-19 or the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to spread to additional countries or returning to countries where the pandemic has been partially contained. These conditions may affect our ability to obtain debt and equity financing to fund ongoing exploration activities, as well as conduct business more efficiently.

Since the pandemic began, we have taken action to minimize the risks of the COVID-19 virus for our employees, contractors and other people participating in our operations, programs and activities. We continue to monitor the developments of the outbreak and continually assess the potential impact on our business. The health and safety of our work force remains a priority and we continue to follow government health protocols both in Canada and the United States.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in, and may continue to result in, significant market uncertainty, including substantial fluctuations in commodity prices, currency exchange rates, inflation, interest rates, and general levels of investing and consumption. Even after the COVID-19 pandemic becomes endemic, we may experience materially adverse impacts to our business as a result of the pandemic's global economic impact.

Our ability to operate as a going concern

The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent on the Company's ability to maintain continued support from its shareholders and creditors and to raise additional capital and implement its business plan.

There is no assurance that the Company will be able to obtain adequate financing in the future or that such financing will be on terms advantageous to the Company. However, management believes that the Company has sufficient working capital to meet its projected minimum financial obligations for the next fiscal year. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared under the assumption that we will continue as a going concern. We are an exploration stage company and we have incurred losses since our inception.

We will require significant additional capital to fund our business plan.

We will be required to expend significant funds to determine whether proven and probable mineral reserves exist at our properties, to continue exploration and, if warranted, to develop our existing properties, and to identify and acquire additional properties to diversify our property portfolio. We anticipate that we will be required to make substantial capital expenditures for the continued exploration and, if warranted, development of our I-M Mine Property. We have spent and will be required to continue to expend significant amounts of capital for drilling, geological, and geochemical analysis, assaying, permitting, and feasibility studies with regard to the results of our exploration at our I-M Mine Property. We may not benefit from some of these investments if we are unable to identify commercially exploitable mineral reserves.

Our ability to obtain necessary funding for these purposes, in turn, depends upon a number of factors, including the status of the national and worldwide economy and the price of metals. Capital markets worldwide were adversely affected by substantial losses by financial institutions, caused by investments in asset-backed securities and remnants from those losses continue to impact the ability for us to raise capital. We may not be successful in obtaining the required financing or, if we can obtain such financing, such financing may not be on terms that are favorable to us.



Our inability to access sufficient capital for our operations could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or prospects. Sales of substantial amounts of securities may have a highly dilutive effect on our ownership or share structure. Sales of a large number of shares of our Common Stock in the public markets, or the potential for such sales, could decrease the trading price of those shares and could impair our ability to raise capital through future sales of Common Stock. We have not yet commenced commercial production at any of our properties and, therefore, have not generated positive cash flows to date and have no reasonable prospects of doing so unless successful commercial production can be achieved at our I-M Mine Property. We expect to continue to incur negative investing and operating cash flows until such time as we enter into successful commercial production. This will require us to deploy our working capital to fund such negative cash flow and to seek additional sources of financing. There is no assurance that any such financing sources will be available or sufficient to meet our requirements. There is no assurance that we will be able to continue to raise equity capital or to secure additional debt financing, or that we will not continue to incur losses.

We have a limited operating history on which to base an evaluation of our business and prospects.

Since our inception, we have had no revenue from operations. We have no history of producing products from any of our properties. Our I-M Mine Project is a historic, past-producing mine with apart from the exploration work that we have completed since 2016 has had very little recent exploration work since 1956. Advancing our I-M Mine Property into the development stage will require significant capital and time, and successful commercial production from the I-M Mine Property will be subject to completing feasibility studies, permitting and re-commissioning of the mine, constructing processing plants, and other related works and infrastructure. As a result, we are subject to all of the risks associated with developing and establishing new mining operations and business enterprises including:

- completion of feasibility studies to verify reserves and commercial viability, including the ability to find sufficient ore reserves to support a commercial mining operation;
- the timing and cost, which can be considerable, of further exploration, preparing feasibility studies, permitting and construction of infrastructure, mining and processing facilities;
- the availability and costs of drill equipment, exploration personnel, skilled labor, and mining and processing equipment, if required;
- the availability and cost of appropriate smelting and/or refining arrangements, if required;
- compliance with stringent environmental and other governmental approval and permit requirements;
- the availability of funds to finance exploration, development, and construction activities, as warranted;
- potential opposition from non-governmental organizations, local groups or local inhabitants that may delay or prevent development activities;
- potential increases in exploration, construction, and operating costs due to changes in the cost of fuel, power, materials, and supplies; and
- potential shortages of mineral processing, construction, and other facilities related supplies.

The costs, timing, and complexities of exploration, development, and construction activities may be increased by the location of our properties and demand by other mineral exploration and mining companies. It is common in exploration programs to experience unexpected problems and delays during drill programs and, if commenced, development, construction, and mine start-up. In addition, our management and workforce will need to be expanded, and sufficient support systems for our workforce will have to be established. This could result in delays in the commencement of mineral production and increased costs of production. Accordingly, our activities may not result in profitable mining operations and we may not succeed in establishing mining operations or profitably producing metals at any of our current or future properties, including our I-M Mine Property.



We have a history of losses and expect to continue to incur losses in the future.

We have incurred losses since inception, have had negative cash flow from operating activities, and expect to continue to incur losses in the future. We have incurred the following losses from operations during each of the following periods:

- \$1,603,878 for the year ended July 31, 2021; and
- \$5,471,535 for the year ended July 31, 2020

We expect to continue to incur losses unless and until such time as one of our properties enters into commercial production and generates sufficient revenues to fund continuing operations. We recognize that if we are unable to generate significant revenues from mining operations and/or dispositions of our properties, we will not be able to earn profits or continue operations. At this early stage of our operation, we also expect to face the risks, uncertainties, expenses, and difficulties frequently encountered by companies at the start-up stage of their business development. We cannot be sure that we will be successful in addressing these risks and uncertainties and our failure to do so could have a materially adverse effect on our financial condition.

Risks Related to Mining and Exploration

The I-M Mine Property is in the exploration stage. There is no assurance that we can establish the existence of any mineral reserve on the I-M Mine Property or any other properties we may acquire in commercially exploitable quantities. Unless and until we do so, we cannot earn any revenues from these properties and if we do not do so we will lose all of the funds that we expend on exploration. If we do not discover any mineral reserve in a commercially exploitable quantity, the exploration component of our business could fail.

We have not established that any of our mineral properties contain any mineral reserve according to recognized reserve guidelines, nor can there be any assurance that we will be able to do so.

A mineral reserve is defined in subpart 1300 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act ("**Subpart 1300**") as an estimate of tonnage and grade or quality of "indicated mineral resources" and "measured mineral resources" (as those terms are defined in Subpart 1300) that, in the opinion of a "qualified person" (as defined in Subpart 1300), can be the basis of an economically viable project. In general, the probability of any individual prospect having a "reserve" that meets the requirements of Subpart 1300 is small, and our mineral properties may not contain any "reserves" and any funds that we spend on exploration could be lost. Even if we do eventually discover a mineral reserve on one or more of our properties, there can be no assurance that they can be developed into producing mines and that we can extract those minerals. Both mineral exploration and development involve a high degree of risk, and few mineral properties that are explored are ultimately developed into producing mines.

The commercial viability of an established mineral deposit will depend on a number of factors including, by way of example, the size, grade, and other attributes of the mineral deposit, the proximity of the mineral deposit to infrastructure such as processing facilities, roads, rail, power, and a point for shipping, government regulation, and market prices. Most of these factors will be beyond our control, and any of them could increase costs and make extraction of any identified mineral deposit unprofitable.

The nature of mineral exploration and production activities involves a high degree of risk and the possibility of uninsured losses.

Exploration for and the production of minerals is highly speculative and involves greater risk than many other businesses. Most exploration programs do not result in the discovery of mineralization, and any mineralization discovered may not be of sufficient quantity or quality to be profitably mined. Our operations are, and any future development or mining operations we may conduct will be, subject to all of the operating hazards and risks normally incidental to exploring for and development of mineral properties, such as, but not limited to:



- economically insufficient mineralized material;
- fluctuation in production costs that make mining uneconomical;
- labor disputes;
- unanticipated variations in grade and other geologic problems;
- environmental hazards;
- water conditions;
- difficult surface or underground conditions;
- industrial accidents;
- metallurgic and other processing problems;
- mechanical and equipment performance problems;
- failure of dams, stockpiles, wastewater transportation systems, or impoundments;
- unusual or unexpected rock formations; and
- personal injury, fire, flooding, cave-ins and landslides.

Any of these risks can materially and adversely affect, among other things, the development of properties, production quantities and rates, costs and expenditures, potential revenues, and production dates. If we determine that capitalized costs associated with any of our mineral interests are not likely to be recovered, we would incur a write-down of our investment in these interests. All of these factors may result in losses in relation to amounts spent that are not recoverable, or that result in additional expenses.

Commodity price volatility could have dramatic effects on the results of operations and our ability to execute our business plan.

The price of commodities varies on a daily basis. Our future revenues, if any, will likely be derived from the extraction and sale of base and precious metals. The price of those commodities has fluctuated widely, particularly in recent years, and is affected by numerous factors beyond our control including economic and political trends, expectations of inflation, currency exchange fluctuations, interest rates, global and regional consumptive patterns, speculative activities and increased production due to new extraction developments and improved extraction and production methods. The effect of these factors on the price of base and precious metals, and therefore the economic viability of our business, could negatively affect our ability to secure financing or our results of operations.

Estimates of mineralized material and resources are subject to evaluation uncertainties that could result in project failure.

Our exploration and future mining operations, if any, are and would be faced with risks associated with being able to accurately predict the quantity and quality of mineralized material and resources/reserves within the earth using statistical sampling techniques. Estimates of any mineralized material or resource/reserve on any of our properties would be made using samples obtained from appropriately placed trenches, test pits, underground workings, and intelligently designed drilling. There is an inherent variability of assays between check and duplicate samples taken adjacent to each other and between sampling points that cannot be reasonably eliminated. Additionally, there also may be unknown geologic details that have not been identified or correctly appreciated at the current level of accumulated knowledge about our properties. This could result in uncertainties that cannot be reasonably eliminated from the process of estimating mineralized material and resources/reserves. If these estimates were to prove to be unreliable, we could implement an exploitation plan that may not lead to commercially viable operations in the future.

Any material changes in mineral resource/reserve estimates and grades of mineralization will affect the economic viability of placing a property into production and a property's return on capital.

As we have not completed feasibility studies on our I-M Mine Property and have not commenced actual production, mineralization resource estimates may require adjustments or downward revisions. In addition, the grade of ore ultimately mined, if any, may differ from that indicated by future feasibility studies and drill results. Minerals recovered in small scale tests may not be duplicated in large scale tests under on-site conditions or in production scale.



Our exploration activities on our properties may not be commercially successful, which could lead us to abandon our plans to develop our properties and our investments in exploration.

Our long-term success depends on our ability to identify mineral deposits on our I-M Mine Property and other properties we may acquire, if any, that we can then develop into commercially viable mining operations. Mineral exploration is highly speculative in nature, involves many risks, and is frequently non-productive. These risks include unusual or unexpected geologic formations, and the inability to obtain suitable or adequate machinery, equipment, or labor. The success of commodity exploration is determined in part by the following factors:

- the identification of potential mineralization based on surficial analysis;
- availability of government-granted exploration permits;
- the quality of our management and our geological and technical expertise; and
- the capital available for exploration and development work.

Substantial expenditures are required to establish proven and probable reserves through drilling and analysis, to develop metallurgical processes to extract metal, and to develop the mining and processing facilities and infrastructure at any site chosen for mining. Whether a mineral deposit will be commercially viable depends on a number of factors that include, without limitation, the particular attributes of the deposit, such as size, grade, and proximity to infrastructure; commodity prices, which can fluctuate widely; and government regulations, including, without limitation, regulations relating to prices, taxes, royalties, land tenure, land use, importing and exporting of minerals, and environmental protection. We may invest significant capital and resources in exploration activities and may abandon such investments if we are unable to identify commercially exploitable mineral reserves. The decision to abandon a project may have an adverse effect on the market value of our securities and the ability to raise future financing.

We are subject to significant governmental regulations that affect our operations and costs of conducting our business and may not be able to obtain all required permits and licenses to place our properties into production.

Our current and future operations, including exploration and, if warranted, development of the I-M Mine Property, do and will require permits from governmental authorities and will be governed by laws and regulations, including:

- laws and regulations governing mineral concession acquisition, prospecting, development, mining, and production;
- laws and regulations related to exports, taxes, and fees;
- labor standards and regulations related to occupational health and mine safety; and
- environmental standards and regulations related to waste disposal, toxic substances, land use reclamation, and environmental protection.

Companies engaged in exploration activities often experience increased costs and delays in production and other schedules as a result of the need to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and permits. Failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and permits may result in enforcement actions, including the forfeiture of mineral claims or other mineral tenures, orders issued by regulatory or judicial authorities requiring operations to cease or be curtailed, and may include corrective measures requiring capital expenditures, installation of additional equipment, or costly remedial actions. We cannot predict if all permits that we may require for continued exploration, development, or construction of mining facilities and conduct of mining operations will be obtainable on reasonable terms, if at all. Costs related to applying for and obtaining permits and licenses may be prohibitive and could delay our planned exploration and development activities. We may be required to compensate those suffering loss or damage by reason of our mineral exploration or our mining activities, if any, and may have civil or criminal fines or penalties imposed for violations of, or our failure to comply with, such laws, regulations, and permits.

Existing and possible future laws, regulations, and permits governing operations and activities of exploration companies, or more stringent implementation of such laws, regulations and permits, could have a material adverse impact on our business and cause increases in capital expenditures or require abandonment or delays in exploration. Our I-M Mine Property is located in California and has numerous clearly defined regulations with respect to permitting mines, which could potentially impact the total time to market for the project.



Subsurface mining is allowed in the Nevada County M1 Zoning District, where the I-M Mine Property is located, with approval of a "Use Permit". Approval of a Use Permit for mining operations requires a public hearing before the County Planning Commission, whose decision may be appealed to the County Board of Supervisors ("County Board"). Use Permit approvals include conditions of approval, which are designed to minimize the impact of conditional uses on neighboring properties.

On November 21, 2019 we submitted an application for a Use Permit to Nevada County (the "County"). On April 28, 2020, with a vote of 5-0, the County Board approved the contract for Raney Planning & Management Inc. to prepare an Environmental Impact Report and conduct contract planning services on behalf of the County for the proposed I-M Mine Project.

The Use Permit application proposes underground mining to recommence at the I-M Mine Property at an average throughput of 1,000 tons per day. The existing Brunswick Shaft, which extends to ~3400 feet depth below surface, would be used as the primary rock conveyance from the I-M Mine Property. A second service shaft would be constructed by raising from underground to provide for the conveyance of personnel, materials, and equipment. Processing would be done by gravity and flotation to produce gravity and flotation gold concentrates.

We propose to produce barren rock from underground tunneling and sand tailings as part of the project which would be used for creation of approximately 58 acres of level and useable industrial zoned land for future economic development in Nevada County. A water treatment plant and pond, using conventional processes, would ensure that groundwater pumped from the mine is treated to regulatory standards before being discharged to the local waterways. There is no assurance our Use Permit application will be accepted as submitted. If substantial revisions are required, our ability to execute our business plan will be further delayed.

In 1975, the California Legislature enacted the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act ("SMARA"), which required that all surface mining operations in California have approved reclamation plans and financial assurances. SMARA was adopted to ensure that land used for mining operations in California would be reclaimed post-mining to a useable condition. Pursuant to SMARA, we would be required to obtain approval of a Reclamation Plan from and provide financial assurances to the County for any surface component of the underground mining operation before mining operations could commence. Approval of a Reclamation Plan will require a public hearing before the County Planning Commission.

To approve a Reclamation Plan and Use Permit, the County would need to satisfy the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). CEQA requires that public agency decision makers study the environmental impacts of any discretionary action, disclose the impacts to the public, and minimize unavoidable impacts to the extent feasible. CEQA is triggered whenever a California governmental agency is asked to approve a "discretionary project". The approval of a Reclamation Plan is a "discretionary project" under CEQA. Other necessary ancillary permits like the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") Streambed Alteration Agreement (if applicable) also triggers CEQA compliance.

In this situation, the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA would be the County. Other public agencies in charge of administering specific legislation will also need to approve aspects of the Project, such as the CDFW (the California Endangered Species Act), the Air Pollution Control District (Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (authorized to state governments by the US Environmental Protection Agency) and Report of Waste Discharge). However, CEQA's Guidelines provide that if more than one agency must act on a project, the agency that acts first is generally considered the lead agency under CEQA. All other agencies are considered "responsible agencies." Responsible agencies do need to consider the environmental document approved by the lead agency, but they will usually accept the lead agency's document and use it as the basis for issuing their own permits. There is no assurance that other agencies will not require additional assessments in their decision making process. If such assessments are required, additional time and costs will delay the execution of, and may even require us to re-evaluate the feasibility of, our business plan.



Our activities are subject to environmental laws and regulations that may increase our costs of doing business and restrict our operations.

All phases of our operations are subject to environmental regulation in the jurisdictions in which we operate. Environmental legislation is evolving in a manner that may require stricter standards and enforcement, increased fines and penalties for non-compliance, more stringent environmental assessments of proposed projects, and a heightened degree of responsibility for companies and their officers, directors, and employees. These laws address emissions into the air, discharges into water, management of waste, management of hazardous substances, protection of natural resources, antiquities and endangered species, and reclamation of lands disturbed by mining operations. Compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and future changes in these laws and regulations, may require significant capital outlays and may cause material changes or delays in our operations and future activities. It is possible that future changes in these laws or regulations could have a significant adverse impact on our properties or some portion of our business, causing us to re-evaluate those activities at that time.

Regulations and pending legislation governing issues involving climate change could result in increased operating costs, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

A number of governments or governmental bodies have introduced or are contemplating legislative and/or regulatory changes in response to concerns about the potential impact of climate change. Legislation and increased regulation regarding climate change could impose significant costs on us, on our future venture partners, if any, and on our suppliers, including costs related to increased energy requirements, capital equipment, environmental monitoring and reporting, and other costs necessary to comply with such regulations. Any adopted future climate change regulations could also negatively impact our ability to compete with companies situated in areas not subject to such limitations. Given the emotional and political significance and uncertainty surrounding the impact of climate change and how it should be dealt with, we cannot predict how legislation and regulation will ultimately affect our financial condition, operating performance, and ability to compete. Furthermore, even without such regulation, increased awareness and any adverse publicity in the global marketplace about potential impacts on climate change by us or other companies in our industry could harm our reputation. The potential physical impacts of climate change on our operations are highly uncertain, could be particular to the geographic circumstances in areas in which we operate and may include changes in rainfall and storm patterns and intensities, water shortages, changing sea levels, and changing temperatures. These impacts may adversely impact the cost, production, and financial performance of our operations.

Land reclamation requirements for our properties may be burdensome and expensive.

Although variable depending on location and the governing authority, land reclamation requirements are generally imposed on mineral exploration companies (as well as companies with mining operations) in order to minimize long term effects of land disturbance.

Reclamation may include requirements to:

- control dispersion of potentially deleterious effluents;
- treat ground and surface water to drinking water standards; and
- reasonably re-establish pre-disturbance landforms and vegetation.

In order to carry out reclamation obligations imposed on us in connection with our potential development activities, we must allocate financial resources that might otherwise be spent on further exploration and development programs. We plan to set up a provision for our reclamation obligations on our properties, as appropriate, but this provision may not be adequate. If we are required to carry out unanticipated reclamation work, our financial position could be adversely affected.

We face intense competition in the mining industry.

The mining industry is intensely competitive in all of its phases. As a result of this competition, some of which is with large established mining companies with substantial capabilities and with greater financial and technical resources than ours, we may be unable to acquire additional properties, if any, or financing on terms we consider acceptable. We also compete with other mining companies in the recruitment and retention of qualified managerial and technical employees. If we are unable to successfully compete for qualified employees, our exploration and development programs may be slowed down or suspended. We compete with other companies that produce our planned commercial products for capital. If we are unable to raise sufficient capital, our exploration and development programs may be jeopardized or we may not be able to acquire, develop, or operate additional mining projects.



A shortage of equipment and supplies could adversely affect our ability to operate our business.

We are dependent on various supplies and equipment to carry out our mining exploration and, if warranted, development operations. Any shortage of such supplies, equipment, and parts could have a material adverse effect on our ability to carry out our operations and could therefore limit, or increase the cost of, production.

Joint ventures and other partnerships, including offtake arrangements, may expose us to risks.

We may enter into joint ventures, partnership arrangements, or offtake agreements, with other parties in relation to the exploration, development, and production of the properties in which we have an interest. Any failure of such other companies to meet their obligations to us or to third parties, or any disputes with respect to the parties' respective rights and obligations, could have a material adverse effect on us, the development and production at our properties, including the I-M Mine Property, and on future joint ventures, if any, or their properties, and therefore could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial performance, cash flows and the price of our Common Stock.

We may experience difficulty attracting and retaining qualified management to meet the needs of our anticipated growth, and the failure to manage our growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition.

We are dependent on a relatively small number of key employees, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The loss of any officer could have an adverse effect on us. We have no life insurance on any individual, and we may be unable to hire a suitable replacement for them on favorable terms, should that become necessary.

Our results of operations could be affected by currency fluctuations.

Our properties are currently all located in the United States and while most costs associated with these properties are paid in U.S. dollars, a significant amount of our administrative expenses are payable in Canadian dollars. There can be significant swings in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Canadian dollar. There are no plans at this time to hedge against any exchange rate fluctuations in currencies.

Title to our properties may be subject to other claims that could affect our property rights and claims.

There are risks that title to our properties may be challenged or impugned. Our I-M Mine Property is located in California and may be subject to prior unrecorded agreements or transfers and title may be affected by undetected defects.

We may be unable to secure surface access or purchase required surface rights.

Although we obtain the rights to some or all of the minerals in the ground subject to the mineral tenures that we acquire, or have the right to acquire, in some cases we may not acquire any rights to, or ownership of, the surface to the areas covered by such mineral tenures. In such cases, applicable mining laws usually provide for rights of access to the surface for the purpose of carrying on mining activities; however, the enforcement of such rights through the courts can be costly and time consuming. It is necessary to negotiate surface access or to purchase the surface rights if long-term access is required. There can be no guarantee that, despite having the right at law to carry on mining activities, we will be able to negotiate satisfactory agreements with any such existing landowners/occupiers for such access or purchase of such surface rights, and therefore we may be unable to carry out planned mining activities. In addition, in circumstances where such access is denied, or no agreement can be reached, we may need to rely on the assistance of local officials or the courts in such jurisdiction the outcomes of which cannot be predicted with any certainty. Our inability to secure surface access or purchase required surface rights could materially and adversely affect our timing, cost, or overall ability to develop any mineral deposits we may locate.



Our properties and operations may be subject to litigation or other claims.

From time to time our properties or operations may be subject to disputes that may result in litigation or other legal claims. We may be required to take countermeasures or defend against these claims, which will divert resources and management time from operations. The costs of these claims or adverse filings may have a material effect on our business and results of operations.

We do not currently insure against all the risks and hazards of mineral exploration, development, and mining operations.

Exploration, development, and mining operations involve various hazards, including environmental hazards, industrial accidents, metallurgical and other processing problems, unusual or unexpected rock formations, structural cave-ins or slides, flooding, fires, and periodic interruptions due to inclement or hazardous weather conditions. These risks could result in damage to or destruction of mineral properties, facilities, or other property, personal injury, environmental damage, delays in operations, increased cost of operations, monetary losses, and possible legal liability. We may not be able to obtain insurance to cover these risks at economically feasible premiums or at all. We may elect not to insure where premium costs are disproportionate to our perception of the relevant risks. The payment of such insurance premiums and of such liabilities would reduce the funds available for exploration and production activities.

Risks Related to the Shares

Our share price may be volatile and as a result you could lose all or part of your investment.

In addition to volatility associated with equity securities in general, the value of your investment could decline due to the impact of any of the following factors upon the market price of the Shares:

- Disappointing results from our exploration efforts;
- Decline in demand for our Common Stock;
- Downward revisions in securities analysts' estimates or changes in general market conditions;
- Technological innovations by competitors or in competing technologies;
- Investor perception of our industry or our prospects; and
- General economic trends.

Our share price on the CSE and the OTCQX has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. Stock markets in general have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations, and the market prices of securities have been highly volatile. These fluctuations are often unrelated to operating performance and may adversely affect the market price of the Shares. As a result, you may be unable to sell any Shares you acquire at a desired price.

We have never paid dividends on our Common Stock.

We have not paid dividends on our Common Stock to date, and we do not expect to pay dividends for the foreseeable future. We intend to retain our initial earnings, if any, to finance our operations. Any future dividends on Common Stock will depend upon our earnings, our then-existing financial requirements, and other factors, and will be at the discretion of the Board.



Investors' interests in our company will be diluted and investors may suffer dilution in their net book value per share of Common Stock if we issue additional employee/director/consultant options or if we sell additional Common Stock and/or warrants to finance our operations.

In order to further expand our operations and meet our objectives, any additional growth and/or expanded exploration activity will likely need to be financed through sale of and issuance of additional Common Stock, including, but not limited to, raising funds to explore the I-M Mine Property. Furthermore, to finance any acquisition activity, should that activity be properly approved, and depending on the outcome of our exploration programs, we likely will also need to issue additional Common Stock to finance future acquisitions, growth, and/or additional exploration programs of any or all of our projects or to acquire additional properties. We will also in the future grant to some or all of our directors, officers, and key employees and/or consultants options to purchase Common Stock as non-cash incentives. The issuance of any equity securities could, and the issuance of any additional Common Stock will, cause our existing stockholders to experience dilution of their ownership interests.

If we issue additional Common Stock or decide to enter into joint ventures with other parties in order to raise financing through the sale of equity securities, investors' interests in our company will be diluted and investors may suffer dilution in their net book value per share of Common Stock depending on the price at which such securities are sold.

The issuance of additional shares of Common Stock may negatively impact the trading price of our securities.

We have issued Common Stock in the past and will continue to issue Common Stock to finance our activities in the future. In addition, newly issued or outstanding options, warrants, and broker warrants to purchase Common Stock may be exercised, resulting in the issuance of additional Common Stock. Any such issuance of additional Common Stock would result in dilution to our stockholders, and even the perception that such an issuance may occur could have a negative impact on the trading price of the Common Stock.

We are subject to the continued listing criteria of the CSE, and our failure to satisfy these criteria may result in delisting of our Common Stock from the CSE.

Our Common Stock is currently listed for trading on the CSE. In order to maintain the listing on the CSE or any other securities exchange we may trade on, we must maintain certain financial and share distribution targets, including maintaining a minimum number of public shareholders. In addition to objective standards, these exchanges may delist the securities of any issuer if, in the exchange's opinion, our financial condition and/or operating results appear unsatisfactory; if it appears that the extent of public distribution or the aggregate market value of the security has become so reduced as to make continued listing inadvisable; if we sell or dispose of our principal operating assets or cease to be an operating company; if we fail to comply with the listing requirements; or if any other event occurs or any condition exists which, in their opinion, makes continued listing on the exchange inadvisable.

If the CSE or any other exchange were to delist the Common Stock, investors may face material adverse consequences, including, but not limited to, a lack of trading market for the Common Stock, reduced liquidity, decreased analyst coverage, and/or an inability for us to obtain additional financing to fund our operations.

We are an "emerging growth company," and we cannot be certain if the reduced reporting requirements applicable to emerging growth companies will make our Common Stock less attractive to investors.

We are an "emerging growth company," as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act (the "JOBS Act"). For as long as we continue to be an emerging growth company, we may take advantage of exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies, including not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. We could be an emerging growth company for up to five years, although circumstances could cause us to lose that status earlier, including if the market value of our Common Stock held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of any July 31 before that time, in which case we would no longer be an emerging growth company as of the following January 31. We cannot predict if investors will find our Common Stock less attractive because we may rely on these exemptions. If some investors find our Common Stock less attractive as a result, there may be a less active trading market for our Common Stock and our stock price may be more volatile. Under the JOBS Act, emerging growth companies can also delay adopting new or revised accounting standards until such time as those standards apply to private companies. We have elected to avail ourselves of this exemption from new or revised accounting standards and, therefore, will not be subject to the same new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies.



CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information discussed in this prospectus includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this prospectus concerning, among other things, planned capital expenditures, future cash flows and borrowings, pursuit of potential acquisition opportunities, our financial position, business strategy and other plans and objectives for future operations, future exploration activities, future mineral resource estimates, and future joint venture arrangements are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are identified by the use of terms and phrases such as "may," "expect," "estimate," "project," "plan," "believe," "intend," "achievable," "anticipate," "will," "continue," "potential," "should," "could," "would," "might" and similar terms and phrases.

Forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that could cause actual events or results to differ from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, risks related to:

- our requirement of significant additional capital;
- our limited operating history;
- our history of losses;
- our properties that are in the exploration stage;
- mineral exploration and production activities;
- our lack of mineral production from our properties;
- our exploration activities being unsuccessful;
- our ability to obtain permits and licenses for production;
- government and environmental regulations that may increase our costs of doing business or restrict our operations;
- proposed legislation that may significantly affect the mining industry;
- land reclamation requirements;
- competition in the mining industry;
- equipment and supply shortages;
- current and future joint ventures and partnerships;
- our ability to attract qualified management;
- currency fluctuations;
- claims on the title to our properties;
- surface access on our properties;
- potential future litigation;
- our lack of insurance covering all our operations;
- our Common Stock, including price volatility, lack of dividend payments and dilution;
- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including impacts on employees, our operations including our ability to raise equity or debt capital, regulations resulting in potential business interruptions and travel restrictions, and the global economy; and
- the impacts of the Russian war in Ukraine and related sanctions on the global economy and on the mining industry.



This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect our forward-looking statements. Some of the important risks and uncertainties that could affect forward-looking statements are described further under "Risk Factors" in this prospectus. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated, or expected. We caution readers not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. We disclaim any obligation subsequently to revise any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events, except as required by law.

USE OF PROCEEDS

This prospectus relates to the sale or other disposition of Shares of our Common Stock by the selling stockholders listed in the "Selling Stockholders" section below, and their transferees. We will not receive any proceeds from any sale of the Shares by the selling stockholders.

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

This prospectus covers the offering of up to 12,840,000 Shares by selling stockholders. This includes Shares acquirable upon exercise of our outstanding warrants and our outstanding incentive stock options.

Selling stockholders are persons or entities that, directly or indirectly, have acquired shares, or will acquire shares from us from time to time upon exercise of certain warrants and incentive stock options. This prospectus and any prospectus supplement will only permit the selling stockholders to sell the Shares identified in the column "Number of Shares Offered Hereby."

The selling stockholders may from time to time offer and sell the Shares pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. The selling stockholders may offer all or some portion of the Shares they hold or acquire, but only Shares that are currently outstanding or are acquired upon the exercise of certain warrants and incentive stock options that are currently outstanding, and in either case included in the "Number of Shares Offered Hereby" column, may be sold pursuant to this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

The Shares issued to the selling stockholders are "restricted" securities under applicable federal and state securities laws and are being registered to give the selling stockholders the opportunity to sell their Shares. The registration of such Shares does not necessarily mean, however, that any of these Shares will be offered or sold by the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders may from time to time offer and sell all or a portion of their Shares on the CSE, in the over-the-counter market, in negotiated transactions, or otherwise, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at negotiated prices.

The registered Shares may be sold directly or through brokers or dealers, or in a distribution by one or more underwriters on a firm commitment or best efforts basis. To the extent required, the names of any agent or broker-dealer and applicable commissions or discounts and any other required information with respect to any particular offer will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement. See "Plan of Distribution."

Each of the selling stockholders reserves the sole right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of the registered Shares to be made directly or through agents. To the extent that any of the selling stockholders are affiliates of our company or are brokers or dealers, they may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act and any commissions received by them and any profit on the resale of the registered shares may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act. As of the date of this prospectus, and based on the representations we have received from the selling stockholders, none of the selling stockholders are brokers or dealers or are affiliated with a broker or dealer. Selling stockholders that are affiliates of or have material relationships with our company are identified below.

The following table sets forth the name of persons who are offering the resale of Shares by this prospectus, the number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by each person, the number of Shares that may be sold in this offering and the number of shares of Common Stock each person will own after the offering, assuming they sell all of the Shares offered. The information appearing in the table below is based on information provided by or on behalf of the named selling stockholders. We will not receive any proceeds from the resale of the Shares by the selling stockholders.



Name	Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned Prior to this Offering ⁽¹⁾	Number of Shares Offered Hereby ⁽¹⁾	Shares of Common Stock Owned After the Offering	
			Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾
9458-2855 Quebec Inc. ⁽²⁾	3,360,000	3,360,000 ⁽³⁾	-	-
Benjamin Wayne Mossman ⁽⁴⁾	1,997,043	400,000 ⁽⁵⁾	1,597,043	4.67%
David A. Foley	322,116	250,000 ⁽⁶⁾	72,116	*
Eileen Au	81,921	40,000 ⁽⁷⁾	41,921	*
FMA GARP FUND, L.P. ⁽⁸⁾	3,179,656	1,250,000 ⁽⁹⁾	1,929,656	5.81%
Emma Grace Espinosa	30,000	25,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	5,000	*
Francis John Facto	265,000	100,000 ⁽¹¹⁾	165,000	*
George W. Noyes TTEE GSL 2015 Trust ⁽¹²⁾	969,769	250,000 ⁽¹³⁾	719,769	2.18%
GR7 Holdings Inc. ⁽¹⁴⁾	100,000	100,000 ⁽¹⁵⁾	-	-
Gwen Proust 2018 Alter Ego Trust ⁽¹⁶⁾	1,640,915	1,400,000 ⁽¹⁷⁾	240,915	*
H. Jamal Holdings Ltd. ⁽¹⁸⁾	326,000	125,000 ⁽¹⁹⁾	201,000	*
Jeff Crane	250,000	250,000 ⁽²⁰⁾	-	-
John Graham Proust ⁽²¹⁾	1,162,700	100,000 ⁽²²⁾	1,062,700	3.21%
Joseph Betti	141,198	100,000 ⁽²³⁾	41,198	*
Julie Lahmani Bejet	250,000	250,000 ⁽²⁴⁾	-	-
Kim R. Overmyer	125,000	125,000 ⁽²⁵⁾	-	-
Lawrence Ward Lepard ⁽²⁶⁾	1,426,875	400,000 ⁽²⁷⁾	1,026,875	3.10%
Maria D Furman Revocable ⁽²⁸⁾ Trust 2014	405,000	250,000 ⁽²⁹⁾	155,000	*
Murray Guinn Flanigan ⁽³⁰⁾	140,000	100,000 ⁽³¹⁾	40,000	*
Myrmikan Gold Fund, LLC ⁽³²⁾	3,243,183	1,250,000 ⁽³³⁾	1,993,183	6.03%
Pacific Premier Trust Custodian ⁽³⁴⁾ FBO				
Robert Cunjak IRA	210,000	125,000 ⁽³⁵⁾	85,000	*
Patrick Robert McKim	182,850	75,000 ⁽³⁶⁾	107,850	*
Perry Wong	184,500	125,000 ⁽³⁷⁾	59,500	*
Rostislav Raykov	280,000	250,000 ⁽³⁸⁾	30,000	*
SEA VIEW Investments LLC ⁽³⁹⁾	1,000,000	1,000,000 ⁽⁴⁰⁾	-	-
Thomas Irving Vehrs ⁽⁴¹⁾	185,000	100,000 ⁽⁴²⁾	85,000	*
VBS Exchange Pty Ltd ⁽⁴³⁾	4,000,000	1,000,000 ⁽⁴⁴⁾	3,000,000	8.88%
Vincent Wei-Jiun Boon ⁽⁴⁵⁾	80,000	40,000 ⁽⁴⁶⁾	40,000	*
Total	25,538,726	12,840,000	12,698,726	



* less than 1%

- (1) This table is based upon information supplied by the selling stockholders, which information may not be accurate as of the date hereof. We have determined beneficial ownership in accordance with the rules of the SEC. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a selling stockholder, shares that may be acquired by the stockholder upon exercise of any convertible securities (e.g., warrants and options) that are eligible (or within the next 60 days will become eligible) to be exercised (e.g., options that are vested or will vest any time within the next 60 days) are included with respect to that stockholder. Except as indicated by the footnotes below, we believe, based on the information furnished to us, that the selling stockholders named in the table above have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of Common Stock that they beneficially own, subject to applicable community property laws. Applicable percentages are based on 32,787,798 shares of Common Stock outstanding on March 28, 2022, adjusted as required by rules promulgated by the SEC.
- (2) Michael Gentile, President and sole owner of 9458-2855 Quebec Inc., controls these securities.
- (3) Includes 1,680,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (4) Benjamin Wayne Mossman is a director and officer of the company.
- (5) Includes 50,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants and includes 300,000 shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.
- (6) Includes 125,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (7) Shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.
- (8) Lawrence Ward Lepard, a director of the Company and the Managing General Partner of Equity Management Associates ("EMA") along with David A. Foley, the Managing Partner of EMA, controls these securities.
- (9) Includes 625,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (10) Shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.
- (11) Includes 50,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (12) George W. Noyes, the beneficial owner, controls these securities.
- (13) Includes 125,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (14) Murray G. Flanigan, a director of the company and President of GR7 Holdings Inc., controls these securities.
- (15) Includes 50,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (16) John G. Proust, a director of the Company and the sole trustee of the Gwen Proust 2018 Alter Ego Trust, controls these securities.
- (17) Includes 700,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (18) Hanif Jamal, the President of H. Jamal Holdings Ltd., controls these securities.
- (19) Includes 62,500 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (20) Includes 125,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (21) John Graham Proust is a director of the Company. See also Note (16).
- (22) Shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.
- (23) Includes 50,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (24) Includes 125,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (25) Includes 62,500 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (26) Lawrence Ward Lepard is a director of the Company. See also Note (8) and Note (39).
- (27) Includes 150,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants and 100,000 shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.
- (28) Maria D. Furman, the beneficial owner, controls these securities.
- (29) Includes 125,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (30) Murray Guinn Flanigan is a director of the Company.



- (31) Shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.
- (32) Daniel Oliver Jr., the Managing Member of Myrnikan Gold Fund LLC, controls these securities.
- (33) Includes 625,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (34) Robert Cunjak, the beneficial owner, controls these securities.
- (35) Includes 62,500 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (36) Includes 37,500 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (37) Includes 62,500 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (38) Includes 125,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (39) Lawrence Ward Lepard, the Managing General Partner of EMA along with David A. Foley, Managing Partner of EMA, controls these securities.
- (40) Includes 500,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (41) Thomas Irving Vehrs is a director of the Company.
- (42) Shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.
- (43) Peter Maxwell Edwards, the Managing Director of the trust, VBS Exchange Pty Ltd, controls these securities.
- (44) Includes 500,000 shares issuable upon exercise of January 2022 Warrants.
- (45) Vincent Wei-Jiun Boon is an officer of the Company.
- (46) Shares issuable upon exercise of February 2022 Stock Options.

None of the Selling Shareholders has, or within the past three years has had, any position, office or material or family relationship with our company or any of our predecessors or affiliates, except as follows:

- Benjamin Mossman is a director and officer of our company.
- Fileen Au is an officer of our company
- Lawrence Lepard is a director of our company. Mr. Lepard holds securities of our company in his personal capacity and controls securities held by (a) certain of his family members, (b) EMA GARP FUND, L.P. in his capacity as the Managing General Partner of EMA and (c) SEA VIEW Investments L.L.C. in his capacity as the Managing General Partner of EMA.
- John Proust is a director of our company. Mr. Proust holds securities of our company in his personal capacity and controls securities held by Gwen Proust 2018 Alter Ego Trust.
- Murray Flanigan is a director of our company. Mr. Flanigan holds securities of our company in his personal capacity and controls securities held by GR7 Holdings Inc.
- Thomas Vehrs is a director of our company.
- Vince Boon is an officer of our company.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We are registering the Shares to permit the resale of those Shares under the Securities Act from time to time after the date of this prospectus at the discretion of the holders of such Shares. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling stockholders of the Shares. We will bear all fees and expenses incident to our obligation to register the Shares.

Each selling stockholder and any of their pledgees, assignees and successors-in-interest may, from time to time, sell any or all of their Shares on the CSE, the OTCQX, or any other stock exchange, market, quotation service or trading facility on which the shares are traded or in private transactions, provided that all applicable Canadian laws and other applicable local laws are satisfied. The selling stockholders may also sell their Shares directly or through one or more underwriters, broker-dealers, or agents. If the Shares are sold through underwriters or broker-dealers, the selling stockholders will be responsible for underwriting discounts or commissions or agent's commissions. The Shares may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of the sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. A selling stockholder may use any one or more of the following methods when selling shares:

- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;
- block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;



- an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;
- privately negotiated transactions;
- settlement of short sales entered into after the effective date of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part;
- broker-dealers may agree with the selling stockholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share;
- through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;
- a combination of any such methods of sale; and
- any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

The selling stockholders may also sell shares pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act, if available, rather than under this prospectus.

Any Shares offered by a selling stockholder by this prospectus that were acquired upon the exercise of January 2022 Warrants remain subject to Canadian resale restrictions which provide that unless permitted under Canadian securities legislation, a selling stockholder must not trade those Shares before May 29, 2022. Any shares offered by a selling stockholder by this prospectus that are acquired upon the exercise of February 2022 Stock Options will remain subject to a hold period expiring June 8, 2022 in accordance with CSE policies.

If the selling stockholders effect such transactions by selling Shares to or through underwriters, broker-dealers, or agents, such underwriters, broker-dealers, or agents may receive commissions in the form of discounts, concessions, or commissions from the selling stockholders or commissions from purchasers of the Shares for whom they may act as agent or to whom they may sell as principal (which discounts, concessions, or commissions as to particular underwriters, broker-dealers, or agents may be in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved). Broker-dealers engaged by any selling stockholder may arrange for other brokers-dealers to participate in sales. Broker-dealers may receive commissions or discounts from the selling stockholder (or, if any broker-dealer acts as agent for the purchaser of shares, from the purchaser) in amounts to be negotiated, but, except as set forth in a supplement to this prospectus, in the case of an agency transaction not in excess of a customary brokerage commission in compliance with FINRA Rule 2440; and in the case of a principal transaction a markup or markdown in compliance with FINRA IM-2440.

In connection with sales of Shares or interests therein, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of the Shares in the course of hedging in positions they assume. The selling stockholders may also sell shares of Common Stock short and deliver Shares covered by this prospectus to close out their short positions and to return borrowed shares in connection with such short sales. The selling stockholders may also loan or pledge Shares to broker-dealers that in turn may sell such Shares. The selling stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of Shares offered by this prospectus, which Shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The selling stockholders and any broker-dealers or agents that are involved in selling the Shares may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act, in connection with such sales. In such event, any commissions received by, or any discounts or concessions allowed to, any such broker-dealer or agent and any profit on the resale of any Shares purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act. At the time a particular offering of the Shares is made, a prospectus supplement, if required, will be distributed that will set forth the aggregate amount of Shares being offered and the terms of the offering, including the name or names of any broker-dealers or agents, any discounts, commissions, and other terms constituting compensation from the selling stockholders and any discounts, commissions, or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to broker-dealers.

Each selling stockholder has informed us that it does not have any written or oral agreement or understanding, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the Shares.



Because the selling stockholders may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act, they will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act, including Rule 172 thereunder. Once this registration statement becomes effective, we intend to file the final prospectus with the SEC in accordance with SEC Rules 172 and 424. Provided we are not the subject of any SEC stop orders and we are not subject to any cease and desist proceedings, the obligation to deliver a final prospectus to a purchaser will be deemed to have been met.

There is no underwriter or coordinating broker acting in connection with the proposed sale of the resale shares by the selling stockholders.

Under the securities laws of some states, the Shares may be sold in such states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the Shares may not be sold unless such shares have been registered or qualified for sale in such state, or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with.

There can be no assurance that any selling stockholder will sell any or all of the Shares registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Under applicable rules and regulations under the Exchange Act, any person engaged in the distribution of the Shares may not simultaneously engage in market making activities with respect to the Common Stock for the applicable restricted period, as defined in Regulation M, prior to the commencement of the distribution. In addition, the selling stockholders will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act, and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of shares of our Common Stock by the selling stockholders or any other person. All of the foregoing provisions may affect the marketability of the Shares and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the Shares.

We will pay all expenses of the registration of the Shares, estimated to be approximately \$23,714.07 in total, including, without limitation, SEC filing fees, expenses of compliance with state securities or "blue sky" laws, and legal and accounting fees; provided, however, that a selling stockholder will pay all underwriting discounts and selling commissions, if any. We will indemnify the selling stockholders against liabilities, including some liabilities under the Securities Act, in accordance with applicable registration rights agreements, if any, or the selling stockholders will be entitled to contribution. We may be indemnified by the selling stockholders against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, that may arise from any written information furnished to us by the selling stockholder specifically for use in this prospectus, in accordance with the related registration rights agreement, or we may be entitled to contribution.

We agreed to keep this prospectus effective until the earlier of (i) the date on which the Shares may be resold by the selling stockholders without registration and without the requirement to be in compliance with Rule 144(c)(1) and otherwise without restriction or limitation pursuant to Rule 144 or (ii) all of the Shares have been sold pursuant to this prospectus or Rule 144 under the Securities Act or any other rule of similar effect.

Once sold under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, the Shares will be freely tradable in the hands of persons other than our affiliates.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Common Stock

Our authorized capital consists of 400,000,000 shares of Common Stock with a par value of \$0.001 per share. As of March 28, 2022, there were 32,787,798 shares of our Common Stock issued and outstanding.

Holder of our Common Stock have no preemptive rights to purchase additional shares of Common Stock or other subscription rights. The Common Stock carries no conversion rights and is not subject to redemption or to any sinking fund provisions. All of our issued Common Stock is entitled to share equally in dividends from sources legally available, when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, and upon our liquidation or dissolution, whether voluntary or involuntary, to share equally in our assets available for distribution to security holders.



Our Board of Directors is authorized to issue additional shares of Common Stock not to exceed the amount authorized by our Articles of Incorporation, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board may deem appropriate without further security holder action.

Voting Rights

Each holder of our Common Stock is entitled to one vote per share on all matters on which such stockholders are entitled to vote. Since the Common Stock does not have cumulative voting rights, the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of directors can elect all the directors if they choose to do so and, in such event, the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any person to the Board of Directors.

Dividend Policy

Holders of our Common Stock are entitled to dividends if declared by the Board of Directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. Since our inception as a company on February 9, 2007, we have not declared any dividends, nor do we intend to issue any cash dividends in the future. Our foreseeable plans include retaining earnings, if any, to finance the development and expansion of our business.

RECENT UPDATES

Benjamin W. Mossman was a director and officer of Banks Island Gold Ltd. ("**Banks**"), a company formerly listed on the TSX Venture Exchange that traded under the symbol "BOZ", during the time it assigned itself into bankruptcy on January 7, 2016. Banks appointed D. Manning & Associates as trustee in the bankruptcy proceedings. Subsequent to the bankruptcy, FTI Consulting of Vancouver, BC, was appointed as receiver by a major secured creditor. The trustee subsequently applied to be discharged from its role as trustee, which was granted on April 4, 2018. To the best of Mr. Mossman's knowledge, the secured creditor has taken possession of the property as of this date. To date, Banks remains undischarged from the bankruptcy proceedings.

Mr. Mossman, Banks, and two other former employees of Banks, were subject to summary conviction proceedings commenced in August 2016 for alleged violations of the British Columbia provincial *Environmental Management Act* (the "**EMA**"), the Provincial Water Act, and the federal Fisheries Act. The charges are related to the active mining operations conducted by Banks at and on Banks Island, BC during the period from 2014 to 2016. The court found Mr. Mossman not guilty and acquitted him of all, but two, charges under the EMA and Fisheries Act. For those two minor offences, the court imposed a \$15,000 global fine against Mr. Mossman. All charges were dropped against one former employee and against Banks, and the court dismissed all charges against the other former employee.

Subsequent to the decision, the Crown filed an appeal regarding certain of the original determinations as they relate to Mr. Mossman. The summary conviction appeal was heard by the BC Supreme Court in May 2019. In February 2020, the court issued its decision and ordered a new trial in the matter for Mr. Mossman and one of the former employees. However, Mr. Mossman's two convictions and \$15,000 fine for minor offenses relating to the incident were also set aside by the court. Counsel for Mr. Mossman sought leave to appeal the BC Supreme Court decision to the BC Court of Appeal, which was dismissed as part of the order for a new trial. The Supreme Court of Canada recently dismissed Mr. Mossman's application to appeal the order for a new trial. The new trial is scheduled to commence on April 11, 2022. Counsel for Mr. Mossman expects the trial to be concluded by October 2022.

In a second trial, the Crown charged Mr. Mossman with obstruction of justice related to the investigation of the underlying charges laid under the EMA and the other provincial and federal environmental regulations. The court acquitted him of that charge on March 6, 2019. No appeal of the acquittal was filed by the Crown.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the Shares offered hereby has been passed upon for us by Securities Law USA, PLLC, Washington, DC.



INTERESTS OF EXPERTS

The financial statements as of July 31, 2021 and 2020 and for the years ended July 31, 2021 and 2020 incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in the registration statement have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of Davidson & Company LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

None of the above experts has received, or is to receive, in connection with the offering, a substantial interest, direct or indirect, in our company or any of our subsidiaries nor were they connected with our company or any of our subsidiaries as a promoter, managing or principal underwriter, voting trustee, director, officer, or employee.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-1, including exhibits and schedules, under the Securities Act with respect to the Shares of Common Stock to be sold in this offering. This prospectus and any prospectus supplement which form a part of the registration statement do not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement or the exhibits and schedules filed therewith. For further information about us and the securities covered by this prospectus, please see the registration statement and the exhibits filed with the registration statement. Any statements made in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement concerning legal documents are not necessarily complete and you should read the documents that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement or otherwise filed with the SEC for a more complete understanding of the document or matter.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read, without charge, and copy, at prescribed rates, all or any portion of the registration statement or any reports, statements or other information in the files at the public reference room at the SEC's principal office at 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C., 20549. You may request copies of these documents, for a copying fee, by writing to the SEC. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of its public reference room. Our filings, including the registration statement, are also available to you on the Internet website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information in documents we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. Any statement contained in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in or omitted from this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all future documents that we file with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of the offering of the Shares:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended July 31, 2021, filed on October 29, 2021;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended October 31, 2021, filed on December 15, 2021;
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 31, 2022, filed on March 16, 2022, and
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 4, 2022; January 13, 2022, January 31, 2022; February 8, 2022 (two reports); February 10, 2022; February 14, 2022; February 22, 2022;



We do not, however, incorporate by reference in this prospectus any documents or portions thereof that are not deemed "filed" with the SEC, including any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of our Current Reports on Form 8-K unless, and except to the extent, specified in such Current Reports.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered a copy of any of the filings incorporated by reference (other than an exhibit to such filings, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into the filing requested) at no cost, if you submit a request to us by writing or telephoning us at the following mailing address, email address or telephone number:

Rise Gold Corp.
Suite 650, 669 Howe Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 0B4
Attn: Eileen Au
eau@jproust.ca
604-260-4577

Copies of these documents may also be accessed free of charge on our website at <http://www.risegoldcorp.com>.



PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 13. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table lists the costs and expenses for which we have assumed sole responsibility and that we have paid or will pay in connection with the offering of securities covered by this prospectus, which do not include any sales commissions or discounts. All amounts are estimates except for the SEC registration fee.

	Amount (US\$)
SEC registration fee	\$ 714.07
Accounting fees and expenses	2,500
Legal fees and expenses	15,000
Printing fees and expenses	2,000
Transfer agent and registrar fees and expenses	2,500
Miscellaneous expenses	1,000
Total	\$ 23,714.07

Item 14. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Nevada corporation law provides in Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") 78.7502 that:

- a corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, except an action by or in the right of the corporation, by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the action, suit or proceeding if (a) the person is not liable pursuant to NRS 78.138, or (b) the person acted in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful;
- a corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses, including amounts paid in settlement and attorneys' fees actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of the action or suit if (a) the person is not liable pursuant to NRS 78.138, or (b) the person acted in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. Indemnification may not be made for any claim, issue or matter as to which such a person has been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom, to be liable to the corporation or for amounts paid in settlement to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action or suit was brought or other court of competent jurisdiction determines upon application that in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper; and
- to the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in the two paragraphs above, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, the corporation shall indemnify him or her against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense.



NRS 78.7502.3 provides that we may make any discretionary indemnification pursuant to NRS 78.7502 only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances. The determination must be made:

- by our stockholders;
- by our board of directors by majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding;
- if a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding so orders, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion;
- if a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding cannot be obtained, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or
- by court order.

The indemnification pursuant to NRS 78.7502 and advancement of expenses authorized in or ordered by a court pursuant to NRS 78.751.2:

- does not exclude any other rights to which a person seeking indemnification or advancement of expenses may be entitled under the articles of incorporation or any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, for either an action in the person's official capacity or an action in another capacity while holding office, except that indemnification, unless ordered by a court pursuant to NRS 78.7502 or for the advancement of expenses made pursuant to NRS 78.751.2, may not be made to or on behalf of any director or officer finally adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of any appeals taken therefrom, to be liable for intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of law, and such misconduct, fraud or violation was material to the cause of action; and
- continues for a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and inures to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Our bylaws provide that:

- The directors of the Company shall cause the Company to indemnify a director or former director of the Company and the directors may cause the Company to indemnify a director or former director of a corporation of which the Company is or was a shareholder and the heirs and personal representatives of any such person against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment in any criminal or administrative action or proceeding to which he or she is made a party by reason of his or her being or having been a director of the Company or a director of such corporation, including an action brought by the Company or corporation. Each director of the Company on being elected or appointed is deemed to have contracted with the Company on the terms of the foregoing indemnity.
- The directors of the Company may cause the Company to indemnify an officer, employee or agent of the Company or of a corporation of which the Company is or was a shareholder (notwithstanding that he or she is also a director of the Company) and his or her heirs and personal representatives against all costs, charges and expenses incurred by him or her and resulting from his or her acting as an officer, employee or agent of the Company or the corporation. In addition, the Company shall indemnify the secretary or assistant secretary of the Company (if he or she is not a full time employee of the Company and notwithstanding that he or she is also a director of the Company) and his or her respective heirs and legal representatives against all costs, charges and expenses incurred by him or her and arising out of the functions assigned to the secretary by law or the articles of incorporation of the Company, and each secretary and assistant secretary, on being appointed is deemed to have contracted with the Company on the terms of the foregoing indemnity.



- The directors of the Company may cause the Company to purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of a person who is or was serving as a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company or as a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation of which the Company is or was a shareholder and his or her heirs or personal representatives against a liability incurred by him as a director, officer, employee or agent.

Item 15. Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities.

During the past three years, we have issued the following securities without registration under the Securities Act outside the United States pursuant to the exclusion from registration provided under Rule 903 of Regulation S and inside the United States pursuant to the exemptions from registration provided Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder, in each case in reliance upon the representations received from the purchasers of those securities.

On July 3, 2019, we completed the sale of an aggregate of 1,036,813 units at a price of \$0.50 (C\$0.70) per unit for gross proceeds of \$552,000 (C\$725,769). Each unit consisted of one share of our Common Stock and half of one non-transferable share purchase warrant, each whole warrant exercisable into one additional share of Common Stock at a price of \$0.80 (C\$1.00) until July 3, 2022. We issued the shares and warrants underlying the units sold in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S for offers and sales outside of the United States and Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder for offers and sales in the United States and to U.S. persons. Our reliance on Rule 903 was based on the fact that the securities were sold in offshore transactions. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the sale of the securities, and none of the purchasers of those securities was a U.S. person or acquired the securities for the account or benefit of any U.S. person. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) and Rule 506(b) was based on the fact that the U.S. investors provided us with written representations regarding their investment intent and status as an accredited investor, and that neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf engaged in any general advertising or general solicitation.

On August 19, 2019, we completed the sale of an aggregate of 4,582,644 units at a price of \$0.53 (C\$0.70) per unit for gross proceeds of \$2,412,281 (C\$3,207,850). Each unit consisted of one share of our Common Stock and half of one non-transferable share purchase warrant, each whole warrant exercisable into one additional share of Common Stock at a price of \$0.80 (C\$1.00) until August 19, 2022. We issued the shares and warrants underlying the units sold in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S for offers and sales outside of the United States and Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder for offers and sales in the United States and to U.S. persons. Our reliance on Rule 903 was based on the fact that the securities were sold in offshore transactions. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the sale of the securities, and none of the purchasers of those securities was a U.S. person or acquired the securities for the account or benefit of any U.S. person. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) and Rule 506(b) was based on the fact that the U.S. investors provided us with written representations regarding their investment intent and status as an accredited investor, and that neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf engaged in any general advertising or general solicitation.

On August 21, 2019, we granted a total of 751,284 incentive stock options pursuant to our stock option plan to various directors, officers and consultants including: 461,284 to our Chief Executive Officer, Benjamin W. Mossman; 75,000 to John Proust, a member of our Board of Directors; 40,000 to Thomas I. Vehrs, a member of our Board of Directors; 40,000 to Murray Flanigan, a member of our Board of Directors and 100,000 to Lawrence W. Lepard, a member of our Board of Directors; 10,000 to Vince Boon, our Chief Financial Officer; and 10,000 to Eileen Au, our corporate secretary. The remaining 15,000 options were granted to some of our consultants who were eligible to participate in our stock option plan. Each option vested immediately and is exercisable into one share of our Common Stock at a price of \$0.50 (C\$0.70) per share until August 21, 2024. We granted the options in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S for grants outside of the United States and Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act for grants in the United States and to U.S. persons. Our reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S was based on the fact that the securities were offered and sold in an offshore transaction. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the grant of the securities and none of the persons receiving those securities was a U.S. person, nor did they acquire the securities for the account or for the benefit of any U.S. person. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) was based on the availability to the grantees of the incentive stock options of information regarding our company and our properties and operations and the private nature of the transactions.



On September 9, 2019 in conjunction with a debt financing, we issued 1,150,000 share purchase warrants to a lender as partial consideration for a secured \$1,000,000 (C\$1,316,450) loan. Each warrant entitles the holder to acquire one share of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$0.80 (C\$1.00) until September 9, 2022. We issued the warrants in reliance on Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) and Rule 506(b) was based on the fact that the lender provided us with written representations regarding its investment intent and status as an accredited investor, the availability to the lender of information regarding our company and our properties and operations, and the private nature of the transaction.

On March 17, 2020, we granted 75,000 incentive stock options pursuant to our stock option plan to a consultant eligible to participate in our stock option plan. Each option vested immediately and is exercisable into one share of our Common Stock at a price of \$0.50 (C\$0.70) per share until March 17, 2023. We granted the options in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S for grants outside of the United States and Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act for grants in the United States and to U.S. persons. Our reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S was based on the fact that the securities were offered and sold in an offshore transaction. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the grant of the securities and none of the persons receiving those securities was a U.S. person, nor did they acquire the securities for the account or for the benefit of any U.S. person. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) was based on the availability to the grantees of the incentive stock options of information regarding our company and our properties and operations and the private nature of the transactions.

On July 31, 2020, we completed the sale of an aggregate of 4,363,833 units at a price of \$0.75 (C\$1.00) per unit for gross proceeds of \$3,272,875 (C\$4,386,200). Each unit consisted of one share of our Common Stock and half of one non-transferable share purchase warrant, each whole warrant exercisable into one additional share of Common Stock at a price of \$1.00 (C\$1.30) until July 31, 2022. We issued the shares and warrants underlying the units sold in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S for offers and sales outside of the United States and Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder for offers and sales in the United States and to U.S. persons. Our reliance on Rule 903 was based on the fact that the securities were sold in offshore transactions. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the sale of the securities, and none of the purchasers of those securities was a U.S. person or acquired the securities for the account or benefit of any U.S. person. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) and Rule 506(b) was based on the fact that the U.S. investors provided us with written representations regarding their investment intent and status as an accredited investor, and that neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf engaged in any general advertising or general solicitation. In conjunction with this investment, we issued 43,435 share purchase warrants as a finder's fee. Each finder's warrant entitles the holder to acquire one share of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$1.00 (C\$1.30) until July 31, 2022. We issued the finder's warrants in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S. Our reliance on Rule 903 was based on the fact that the finder's warrants were issued in an offshore transaction. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the sale of the securities, and the purchaser of the securities was not a U.S. person and did not acquire the securities for the account or benefit of a U.S. person.

On September 21, 2020, we completed the sale of an aggregate of 333,333 units at a price of \$0.75 (C\$1.02) per unit for gross proceeds of \$250,000 (C\$332,733). Each unit consisted of one share of our Common Stock and half of one non-transferable share purchase warrant, each whole warrant exercisable into one additional share of Common Stock at a price of \$1.00 (C\$1.36) until September 21, 2022. We issued the shares and warrants underlying the units sold in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S for offers and sales outside of the United States and Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder for offers and sales in the United States and to U.S. persons. Our reliance on Rule 903 was based on the fact that the securities were sold in offshore transactions. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the sale of the securities, and none of the purchasers of those securities was a U.S. person or acquired the securities for the account or benefit of any U.S. person. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) and Rule 506(b) was based on the fact that the U.S. investors provided us with written representations regarding their investment intent and status as an accredited investor, and that neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf engaged in any general advertising or general solicitation.



On September 22, 2020, we granted 1,338,500 incentive stock options pursuant to our stock option plan to our Chief Executive Officer, Benjamin W. Mossman. Each option vested immediately and is exercisable into one share of our Common Stock at a price of \$0.90 (C\$1.20) per share until September 22, 2025. We granted the options in reliance on Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) was based on the availability to the grantee of the incentive stock options of information regarding our company and our properties and operations and the private nature of the transaction.

On January 28, 2022, we completed the sale of an aggregate of 6,017,500 units at a price of \$0.40 (C\$0.50) per unit for gross proceeds of \$250,000 (C\$332,733). Each unit consisted of one share of our Common Stock and one transferable share purchase warrant, each warrant exercisable into one additional share of Common Stock at a price of \$0.60 until January 28, 2024. We issued the shares and warrants underlying the units sold in reliance on Rule 903 of Regulation S for offers and sales outside of the United States and Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder for offers and sales in the United States and to U.S. persons. Our reliance on Rule 903 was based on the fact that the securities were sold in offshore transactions. We did not engage in any directed selling efforts in the United States in connection with the sale of the securities, and none of the purchasers of those securities was a U.S. person or acquired the securities for the account or benefit of any U.S. person. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) and Rule 506(b) was based on the fact that the U.S. investors provided us with written representations regarding their investment intent and status as an accredited investor, and that neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf engaged in any general advertising or general solicitation.

On February 7, 2022, we granted a total of 805,000 incentive stock options pursuant to our stock option plan to various directors, officers and employees including: 300,000 to our Chief Executive Officer, Benjamin W. Mossman; 100,000 to John Proust, a member of our Board of Directors; 100,000 to Thomas I. Vehrs, a member of our Board of Directors; 100,000 to Murray Flanigan, a member of our Board of Directors and 100,000 to Lawrence W. Leopard, a member of our Board of Directors; 40,000 to Vince Boon, our Chief Financial Officer; and 40,000 to Eileen Au, our corporate secretary. The remaining 25,000 options were granted to one of our employees who was eligible to participate in our stock option plan. Each option vested immediately and is exercisable into one share of our Common Stock at a price of \$0.65 per share until February 7, 2027. We granted the options in reliance on Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act. Our reliance on Section 4(a)(2) was based on the availability to the grantees of the incentive stock options of information regarding our company and our properties and operations and the private nature of the transactions.

Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.

(a) Exhibits

The Exhibits filed herewith are set forth on the Index to Exhibits filed as a part of this registration statement beginning on page II-8 hereof.

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

- (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and



- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That for determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. *Provided, however,* that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

(5) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(6) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act, and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.



SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Nevada, California, USA on March 29, 2022.

Rise Gold Corp.

By: /s/ Benjamin Mossman
Benjamin Mossman, Chief Executive
Officer and President

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Name	Title	Date
By: <u>/s/ Benjamin Mossman</u> Benjamin Mossman	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	March 29, 2022
By: <u>/s/ Vincent Boon</u> Vincent Boon	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	March 29, 2022
By: <u>/s/ Murray Flanigan</u> Murray Flanigan	Director	March 29, 2022
By: <u>/s/ John Proust</u> John Proust	Director	March 29, 2022
By: <u>/s/ Thomas Vehrs</u> Thomas Vehrs	Director	March 29, 2022
By: <u>/s/ Lawrence Lepard</u> Lawrence Lepard	Director	March 29, 2022



EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Document
<u>3.1</u>	<u>Articles of Incorporation, as amended through March 29, 2017 (1)</u>
<u>3.2</u>	<u>Certificate of Change made effective December 16, 2019 (7)</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>Certificate of Amendment dated September 18, 2020 (7)</u>
<u>3.4</u>	<u>Bylaws (2)</u>
<u>5.1</u>	<u>Legal opinion of Securities Law USA, PLLC *</u>
<u>10.1</u>	<u>Incentive Stock Option Plan dated March 23, 2016 (1)</u>
<u>10.2</u>	<u>Employment Agreement with Benjamin Mossman dated as of April 19, 2017 (1)</u>
<u>10.3</u>	<u>Amendment dated April 16, 2018 to the Employment Agreement with Benjamin Mossman dated as of April 19, 2017 (3)</u>
<u>10.4</u>	<u>Form of Subscription Agreement with Meridian Jerritt Canyon Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Yamana Gold Inc., dated October 16, 2018 (4)</u>
<u>10.5</u>	<u>Consulting Agreement with J. Proust & Associates Inc., as amended, dated December 13, 2018 (5)</u>
<u>10.6</u>	<u>Loan Agreement between Rise Grass Valley Inc. and Eridanus Capital, LLC dated August 30, 2019 (6)</u>
<u>10.7</u>	<u>Collateral Agreement in favor of Eridanus Capital, LLC, dated August 30, 2019 (6)</u>
<u>10.8</u>	<u>Deed of Trust in favor of Jeremy A. M. Evans, as trustee, for the benefit of Eridanus Capital, LLC dated August 30, 2019 (6)</u>
<u>21.1</u>	<u>Subsidiaries of the registrant (1)</u>
<u>23.1</u>	<u>Consent of Davidson & Company *</u>
<u>23.2</u>	<u>Consent of Securities Law USA, PLLC (contained in Exhibit 5.1) *</u>
<u>107</u>	<u>Filing Fee Tables *</u>

* Filed herewith

- (1) Previously included as an exhibit to our Form S-1 registration statement filed on September 5, 2017 and incorporated herein by reference
- (2) Previously included as an exhibit to our Form S-1 registration statement filed on February 19, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference
- (3) Previously included as an exhibit to our Form S-1 registration statement filed on May 29, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference
- (4) Previously included as an exhibit to post-effective Amendment No. 1 to our Form S-1 registration statement filed on November 26, 2018 and incorporated herein by reference
- (5) Previously included as an exhibit to our Form S-1 registration statement filed on January 17, 2019 and incorporated herein by reference
- (6) Previously included as an exhibit to our annual report on Form 10-K filed on October 29, 2019 and incorporated herein by reference
- (7) Previously included as an exhibit to our annual report on Form 10-K filed on October 29, 2020 and incorporated herein by reference

II-8

SECURITIES
LAW USA

10 G Street, NE, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20002
Tel (202) 539-8449 • Fax (661) 438-3080
www.seclawusa.com

J. BRAD WIGGINS
bwiggins@seclawusa.com
Tel (661) 713-6843
licensed in dc and ca

March 29, 2022

Rise Gold Corp.
Suite 650 - 669 Howe Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 0B4

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You have requested our opinion with respect to certain matters in connection with the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "**Commission**") by Rise Gold Corp., a Nevada corporation (the "**Company**"), of a Registration Statement on



SECURITIES
LAW USA

March 29, 2022
Page 2

We have also assumed that (i) the Registration Statement and any amendments thereto (including post-effective amendments) will have become effective and will continue to be effective at the time of any resale of the Shares, (ii) if necessary, a Prospectus supplement will have been prepared and filed with the Commission describing any Shares offered thereby by any Selling Stockholders, (iii) all Shares will be sold in the manner stated in the Registration Statement and, if necessary, the applicable Prospectus supplement, and (iv) at the time of the offering, there will not have occurred any changes in the law affecting the authorization, execution, delivery, validity or enforceability of the Shares. The opinion set forth in this letter is limited solely to the federal laws of the United States and the applicable laws of the State of Nevada. We express no opinion with respect to any other laws.

Based upon the foregoing, and in reliance thereon, we are of the opinion that:

1. The Outstanding Shares are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.
2. Upon the due exercise of the Warrants in accordance with their terms, the Warrant Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.
3. Upon the due exercise of the Options in accordance with their terms, the Option Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus included in the Registration Statement and to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. In giving our consent, we do not admit that we are "experts" within the meaning of Section 11 of the Securities Act or within the category of persons whose consent is required by Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Sincerely,

/s/ SecuritiesLawUSA, PLLC

SecuritiesLawUSA, PLLC

DAVIDSON & COMPANY LLP ————— Chartered Professional Accountants —————

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-1 of our report dated October 28, 2021, relating to the consolidated financial statements of Rise Gold Corp., which is part of this Registration Statement.

We also consent to the reference to us under the caption "Interests of Experts" in the Prospectus.

/s/ DAVIDSON & COMPANY LLP

Vancouver, Canada

Chartered Professional Accountants

March 29, 2022





1200 - 609 Granville Street, P.O. Box 10572, Pacific Centre, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7Y 1G6
Telephone (604) 687-0947 Davidson-co.com

Exhibit 107

Calculation of Filing Fee Tables

Form S-1
(Form Type)

Rise Gold Corp.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Table 1: Newly Registered Securities

	Security Type	Security Class Title	Fee Calculation	Amount Registered ⁽¹⁾	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee
Fees to be Paid	Equity	Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	457(c)	6,017,500 ⁽²⁾	\$0.59315 ⁽³⁾	\$3,569,280.13 ⁽³⁾	0.0000927	\$330.87
Fees to be Paid	Equity	Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	Other	6,017,500 ⁽⁴⁾	\$0.60 ⁽⁴⁾	\$3,610,500	0.0000927	\$334.69
Fees to be Paid	Equity	Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	Other	805,000 ⁽⁵⁾	\$0.65 ⁽⁵⁾	\$523,250	0.0000927	\$48.51
Total Offering Amounts						\$7,703,030.13		
Total Fees Previously Paid								
Total Fee Offsets								
Net Fee Due								\$714.07

(1) This registration statement also includes an indeterminate number of securities that may become offered, issuable or sold to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends and similar transactions, which are included pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

(2) Consists of 6,017,500 shares of Common Stock offered by selling stockholders.

(3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fees pursuant to Rule 457(c) promulgated under the Securities Act based upon the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as quoted on the OTCQX on March 28, 2022, which was \$0.59315.

(4) Consists of 6,017,500 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of common stock purchase warrants held by selling stockholders exercisable at \$0.60 per share

(5) Consists of 805,000 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of incentive stock options held by selling stockholders exercisable at \$0.65 per share.

Table 2: Fee Offset Claims and Sources



Form S-1 (the "**Registration Statement**"), including that certain related prospectus to be filed with the Commission (the "**Prospectus**") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**Securities Act**"), relating to the resale from time to time by the selling stockholders named in the Prospectus (the "**Selling Stockholders**") of up to a total of 12,840,000 shares of the Company's common stock, \$0.001 par value (the "**Shares**"), consisting of up to:

- (i) 6,017,500 outstanding Shares (the "**Outstanding Shares**");
- (ii) 6,017,500 Shares (the "**Warrant Shares**") issuable upon exercise of common stock purchase warrants issued January 28, 2022 and exercisable at a price per Share of \$0.60 until January 28, 2024 (the "**Warrants**"); and
- (iii) 805,000 Shares (the "**Option Shares**") issuable upon exercise of incentive stock options issued February 7, 2022 and exercisable at a price per Share of \$0.65 until February 7, 2027 (the "**Options**").

In connection with this opinion, we have examined and relied upon the Registration Statement and related Prospectus; the Company's articles of incorporation, as amended to date; the Company's Bylaws as in effect on the date hereof; the form of certificates representing the Warrants; the form of certificates representing the Options; and certain resolutions and minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors of the Company relating to the issuance of the Outstanding Shares, the Warrants, the Warrant Shares, the Options, and the Options Shares and the filing of the Registration Statement.

We have considered such matters of law and of fact, including the examination of originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of such records, documents, certificates, and other instruments of the Company, certificates of officers, directors and representatives of the Company, certificates of public officials, and such other documents as in our judgment are necessary or appropriate to enable us to render the opinion expressed below.

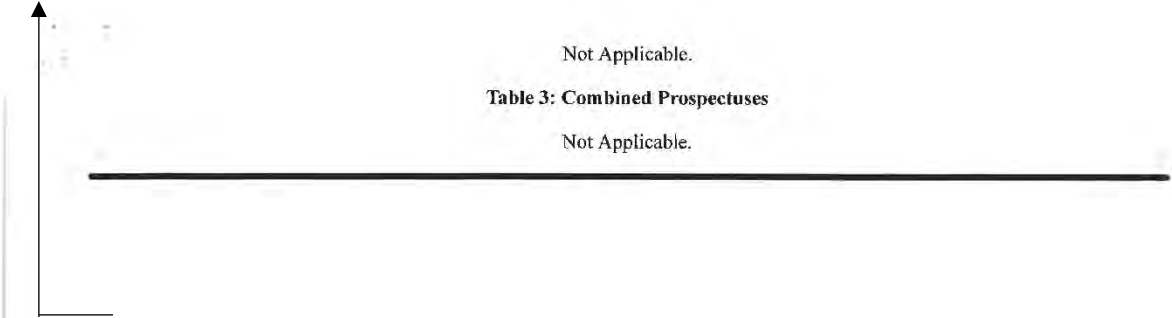
As to matters of fact material to our opinion, we have relied, without independent verification, on certificates and other inquiries of officers of the Company. We have assumed without investigation the genuineness and authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to originals of all documents submitted to us as copies thereof, and the due execution and delivery of all documents where due execution and delivery are a prerequisite to the effectiveness thereof, the accuracy and completeness of all records made available to us by the Company, and that all offers and sales of the Shares will be made in compliance with the securities laws of the states having jurisdiction thereof.



Not Applicable.

Table 3: Combined Prospectuses

Not Applicable.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 85: CAROL TODD

Response to Comment Ind 85-1

The referenced attachment refers to the Project Applicant's financial wherewithal to complete the proposed project, which is outside of the scope of CEQA. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 3 regarding operator responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 85-2

Potential impacts related to dust generation and noise associated with the proposed project are discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy and Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR, respectively.

Response to Comment Ind 85-3

See Response to Comment 85-1.



Individual Letter 86

CAROLEE WEISBERG
134 BERRIMAN LOOP
GRASS VALLEY, CA 95949
caroleestrong@gmail.com
530-263-3026

February 14, 2022

Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Ind 86-1

Dear Commissioners Danny Milman, Laura Duncan, Robert Ingram, Mike Mastrodonato, and William Greeno,

I oppose to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corporation. I understand that you will be reviewing the Environmental Impact Report and subsequently voting to approve or not approve the project. I have listened to both sides of the argument and find Raise Gold Corporation to be inconsistent, misleading, and manipulative. They fail to mitigate significant negative impacts of this large industrial project on my family, friends, neighbors, and businesses.

Ind 86-2

There are multiple reasons this mine should NOT reopen. My personal reasons are:

Ind 86-3

1- The mine will pollute our air and increase lung disease.

Ind 86-4

2- Clouds of airborne toxic mining dust, including asbestos, will drift downwards into Grass Valley.

3- Hard rock mining is the single largest source of toxic waste in the United States.

4- Trucks hauling 1,000 tons of waste rock, making one hundred trips every day down Brunswick Road, piling it higher than a 6-story building at the Centennial site.

Ind 86-5

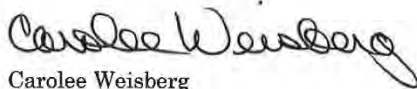
5- Blasting 7 days a week in the tunnels under 2,585 acres of the Grass Valley area.

6- Crushing of 1,500 tons of waste rock every day, all day, and using massive machines.

Ind 86-6

I am a resident of Nevada County and observe that Rise Gold Corporation lacks respect for the impact of their mine project on the environment and the people of Grass Valley. I hope you will be among those who will be known to have opposed the well-funded deception Raise Gold Corporation has developed.

Sincerely,


Carolee Weisberg



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 86: CAROLEE WEISBERG

Response to Comment Ind 86-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 86-2

Please refer to Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for more information related to air pollution. As evaluated under Impact 4.3-2, and shown in Table 4.3-21, emissions of toxic air contaminants (TACs) would not result in health risks to nearby receptors in excess of NSAQMD thresholds. Nonetheless, Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 was included to ensure an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan is prepared, as required by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Response to Comment Ind 86-3

Please refer to Chapter 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the DEIR for more information related to mining waste. Please see also Master Response 8.

Response to Comment Ind 86-4

Please refer to Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR for more information related to hauling truck traffic.

Response to Comment Ind 86-5

Please refer to Chapter 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR for more information related to blasting.

Response to Comment Ind 86-6

Please see Master Response 3.



Individual Letter 87

I DO NOT
support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

NO

Nevar... need of new, well-paying jobs that can help

provi... ise Grass respects cal jobs is a

Valle... sifying careers

neigt... ding benefits.

once... siness in the unty workers

Re-o... onnsible,

with... and other county

The... edevine of the

area... RECEIVED

and... FEB 28 2022

Opp... ZIP NEVADA COUNTY

anc... BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ffic...
Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) **Ms. Caroline Courtright**

Address **12025 Larkspur Ln.**

Grass Valley, CA 95949-9755

Phone **carolynrta@gmail.com**

Dist 4 **NO**

Ind 87-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 87: CAROLINE COURTRIGHT

Response to Comment Ind 87-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 88

From: [Caroline Courtright](#)
To: [BOS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 1:39:44 PM
Attachments: ACFQaB_YICFPVo-dKS3wSw-2X6X46W6Pa7Mzc-
H27wEwA020PukTV1wD65S9vsPOS2vmuKZySo1yMaHzna4NCpvzBD1adhOTdx7Bwthm1SRCdaDaL0aNOBRN8Bzak=-.pdf

Dist 4

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Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

from Caroline Courtright
resident district 4
12025 Larkspur Lane
Grass Valley, ca 95949

Ind 88-1

I would like a copy of the enclosed letter to go to all 5 supervisors please. But of course especially Susan Hoek, my Dist. 4 supervisor, and Dan Miller Dist.3 Supervisor. Please deliver this letter to them before the Thursday 3/24 Planning Commission meeting on the subject. Thank you.
Caroline Courtright

Ind 88-2

To whom it may concern: 3/9/2022 The Idaho-Maryland Mine Project is a bad idea for the community. I am writing from Philadelphia, PA, and am the son-in-law of a Grass Valley resident, Caroline Courtright. I have been a corporate bond analyst for 16 years, covered the metals and mining sector for roughly 5 years, and that included gold miners. So, my perspective is from a financial analyst. That said, I am writing you on a personal level and not from my employer's perspective. I assume you will hear significant doubts about the negative environmental impacts the mine will have from other concerned citizens. Even though I agree with the opponents of the mine reopening on an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) basis, I wanted to provide doubts on a financial basis. Caroline told me about the potential of the mine reopening about 10 years ago following gold prices rising during that time. I thought it would be a near impossible act to reopen the mine in the middle of two cities then, largely because it would be too expensive to restart and operate the mine among an area that values the environment the way Nevada County residents do. Recently, I learned of the EIR that supports the mine reopening, so I wanted to learn more about the project as a potential investment, after all, Rise Gold is a publicly traded company. I am appalled by the fact that there is so little financial information available from Rise Gold. Other investable gold miners utilize a metric called "All-In Sustaining Costs" (AISC) to describe the cost to produce one ounce of gold. AISC's line items include cost of sales excluding depreciation and amortization, royalties, and production taxes but includes treatment and refinement charges. In addition, AISC's additional costs include sustaining capital expenditures, leases, general and administrative costs, and minesite exploration and evaluation costs. The lowest cost gold miner can operate in the \$1,000/ounce area (Barrick Gold) and other higher cost operators (New Gold) operate in the \$1,500/ounce range. This variance is largely due to by-product credits (Barrick's mines contain copper as well as gold). Simply put, if gold prices fall below \$1,500/ounce, New Gold would stop mining gold because it would be losing money. Rise



↑ Gold has not published its expectations for AISC. I think this information is pertinent because that metric would inform Grass Valley and Nevada City citizens and the potential employees of Rise Gold when the mine can be expected to operate. Rise Gold has not published a feasibility study for the Idaho-Maryland mine. The goal of a feasibility study is to demonstrate the project is economically viable if it is designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the concepts set forth in the study. The feasibility study will define the Ore Reserves, the mining methods, the mineral processing concepts, and the scale of the project. To my knowledge, Rise Gold has commented on the mining methods, mineral processing concepts, and some aspects of the scale (1,000 tons/day). Every other gold miner I covered performed a feasibility study in order to convince investors the investment in a new project was a good one. The process can take up to 7 years. The fact Rise Gold has not performed a feasibility study is concerning not only for potential investors but also the community does not know if the mine can operate profitably. If Rise is promising 300 jobs once the mine is fully operational, we do not know the time frame of the mine opening, the time to full production, nor do we know how long the mine can operate. Every gold miner publishes in its 10-K and Annual Report its Reserves and Resources. Those numbers provide the mine life to investors (the calculation is simply Reserves/Annual Production). The fact Idaho-Maryland operated from 1866-1955 would suggest the Reserves and/or the Resources might be minimal. This should be disclosed to everybody. Here, I note that the Reserves and Resources change every year with the price of gold. Some gold reserves at different mines are more costly to extract than others; therefore, a gold miner has to annually adjust its Reserves and Resources. Aside from the lack of AISC, the lack of Reserves, and the lack of a total project cost, which makes Rise Gold a poor investment, Rise Gold has a complete lack of capital for a full scale mine. Rise Gold stated it would pay 300 people an average of \$90,000/year during full production. Those would be nice jobs to have in Nevada County, but how can Rise Gold pay those people \$27 million/year when its market capitalization is \$15.8 million? Rise's most recent equity financing totaled \$2.4 million. I do not know what that Use of Proceeds are, but this financing as well as recent other investments in Rise Gold amount to kicking the can down the road. Due to Rise Gold's poor capital position, I would question the Company as a going concern and its ability to fund the operations. On the ESG front, I do not see how one could invest in Rise Gold. On an environmental basis, it is impossible for the environment to benefit with a gold mine operating in the populated area. There are too many operational risks that could occur even for an experienced miner, let alone the CEO of Rise Gold. Local high paying jobs is the only social benefit. On governance, the CEO appears to be untrustworthy based on his previous experiences with trying to mine gold in other parts of North America. The CEO is the only employee of the Company according to Rise Gold's 10-K, so he has no checks and balances. He has little expertise on operating a mine which does not bode well for the likely failure of mining operations in an area where catastrophe could occur and create unwanted or unexpected fallout. In sum, Rise's inability to produce basic gold mining fundamental operating costs, reserves, and project cost forecasts should limit its ability to produce from Idaho-Maryland forever. If history is any guide, gold prices will remain volatile, and Rise Gold will over promise and under deliver. It would be a disgrace to allow Rise Gold the opportunity to mine anything from Nevada Country over 5 years, let alone 80 years. Sincerely,
Mike Frey Idaho.mmeir@co.nevada.ca.us



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 88: CAROLINE COURTRIGHT

Response to Comment Ind 88-1

The comment is an introductory remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 88-2

The commenter's concerns are in regards to the Project Applicant's financial wherewithal to complete the proposed project, which is outside of the scope of CEQA. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 3 regarding operator responsibility.



Individual Letter 89

Submitted by Caroline Courtright, resident of Grass Valley 21 years, small business owner, and NID agricultural customer. (DISTRICT 4.) (12025 LARKSPUR LN, GRASS VALLEY, 95740)

I am appalled by the fact that there is so little financial information available from Rise Gold. Other investable gold miners utilize a metric called "All-In Sustaining Costs" (AISC) to describe the cost to produce one ounce of gold. AISC's line items include cost of sales excluding depreciation and amortization, royalties, and production taxes but includes treatment and refinement charges. In addition, AISC's additional costs include sustaining capital expenditures, leases, general and administrative costs, and minesite exploration and evaluation costs. This information is pertinent because that metric would inform Grass Valley and Nevada City citizens and the potential employees of Rise Gold when the mine can be expected to operate. If gold prices fall below \$1500/ounce range the company will stop mining gold because it would be losing money.

Rise Gold has not published a feasibility study for the Idaho-Maryland mine. The goal of a feasibility study is to demonstrate the project is economically viable if it is designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the concepts set forth in the study. The feasibility study will define the Ore Reserves, the mining methods, the mineral processing concepts, and the scale of the project. To my knowledge, Rise Gold has commented on the mining methods, mineral processing concepts, and some aspects of the scale (1,000 tons/day). Most other gold mines performed a feasibility study in order to convince investors the investment in a new project was a good one. The process can take up to 7 years. The fact Rise Gold has not performed a feasibility study is concerning not only for potential investors but also the community does not know if the mine can operate profitably. If Rise is promising 300 jobs once the mine is fully operational, we do not know the time frame of the mine opening, the time to full production, nor do we know how long the mine can operate. All gold miners publish in its 10-K and Annual Report its Reserves and Resources. Those numbers provide the mine life to investors (the calculation is simply Reserves/Annual Production). The fact Idaho-Maryland operated from 1866-1955 would suggest the Reserves and/or the Resources might be minimal. This should be disclosed to everybody. Here, I note that the Reserves and Resources change every year with the price of gold. Some gold reserves at different mines are more costly to extract than others; therefore, a gold miner has to annually adjust its Reserves and Resources.

Aside from the lack of AISC, the lack of Reserves, and the lack of a total project cost, which makes Rise Gold a poor investment, Rise Gold has a complete lack of capital for a full scale mine. Rise Gold stated it would pay 300 people an average of \$90,000/year during full production. How can Rise Gold pay those people \$27 million/year when its market capitalization is \$15.8 million? Rise's most recent equity financing totaled \$2.4 million. I do not know what that Use of Proceeds are, but this financing as well as recent other investments in Rise Gold amount to kicking the can down the road. Due to Rise Gold's poor capital position, I would question the Company as a going concern and its ability to fund the operations.



Ind 89-1



- ↑
- On the ESG front, I do not see how one could invest in Rise Gold. On an environmental basis, it is impossible for the environment to benefit with a gold mine operating in the populated area. There are too many operational risks that could occur even for an experienced miner, let alone the CEO of Rise Gold. Local high paying jobs is the only social benefit. On governance, the CEO appears to be untrustworthy based on his previous experiences with trying to mine gold in other parts of North America. The CEO is the only employee of the Company according to Rise Gold's 10-K, so he has no checks and balances. He has little expertise on operating a mine which does not bode well for the likely failure of mining operations in an area where catastrophe could occur and create unwanted or unexpected fallout.
- In sum, Rise's inability to produce basic gold mining fundamental operating costs, reserves, and project cost forecasts should limit its ability to produce from Idaho-Maryland forever. If history is any guide, gold prices will remain volatile, and Rise Gold will over promise and under deliver. It would be a disgrace to allow Rise Gold the opportunity to mine anything from Nevada Country over 5 years, let alone 80 years. \
- Ind 89-2** This may sound like it addresses only the financial aspects of the Rise Gold project, yet realize the above information deeply portrays the environmental damage such a project poses to our community. It would be awful for Rise Gold to start the project, dewater and make a mess, then file for bankruptcy and leave. They would leave devastated environmental damages and also will likely not have the money to clean-up the Superfund site. This is the most likely scenario for a company that is only a 18 million cap company.
- This shows that the DEIR is incomplete. Accountability for cleaning-up the Superfund site is missing.
- Ind 89-3** Also the DEIR is incomplete because there is no feasibility study.
- Ind 89-4** Also the DEIR is incomplete because an 80 year permit is unreasonable and avoids accountability. NID even said 40 years involved too much guess work to be a reliable risk assessment study.
- Ind 89-5** Say NO, it is the only way to go. An industrial gold mine with its potential for polluting toxins and drying up or contaminating local wells has no right in our residential community.
- Also the EIR is incomplete because it does not show how this industry will ruin our local tourist industry with it pollution and destruction of natural creek habitat of Wolf Creek and even the Yuba River.

Caroline Courtright
ccourrite@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 89: CAROLINE COURTRIGHT

Response to Comment Ind 89-1

The commenter's concerns are in regards to the Project Applicant's financial wherewithal to complete the proposed project, which is outside of the scope of CEQA. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 3 regarding operator responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 89-2

Please see Master Responses 3 and 4.

Response to Comment Ind 89-3

Please see Response to Comment Ind 89-1.

Response to Comment Ind 89-4

The comment expresses a general opinion that the 80-year permit is unreasonable and avoids accountability, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response. For further information regarding operator responsibility see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 89-5

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 90

From: [Steve and Carolyn Rettain](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project opposed to the proposed reopening
Date: Saturday, February 12, 2022 7:17:16 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.

- Ind 90-1** Mr. Kelly,
Our family is totally opposed to the proposed reopening of the IM mine. **In today's world, water is the new gold. Gold is for investors, and water is for life. No water, no life. Period. There are so many significant impacts for the State of California & CEQA environmental areas, that there is no valid reason to continue on with this proposal.** Stop it now.
- Ind 90-2** If the Use Permit were approved, it is critical that any and all damages and costs associated with impacts of the mining operations are completely born by the mine operators and not the property owners and residents of the community. This is made difficult because of the long duration of the proposed project and the many unknowns. There is probably not enough money to cover the damages and costs, ever by any entity Rise Gold certainly doesn't have these deep pockets. The County doesn't have deep enough pockets. I don't think the State has deep enough pockets either.
- Ind 90-3** **We are on a well,** close by the site. The potential dewatering impacts on the region include, but are not limited to, reduction in well water levels, reduction in well yield, degradation of water quality, well failure, impacts to land values, habitat, and personal property.
- Ind 90-4** There are numerous domestic wells directly over the mineral rights area, but the dewatering impacts on the groundwater and wells may extend well beyond the boundaries of the mineral rights.
Providing safeguards for well owners in the area of the proposed mine is challenging and requires careful and detailed consideration. I think you'll find that it's too much risk, too many unknowns, and vast devastation that cannot be corrected in centuries of cleanup. The points considered identified many but certainly not all of the issues, as some are not yet anticipated.
- Ind 90-5** **In addition, with our wildfire risk (now all year long) and climate change reducing our water hydration, who can say we have enough water to just pump it out of the ground, and dewater our county aquifers?** I don't think we can afford this devastation to our county.
- Ind 90-6** **There are SOOOO many significant impacts, on so many levels, that this is JUST WRONG to continue consideration of this Maybe it would have been OK 100 years ago, but NOT NOW in this day and age.**



Respectfully yours,
Carolyn & Steve Battaini
14027 Liquidambar Ln
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 90: CAROLYN AND STEVE BATTAINI

Response to Comment Ind 90-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 90-2

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 90-3

Please see Master Response 1. Please also see Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR in regard to potential dewatering impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 90-4

Please see Master Response 15.

Response to Comment Ind 90-5

Please see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 90-6

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 91

From: Steve and Carolyn Battaini <crojib@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project opposed to the proposed 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.

- Ind 91-1** Mr. Kelly,
Our family is totally opposed to the proposed reopening of the IM mine. **In today's world, water is the new gold. Gold is for investors, and water is for life. No water, no life. Period. There are so many significant impacts for the State of California & CEQA environmental areas, that there is no valid reason to continue on with this proposal. Stop it now.**
- Ind 91-2** If the Use Permit were approved, it is critical that any and all damages and costs associated with impacts of the mining operations are completely born by the mine operators and not the property owners and residents of the community. This is made difficult because of the long duration of the proposed project and the many unknowns. There is probably not enough money to cover the damages and costs, ever by any entity Rise Gold certainly doesn't have these deep pockets. The County doesn't have deep enough pockets. I don't think the State has deep enough pockets either.
- Ind 91-3** **We are on a well**, close by the site. The potential dewatering impacts on the region include, but are not limited to, reduction in well water levels, reduction in well yield, degradation of water quality, well failure, impacts to land values, habitat, and personal property.
- Ind 91-4** There are numerous domestic wells directly over the mineral rights area, but the de-watering impacts on the groundwater and wells may extend well beyond the boundaries of the mineral rights. Providing safeguards for well owners in the area of the proposed mine is challenging and requires careful and detailed consideration. I think you'll find that it's too much risk, too many unknowns, and vast devastation that cannot be corrected in centuries of cleanup. The points considered identified many but certainly not all of the issues, as some are not yet anticipated.
- Ind 91-5** **In addition, with our wildfire risk (now all year long) and climate change reducing our water hydration, who can say we have enough water to just pump it out of the ground, and dewater our county aquifers?** I don't think we can afford this devastation to our county.
- Ind 91-6** **There are SOOOO many significant impacts, on so many levels, that this is JUST WRONG to continue consideration of this Maybe it would have been OK 100 years ago, but NOT NOW in this day and age.**
- Respectfully yours,
Carolyn & Steve Battaini
14027 Liquidambar Ln
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 91: CAROLYN AND STEVE BATTAINI

Response to Comment Ind 91-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 91-2

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 91-3

Please see Master Response 1. Please also see Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR in regard to potential dewatering impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 91-4

Please see Master Response 15.

Response to Comment Ind 91-5

Please see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 91-6

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 92

Steve and Carolyn Battaini
14027 Liquidambar Ln.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

April 2, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada County
950 Maidu Ave,
Nevada City, CA. 95959



Dear Sirs,

We oppose the Idaho Maryland Mine because it's a short-sighted, profit driven project with long-term consequences for this community, for local flora and fauna, the air, the water, and our quality of life. We also know well the harmful impacts of mining.

Water is the new gold. It's the lifeblood of every living creature. This project will pump it out of our county, into the watershed with the potential of heavy metal pollution to all downstream users.

92-1 We are living in a time of climate crisis and ecological emergencies. The idea itself is absurd, let alone the consequences it will have many generations into the future.

This unconscious greed for gold requires no regard to the unforgiving impacts it leaves in the wake of the destructive operations to get it out of the ground, literally, under our homes. In a nutshell, mining devastates communities, water and the environment, and should never be considered an option where people live nearby or downstream.

Please consider the horrible consequences of this ill advised project to the area, California, United States and the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn & Steve Battaini



92-2

Please fill out and return the attached postcard today!

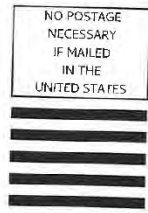
Detach the support card on the right and fill out the reverse side.

We'll use these cards later to show the Board of Supervisors the strong support throughout the community for re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 28 GRASS VALLEY, CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE
RISE GRASS VALLEY INC
PO BOX 271
GRASS VALLEY CA 95945-9801



I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) _____
Address _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____



Need more details on our plan to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine? Want to join our team?

Please visit RiseGrassValley.com and sign up.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 92: CAROLYN AND STEVE BATTAINI

Response to Comment Ind 92-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 92-2

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 93

From: Carrie Finlay <vajra418@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Fwd: NO to the Idaho_Maryland Mine

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NO to Rise Gold and NO to the Idaho-Maryland Mine.
We must commit to slowing climate change NOT contributing to it and this mine would have extreme, devastating environmental impact:

"Rise Gold proposes to generate significant amounts of carbon and greenhouse gasses every year. If you take their estimates at face value, they would create over 3,500 metric tons of CO2 during construction, and over 9,000 metric tons during operations. These emissions would be new to our community, and they would undermine state of California climate goals." -David J Whitehead

David J Whitehead explains in more detail here

NO to wasting billions of gallons of water.
NO to polluting the atmosphere.
Rise Gold is acting out of selfish gain and meaningless speculated profit. This will not achieve what you want, it will only make everything worse. You wont have a planet to inhabit if your payday comes.

Please support our environment and communities and STOP this mine.
Thank you,

--
Carrie

--
Carrie

Ind 93-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 93: CARRIE FINLAY

Response to Comment Ind 93-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 94

support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$12,000, including benefits. The mine will also create an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) CATALINA DAVIS age 80
Address 11010 BRUNSWICK DRIVE ZIP 95924
Phone 916-442-2639
Email Address catzmeonow@Icloud.com

I DON'T

Dist 3

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

RECEIVED

MAR 03 2022

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ind 94-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 94: CATALINA DAVIS

Response to Comment Ind 94-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 95

From: [Cate Keller](#)
To: [hcbosupervisors](#)
Subject: Vote No on Mine
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:56:35 PM

Dist 3

CAUTION: This email originated from outside 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 Co Supervisors,

My husband and I moved to Nevada County 10 years ago. We are raising our family here. We have purchased several pieces of property in Nevada City and Grass Valley and own a local business. We also volunteer and donate locally.

We are active and invested in this community because we believe in it's locally minded, forward thinking citizens and culture. If Nevada County wants to continue to grow it's economy, let's not do it in a way that compromises our attraction to the higher end earners and white collar investors looking to relocate here. Let's not resort to the same plan as the poverty stricken rural areas of Alaska, West Virginia, and Kentucky. If we decide to begin mining again it isn't moving forward, it's moving backwards.

And our family will become very doubtful of our investments here.

Thank you for your time,
Cate Keller

Ind 95-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 95: CATE KELLER

Response to Comment Ind 95-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 96

From: Catherine Flowers <flowerscatherine57@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project - Comments

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Dear Mr. Kelley:

Firstly, thank you for your professionalism and attention to such a complex and tedious project.

In principle, I strongly object to this project being considered simply because there was a similar land use operation more than half a century ago.

As a property owner and resident living literally on top of and close to the Empire Mine, I can only imagine what it would be like to have that mine or any mine for that matter activated for mining purposes. Environmentally and economically, it does not make sense, as the benefits to the county and city residents of Nevada County are minimal, and the impacts, very long-term significant.

Ind 96-1

My specific concerns are related to the following areas:

Air Quality
Transportation and Traffic
Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Noise and Vibration
Hydrology/Water Quality
Water Supply Analysis
Economics

All of these areas overlap one another and in particular Transportation and Traffic, Hazards and Hazardous Materials .

With regard to the transport of explosives, hazardous materials, contaminated soils, and accident conditions and the transport of these materials everyday, over a 16-hour period (6:00 AM to 10 PM) for years using local feeder roads to State Highway 49 and 20, has there been or will there be a "worst case scenario" analysis of what happens should a road accident incident occur causing a spill of hazardous waste? How will 100 trips per day impact safety for those making their way to work everyday?

Ind 96-2

Please make my email to you as part of the public comment period for this Draft Environmental Document.

▼ Sincerely,



Catherine Criss Flowers
437 Kate Hayes Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(510) 701-1589

?



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 96: CATHERINE FLOWERS

Response to Comment Ind 96-1

Please see Master Response 1. With regard to specific concerns related to hazards and hazardous materials, please see Chapter 4.7 of the DEIR. With regard to concerns related to the water supply analysis please see Master Response 14. Concerns related to economic impacts are addressed in Master Response 2.

Response to Comment Ind 96-2

Impact 4.7-1 of the Hazards and Hazardous Materials chapter of the DEIR analyzed whether the proposed project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. As discussed therein, the proposed project could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, specifically related to construction activities, explosives, and use and storage of various chemicals. As such, Mitigation Measures 4.7-1(a) through 4.7-1(d) were included to ensure that the risk from transport, underground storage, and use of explosives at the Brunswick Industrial Site would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Impacts related to increased trips on local roadways as a result of the proposed project were discussed in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR.



Individual Letter 97

April 3, 2022

T

o: Members of the Nevada County Planning Commission, Nevada County Board of Supervisors, and Nevada County Planning Department Staff

Attn: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
Ph: 530 265-1423
Email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

DEIR Comment Email: idaho.mmeir@co.nevada.ca.us
Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Ind 97-1

To All Concerned:

As a homeowner and resident of Nevada County for over 35 years I appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) released by Nevada County for public review on January 4, 2022, addressing the environmental impacts of re-opening and operating the Mine for the next 80 years. My family has long roots in the mining history of this area, but I feel the negative effects of the proposed Idaho-Maryland on the important values that this community holds dear are far too costly.

I am concerned about the long-lasting environmental impacts that the Mine Project would cause and the inadequacy of the environmental analysis of the DEIR. A number of key points for me are provided here. There are MANY in the DEIR.

Ind 97-2

I am concerned about water quality in the area. The drill core testing for water quality impacts is inadequate. There was an insufficient quantity of drill core rock analyzed to determine the mine's true impact on water quality. Only 0.68% of the rock core that was drilled were submitted for analysis and minimal information is available. The DEIR refers to a "separate report" but there is no report available. Additionally, the samples did not have a proper chain of custody (COC) processes. It is impossible to determine the accuracy of the samples and thus the accuracy of the analysis based on the samples. This needs investigation.

Ind 97-3

I am concerned about air quality. Air quality is an issue we already struggle with in the county. The DEIR provides no evidence that the project's long-term NOx, ROG, and PM10 emissions will be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. The DEIR fails to adequately mitigate the Project's air quality impacts. It relies on a bare minimum of mitigation measures recommended by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) to address air quality impacts, and these measures only address emissions during a one year period of construction. The mitigation measures do not address the long-term emissions that will result from 80-years of mining operations associated with the Project. As a result, there is no evidence that the Project's



Ind 97-4

↑
long term emissions have been mitigated to a less-than-significant level, as concluded by Baseline Engineering Consultants (Baseline).

I am concerned about groundwater. The proposed Project would significantly affect local groundwater resources by dewatering the mine, lowering groundwater levels. The dewatered groundwater resources would be converted to surface water that is discharged into existing creek channels and quickly conveyed out of the area. An incorrect assumption was made in the groundwater model used to predict dewatering impacts, which led the DEIR to significantly underestimate groundwater drawdown, both in magnitude and areal extent. The revised DEIR must rely on a corrected groundwater model in order to accurately predict the extent of the well drawdown caused by the predicted 80 years of mine-dewatering and dewatered maintenance.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. I am opposed to the reopening of the mine.

Catherine Hardy
15232 Honeycomb Ranch Rd
Nevada City, CA



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 97: CATHERINE HARDY

Response to Comment Ind 97-1

This comment is introductory in nature and the commenter is concerned about potential long-term impacts of the project. Please see Master Response 1. Responses to the commenter's specific comments on the inadequacy of the DEIR are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 97-2

The commenter states that drill core testing for water quality impacts is inadequate, that the samples did not have a proper chain of custodies process, and that sampling accuracy could be inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 8 - Mine Waste Characterization. The commenter states that the DEIR refers to a "separate report" but there is no report available" but provides no specifics on what report or where the DEIR refers to this separate report. Therefore no response is possible nor provided.

Response to Comment Ind 97-3

The commenter states the DEIR provides no evidence that emissions of NO_x, ROG, and PM₁₀ emissions will be mitigated to a less than significant level because mitigation is only required during construction. The commenter is referred to Master Response 19 - NSAQMD Criteria Pollution Thresholds during Operations.

Response to Comment Ind 97-4

The commenter states that an incorrect assumption was made in the groundwater model but provides no details or evidence on which assumption is incorrect. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and Appendices K.2 and K.3 of the DEIR. Please also see Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 98

From: [Catherine Stifter](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIR](#)
Cc: DEIRcomments@csa-nc.org
Subject: Comments on the DEIR for the re-opening of the the Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Saturday, February 12, 2022 7:17:16 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 Mr. Kelley,

Ind 98-1

As the Nevada County Planning Commission reviews the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine, I request that you keep in mind the "rich" historical record of gold mining in Nevada County from the 1840s through the 1950s and into the present day. Based on what we already know to be unavoidable environmental and cultural impacts due to the ordinary and expected operations of a gold mine, I believe the DEIR has correctly identified Alternative 1, the No Build, No Project plan as the way to not move forward to re-open the mine.

Ind 98-2

As a 34-year resident of Nevada County, who lived for decades within just a few miles of Malakoff Diggins hydraulic mine site and was involved in opposing the San Juan Ridge Mine, I know and continually experience the impacts to the lands and waters where I live, work and play. As a volunteer naturalist guide for SYRCL's educational Salmon Expeditions conducted each Autumn for school age children from Nevada, Yuba and Sutter Counties, I teach about ongoing water quality impacts from legacy mining that have reduced the fall runs of Chinook salmon to all-time lows. I am also a contributing member of the Ancestral Homelands Reciprocity Project of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. The Rise Gold property and proposed mine exist within the Nisenan traditional and ancestral homelands.

One year ago, I moved to the Union Hill area of Grass Valley, adjacent to the Empire Mine State Park, throughout which evidence of mining impacts is abundantly clear. My home is .9 mile from the Brunswick Industrial site. I will comment on just two of the issues that about which I am most concerned and have educated myself by reading the DEIR.

Ind 98-3

I am concerned about the significant impacts to Native Tribes whose traditional and ancestral homelands contain the proposed mine sites, primarily the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. Impacts described in Sections 4.5-2 through 4 on Table 2-1 of the Executive Summary (pages 2-61-63 of the DEIR) refer to "substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource, tribal cultural resources or disturbance of any human remains." The mitigation measures call for consultation ONLY IF and WHEN construction or mining activities uncover resources or remains. Consultations with cultural resources experts in coordination with the Nevada County Planning Department should also be become part of this mitigation strategy PRIOR TO the commencement of any project activities on any of the construction sites to prevent destruction of cultural materials and sites.

Ind 98-4

I am also concerned about significant impacts to surface and ground water quality described in Section 4.8-1. As a paddler, swimmer and hiker who lives and recreates in the Bear River watershed and as a resident whose home and water system are within one mile of the mine, my concern is that the water treatment plant design and operations described in the mitigation



measures, as well as the required quarterly monitoring reports would not be able to prevent pollution and contamination of the mine property, Wolf Creek and subsequently all other waterways downstream, beginning with the Bear River. Both Wolf Creek and the Bear River are still in the process of returning to fully functioning ecosystems after suffering heavy impacts of historic gold mining. The risk of hazardous constituents in waste water discharged into Wolf Creek is too great. The solution to this concern is the adoption of Alternative 1, No Project (No Build) alternative whether or not it meets any of the project objectives.

As a private citizen, I have just spent 4.5 hours reviewing the DEIR and responding in this letter. I'm neither a scientist nor a contractor, but I do understand that elements of this DEIR are flawed and need to be addressed by the Planning Committee.

Ind 98-5

Sincerely,

Catherine Stifter (she/her)
10371 Mercury Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-277-6310
[cstifter2@gmail.com](mailto: cstifter2@gmail.com)



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 98: CATHERINE STIFTER

Response to Comment Ind 98-1

Please refer to Master Response 1. The DEIR determined that the No Project (No Build) Alternative would be the environmentally superior alternative. As noted on page 6-42 of the DEIR, “Identification of the environmentally superior alternative is an informational procedure and the alternative selected may not be the alternative that best meets the goals or needs of the County.”

Response to Comment Ind 98-2

The comment is a general description of the commenter’s credentials, and does not address the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 98-3

As described in the Method of Analysis section of Chapter 4.5, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, of the DEIR (see page 4.5-19), reparation of the Historic Properties Inventory and Finding of Effect prepared for the proposed project included a cultural records search, literature review, consultation with the Nevada County Landmark Commission (NCLC), consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and a field survey. In addition, consistent with CEQA Guidelines and Assembly Bill 52, as part of the DEIR process, local tribes were notified and invited to consult on the proposed project, and such information was presented in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 98-4

Impacts to surface and groundwater quality are addressed in Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR. In addition, see Master Response 35, regarding discharge into South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 98-5

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter’s concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 99



March 15, 2022

attn: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Thank you for the opportunity to express concerns for the environmental impact of the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

With all I've come to understand:

I believe this would be tragic for our community well being due to: air quality, water contamination, noise and traffic issues. Basics for Quality of Life.

Please deeply consider the "well being" of our future.

Sincerely,

City Melior Benoit
(650) 793-1233

99-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 99: CATHY BENOIT

Response to Comment Ind 99-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Cathy Boyle-Dowd <nieshadog@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:22 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comment on DEIR

Individual Letter 100

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Ind 100-1

Hello. I am a resident of Nevada County since 1978. My husband and I raised our kids here. We own a construction company here and have been successful in our profession and the raising of our kids in Nevada County. Our kids live, work and have their own children. It's a good life for all of us and that's the way I want to keep it. We don't need this mine in our county. We have been there and done that. Just look around at how mining changed the landscape in not a good way. Empire Mine with its toxic water and tailings is one example. This idea is horrible. We don't have the water it takes to make it happen. Also, as houses and neighborhoods are being built who would want a working mine next store? Not to be critical of the county, but the infrastructure is severely lacking in an emergency situation. Look at how things failed when a fire was close by and in December when the big storm hit. I don't want to risk failure when the county falls apart when the mine fails. I say NO to the mine for sake of my grandkids. It's a terrible idea. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,
Catherine Boyle-Dowd



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 100: CATHY BOYLE-DOWD

Response to Comment Ind 100-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 101

Cathy Edger
15319 Chinook Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Mr. Mathew Kelly, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave, Ste 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-1423

February 12, 2022

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Ind 101-1

I worked for many years as a Park Ranger for a water district in the Bay Area. I live in the upper Rattlesnake Road area. I first visited Grass Valley on a Gold Country history trip when I was in high school, and have been connected via family to the town since the 70's.

I was alarmed when I first heard the possibility of Rise reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine. Add my name to those who strenuously object to the reopening of the mine. My objections?

Ind 101-2

1. Water. My primary (and only) residence depends on well water for all household and landscape use. I put no credence in the claims of Rise that the aquifers upon which wells depend will not be affected by mining activities.

Ind 101-3

2. Noise. Our home is in a serenely quiet area. The quiet is something our friends comment on as we sit on our patio and visit. I have learned over the course of my life that quiet is a quality of life issue that all too many people disrespect, especially when it conflicts with their agenda. The noise generated by mining activities will affect the quality of our life and our neighbors as well.

Ind 101-4

3. Community character. The last mine in the area closed a long time ago, and Grass Valley has transitioned from a mining community to a community of small businesses, light industry, agriculture, and tourism. It is a gem of a town. To disrupt it with the grit of mining activity would be a quality of life shift in a negative direction.

Ind 101-5

4. Economy. Rise likes to promote the idea that the mine will bring jobs with them. I doubt it. In my life (in one chapter of my life I was also a landscape designer, and my dad was a general contractor) I have see all too often how people discount the skill or training required to perform what Mike Rowe calls "dirty jobs". I think the evidence will show that most of the high paying jobs will probably go to those who have already been in the mining business, not local businesses

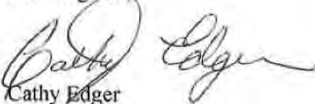
Ind 101-6

5. Traffic. Big trucks on 174 at all hours? How does that benefit residents living in that corridor? It does not. In any way. Life experience and observation lead me to predict increased noise, congestion (which is getting worse all the time), dust, and air quality.

Let Rise Grass Valley go elsewhere to do their dirty work.

Best Regards,

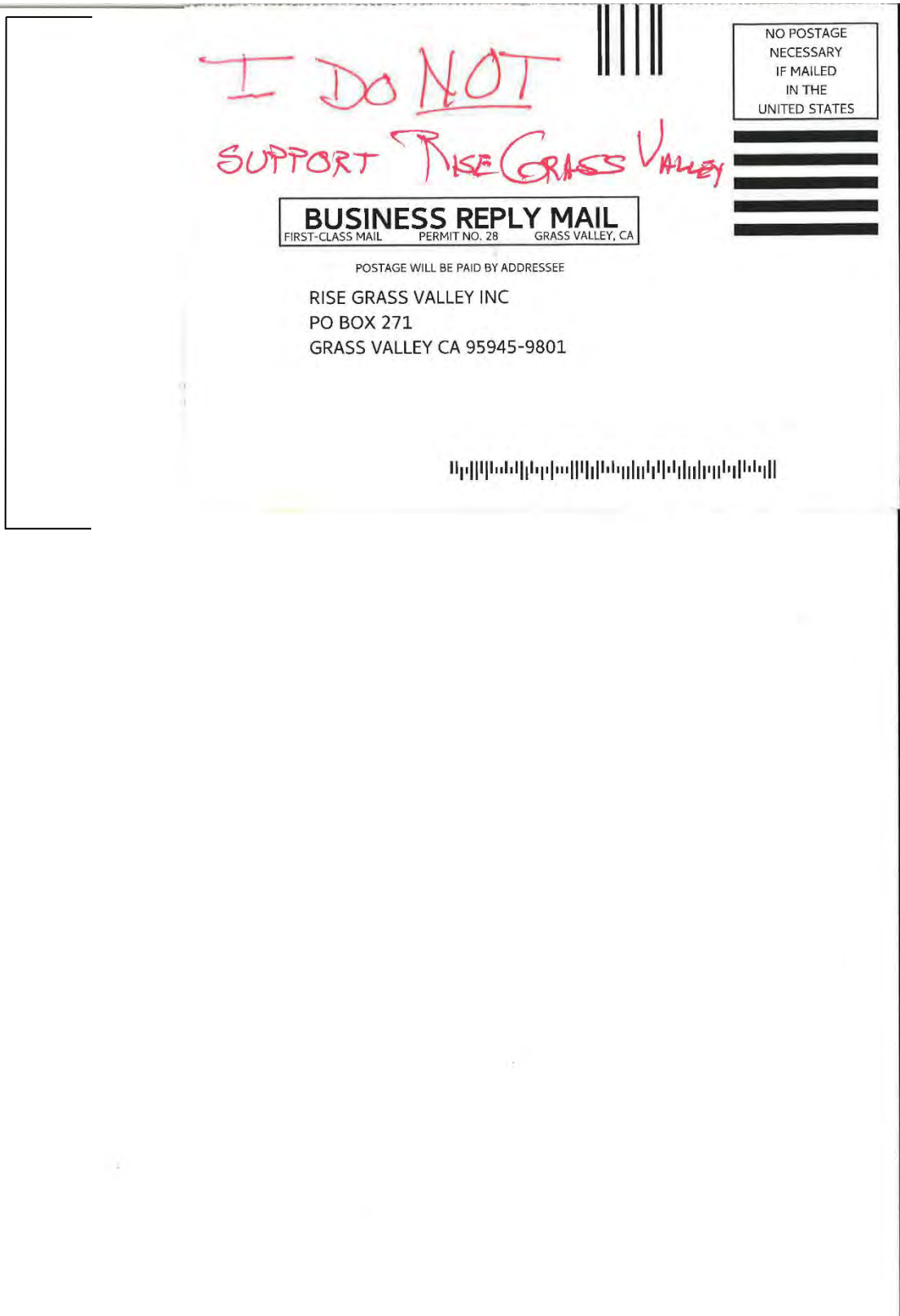
Ind 101-7


Cathy Edger

Enclosure: Rise requested support response., with negative notations.



Ind 101-8



Ind 101-9

~~DO NOT~~
I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 101: CATHY EDGER

Response to Comment Ind 101-1

This comment is introductory in nature and the commenter opposes the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 101-2

The commenter disagrees with DEIR's finding regarding impacts to groundwater wells but does not identify how the DEIR is inadequate. The DEIR analyzed impacts to groundwater wells in Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR (Hydrology and Water Quality). Please also see Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 101-3

The commenter states that the project will result in adverse noise impacts but does not identify how the DEIR is inadequate. The DEIR analyzes noise impact in Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration). Regarding quality of life concerns, please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 101-4

The commenter states that the project will result in adverse impacts to community character but does not clarify what is meant by "community character" and does not identify any inadequacies with the DEIR. To the extent the commenter is concerned with social impacts to the community, the commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts. If the commenter is discussing aesthetic impacts, those impacts were analyzed in Chapter 4.1 (Aesthetics).

Response to Comment Ind 101-5

The commenter states that the DEIR overstates the project's benefits to local employment. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 101-6

The commenter states that the project will result in adverse impacts to traffic, noise, and air quality but does not discuss how the DEIR's analysis of these resource areas is inadequate. The DEIR analyzed traffic in Chapter 4.12 (Transportation), air quality impacts in Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), and noise impacts in Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration).

Response to Comment Ind 101-7

The commenter states that the Project Applicant should go elsewhere. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 102

From: Caulen Lauria <caulenl@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Mine CEA

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Greetings,

Let it be known and recorded that in relation to the following link and findings of the environmental impact for the proposed mine, Nevada County stands United against and rejects the project. The facts of its destructive nature are manipulated to appear benign from a greedy foreign non local careless agenda. Serious efforts will be taken to ensure no corrupt official is assisting subversion for nefarious financial gain. Please stand for the obvious facts and city protection.

Ind 102-1

Thank you.

https://download-files.wixmp.com/ugd/1ecb43_31fa1725a09f46c3a500dabb67c9a2b3.pdf?token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJpc3MiOiJ1cm46YXBwOmU2NiYzMGU3MTRmMDQ5MGFhZWExZjE0OWIzYjY5ZTMyliwic3ViljoiaXJuOmFwcDplNjY2MzBINzE0ZjA0OTBhYWVhMwYxNDliM2I2OWUzMiIsImF1ZCI6WyJ1cm46c2VydmljZTpmYWxlLmRvd25sb2FkIl0sImh0dCI6MTY0ODgzNDQ2OSwiZXhwIjoxNjQ0DcwNDc5LjQdGkiOiJhZGQyMWFhNGQxODYiLCJyYm9iOiJtbeyJwYXRoiL3VnZC8xZWNiNDNfMzFmYTE3MjVhMDlmNDZiM2E1MDBkYWJiNjEiOwEYyMucGRmIn1dXSwiYXR0YWNobWVudCI6eyJmaWxlbmFtZSI6IkNFOV9JTU1fREVUJUI9jb21tZW50cy5wZGYifX0.U4Jnnje3e5NUbhb4CG1SgJviuTc2PZ2RYs6mQw1NSns

Caulen Lauria



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 102: CAULEN LAURIA

Response to Comment Ind 102-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 103

Cecelia Royal
128 Sierra Blanca Ct.
Grass Valley, CA 95949
ceceliaroyal@gmail.com
April 1, 2022

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us



Re: DEIR Comment: Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Chapter 4.7)

I am writing to bring attention to the DEIR section on hazardous materials, specifically explosives. The second paragraph on page 4/13-21 states that the transportation, storage and use of explosives will comply with Federal and State laws, and "given that storage and use of explosives would only occur underground at the Brunswick Industrial Site, an unexpected explosive event would not be likely to exacerbate above-ground wildfire risks."

This statement does not address the matter that to be stored underground, the explosives must of course be transported by trucks from distributing centers in Sacramento* (see Table 7). Presumably, these trucks would use I-80 to connect with the winding road of Highway 174, passing through approximately 10 miles of residential area. Also not addressed is, once arrived at the mine, there is the time involved in transferring these explosive materials from truck to the storage area underground. How can anyone offer failsafe assurances that these trucks will not be involved in a road mishap of any sort during transit? The explosives being transported are powerful enough to wipe out entire areas when ignited. Risks would increase during high tension mass vehicular evacuations that occur more frequently now during threat of wildfires and power outages. The results of such an accident would be devastating, as noted in *The New York Times* in January of this year when a truck transporting explosives to a town near Ghana, Africa, collided with a motorcycle, wiping out the town. See the following link:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/20/world/africa/ghana-explosion-mining-truck.html>.

The risk involved in the transport of deadly explosives should be enough to give pause. The other obvious disturbing corollary to this scenario is the actual use of these explosives and the impact on this bucolic area of Nevada County.

Please veto this project. Its existence would threaten not only lives but the peace we now take for granted.

Sincerely,


Cecelia Royal

Ind 103-1



AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ANALYSIS
TECHNICAL REPORT FOR THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT

Table 7. Operations On-Road Vehicle Trip Assumptions

Project Vehicle	Trip Length (miles)	Maximum Daily Trips (trips/day)	Maximum Daily VMT (VMT/day)	Annual Trips (trips/year)	Annual VMT (VMT/year)
Year 2022 to Year 2026 - Engineered Fill to Centennial Site					
Engineered Fill Haul Trucks	1.8	200	360	36,500	65,700
Freight Trucks	60	6	360	312	18,720
Concentrate Trucks	145	10	1,450	728	105,560
Fuel Trucks	3.5	6	21	108	378
Cement Trucks	60	4	240	936	56,160
Explosives Trucks	60	2	120	104	6,240
Outside Services (light vehicles)	5	8	40	2,184	10,920
Employees	14.7	356	5,233	120,788	1,775,584
Year 2027 to Year 2032 - Engineered Fill to Brunswick Site					
Engineered Fill Haul Trucks	0.25	200	50	36,500	9,125
Freight Trucks	60	6	360	312	18,720
Concentrate Trucks	145	10	1,450	728	105,560
Fuel Trucks	3.5	6	21	108	378
Cement Trucks	60	4	240	936	56,160
Explosives Trucks	60	2	120	104	6,240
Outside Services (light vehicles)	5	8	40	2,184	10,920
Employees	14.7	356	5,233	120,788	1,775,584
Year 2033 to Year 2102 - Engineered Fill to Other Customers					
Engineered Fill Haul Trucks	15.5	200	3,100	36,500	565,750
Freight Trucks	60	6	360	312	18,720
Concentrate Trucks	145	10	1,450	728	105,560
Fuel Trucks	3.5	6	21	108	378
Cement Trucks	60	4	240	936	56,160
Explosives Trucks	60	2	120	104	6,240
Outside Services (light vehicles)	5	8	40	2,184	10,920
Employees	14.7	356	5,233	120,788	1,775,584

Notes: VMT = vehicle miles traveled

For 2022, a haul truck trip length of 1.8 miles was assumed based on the estimated distance from the Brunswick Industrial Site to Centennial Industrial Site.

For 2027, a haul truck trip length of 0.25 miles was assumed based on the estimated distance from the ore processing facility to the engineered fill drop-off area on the Brunswick Industrial Site.

For 2033, haul truck trip length of 15.5 miles was assumed based on the estimated distance from the Brunswick Industrial Site to various other customers.

Fuel assumed to be trucked from Robinson Fuels Cardlock a distance of approximately 3.5 miles from the Brunswick Site.

Freight, cement, and explosives trucks were assumed to have an average 60-mile distance assuming that these materials would come from distribution facilities in Sacramento California.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 103: CECELIA ROYAL

Response to Comment Ind 103-1

A detailed analysis of impacts associated with explosives is included in Chapter 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Specifically, Impact 4.7-1 addresses whether the proposed project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. As discussed therein, for transportation purposes, explosives are classified by the Department of Transportation (DOT) in accordance with 49 CFR and under these regulations all explosives are listed as Hazard Class 1 materials. Explosives would be transported directly to the site by licensed explosive suppliers that possess the requisite permits, including a California Highway Patrol (CHP) hazardous materials transportation license and DOT hazardous materials permits. Numerous regulations are in place to ensure safety in the transport of explosives and a summary of these are provided in Table 4.7-2 of the DEIR. All companies and individuals transporting explosives to the site would be required to comply with all regulations provided in Table 4.7-2.



Individual Letter 104

From: Cecilia Reynolds <ceci@gotsky.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 8:52 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Mine Reopening

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Ind 104-1

I am firmly against the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. Mining is in our past, tourism and recreation in the present. The truck traffic alone will greatly impact our quality of life not to mention the possibility of environmental damage.

DO NOT APPROVE THIS ENDEAVOR

Most sincerely,
Cecilia Reynolds
125 Conaway Avenue
Grass Valley, CA 95945
949.677.9221 mobile
ceci@gotsky.com

"Neither a man nor a crowd nor a nation can be trusted to act humanely or to think sanely under the influence of a great fear." Bertrand Russell



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 104: CECILIA REYNOLDS

Response to Comment Ind 104-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Chad Henderson <chad.henderson@hwy1com.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 10:28 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comment on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Individual Letter 105

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Hello,

This is a comment on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. I would like to focus on the aspect of the reopening of the mine and job creation. Rise Gold estimates that the mine would create 300 well-paying jobs. However, the creation of those new jobs should be balanced against what those jobs could mean to other jobs and industries in the community.

If you look at this report on Nevada County's economic and workforce opportunities, you can see that the three largest employment sectors are health care and social assistance (5,515 jobs), retail trade (3,999 jobs), and accommodation and food services (3,841 jobs):

<https://ncerc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nevada-County-Economic-and-Workforce-Opportunity-Profile-March-2020.pdf>

Health care and social assistance - jobs grew 30% from 2008 to 2018.

Retail trade - jobs decline by 3.5% in the same period

Accommodation and food services - 23.7% job growth in the same period.

There are only 38 jobs in Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, a decrease of 50% since 2008.

Even if the mining jobs increased to 338 jobs, that would still be a small fraction of the total jobs. And why does this matter to the other jobs? It's because people live in Nevada County, and Grass Valley, because of the quality of life here, the sense of community, and the beautiful nature and cultural life. The daily activities of the mine - the trucking, the explosions, the potential for poorer water quality - put all of the other jobs at risk.

People visit our area for the same reason that others live here. But what if instead Grass Valley being known as a cultural, historical destination of natural beauty, it becomes known as the place with the noisy trucks, the place where the water quality is questionable, and instead of a quaint historical mining past, a place of modern mining destruction? Is it worth the risk? For 300 jobs? As the report states, there are so many other industries worthy of our investment, industries that have a future. Grass Valley's brand is a cozy community with a historic district - should that be risked for a mine that will not in any serious way move the economy forward? It's a gamble we don't need to and shouldn't take.

Best regards,

Chad Henderson
446 Glenwood Road

Ind 105-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 105: CHAD HENDERSON

Response to Comment Ind 105-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 106

Dist 1

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

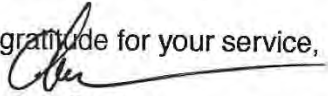
Dear Nevada County Supervisors;

Businesses, homeowners, and conservationists in Nevada County are joining together to protect our neighborhoods, our local economy, and our quality of life from the Rise Gold proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We, urge the Board of Supervisors to reject this destructive proposal and instead protect our community.

Ind 106-1

We face new environmental challenges and this project seems to be a step in the wrong direction. Our duty is to protect our land and natural resources and not exploit them to their limit. As a grandfather I urge you to think about what world we want for our next generations and encourage you to look at our past and at the past of this Rise Gold. This is not what we want for our community.

In gratitude for your service,


Charles Benner



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 106: CHARLES BENNER

Response to Comment Ind 106-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 107

Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
PO Box 599002
Nevada City, Ca. 95959



Re: Reopening of Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear Planning Commission:

Ind 107-1

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine (IMM)! As a resident of Nevada County since 1974, Past President of the Nevada County Board of Realtors, Realtor Emeritus, founding Board Member of the Nevada County United Way, founding board member and past board president of The South Yuba River Citizens League, past Assistant Superintendent of the Nevada County Juvenile Hall, past assistant Director of the Nevada County Council on Alcoholism, and past Chairperson of the Nevada County Juvenile Justice Commission I believe I have a very clear understanding of what makes Western Nevada County the desirable community it is. Reopening of IMM will cause permanent damage not only to our local environment and unique quality of life, but also have a long term negative effect on real estate values throughout Western Nevada County.

Ind 107-2

I have spent the last several weeks reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Report completed for Rise Gold. Draft EIR there are numerous findings defined as having "SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS", See pages 1006 – 1009. The final sentence of this section referring to traffic cues reads " Thus, the EIR conservatively concludes that the impact would be significant and unavoidable. A careful reading of all impacts in this section are in fact significant and UNAVOIDABLE! As I understand the EIR rules we are supposed to just accept these unmitigable impacts?? The current Draft EIR makes reference to numerous unknown, and seriously scary, potential impacts, solutions for which will need to be developed AFTER the mine is up and running. In numerous places throughout the DEIR (pgs. 577,

Ind 107-3

543, 544, 1016 to note just a few), the report refers to potential future problems which would need to be dealt with once the project is operating. I was heartened to see that Rise proposed using "sawdust and kitty litter" when petroleum products are leaked into the Wolf Creek Watershed. In the section

Ind 107-4

called "Collapse" (pg.573) it is noted that significant impacts could occur for which mitigation measures would have to be developed "prior to construction". Dewatering of the mine raises many unknowns

Ind 107-5

which could only be dealt with at the time of failure. (In fact this type "solution" is referenced throughout the DEIR. Rise Gold repeatedly states that they will deal with issues as they arise, we are being asked to trust that they will. (Nowhere does Rise share with us their financial capability to remediate any of the potential problems of this project.)

Ind 107-6

Please also note that within the DEIR Rise asks for the right to amend Final Parcel Map #85-7 recorded 1/87. They do not state why they want to ammend this map. This is a subdivision map illustrates near surface workings, where a home built on one of the parcels suffered a major collapse. The map also makes reference to faults in the area. Given Rise's desire to move ahead I do not trust their motives for



↑
requesting the map change. On page 567 of the Draft EIR it states "Therefore, a significant impact could occur with respect to being located on a geological unit of soil that is unstable, or that could become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in an off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquification or collapse...."

Last month Ben Mossman sent a letter to Realtors throughout Nevada County touting the safety and lack of risk delineated in the DEIR. Clearly that is how he sees this project. I could enumerate many additional questionable conclusions and assumptions of this DEIR – they run throughout the document.

Ind 107-7

In my humble opinion, the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine will negatively impact, and irreparably harm the future Western Nevada County.

Thank you.



Charles Brock

PO Box 269, Nevada City, Ca. 95959 – 530.362.0490



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 107: CHARLES BROCK

Response to Comment Ind 107-1

The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 107-2

The commenter states that the DEIR identifies six project impacts in Section 5.6 that are considered significant and unavoidable.

The DEIR states that, before approving a project, the lead agency shall certify that the Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA, and that the Final EIR has been presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency, which has reviewed and considered the EIR. (DEIR, p. 1-9.) The lead agency shall also certify that the Final EIR reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis. (*Ibid.*) The findings prepared by the lead agency must be based on substantial evidence in the administrative record and must include an explanation that bridges the gap between evidence in the record and the conclusions required by CEQA. (*Ibid.*) If the decision-making body elects to proceed with a project that would have significant unavoidable impacts, then a Statement of Overriding Considerations explaining the decision to balance the benefits of the project against unavoidable environmental impacts must also be adopted. (*Ibid.*)

Response to Comment Ind 107-3

The commenter states that numerous places in the DEIR refers to future problems which would need to be dealt with when the project is operating and refers to page 543 and 544 (related to closure of near surface workings), page 577 (submission of grading plans and closure of near surface workings), and page 1016 (hazardous materials). The referenced pages relate to mitigation measures that require subsequent governmental approvals before further actions can be taken. Compliance with a regulatory permit or other similar process may be identified as mitigation if compliance would result in implementation of measures that would be reasonably expected, based on substantial evidence in the record, to reduce the significant impact to the specified performance standards (CCR Title 14 Section 15126.4)

Response to Comment Ind 107-4

The commenter asserts that it is problematic that Mitigation Measure 4.6-3(a) of the DEIR requires that grading plans be developed and reviewed by a geotechnical engineer subsequent to project approval, and implies that such plans should be finalized prior to project approval. Grading plans contain engineering-level detail and this level of detail is not required in an EIR. (*Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare*, (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 20, 26.)

Response to Comment Ind 107-5

The commenter states that there is no guarantee that the Project Applicant will comply with mitigation requirements, specifically with regard to dewatering, but does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate. The Idaho-Maryland Mine Groundwater Monitoring Plan is designed to predict impacts to domestic water wells before they occur. Please see Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Regarding compliance with mitigation measures and other permit requirements, please see Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility. CEQA does not require an analysis of an applicant's financial capability; however, some governmental permits and approvals have financial assurance requirements (e.g., the Surface Mining and Reclamation



Act requires a mine operator to post a bond or other financial assurance to guarantee reclamation of site disturbance on the surface).

Response to Comment Ind 107-6

The commenter states that the DEIR identifies an amendment to a final map as one of the requested discretionary approvals for the project, but claims the DEIR does not state the reason for the request. As discussed in Chapter 4.6 (Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources) of the DEIR, based upon the substantial evidence in the record, the project includes a request to amend the Final Map for Bet Acres Subdivision, recorded in February 1987 in Book 7 of Subdivision Maps at Page 75 to remove the “200’ Building Setback From Fault”, as shown on Sheet 4 of Final Map #85. (DEIR, p. 4.6-31.)

In addition, a management plan was prepared pursuant to the Nevada County LUDC, Section L-II 4.3.8, to address potential seismic hazards associated with the previously-identified inferred fault alignment. It is NV5’s professional opinion that the subject fault, identified on the property in Map 85-7, does not qualify as a seismically active area as defined by Nevada County LUDC Section L-II 4.3.8.B, and the proposed development within the designated building setback fault zone is generally feasible from a geotechnical engineering standpoint. (DEIR, p. 4.6-32.)

While the analysis, including peer review by the County’s independent expert, shows that an active fault likely does not exist, out of an abundance of caution, the County has concluded that a significant impact could occur without mitigation. Mitigation Measure 4.6-1 requires that prior to approval of Improvement Plans, the design recommendations from the Brunswick Industrial Site Geotechnical Report (November 18, 2019) shall be incorporated into the Plans to the satisfaction of the Nevada County Building Department. (*Ibid.*)

Response to Comment Ind 107-7

The commenter’s opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



From: Charlie Landau <charlie@charlielandau.com>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Require a bond

Individual Letter 108

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There are many uncertainties regarding the plan to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Rise Gold has made several claims and promises regarding both expected and unexpected impacts.

My concern is that Rise Gold is clearly undercapitalized and does not have the resources to make good on these claims and promises. If there is a problem, the people of Nevada County will be left holding the bag.

If the county wishes to move forward with the mine, these concerns can be addressed by requiring Rise Gold to put up a bond sufficient to cover the cost of monitoring compliance and mitigating any unmet promises. For example, if more wells are dewatered than planned, the bond would pay the costs of mitigating that. If Rise Gold stands by their promises, they should not object to putting up a bond. If on the other hand they are unable or unwilling to obtain a bond, then they do not have access to the capital to make good on their promises and the project should not move forward.

Sincerely,
Charles Landau
North San Juan

Ind 108-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 108: CHARLIE LANDAU

Response to Comment Ind 108-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 109

Dist 1

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FEB 22 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Nevada County Supervisors;

Businesses, homeowners, and conservationists in Nevada County are joining together to protect our neighborhoods, our local economy, and our quality of life from the Rise Gold proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We urge the Board of Supervisors to reject this destructive proposal and instead protect our community.

Ind 109-1

We face new environmental challenges and this project seems to be a step in the wrong direction. Our duty is to protect our land and natural resources and not exploit them to their limit. As an aunt I urge you to think about what world we want for our next generations and encourage you to look at our past and at the past of this Rise Gold. This is not what we want for our community.

In gratitude for your service,


Charlotte Benner



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 109: CHARLOTTE BENNER

Response to Comment Ind 109-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.



Individual Letter 110

From: Charly Price <charlyprice@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 7:48 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Idaho Maryland mine comments

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Ind 110-1

Please take a listen to this YouTube. It's the complete song I tried to sing to you at the public meeting.

<https://youtu.be/jdWoLIJQjA>

From Charly Price
12655 Little Deer Creek Lane
Nevada City CA 95959

Ind 110-2

As an example of how desirable Nevada County is. I worked in Placerville on the Eldorado National Forest then took a lateral transferred in 1990 to move to Nevada City and work on the Tahoe NF. I wanted to go through all the hassles of selling my home in Pollock Pines and buying a home in Nevada City for no increase in salary because the Grass Valley area is exceptional. Please keep it that way.

Thanks for all you do for our county



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 110: CHARLY PRICE

Response to Comment Ind 110-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 110-2

The comment is in regard to the desirability of Nevada County, and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 2.



Individual Letter 111

From: Charly Price <charlyprice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 8:26 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: My comment

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<https://youtu.be/idWoLIJQjA>

It really revolves around to total effect on our human environment.

Which has not been addressed

Ind 111-1

Thanks
Charly Price
Charlyprice@gmail.com
530-575-9480
12655 Little Deer Creek Lane
Nevada City CA 95959



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 111: CHARLY PRICE

Response to Comment Ind 111-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 112

From: [Charmian](#)
To: [RCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Saturday, February 5, 2022 3:00:52 PM

Dist 3

CAUTION: This email originated from outside 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 Ladies and Gentlemen,

Frankly Rice Gold's proposal is a terrible idea; a ghastly step backwards into the 19th century. Please table this issue forever.

Letters, other voices and opinions, by learned professionals, write daily to The Union on a myriad of problems arising: Mossman and Rice Gold's financial instability, history of failed enterprises, environmental contamination and debt. A truly appalling track record.

Infrastructure damage and environmental degradation: For EIGHTY YEARS (yes we won't be alive but our children's grandchildren will be) Unthinkable dust and noise and really no beneficial trade off for Nevada County's citizens.

WATER: Truly more precious than gold. VITAL in fact. This enterprise threatens property values and water tables - Really, imagine losing your well - your only water supply.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report lists 83 severe impacts to our area. Surely enough facts to table this issue once and for all time.; We can use that above ground space for expansion and economic growth 21st century style

Please, look to the Future not backwards.

Respectfully,
Charmian Railsback
231 Depot Street,
Grass Valley
(530) 273 8365

Ind 112-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 112: CHARMIAN RAILSBACK

Response to Comment Ind 112-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.



Individual Letter 113

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$42,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Cheri M FLANIGAN
Address 10437 Cement Hill Rd ZIP 95959
Phone 530 798 3391 N.C.
Email Address cmflanigan19@gmail.com

Ind 113-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 113: CHERI FLANIGAN

Response to Comment Ind 113-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 114

From: [Cheri Martin](#)
To: [BCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Sunday, February 27, 2022 8:37:00 PM

Dist 2

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Ind 114-1

Please vote No on opening the Idaho Maryland mine.

Cheri Martin
Grass Valley, CA



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 114: CHERI MARTIN

Response to Comment Ind 114-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Cheryl Balmain <balmainiacs@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 3:02 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Rise Mining project

Individual Letter 115

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I strongly object to the Rice Mining project .

Ind 115-1

Reopening this mine makes no sense and will destroy the quality of Nevada Co. and the uniqueness of our forested, artistic small town residential environment. A gold mine on the edge of the city limit of Grass Valley!? Please, you can't be seriously considering this. Nothing good for our county comes of this at this time.

The gold mining boom here of 1849 which peaked around the end of the 19th century and was basically over by the middle of the 20th century was a different time, fundamentally a very different place, and absolutely a different culture.

Ind 115-2

On any given day we can hear the average car/truck traffic on Brunswick Road. I can't imagine what the commercial sized trucks coming out of the mine will sound like at all hours and how they will impact us. The road traffic the mine project trucks will add to the two lane roads in the Grass Valley/ Union Hill, Glenbrook Basin, Nevada City and all of Western Nevada Co. are beyond anything this resident of Nevada County considers other than insane. The mine project just simply would take this area back 100 years and return Western Nevada County to that time of dusty, dirty, noisy, congested roads, and underground mine shaft manual workers I doubt can be found in this day and age.

Ind 115-3

Today people live here to enjoy the forested beauty, the small Northern Ca. town charm, the gorgeous clean streams and rivers, and the quiet clean environment. We have promoted the arts, and tourism and that is the focus of a large percent of our town businesses. None of this is promoted by a large hard rock mine operation near the edge of the Grass Valley city limit.

I urge you to not approve moving this project forward.

Cheryl Balmain



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 115: CHERYL BALMAIN

Response to Comment Ind 115-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 115-2

Potential impacts associated with noise generated by traffic associated with the proposed project are addressed in Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR. In addition, traffic congestion is addressed in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 115-3

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration. In addition, please see Master Response 2.



Individual Letter 116

From: C B <jcborad@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 10:09 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Say no to EIR draft

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Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am a long time resident of Nevada County, and have owned our property here since 1971.

I am very concerned about this proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Rise Gold should not be impacting our community with its plan to make profits by extracting gold. This will come with a negative impact on air quality, water quality, noise levels, and future unknown dangers to our beautiful county.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Borad

Ind 116-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 116: CHERYL BORAD

Response to Comment Ind 116-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 117

February 11, 2022



Nevada County Planning Commission
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Ind 117-1

Dear Commissioners Danny Milman, Laura Duncan, Robert Ingram, Mike Mastrodonato, and William Greeno,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine as proposed by the Rise Gold Corporation. I know you are receiving much input about the negative public health, environmental, and quality of life impacts from this enormous project, and I share those objections, but I am focusing today on its negative impacts on mental health, both at the individual and the community level.

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with many years of clinical experience. Nevada County already has a higher rate of depression and suicide than the California average, combined with a lower percentage of mental health providers per capita, as documented in the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. (www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/27995)

The pandemic has led to an even greater demand for mental health services, and there has been an alarming increase in overdose deaths, many involving fentanyl. County behavioral health staff and private practitioners have been operating at capacity for several years, with no end in sight.

Ind 117-2

It is clear from the number of people mobilized in opposition to the mine, as well as newspaper articles and letters, and numerous private conversations, that the prospect of the mine has already led to a great deal of anxiety in the community. Worry about property values, loss of well water, the prospect of noise and traffic impacts, and anticipated increased health problems, especially respiratory, is widespread.

Additionally, the possible reopening of the mine is yet another divisive issue in the community. At a time when our cohesiveness is challenged on many fronts, this is an issue for which there is a clear solution, and that is to deny the Rise Gold proposal.

I strongly urge you to NOT accept the DEIR.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Morris, LCSW 113 Defiant Way, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (530) 273-1990

Cc: Director of Planning Brian Foss, Senior Planner Matt Kelley, Principal Planner Tyler Barrington



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 117: CHERYL MORRIS

Response to Comment Ind 117-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 117-2

The commenter's concerns are in regards to mental health issues within Nevada County, which is outside of the scope of CEQA, and does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 118

Cheryl and Byron Zook
15543 Indian Springs Road
Penn Valley, CA 95946
925-788-0806

April 3, 2022

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902 (530) 265-1423

Via email: Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Public Comment on The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Ind 118-1

We write to you today to address the deeply flawed DEIR that is currently under review. While there are many causes for concern with the flawed DEIR and its potential to pave the way for the mine to reopen, I wish to point out the concerns with 24/7 operations that will change forever the peaceful community we all love.

Ind 118-2

The noise impacts on our community are distorted by the fact the operations and the underground blasting are not addressed as a whole, but instead broken out into two separate studies. We respectfully request that further analysis be done that looks at the combined impacts in one study and that this new study be paid for by the County, not the proposed mine operator Ben Mossman & Rise Grass Valley, Inc.

Ind 118-3

Cheryl worked for environmental firm for many years and we are both aware that reports that are paid for by the party with an interest in moving forward with an environmentally impactful project are written to persuade unwitting parties to agree with the findings and approve projects with incomplete or biased data. The Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc. (BAC) Noise and Vibration Analysis is insufficient since the underground blasting impacts are not considered as a part of this study and are evaluated in a separate study by another firm, IDC-PBS (BAC Noise and Vibration Analysis Report, dated March 8, 2021 Overview, pg. 35). The impacts on our vibrant residential community and county will not be separated. The noise from both operations (BAC Noise and Vibration Analysis Report, dated March 8, 2021 Table 9, Hours of Operation pg. 39) will occur simultaneously with underground blasting. What is required is a full study that looks at all the noise and vibrations together, not broken out to satisfy a paying client's interest in "cherry picking" data for the analytical data they want.

Ind 118-4

We respectfully request that the planning department not move forward with this flawed DEIR and reject the proposed project to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine. Let's move forward not backwards, and leave gold mining in our past and create a multi-use environmental and economically favorable project for our residential community that meets the goals of the Nevada County's own Environmental Plan.

Kind regards,

Cheryl & Byron Zook

cc: Sue Hoek, Chair, Supervisor, District 4
cc: Ralph Silberstein, President of CEA Foundation



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 118: CHERYL AND BYRON ZOOK

Response to Comment Ind 118-1

This comment is introductory in nature. The comment generally alleges that the DEIR is “deeply flawed,” but provides no specific evidence – Please see Master Response 1. The commenter’s specific comments are discussed in the following responses to comments.

Response to Comment Ind 118-2

The commenter would like blasting and noise studies to be combined and paid for by the County. The blasting and vibration analysis is significantly different from noise and vibration and are better understood independently. The Environmental Factors of Blasting Report (Appendix M of the DEIR) analyzes transient vibrations from the use of explosives underground, while the Noise and Vibration Analysis (Appendix L of the DEIR) analyses vibrations and noise from the surface equipment. Each has the potential to affect the environment differently. Additionally, vibrations produced from these different sources are not cumulative, and therefore a combined analysis of vibrations is not necessary and risks confusing the public.

Regarding County payment for reports, to avoid burdening the public with the cost of permitting private projects, the applicant must fund the studies necessary for an EIR. California law allows the applicant to submit technical, or other data, to the County for consideration and the County must consider all information and comments received. To avoid any appearance of possibility of impropriety, both of these reports were independently peer-reviewed by the County’s consultant, Saxelby Acoustics, and determined to be adequate. The EIR represents the County’s independent judgment and analysis and was prepared by the County’s independent consultant Raney Planning and Management. As a result, a new study is not required. (DEIR p. 1-9.)

Response to Comment Ind 118-3

The commenter objects to the noise and blasting reports being completed by separate firms and states that CEQA requires only one report covering blasting and noise together. The blasting and noise reports were independently peer-reviewed by the County’s consultant, Saxelby Acoustics, and were found to be satisfactory and adequate upon certain revisions made in response to peer review comments (see page 4.10-26 of the DEIR).

Vibrations produced from blasting and surface equipment sources are not cumulative. (see response to Comment Ind 118-2 above.) These activities take place in different locations (surface vs. underground), and comprise independent potential impacts.

The commentator alleges that noise from both activities, underground blasting and surface equipment, will occur simultaneously. However, these activities also take place at different times of the day. Blasting is typically done between working shifts (7:00AM or 7:00PM) and would be completed within seconds. Surface equipment placing and compacting engineered fill operates from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Other activities such as mineral processing are continuous over the entire day. A schedule of working hours for various activities is provided in Table 3-7 of the DEIR. The evaluation of impacts from blasting noise is based on the worst-case maximum noise levels at the nearest receptors due to the short duration of this noise source (see page 58 of Appendix L). Therefore, blasting noise is not cumulative to continuous noise sources from other activities taking place on the surface, which are evaluated both on maximum noise (L_{max}) and average noise (L_{eq}). The County reviewed all reports independently with its own consultants and experts and the DEIR represents the County’s analysis of the analytical data. The County must certify that the Final EIR reflects its own independent judgement and analysis. (DEIR p. 1-9.)



Response to Comment Ind 118-4

This comment generally requests the DEIR not move forward and the County to reject the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 119

From: Chris Buzzini <buzzini.chris@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Oppose Mine Re-opening

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Ind 119-1

I am 100% opposed to the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Grass Valley Inc.

My family moved here in the early '70's and has seen the poorly regulated growth in Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley, Ca. Ever since. And how can the decision to reopen fall on the shoulders of the Board of Supervisors? I have knowledge that one member is moving out of the County. How unjust is that? Vote and leave? Really?

Ind 119-2

Rise Mine and any other names it is doing business under is not to be trusted. They have proven it in the past. There are still pending lawsuits. Printing expensive glossy brochures touting the benefits of the mine is not proof. In fact in 'The Science Is Clear' flyer there are two sentences that embodies RISE GRASS VALLEY INC philosophy. "The results are exactly what we've said all along. The mine will be safe, modern, well-regulated and environmentally sound." That is bullshit!

Ind 119-3

My sister lives in Cypress Hills area and I live off the freeway on Dorsey. The Freeway noise is constant and getting worse. We do not need up to a 100 huge rock trucks adding to the traffic and noise level. The traffic circle with huge rock trucks will be a disaster! The reports on environmental impact are lacking. This I proposal is not what we need or want!

I am 100% opposed to the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Grass Valley Inc.

Chris Buzzini
Registered voter of Nevada County
503-422-8897



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 119: CHRIS BUZZINI

Response to Comment Ind 119-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 119-2

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 119-3

Potential impacts related to traffic and noise associated with hauling trucks travelling to and from the project site are addressed in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, and Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR, respectively.



Individual Letter 120

From: [Chris Colbert](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIB](#)
Subject: In Opposition to the Idaho Maryland Mine after DEIR
Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:58:37 AM

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Ind 120-1

Hello I am a Nevada County resident writing to express my opposition to the reopening of the Mine. The Environmental impact will be devastating and will surely affect everyday life for all living creatures in the vicinity. My life and quality of life will also be negatively affected at my home on Greenhorn Rd. The increased truck traffic, constant noise, and impact on our roadway infrastructure alone is enough reason to never allow such a project to happen again near a residential area. The water that must be pumped out of the existing mine shaft shall never be expelled and brought to surface to harm the invaluable wildlife and residents of this area and county. I am beyond disappointed that this project has even made it this far. We must focus on living up to our true potential here in this county and regressing back to mining is NOT progress, we can do so much better than this.

Christopher Colbert



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 120: CHRIS COLBERT

Response to Comment Ind 120-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 121

Chris Themelis
11022 Banner Mine Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

Mar. 23, 2022

RE: Deficiencies of Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR

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

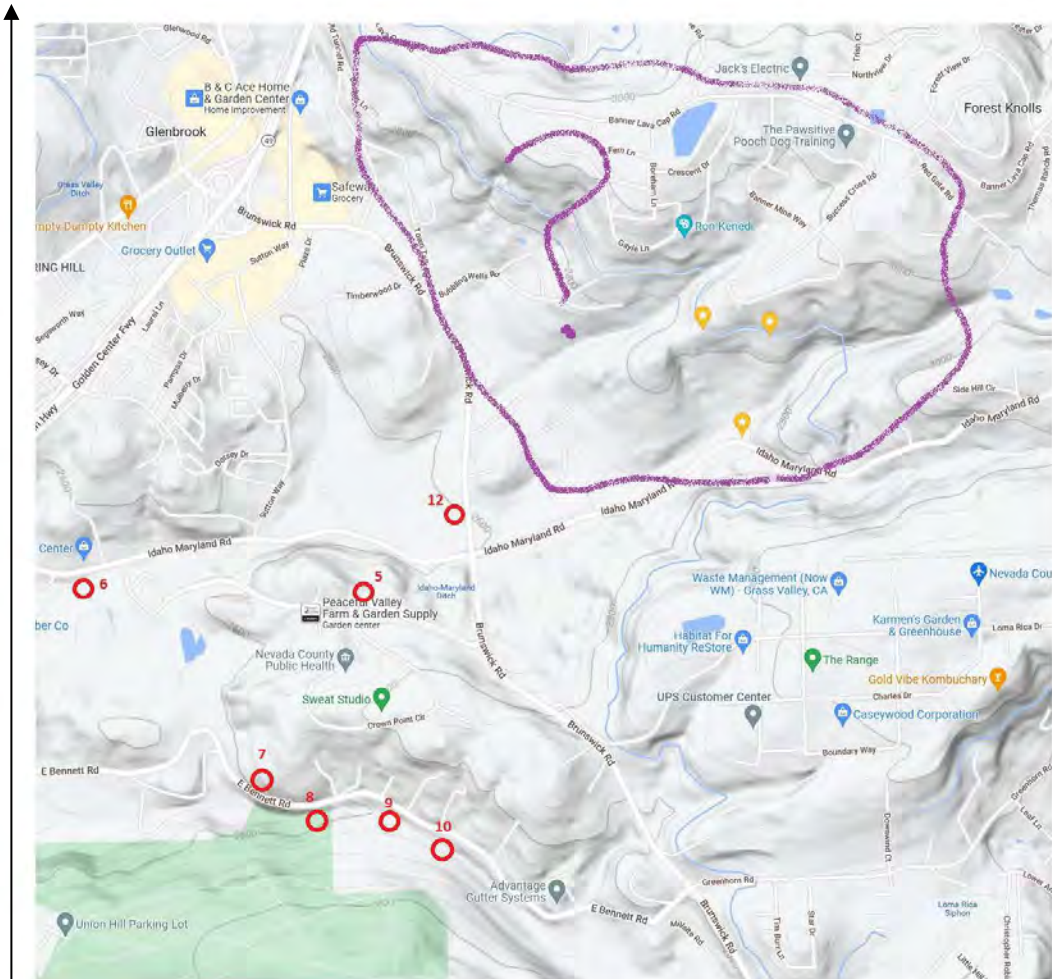
Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am a resident of lower Banner Mountain. I have previously written to you regarding my intense opposition to the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. No need to elaborate on that here, but my main concern is the impact of construction and traffic noise.

Ind 121-1

The DEIR fails to study noise impact on lower Banner Mountain, where there are many residences. Sound travels from the basin up the hill. Traffic from Brunswick Rd. between Idaho Maryland and Hwy. 49 is audible. We can hear any large truck or motorcycle that passes by. Below, I have superimposed approximate noise and vibration measurement locations, from the DEIR Fig. 4.10-3, onto a topographical map from Google. I have circled the area that will be affected and that has been neglected from the study.





Ind 121-2

Further, the DEIR uses general formulae and standards to determine whether noise impact is “significant” or not. Present the data any way you want in terms of averages and peaks, etc. in DEIR section 4.10, but adding noise from heavy trucks averaging 50 trips a day, 7 days a week, for the next 80 years will be audible and significantly impact residents’ enjoyment of our properties. There is a large swath of residential area that has been left out of this study.

Sincerely,

Chris Themelis

CC: planning@co.nevada.ca.us



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 121: CHRIS THEMELIS

Response to Comment Ind 121-1

The commenter is a nearby resident and is opposed to the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is concerned about the effect of project noise on residences located on lower Banner Mountain, northeast of the project site. As shown in DEIR Table 4.10-15 and Table 4.10-16, the addition of project traffic would not result in a significant increase in noise levels at receptors along Brunswick Road, between Idaho Maryland Road and Highway 49 (i.e., the area adjacent Banner Mountain). It should be noted that this analysis assumes full production traffic levels of 200 daily truck trips rather than the average anticipated 100 truck trips (DEIR, p. 4.10-35). Given that noise is attenuated by distance and the presence of buildings, trees, and vegetation between the noise source and the noise receptor, noise levels would be reduced with greater distance from the roadway. While overall traffic on Highway 49 may be audible from residences on Banner Mountain, project traffic would represent a small portion of overall traffic and would not significantly increase noise levels.

Response to Comment Ind 121-2

Please see the above response. The comment has been forwarded to the decisionmakers.



Individual Letter 122

April 2, 2022

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Via email:Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

Ind 122-1

Re:Comments regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project EIR

Section 4.8 covers Hydrology and water quality. This is one of many critical areas for residents of Nevada County. In 4.8.1, the concern of water quality is addressed. The mitigation measure that is suggested is that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board monitor the water standards by receiving water samples provided to them, apparently by the mine. In addition, the mine is to provide quarterly water quality reports.

It is insufficient for our water quality to be sampled by the mine. Independent sampling and testing, occurring on recurring and random cycles should be secured by the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board. Water quality is too critical to depend on the mine to secure the tests to be analyzed. Results need to be independently obtained and tested.

Nevada County is a small, wonderful community that would be devastated if our water quality deteriorated. Please do not allow that to happen.

Sincerely,



Christie Gillison
11363 Cour Royal
Nevada City, CA 95959



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 122: CHRISTIE GILLISON

Response to Comment Ind 122-1

Please see Master Response 15.



Individual Letter 123

From: [Christina Bradban](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIR](#)
Subject: ***NO RE-OPENING THE MINES PLEASE!***
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:02:37 AM

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Ind 123-1

To whom it may concern,
I am a local resident of Grass Valley, my family has been here for more than 6 generations. I live off of Empire st. and hearing that the mine might be re-opening to public is mortifying to say the least. I can't even begin to tell you how uneasy this feels. Please, PLEASE consider our HEALTH. We are all already going through enough as it is. I ask you, please for the safety and well-being of my children, family and friends, please do NOT re-open the mines. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Christina P.

Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 123: CHRISTINA PRADHAN

Response to Comment Ind 123-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 124

From: [Christina Pradhan](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: ****NO RE-OPENING THE MINES PLEASE!!****
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:02:37 AM

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Ind 124-1

To whom it may concern,
I am a local resident of Grass Valley, my family has been here for more than 6 generations. I live off of Empire st. and hearing that the mine might be re-opening to public is mortifying to say the least. I can't even begin to tell you how uneasy this feels. Please, PLEASE consider our HEALTH. We are all already going through enough as it is. I ask you, please for the safety and well-being of my children, family and friends, please do NOT re-open the mines. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Christina P.

Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 124: CHRISTINA PRADHAN

Response to Comment Ind 124-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Christina Pradhan <caspradhan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 1:29 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: ***NO RE-OPENING THE MINES PLEASE!***

Individual Letter 125

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Ind 125-1

To whom it may concern,
I am a local resident of Grass Valley, my family has been here for more than 6 generations. I live off of Empire st. and hearing that the mine might be re-opening to public is mortifying to say the least. I can't even begin to tell you how uneasy this feels. Please, PLEASE consider our HEALTH. We are all already going through enough as it is. I ask you, please for the safety and well-being of my children, family and friends, please do NOT re-open the mines.
Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Christina P.

Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 125: CHRISTINA PRADHAN

Response to Comment Ind 125-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 126

April 4, 2022

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Sent via email to: Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

Ind 126-1

Dear Mr. Kelley,

The Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) contains several flaws that render it inadequate as it does not meet CEQA standards. As such, it should be rejected and a new Draft Environmental Impact report should be prepared and re-circulated for public comment and review. Based on my personal experience as an environmental planner I see that among other items, the DEIR: 1) fails to accurately describe the Project and 2) fails to provide sufficient credible information necessary to determine the Project's potential impacts to both groundwater and surface water quality as a result of the Project.

Ind 126-2

Failure to adequately describe the Project:

The DEIR's project description is legally inadequate because it improperly excludes the required cleanup of existing contamination on the Centennial Site from the scope of the Project. The DEIR uses the post-cleanup conditions of the Centennial site as the baseline for the impact analysis despite this not being an accurate portrayal of the existing conditions of the site. The Project proposes to create a fill pad at the Centennial Site that would cover an area of 44 acres and contain 1.6 million tons of mine waste in a location that requires remediation, but does not include that remediation effort as part of the Project. CEQA Guidelines § 15125(a)(3) clearly state that "existing conditions baseline shall not include hypothetical conditions, such as those that might be allowed, but have never actually occurred, under existing permits or plans, as the baseline." An EIR's failure to accurately determine existing baseline conditions "renders the identification of environmental impacts legally inadequate and precludes a determination that substantial evidence supports"

Ind 126-3

Failure to adequately evaluate impacts to groundwater and surface water:

The DEIR fails to adequately evaluate how the Project would affect groundwater levels or the impact to groundwater quality in the Project vicinity. Alterations to groundwater levels or groundwater quality could severely affect water availability within and near the community of Grass Valley, particularly for those in the community that rely exclusively on well water. The need to protect limited groundwater supplies and the quality of those supplies are critical, particularly as Northern California is experiences more frequent and severe drought conditions as a result of climate change that further limit the availability of surface water supplies. The Project relies on extremely limited data to model groundwater levels that does not adequately take into consideration the fluctuations that occur during different seasons and different climatic extremes that are likely to occur during the lifetime of the proposed Project. Additionally, the Project fails to provide any model to indicate the water quality impacts to



either groundwater or the surface water quality of Wolf Creek, where the Project proposes to discharge water pumped from the Project site. The additional water discharged into Wolf Creek has the potential to substantially alter the water chemistry, including the temperature and dissolved oxygen levels of the creek, which can negatively affect fish and wildlife; however, this is not adequately addressed in the DEIR. The DEIR fails to, but must, disclose the potential water quality impacts that have the potential to harm human health and the health of fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,
Christine Alford
224 Lloyd Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 126: CHRISTINE ALFORD

Response to Comment Ind 126-1

The commenter states the DEIR is inadequate. Responses to more specific comments are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 126-2

The commenter states that the DEIR is legally inadequate because it excludes the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site from the scope of the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 126-3

The commenter states that the DEIR inadequately addresses the impact to groundwater supplies and quality, especially in the context of drought and climate change. The commenter is also concerned about potential impacts to South Fork Wolf Creek. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change, Master Response 32 - Temperature of Mine Water Discharge, and Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.



Individual Letter 127



P-3 P118 104*****ECRWSH**R016
Christopher Michael Carpenter
14406 Falling Star Ln
Grass Valley, CA 95949-6503

Dist 2 PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID TMG
RECEIVED
FEB 22 2022
NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*Dear NC Board of Supervisors,
I do not support this mine effort*

THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE: A PROUD HISTORY

The Idaho-Maryland Mine was one of the most productive and best-known gold mines in the United States, producing approximately 2.4 million ounces between 1866 and 1955. The mine closed in 1956 as the fixed price of gold at \$35 per oz made the mining of American gold unprofitable.

that has no significant impacts to water, air quality, and the natural environment or from noise or vibrations during operations.

Rise Grass Valley will reinitiate mining and will do so with a focus on green-friendly practices and minimizing the impacts to neighbors. The project will use modern, clean, state-of-the-art mining equipment and proven techniques to produce "green gold." The result is a project

When in full operation, Rise Grass Valley's Idaho-Maryland Mine project will create hundreds of good-paying jobs and realize broad economic benefits for Nevada County.



Please fill out and send back to us your support for the Idaho-Maryland Mine

I DO NOT SUPPORT
~~I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine~~

~~Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.~~

~~Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.~~

~~Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.~~

Name(s) Christopher Carpenter
Address 14406 Falling Star Lane ZIP 95949
Phone 530-273-1879
Email Address _____ *CMC*

Need more details on our plan to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine? Want to join our team? Please visit RiseGrassValley.com/contact and sign up.

Ind
127-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 127: CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER

Response to Comment Ind 127-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 128

From: Chris Hall
12235 Rocker Road
Nevada City, CA 95959 | chall14@sierracollege.edu

To: Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902 (530) 265-1423

Ind 128 -1

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing you to share my concerns regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Grass Valley. I am a local college professor and father, and I am deeply invested in the place I live—not for my own sake alone, but also for the sake of my children and their children after them. As someone who was fortunate enough to grow up in Nevada County and who has returned here to raise my own family, I find the 83 impacts identified in the report disheartening and believe that the report names several impacts that are impossible to mitigate adequately. The report as written (indeed the very project itself) appears incompatible with the natural and cultural features that grant Nevada County its unique rural, small-town character.

Ind 128-2

I attended the Nevada County Planning Commission on March 24th and know that many have already raised similar concerns to those I voice here. I can only hope that you will weigh our comments and call for further assessment of the project. To my mind, the unavoidable impacts to aesthetics, traffic, and noise point to the need for significant revisions to the DEIR at the least (and ideally adopting the “No-Build” option).

Ind 128-3

When I learned from KVMR host Martin Webb’s program that the project would require an 80-year exception to County zoning and maximum heights of buildings limitations, I was alarmed. Digging into the report I confirmed the enormity of impact on the beauty of the area for myself. I have driven past the site several times, and to imagine a “64-foot-tall process plant, the proposed 165-foot-tall headframe for the Brunswick shaft, the proposed 80-foot-tall headframe for the proposed service shaft, and the proposed 50-foot-tall hoist buildings associated with the two mine shafts” (DEIR, p. 4.4-15) is to imagine a project that shatters the rural and scenic qualities of Grass Valley. On a similar note, though I know an economic impact report is not required at this time, the impacts of such major industrial construction on tourism seem well worth considering. Beyond this, as noted in the report “the overall changes to aesthetics Cumulative buildout in the geographic area would result in a change in the visual character of the region, which would be considered a significant cumulative impact. Therefore, the project’s incremental contribution to the significant cumulative impact would be cumulatively considerable and significant and unavoidable.” For those of us who call this place home, significant and unavoidable feel like euphemisms for disastrous in terms of impact to the natural and cultural beauty of Nevada County.



Ind 128-4

On a similar note, the impact to traffic at three key areas is significant and is reason for further review of the project. As stated on p. 4.12-61 of the DEIR, “The proposed project would increase traffic through three intersections already identified as operating unacceptably under Existing and EPAP Conditions. Thus, a significant impact to the Brunswick Road/Idaho Maryland Road, Brunswick Road/SR 174, and Idaho Maryland Road/Centennial Drive intersections would occur under the EPAP Plus Project.” I acknowledge that signalization and traffic control may mitigate some of the impact to traffic identified in the report during and after the construction phase, but each of these solutions also further alters the unique quality of our home (and does not fully or adequately address the probably impact on traffic in the three key areas identified above).

Ind 128-5

Noise from the project—both from construction and operation—have been downplayed by Rise Gold from the start. Sadly, these impacts also appear to be downplayed in the DEIR, and adequate mitigations are not proposed. As the report points out, while noise generated during construction is “exempt from Nevada County LUDC noise standards,” (DEIR, p. 4.10-30) it is nevertheless, “considered substantial pursuant to CEQA.” Moreover, while the DEIR presents an analysis of noise during operations and claims the impact from this noise can be mitigated with a vibration monitoring program and additional mitigation measure, further analysis of these areas is necessary. As with the impact to aesthetics and traffic, for those of us who live here, “significant and unavoidable” is a gross understatement when one considers the level of noise construction and operation of the project will entail.

Ind 128-6

Ind 128-7

Ind 128-8

Ind 128-9

In addition to aesthetics, traffic, and noise, several other areas of concern arise. Critical data of accurate hydrological models is missing from current DEIR—300 wells will be affected, not to mention groundwater. Air pollution is at least one aspect not adequately addressed by DEIR. Mitigations for increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the project are unacceptable—the report fails to include cement manufacturers emissions. Moreover, the County’s goals for climate mitigation will be nearly 100% undone by the mine should the project go ahead as planned. The Centennial cleanup site is not even included in project description. A workplan is needed for this aspect of the project. The cleanup site should not be segmented from the overall project. Any one of these concerns is grounds to revisit the report and points toward the No-Build option as the only option that will preserve the unique natural and cultural character of Nevada County.

Ind 128-10

Nevada County is a place defined by its unique rural, small-town character. Significant and unavoidable impacts to noise, traffic, and aesthetics are reason enough alone to revisit the DEIR and endorse the No-Build option. Mining is part of our history, but if history has taught us anything it is that mining is not our future—a fact proven by mining’s toxic legacy, a legacy toxic to both culture (evidenced by the impact on indigenous peoples and others exploited in operation of mines) and nature (as evidenced by streams and groundwater still poisoned by mining). While mining practices have changed, the DEIR reveals that this project would only mean more damage to our community in the name of gold extraction. Clearly, the reopening of the mine—not to mention 80 Years of planned operation—Involves impacts far beyond the scope of the mitigation measures outlined in the current draft EIR.

Thank you for your time,

Chris Hall



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 128: CHRISTOPHER HALL

Response to Comment Ind 128-1

This comment is introductory in nature and the commenter opposes the project. The commenter is also concerned with the project's impacts that cannot be mitigated to less than significant. Significant and unavoidable impacts from the project are summarized in Section 5.6 of the DEIR. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 128-2

The commenter states that the project's significant and unavoidable impacts should be the basis for the County not approving the project. Significant and Unavoidable impacts from the project are summarized in Section 5.6 of the DEIR. In order for the Board of Supervisors to move forward with certifying this EIR and approving the project entitlements, due to the significant and unavoidable impacts that would occur with implementation of the project, the Board would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations. The Statement of Overriding Considerations would publicly disclose the process by which the Board weighs the environmental impacts of the project against any other factors. As enumerated in Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, factors to be balanced by the Board when considering projects that would result in a significant and unavoidable environmental impact include economic, legal, social, and technological benefits of projects as well as region-wide or statewide environmental benefits. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for decision makers. Please see Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 128-3

The commenter is concerned that the project structures required for the Brunswick site would have adverse aesthetic impacts. The commenter also states that the aesthetic impacts to tourism are worth considering. Chapter 4.1 (Aesthetics) of the DEIR also concludes that the project would result in a significant and unavoidable aesthetics impact. Regarding economic issues, the commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 128-4

The commenter references Chapter 4.12 (Transportation) of the DEIR and the significant traffic-related impacts the project would cause. The commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. Chapter 4.12 concludes that the project's traffic impacts would be less than significant after mitigation, with the exception of traffic at the SR 174 and Brunswick Road intersection and the northbound left lane at the Brunswick Road and Sutton Way intersection, which would be significant and unavoidable due to the uncertainty of the mitigation measures identified in the DEIR. Regarding quality of life issues, the commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 128-5

The commenter states that further analysis of noise impacts is necessary in the DEIR but provides no specifics or evidence and does not identify how the DEIR is inadequate. Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration) of the DEIR concludes that noise impacts will be less than significant after mitigation, with the exception of the installation of the East Bennett potable water line, which would be significant and unavoidable.



Response to Comment Ind 128-6

The commenter states that critical data regarding groundwater wells is missing from the DEIR but does not identify what data is missing or how the DEIR's groundwater analysis is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 128-7

The commenter states that air pollution is not adequately addressed in the DEIR but provides no specifics or evidence. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 128-8

The commenter states that the DEIR omits the emissions caused by cement manufacturers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 26 - Life Cycle GHG emissions.

Response to Comment Ind 128-9

The commenter states that the Centennial Industrial Site cleanup must be included in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 128-10

The commenter opposes the project and states that it is incompatible with the surrounding community. The commenter's opposition to the project and support for the "No-Build option" is noted for decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 129

Christy M. Hubbard
Representative for the Wells Coalition
wells@cea-nc.org

March 24, 2022

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

*Comment Meeting
(More to Come by April 4)*



Regarding: Well owners in the vicinity of the Idaho-Maryland Mine request better safeguards

Hi. My name is Christy Hubbard. I'm Grass Valley homeowner and representative for the Wells Coalition, a group of well owners in the vicinity of the mineral rights area of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Ind 129-1

After reviewing the DEIR, we feel the Well Mitigation Plan is not adequate. A key concern is that the County has failed to adequately define the true area of potential impact. The report repeatedly acknowledges the high level of uncertainty in hydrological models. And yet, the applicant has a mitigation plan for only 30 properties. There is no acknowledgement of risk – or plan to safeguard – domestic wells in the surrounding area.

Since public records tell us there are roughly 525 private wells within a ¼ mile of the mineral rights boundary, this is a significant concern. Bear in mind that this project is asking for an 80-year use permit, and there is no reason to believe Rise Gold will constrain their mining to one small area for that entire amount of time.

Ind 129-2

Consider this scenario. One day, a homeowner turns on the tap and there's no water. It would be nearly impossible to prove that the mining operation caused damage because there is no plan to keep a reliable record of their well history. Neighborhoods would need to find immediate funding for water trucks and likely hundreds of thousands of dollars to connect to NID for a long-term solution. Based on current estimates, it would take years to restore water service. Furthermore, selling their house would not be an option because a home without water is of no value.

Ind 129-3

This is not the first time Nevada County has faced concerns about wells in the area. The last time it happened however, the County provided a much more comprehensive system of safeguards for nearby residents. In 1996, Emperor Gold was granted a Use Permit to dewater the mine for exploration which required protections for all wells in a designated "Study Area".

In addition to NID hookups for the homes on E. Bennett Road, it included: multiple years of well monitoring, a community relations program, retention of an independent groundwater consultant, pre-approval of all NID connection permits, and cash, bonds, and security to cover expenses for replacement water. All of this was done for 5 years of exploration. It did not include 80 years of mining.

Ind 129-4

On behalf of myself and well owners in the vicinity of the mine, we respectfully request that the final report provide significantly better safeguards for well owners. The potential impacts to well owners has been recognized by experts and these impacts must be addressed under CEQA. The final report must fully identify the potential area of impact and articulate a complete set of safeguards to protect this community. This County has



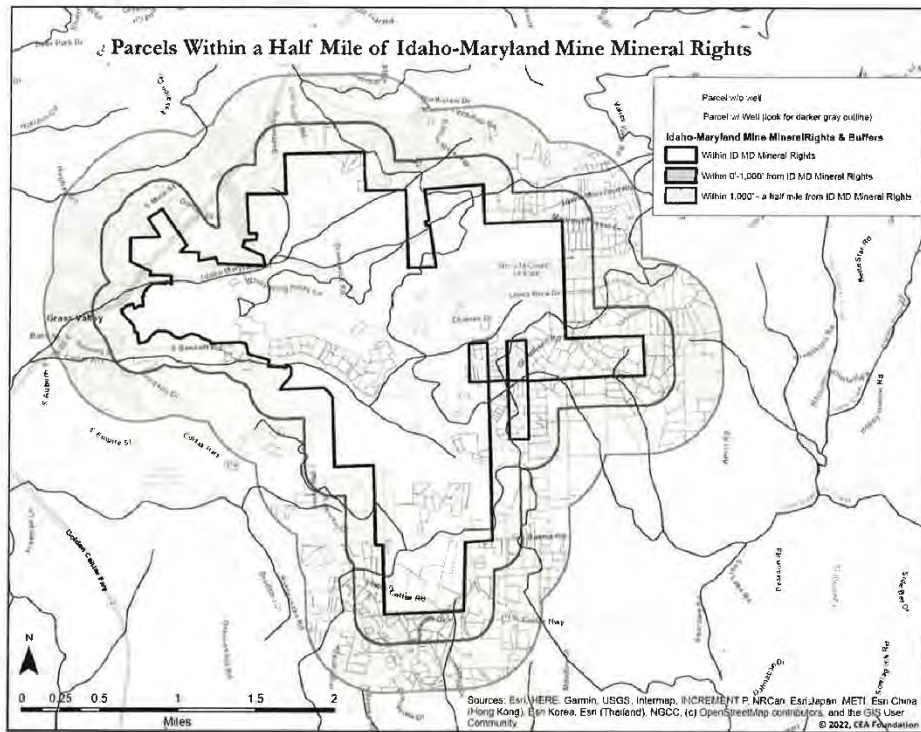
provided far better protection for us in the past. Given the enormous scope of this project, we need a more comprehensive plan to protect us in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Christy M. Hubbard for the Wells Coalition
12966 Mink Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945
wells@cea-nc.org

Attachment: Parcels within a Half Mile of Idaho-Maryland Mineral Rights

Note: This map is based on best-available information. Data was sourced from Nevada County parcel records, which rely on information from the Water Board. A PDF version of this map is available online at <https://www.minewatchnc.org/post/idaho-maryland-mine-mineral-rights-map>



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 129: CHRISTY HUBBARD

Response to Comment Ind 129-1

The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate, specifically the Well Mitigation Plan, because it does not accurately depict the area in which private wells may be impacted. The commenter reasons that the approximately 525 wells within the mineral rights boundary may be impacted by the dewatering of the mine. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 129-2

The commenter poses a scenario in which a private well not included in the mitigation plan is impacted by the project. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 129-1. Regarding impacts to property values, the commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 129-3

The commenter references a previously proposed project at the project site. The commenter is referred to Master Response 13 - Historic Hydrogeologic Assessments, and Response to Comment Ind 129-1.

Response to Comment Ind 129-4

The commenter reiterates the concerns with the scope of the potentially impacted area. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 129-1. The commenter's opposition is noted for the decisionmakers.





Individual Letter 130

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Dist 2

THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE: A PROUD HISTORY

The Idaho-Maryland Mine was one of the most productive and best-known gold mines in the United States, producing approximately 2.4 million ounces between 1866 and 1955. The mine closed in 1956 as the fixed price of gold at \$35 per oz made the mining of American gold unprofitable.

Rise Grass Valley will reinitiate mining and will do so with a focus on green-friendly practices and minimizing the impacts to neighbors. The project will use modern, clean, state-of-the-art mining equipment and proven techniques to produce "green gold." The result is a project

that has no significant impacts to water, air quality, and the natural environment or from noise or vibrations during operations.

When in full operation, Rise Grass Valley's Idaho-Maryland Mine project will create hundreds of good-paying jobs and realize broad economic benefits for Nevada County.



Please fill out and send back to us your support for the Idaho-Maryland Mine

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 600 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) CHUCK CROSBY
Address 10889 BALL RD ZIP 95949
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Need more details on our plan to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine? Want to join our team? Please visit RiseGrassValley.com/contact and sign up.

Ind
130-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 130: CHUCK CROPLEY

Response to Comment Ind 130-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 131

From: Chula Gemignani <chulagem@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 11:14 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Ground water concerns

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This mine threatens our ground water. We are dependent on the water table. I do not support this mine! I have friends on the ridge whose lives and children's lives were turned upside down by mine activity. Stop this mine! NO MINE!!

TRUE GOLD is of the HEART

TRUE GOLD is of the heart dear sir, NOT the economy
Precious is this land to us, where grows true LOVE not greed.
Take my hand and walk with me, I'll show you our TRUE GOLD
Each day we wake shines a golden SUN, a treasure to behold.

Ind 131-1

Sun comes up, Sun goes down PURE GOLD for you and me.
The HEART of our universe beating rhythmically

Community can only thrive dear sir, on clean water, food and air.
Upon NATIVE lands we reside, with respect -we steward and care.
Throw your shovels to the winds, take your mining machines AWAY!
True Gold is of the HEART Mr. Mossman, we strike it EVERY DAY.

SUN comes up, SUN goes down PURE GOLD for you and me.
The HEART of our universe beating rhythmically

NO MINE and PEACE to ALL,
Chula



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 131: CHULA GEMIGNANI

Response to Comment Ind 131-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 132

From: Clay Olson <clayolson@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: I oppose the opening of the Rise-Goldmine

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I oppose the opening of the Rise-Goldmine

Why?

Water pollution

Well-water threat

Noise above ground

Noise and vibration from underground

Dust

Wear and tear on the roadways

Past history of Rise-Gold's Ben Mossman's environmental and economic history

Likelihood that Rise-Gold's bonds won't be enough to cover damages and cleanups.

Sincerely,

Clay Olson

PO Box 3565

Grass Valley, CA 95945-3565

Ind 132-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 132: CLAY OLSON

Response to Comment Ind 132-1

Please see Master Response 1. In addition, see Master Response 3 regarding operator responsibility.



Individual Letter 133

From: [Clayton Olson](#)
To: [hdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: I oppose approval of the Rise Gold mining venture.
Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:24:19 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.

Ind 133-1

I oppose approval of the Rise Gold mining venture. Although I would love more jobs to be created locally, I live in a residential town in which the majority of the living quarters and residents showed up after 1849. Anyone with a certain degree of sensitivity to noise and dust and the stress caused by the increasing traffic in Grass Valley, will have second thoughts about this venture. And anyone who wants our water, both in wells and in our creeks, to be cleaner and available, will want to vote against this venture.

Sincerely,
Clay Olson
Grass Valley



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 133: CLAY OLSON

Response to Comment Ind 133-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 134

From: [Clea Vigneux](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 6:07:09 PM

Dist 1

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Ind 134-1

I am vehemently opposed to the Idaho Maryland mine. I am adding my voice to the many other people who feel the way I do, for the many reasons that have been already stated. Please do not approve this mine!

Thank you

--
Clea Vigneux
808-264-1526



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 134: CLEA VIGNEUX

Response to Comment Ind 134-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 135

Ind 135-1

From: Cliff
To: [hobosupervisors](#)
Subject: I do NOT want an operating gold mine running in Nevada County. The very short term gains are not worth the long term consequences.
Date: Sunday, February 27, 2022 10:07:42 AM

Cannot identify Dist

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Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 135: CLIFF CASE

Response to Comment Ind 135-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Aruba <aruba_ala_nar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 4:38 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR; Colleen Carson
Subject: ATTENTION: MATT KELLEY

Individual Letter 136

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Hello Matt

I am writing to you to express my extreme concern about the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

We live 3 miles from the site and are worried that our well water quantity and quality are going to be damaged by this project....there seems to be no way to really tell what will happen.

Other concerns are the noise and traffic with the frequency of trucks coming and going.

Our community is MUCH larger now than it was when gold mining was an every day happening around here; now there are many more people to be impacted. Many do NOT view this with warm and fuzzy nostalgia of a return to yesteryear.

Please, take care of this community and do not allow this endeavor.

Thank you
Colleen Carson
(530) 615-4404

Ind 136-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 136: COLLEEN CARSON

Response to Comment Ind 136-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: collette castro <cm4386@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Our biggest concerns re: Idaho Mine DEIR

Individual Letter 137

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To Matt Kelly and the Nevada County Planning Department,

Ind 137-1

My husband and I have a number of concerns regarding the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine. After reviewing the DEIR, I am very concerned about the following issues:

1. Groundwater - the model used is troubling from the beginning. The assumptions made by the baseline data used make the analysis misleading. We already have some local problems with wells and loss of ground water. Climate change will make this issue worse. It is not fair to add the burden of the mine's water demands to NID's already increasing water demands. Why would we do this, endanger our water supply.

Ind 137-2

2. Greenhouse gas emissions - the latest climate change goals state that the threshold should be "net Zero" not some arbitrary limit.

Our county's air quality is already a grade "D". With increasing hot temperatures throughout the years will increase as it is. Why add more pollution by approving this mine.

Ind 137-3

Please be very careful in considering the long term effects on our citizens and community environment. Please make Rise Gold accountable on all issues brought forth by numerous and knowledgeable speakers at the March 24 meeting.

Thank you for your attention,
Collette Castro and Michael McLean
13607 Haas Court
Rough and Ready, CA 9597
530-273-5350



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 137: COLLETE CASTRO AND MICHAEL MCLEAN

Response to Comment Ind 137-1

Please see Master Responses 14 and 16.

Response to Comment Ind 137-2

Please see Master Response 27.

Response to Comment Ind 137-3

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 138

From: [Connie Finster](#)
To: [Idaho NMEIS](#)
Subject: Stamp Mill at Reopened Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 5:12:00 PM

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Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Dear Mr. Kelley:

The information about the environmental effects of reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine mention in passing, briefly, that "the ore will be processed on site." That is, most probably, a stamp mill, smashing the rock to release the gold.

Stamp mills are VERY NOISY, 24 hours a day. Guess why all the houses on Anchor Lane and Liquidambar Lane, and all the houses on Greenhorn from there to Brunswick, were built since 1960? The stamp mill, only half a mile away, was no longer there.

PLEASE get the EIR to discuss this! I can't imagine all these houses having any resale value at all with a stamp mill pounding away all day, all night.

I didn't know about stamp mills until I visited Ichthyosaur State Park in Nevada, which also includes a closed mine. The ranger/guide described the sound of the stamp mill as ground-shaking and relentless. He asked us to picture how much weight, at how much height, it would take to smash rock.

Connie Finster
14137 Liquidambar Lane, GV 95945
(530) 272-5219

7709 39th Street, Sacramento 95816
(916) 452-2355
leiskfinster@gmail.com

Ind 138-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 138: CONNIE FINSTER

Response to Comment Ind 138-1

Noise impacts associated with mineral processing were addressed in Impact 4.10-3 within Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR. As discussed therein:

The project processing equipment located within the processing building would consist of the SAG mill (primary grinding), ball mill (secondary grinding), concentrator, cyclones and screens, and filter presses. The noise transmission loss of the proposed metal building ranges from 31 dB at 125 Hz to 75 dB at 4,000 Hz. In addition, the metal building would have double doors (i.e., airlock) to prevent sound escaping when one set of exterior doors are open.

Using information provided by the Project Applicant for similar facilities, the noise generation from such processing equipment is expected to be 105 dBA L_{eq} with maximum noise levels of approximately 110 dBA L_{max} .

The reference noise level data for both the noise source and building enclosure were used as inputs to the SoundPlan model to calculate processing plant operations at the nearest receptors (see Figure 4.10-6). The results of those calculations are provided in Table 4.10-17. Because such processes are anticipated to occur at all hours, the most restrictive, nighttime noise criteria were applied.

Based on the data presented in Table 4.10-17, the mineral processing operations would generate noise levels below the applicable nighttime standards of significance at each of the nearest sensitive receptor locations. As such, noise-related impacts from mineral processing would be less than significant.

Based on the above, impacts related to mineral processing noise were adequately addressed in the DEIR.



Individual Letter 139

**IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT
DRAFT EIR COMMENT FORM**

To document the author of comments received, please provide the following information. Thank you.

Name: Constance Sw right
Address: 196 Northridge Dr
Organization (if applicable): Unitarian UUCM of the Mountains

Please provide us with your written comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR by **5:00 PM, April 4, 2022**. Comments may be placed in the comment box located in the back of the Board of Supervisors Chambers during the Special Public Meeting of the Nevada County Planning Commission. Written comments may also be submitted (email or hardcopy) to the address below:

**Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us**

Ind 139-1

I am very concerned about the air pollution
the new mine would bring in. Also,
I am worried about the traffic that
could emerge. There are just 2
of the issues.

RECEIVED
MAR 24 2022
NEVADA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 139: CONSTANCE WRIGHT

Response to Comment Ind 139-1

Please see Master Response 1.



From: Corinna Fish <corinna.fish@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 2:37 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project DEIR comments

Individual Letter 140

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Dear Mr. Matt Kelley,

Ind 140-1

I'm a lifelong Californian who enjoys the Yuba River every summer, attends Grass Valley's Cornish Christmas and Nevada City's Victorian Christmas every December, and makes weekend day trips as often as I can. I love Nevada County and want to share my comments on the DEIR for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine as a concerned neighbor of the county and regular customer of Nevada County businesses.

I'm particularly concerned about how this proposed project will affect (1) Nisenan cultural heritage; (2) wildlife and wildlife habitats and (2) dewatering and water contamination impacts.

Ind 140-2

1. Impacts to the Nisenan

On page 4.5-10, the DEIR states that InContext made attempts to contact 4 tribes via mail, email and phone from Sept 2019-Dec 2020 and did not receive responses. I'm concerned about whether sufficient effort was put into reaching each tribe. How many contact attempts were made over that period of time? Is InContext certain they had the correct information? How were these attempts to communicate framed by InContext? Can there be additional, perhaps more concerted, efforts to solicit tribal responses before the FEIR?

Ind 140-3

2. Impacts to wildlife

On pages 4.4-31 through 4.4-35, only 5 species of special concern are considered and all, except for the Western pond turtle, are described as having "very low" presence. How does the DEIR account for future presence of these species due to increased urbanization and increased wildfires? Why are trout and other aquatic species not considered? These species, along with benthic macro invertebrates, should be addressed in the FEIR.

Ind 140-4

3. Impacts to water

How did the DEIR decide upon 15 wells to estimate impacts on water supply wells, and where are those monitoring wells located? Why, on page 4.8-67, does the DEIR state that "A projected water-level impact assessment for individual domestic wells shall be performed once dewatering of the underground mine workings commences"--how can an accurate assessment be made if it doesn't start until after dewatering begins? Finally, trying to rely solely on modeling in a fractured rock system is difficult at best, and foolhardy from a long-range perspective.

Ind 140-5

In general, it seems to me that a revised DEIR should seek out input from additional expert opinions and data from researchers not hired by Rise Gold in order to be in full compliance with CEQA requirements.

Sincerely,
Corinna Fish



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 140: CORINNA FISH

Response to Comment Ind 140-1

The commenter is concerned with cultural, wildlife, and hydrological issues. Responses to specific comments are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 140-2

In addition to the informal tribal outreach efforts performed by InContext, the County complied with AB 52 tribal consultation requirements for the proposed project. As discussed in Response to Comment Grp 14-2, the County complied with the above requirement, despite the fact that the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe was not added to the Native American Heritage Commission Contact/Tribal Consultation list until March 21, 2022.

As stated in the Cultural Resources chapter of the DEIR “On November 25, 2019, Nevada County sent project notification letters with offers to consult pursuant to AB 52 to the Tsi Akim Maidu Tribal Council, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, **Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe**, and UAIC. The Tsi Akim Maidu Tribal Council, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and **Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe did not respond within the 30-day consultation period.**” (DEIR p. 4.5-21, emphasis added) Additionally, the Project Proponent’s cultural resource consultant, InContext, attempted to contact the Tribe on December 1, 2020 by letter, phone and email, and on December 16, 2022 by phone and email, with no response. The correspondence was addressed and sent directly to Shelly Covert, the Tribal Secretary of the Nisenan Tribe. In sum, despite a lack of recognition from the NAHC at the time, the Nisenan Tribe was still treated as a recognized tribe by the Project Proponent and the County. The Tribe received notices and was provided an opportunity to consult under AB 52.

Response to Comment Ind 140-3

The future movement of special status species to the project sites due to increased urbanization and wildfire is speculative and CEQA does not require the analysis of speculative impacts. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” However, Mitigation Measures 4.4-2(a) through 4.4-2(f) require pre-construction surveys, and if present, additional mitigation measures for special-status species. Trout, benthic macro invertebrates, and other aquatic species are considered in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.4 and Appendix F.8 and F.10 of the DEIR and Master Responses 34 – Resident Fish, 36 – Foothill Yellow Legged Frog and California Red Legged Frog, and Response to Comment Grp 31-12 regarding benthic macroinvertebrates.

Response to Comment Ind 140-4

The commenter states that the DEIR’s analysis is inadequate with regard to impacts to groundwater wells and questions where monitoring wells will be located. The commenter is referred to Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Well monitoring locations are discussed and shown in Appendix K.8 of the DEIR. As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.



Response to Comment Ind 140-5

The commenter states that the DEIR would benefit from additional expert opinion. The DEIR already incorporates expert opinion from consultants not hired by the Project Applicant and peer review of technical reports was conducted by consultants hired by the County, including Raney Planning and Management, Madrone Ecological Consulting, ECM, West Yost, Saxelby Acoustics, and TJKM.



From: c Jones <jonescorrine11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 7:17 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: opposed

Individual Letter 141

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Hello,

I am concerned about the proposed reopening of the mine. The environmental concerns appear to be downplayed and presented as inconsequential by Rise Gold when discussed. There were lots of things in the report that made me worry. One of the most troublesome is the idea of de-watering the tunnels and what impacts known or unknown that will cause. Seems like a pretty big roll of the dice to me.

My experience with living around active gold mines is (I grew up in Northern Nevada) yes they provide a few well paid jobs but the company is only concerned with extracting the resource. The bottom line is everything, the jobs are dangerous and the cleanup is minimal and the land affected is never what it was before. The mines leave when the gold price goes down and the community is left with the consequence. I can't imagine what a mining operation would be like so close to houses and our town! It's right smack in the middle of a really populated area!

I understand there is nostalgia for the gold mining days but do we really want to go back there? Nevada County is still dealing with the leftover environmental degradation from the last round. I do not trust this Canadian company to look out for our community interest. The CEO doesn't seem to have a good track record and footage I've watched of him drumming up investors paints a picture like they expect to roll right over us as our local board is the only thing in their way.

I hope that we as a community decide to keep mining in our past (not so distant if you consider what happened to the water supply near Grizzly Hill school from a mine a few years ago). I hope that we build on the new economy that has been developing here that works with our natural resources like mountain biking, and local companies and farms that are the moving with the times to a greener future. Lets not go backward, this is a terrible time to hope that some sort of environmental tragedy wont occur. We have enough to worry about in the foothills these days. Jobs can be created in other ways, we can't just bring back the land to it's former glory as we can see by the mining scars all over already, and polluted water still being cleaned from the last round.

I'm no scientist but I can understand the increased air pollution, noise and possible horrific changes to our areas water supply this mine will bring. I hope the good folks reviewing these proposals and impact reports will stand up for the citizens of this county and think of the future and our quality of life here.

Please, no mine

Thank You,

Corrine Parker Jones

10485 Broken Oak Ct Apt 101
Penn Valley, CA 95946

Ind 141-1

Sent from Yahoo Mail. [Get the app](#)

1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 141: CORRINE JONES

Response to Comment Ind 141-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.



Individual Letter 142

From: [Craig Arthur](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine EIR
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2022 9:13:41 AM

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Dear Me Kelly,

I am writing you to express my concerns about the potential opening of the Idaho Maryland mine. I live on Greenhorn Road, approximately one mile from the mine site. My number one concern is what could happen to my well water. It is my understanding that Rise Gold will be supplying treated NID water service to homes on Bennet Street that are directly adjacent to the mine. This is great for those property owners but what happens to everyone else if their wells are impacted by dewatering? Like all other homeowners who depend on well water, if my well goes dry, my house is worthless. My entire life savings is tied up in my house. There are numerous studies showing significant negative impact on well water quality and yield due to dewatering. To my knowledge there are no provisions to provide water to the hundreds of homes that could be negatively impacted by the dewatering of the mine.

Ind 142-1

I believe it is critical that the EIR considers impacts of dewatering not only on properties immediately adjacent to the mine but rather on all properties in the region.

Sincerely,

Craig Arthur

14375 Greenhorn Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(539)913-4078

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INDIVIDUAL LETTER 142: CRAIG ARTHUR

Response to Comment Ind 142-1

Please see Master Response 1, as well as Master Responses 14 and 15.



Individual Letter 143

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA. 95959-7902

March 16, 2022

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Ind 143-1

By this letter, I would like to express my strong opposition to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine.

The draft EIR shows a long list of potential problems and negative impacts, many of which I would consider significant on a stand-alone basis: Air pollution, disturbance of asbestos and other toxic substances, potential soil and water contamination, dewatering impacts (by design), settlement and subsidence concerns, increased noise, vibration and traffic, and increased demand for public services, utilities and infrastructure wear and tear. The attempt at mitigation may be partially successful, but it is highly doubtful that anything approaching complete mitigation will be possible in many of these areas.

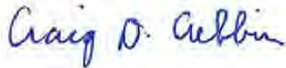
Ind 143-2

Mining operations are part of our area's historical heritage. They were successful and appropriate for the time in which they existed. But the nature of Grass Valley has changed with the passage of years and the continuance of such operations with their obvious detrimental impact on the quality of life is no longer reasonable.

I live in the Peardale area. Every time I go to the bank or grocery shopping, or to the hardware store, I will have to contend with increased traffic, noise and pollution. This change in character will have a detrimental impact on home prices in the area and the appeal our area may currently have as a quaint, picturesque and historic getaway for tourists.

I strongly urge that acceptance of this project be denied.

Sincerely,



Craig D. Crebbin
P.O. Box 625
Cedar Ridge, California 95924



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 143: CRAIG CREBBIN

Response to Comment Ind 143-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 143-2

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



* → Do not support this! ← *

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine Individual Letter 144

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Craig D McCann

Address Po Box 640, Penn Valley ZIP 95946

Phone _____

Email Address cmccann@zort.pro

Ind 144-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 144: CRAIG MCCANN

Response to Comment Ind 144-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 145

From: [Cynthia Yaguda](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Mine
Date: Saturday, March 5, 2022 7:56:22 AM

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Ind 145-1

Hi,
I live 2 miles from the mine site. I feel sick about the possible reopening of the mine. We don't want the mine. None of our neighbors want the mine. Noise and traffic at night are just 2 things we don't need. Our quality of life will be reduced and our property values will certainly decline. Our well may be affected. We don't want to leave Nevada County but we will surely sell if the mine reopened. We have been part of this community for 40 years. Please please NO MINE!!
Cynthia Yaguda



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 145: CYNTHIA YAGUDA

Response to Comment Ind 145-1

Please see Master Response 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 146

Dist 1

Will destroy our environment

~~DO NOT SUPPORT
Support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine~~

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) D. Virva
Address 105 Woods Ct. N
Phone 530-263-3987
Email Address _____

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ind 146-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 146: D. VIRVA

Response to Comment Ind 146-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 147

From: [Daniel Behn](#)
To: [BCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Rise Gold
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:07:32 PM

Dist 1

CAUTION: This email originated from outside 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 Supervisors,

I find myself in a quandary as to why any human being would vote to Euthanize their neighbors or for that matter any of their fellow man. Surely you know in your heart of hearts that giving way to these penny stock scoundrels would put you in the same class as Hitler.

There are times in every persons life, when their is metal tested, to determine their quality of character. I consider it my responsibility to remind each of you that this is your time. Step up and show your quality of conscious to be true and good. Perhaps you have already have decided to send rise mold packing. If thats the case, congratulations for a job well done. I'm of the mind that any person who shows such strength of character deserves to have a street named after them followed by a block long parade of only the best trumpeters.

All fanfare aside, thank you, know that I do respect the office you hold.

Quiet sincerely,
Daniel D. Behn

--
Honor(comes from integrity)
Courage(from inner strength first)
Respect(too you and yours I humbly offer my Love)
Danny B.

Ind 147-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 147: DANIEL BEHN

Response to Comment Ind 147-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 148

From: [Daniel Behn](#)
To: [BCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Rise Gold
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:07:32 PM

Dist 1

CAUTION: This email originated from outside 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 Supervisors,

I find myself in a quandary as to why any human being would vote to Euthanize their neighbors or for that matter any of their fellow man. Surely you know in your heart of hearts that giving way to these penny stock scoundrels would put you in the same class as hitler.

There are times in every persons life, when their is metal tested, to determine their quality of character. I consider it my responsibility to remind each of you that this is your time. Step up and show your quality of conscious to be true and good. Perhaps you have already have decided to send rise mold packing. If thats the case, congratulations for a job well done. I'm of the mind that any person who shows such strength of character deserves to have a street named after them followed by a block long parade of only the best trumpeters.

All fanfare aside, thank you, know that I do respect the office you hold.

Quiet sincerely,
Daniel D. Behn

--
Honor(comes from integrity)
Courage(from inner strength first)
Respect(too you and yours I humbly offer my Love)
Danny B.

Ind 148-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 148: DANIEL BEHN

Response to Comment Ind 148-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 149

From: Danielle Boucher <danielle@acupuncturespot.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:02 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea.nc.org
Subject: opposition to the mine

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Mr Matt Kelley,

Thank you for taking the time to hear from the community about our thoughts on the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I am writing in firm opposition to reopening the mine. I went into the process of looking at the impact of the mine with an open mind, and soon realized that the cons far outweigh any pros.

Ind 149-1

My biggest concern is the environmental impact, and, as a practitioner, how that in turn would also impact the health of our community. Water is a valuable resource, especially these days in times of drought, and any potential danger to our water sources should not be a risk we are willing to take. This has been an issue with mining in the past, the not so distant past, and is something that no company can guarantee won't be an issue again. Opening ourselves up right now to more potential environmental issues does not seem like the right direction we should go, especially at a time when the impacts of global warming are becoming even more apparent and we should be focusing on how to fix the problems we already have. I'd love to see our resources and community effort go towards protecting the nature we love and protecting our community in sustainable ways against wildfires. As a recent transplant to the Nevada County area, I came up here for the community and nature. I'm proud to see this community coming together to stand up against a business proposition that could cause us so much harm, and that threatens the nature that keeps us all dedicated to this area.

In addition, RISE Gold has a horrible track record of their business practices and involvement in communities, there is no guarantee that they won't come in, make a mess, and leave us all to clean up their mess. I'd love to see our efforts going towards building more sustainable, community and nature focused opportunities rather than ones that can cause damage, destruction and health issues.

Ind 149-2

Thank you for your time.

Warmly,

--

Danielle Boucher, L.Ac.
The Acupuncture Spot
www.acupuncturespot.com
to schedule click [here](#)
206 Providence Mine Road Suite 115
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-440-8474

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INDIVIDUAL LETTER 149: DANIELLE BOUCHER

Response to Comment Ind 149-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 149-2

Please see Master Response 3.



Individual Letter 150

From: danny.milman@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 3:56 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Draft EIR - Rise Gold - Questions

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Good afternoon, Matt.

After reading the report and listening to public comments, here is a list of the questions I hope will be addressed by the next version.

Danny
Danny Milman
562.338.2565
danny.milman@gmail.com

Rise Gold Draft EIR Questions

Ind 150-1

Ind 150-2

Ind 150-3

Ind 150-4

Ind 150-5

Ind 150-6

Ind 150-7

Ind 150-8

Ind 150-9

Ind 150-10

Ind 150-11

Ind 150-12

Ind 150-13

Ind 150-14

Ind 150-15

Section	Category	Question
General	General	What criteria will be used to judge the mine's performance in the future?
General	General	How will performance goals be monitored, assessed and evaluated at regular intervals?
General	General	What are the penalties for non-compliance?
General	General	In (5) of the categories of impacts, the data assumes that the clean up at Centennial has been done, while in the remaining (8) categories, the assumption is that Centennial has not been completed. What are the differences in impacts if the same assumption is made for all (13) categories?
General	General	Where are the regular monitoring results taken since Rise Gold purchased the site that could be used to set baselines for future monitoring?
General	General	How were other nearby projects taken into account and included in some type of cumulative impact evaluation?
General	General	Why does the DEIR information not match the filing with the SEC?
General	General	What plans are in place to conserve resources and reduce long term use?
General	General	Will the operations be required to meet new standards as they are put into place, or will the project be grandfathered in for the entire 80 years?
1	Aesthetics	How does the traffic model take a rural population into effect when a road is deemed minor?
1	Aesthetics	How will night time lights affect the surrounding residential uses?
1	Aesthetics	How are night time lights shown in the aesthetic impacts?
1	Aesthetics	How can it be that a 165' tower would not be visible from several viewpoints?
1	Aesthetics	The "After" renderings show the majority of the complex is hidden by new landscaping. How long would the landscaping need to grow before the complex is hidden to that degree?



Ind 150-16	3	Air Quality	How do the air quality models take the region's existing poor air quality into account?
Ind 150-17	3	Air Quality	How do the filtration systems take the asbestos dust into account from crushing serpentine rock?
Ind 150-18	3	Air Quality	How is the air quality impact on the region (as opposed to the immediate site) measured and mitigated?
Ind 150-19	3	Air Quality	If 700K metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions will be generated over 80 years, why will there only be 2444 carbon offsets?
Ind 150-20	4	Biological	Many videos online show a variety of wildlife at or near the site. Why were these animals not taken into account in the report?
Ind 150-21	4	Biological	What type of bird survey was done for the DEIR? Was the survey done early when there are likely to be birds?
Ind 150-22	4	Biological	How was the conservation easement downstream included in the evaluation of impacts?
Ind 150-23	4	Biological	Why were recent surveys of wildlife, birds and plants not taken into account in the DEIR?
Ind 150-24	4	Biological	How is the habitat restoration bond amount calculated?
Ind 150-25	4	Biological	What state of restoration is required to meet the bond?
Ind 150-26	4	Biological	What are the impacts on fish & wildlife who move within the creek, such as fish swimming upstream?
Ind 150-27	4	Biological	What are the cumulative impacts on wildlife?
Ind 150-28	4	Biological	Where is the existing surface water quality documented?
Ind 150-29	7	Hazards	What is the most shallow depth where explosives will be used? Was this depth taken into account in the modeling and vibration information?
Ind 150-30	7	Hazards	Is it true that an earthquake fault has been removed from the EIR and associated maps?
Ind 150-31	7	Hazards	What is the plan for accidents? What level of accidents are anticipated? What impact should be expected when that happens?
Ind 150-32	7	Hazards	What are the odds of a tunnel collapse?
Ind 150-33	7	Hazards	How was the past history of environmental impacts to the region taken into account?
Ind 150-34	7	Hazards	How will the hexavalent chromium, sulfuric acid, and other chemicals be stored?
Ind 150-35	7	Hazards	How will workers be protected from the asbestos silica in the rock?
Ind 150-36	8	Water	How are wells that do not show on the State's online database addressed? NID records show that more mines exist, even in the area of the (30) that are planned for hookup to NID.
Ind 150-37	8	Water	Why does the NID estimate of the number of affected wells differ substantially from the DEIR?
Ind 150-38	8	Water	How has the hydrology changed in the last 15 years since the studies were done?
Ind 150-39	8	Water	How will the water impacts change over the 80 proposed years?
Ind 150-40	8	Water	How does the hydrology model account for the rock if it turns out not to be homogenous?
Ind 150-41	8	Water	If operations lower the water level in neighboring wells, what is the acceptable limit on this?
Ind 150-42	8	Water	From how far outside the mineral rights area will the mine draw water from?
Ind 150-43	8	Water	How many water samples were taken and were they representative of the different tunnels?
Ind 150-44	8	Water	Why is NID water usage estimated at .4 gallons per minute but capped at 400 per day instead of 576?
Ind 150-45	8	Water	What will happen to the water, land and tunnels once the mine has closed?



Ind 150-46	8	Water	Why does the mine not reuse the treated water from dewatering efforts?
Ind 150-47	8	Water	Why would the payment for NID water not transfer to future homeowners?
Ind 150-48	8	Water	Will the neighboring wells be sampled and measured in advance for a base line?
Ind 150-49	8	Water	Will the connection to NID be made in advance of the dewatering?
Ind 150-50	8	Water	Are the new impervious surfaces (paving, roofing, etc.) accounted for in the hydrology and runoff reports?
Ind 150-51	8	Water	How would the project be a net water producer as stated in the DEIR?
Ind 150-52	9	Land Use	What is the shortest amount of time that a permit could be issued for where Rise Gold would still move ahead?
Ind 150-53	10	Noise	How can it be true that the ambient noise at the neighboring properties will be less after the mine goes into production, day & night?
Ind 150-54	10	Noise	What are the impacts of sustained noise over months and years?
Ind 150-55	10	Noise	Why would the allowed noise differ from the already established noise regulations?
Ind 150-56	11	Utilities	How are the County goals for energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction into account?
Ind 150-57	11	Utilities	Does the anticipated greenhouse gas release meet SB32 limits?
Ind 150-58	11	Utilities	What plans are included for EV vehicles, reuse of water, solar energy, etc.?
Ind 150-59	12	Transportation	What is the traffic impact during evacuations?
Ind 150-60	12	Transportation	Are the trucks included in the impacts in the other categories such as air quality and noise? Or just in the traffic?
Ind 150-61	13	Wildfire	How will explosives stored on site be protected in the case of wildfire?
Ind 150-62	13	Wildfire	How will the 24K gallons of diesel stored on site be protected in the case of wildfire?
Ind 150-63	13	Wildfire	What are the traffic impacts during a wildfire evacuation?
Ind 150-64	13	Wildfire	How will chromium and other chemicals stored on site be protected in the case of wildfire?
Ind 150-65	13	Wildfire	What is the maximum number of people who would be on site at any given time? What is the evacuation plan for them?
Ind 150-66	13	Wildfire	How has the more pronounced dry/wet cycles been taken into account in the wildfire plan?
Ind 150-67	Alternatives	Alternatives	What alternate sites are there for disposal of the tailings?
Ind 150-68	Alternatives	Alternatives	What alternate mixed used projects were considered?
Ind 150-69	Alternatives	Alternatives	What is a typical permit term for a gold mine in other localities?
Ind 150-70	Alternatives	Alternatives	Why was the previously approved Industrial Center not included?
Ind 150-71	Alternatives	Alternatives	What other alternatives has the County Planning staff considered for this site?



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 150: DANNY MILMAN

Response to Comment Ind 150-1

The commenter has prepared specific comments after listening to public comments and reviewing the DEIR. The comment is noted. Responses to comments are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 150-2

The commenter asks what criteria will be used to measure the project's performance in the future. It is assumed that the commenter is referring to the project's compliance with regulatory standards and implementation of mitigation measures. A mitigation monitoring and reporting program will be required to enforce all mitigation measures imposed in the DEIR (see Chapter 4 of this Final EIR).

Response to Comment Ind 150-3

The commenter asks how the project's performance goals will be measured. It is assumed that the commenter is referring to the project's compliance with regulatory standards and implementation of mitigation measures. As stated on page 4.6-22 of the DEIR, Nevada County General Plan Policy 17.7 states that each project shall have a periodic review for compliance with the use permit by the County Planning Department. In no case shall such review time period exceed five years. Said review shall be funded by the Project Applicant. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 150-4

The commenter asks what penalties the County will impose if regulatory standards or mitigation measures are not adhered to. The commenter is referred to Master Response 3 -Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 150-5

The commenter asks why various portions of the DEIR assume the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site will be completed prior to commencement of the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 150-6

The commenter asks where the regular monitoring results are taken since the Project Applicant purchased the site that could be used to set baselines for future monitoring. The specifics of which monitoring results are not provided by the commenter; therefore, a response is not possible.

Response to Comment Ind 150-7

The commenter asks how other nearby projects were taken into account and included in some type of cumulative impacts evaluation. Cumulative Impacts and projects taken into account for analysis of cumulative impacts are discussed in Section 5.3 (Cumulative Impacts) of the DEIR. A cumulative impact evaluation, specific to each CEQA topic, is included at the end of each technical chapter of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-8

The commenter asks why the DEIR information does not match the filing with the SEC. The commenter does not specify what information in DEIR does not match the SEC. The Project Applicant's filings with the SEC have no relevance to the analysis of the DEIR. The commenter is



referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 150-9

The commenter asks what plans are in place to conserve resources and reduce long term use, but does not specify which resources; therefore, a response is not possible. For conservation of biological resources, see Chapter 4.4 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-10

The commenter asks if the operations will be required to meet new standards as they are put into place, or will the project be grandfathered in for the entire 80 years. The project mitigations and conditions of approval will not change throughout the length of the Conditional Use Permit. However, the project will be required to meet any state or federal regulations or standards imposed over the life of the project.

Response to Comment Ind 150-11

The commenter asks how the traffic model take a rural population into effect when a road is deemed minor. The DEIR's traffic model uses traffic counts to analyze impacts and does not consider "roads deemed minor" in the analysis. The County has different minimum levels of service for Rural Regions and Community Regions of the County, as discussed on page 4.12-19 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-12

The commenter asks how nighttime lights affect the surrounding residential uses. As stated on page 4.1-29 of the DEIR, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area, and a less than significant impact would occur. As stated on page 4.1-24 of the DEIR:

Based on the proposed lighting types and locations discussed above, a Photometric Plan was prepared for the Brunswick industrial Site by a registered professional electrical engineer (M. Niels Engineering, Inc.). Figure 4.1-2 through Figure 4.1-5 present the Photometric Plan and increases in visible light that are estimated to occur following implementation of the proposed exterior lighting plan. Key considerations include effects to the night sky, which are addressed through the lighting types proposed, as discussed above. The other key consideration are the lighting intensities at the property boundaries near locations where existing sensitive receptors are in close proximity.

As shown in the figures, the lighting intensities at the northern property line, near East Bennett Road, are at 0.0 foot-candles⁹, and thus, light spillover is not projected to occur off-site. The nearest proposed pole-mounted LED, which is International Dark Sky Association compliant, would be located approximately 100 feet from East Bennett Road. Thus, the existing sensitive receptor along New Brunswick Court would not be impacted by light spillover from the proposed on-site lighting. Similar conclusions can be made for the remainder of the property boundaries, based on the Photometric Plan; no light spillover is projected to occur at the property boundaries.

Response to Comment Ind 150-13

The commenter asks how nighttime lights are shown in the aesthetic impacts. Figures 4.1-2 through 4.1-5 of the DEIR show lighting photometric drawings.



Response to Comment Ind 150-14

The commenter asks how a 165-foot tower (the Brunswick headframe) would not be visible from several viewpoints. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.1 (Aesthetics) and Appendix D of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-15

The commenter states that the "After" renderings show the majority of the complex is hidden by new landscaping and asks how long landscaping would need to grow before the complex is hidden to that degree. As stated on page 4.1-14 of the DEIR, photographic simulations were prepared to illustrate conditions at completion of all proposed structures (18 months after construction begins) and at completion of the engineered fill pads with vegetated slopes (five to six years after fill placement begins). Vegetation planted at the time implementation of the project begins would be five to six years old when each engineered fill pad reaches its ultimate size; thus, planted vegetation is represented at five to six years old in the simulations. This age of vegetation is shown in Figures 4.1-11 through 4.1-20 in the DEIR. As stated on page 4.1-16 and 4.1-17 of the DEIR, the planted would trees reach maturity in approximately 30 years which is shown in figures annotated as "full vegetation growth" in Appendix D.

Response to Comment Ind 150-16

The commenter asks how the DEIR's air quality models take the region's existing poor air quality into account. The commenter is referred to Master Response 18 - Air Quality Thresholds. The NSAQMD established thresholds of significance for CEQA purposes to achieve and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). Because an AAQS is based on maximum pollutant levels in outdoor air that would not harm the public's health, and air district thresholds pertain to attainment of the AAQS, a project that complies with the thresholds established by a local air district, such as the NSAQMD, would not result in adverse effects to human health related to criteria pollutant emissions.

Response to Comment Ind 150-17

The commenter asks how the filtration systems take the asbestos dust into account from crushing serpentine rock. Air filtration is contemplated in Section 6.1 of the ASUR Plan (Appendix E.2) when planned tunnelling in barren rock is projected to result in the Asbestos Inventory 3-month rolling average to exceed 0.01% by mass of equivalent PCM units. Asbestos emissions are controlled by utilizing dust collection (air filtration). If such tunneling were to be undertaken, the rock would not be crushed as described in Section 6.1 of the ASUR Plan.

Response to Comment Ind 150-18

The commenter asks how the air quality impacts to the region (as opposed to the immediate site) are measured and mitigated. As discussed on page 4.3-41 of the EIR, the NSAQMD establishes thresholds of significance for CEQA purposes to achieve and maintain the National and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). Because an AAQS is based on maximum pollutant levels in outdoor air that would not harm the public's health, and Air Quality Management District thresholds pertain to attainment of the AAQS, a project that complies with the thresholds established by a local Air Quality Management District, such as the NSAQMD, would not result in adverse effects to human health related to criteria pollutant emissions. Regarding the health risk assessment, the threshold of significance for exposure to toxic air contaminants is based on an incremental increase in cancer and non-cancer risk associated with a project. As such, the baseline concentration does not factor into this impact determination.



Response to Comment Ind 150-19

The commenter asks if 700K metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions will be generated over 80 years, why will there only be 2,444 carbon offsets. Mitigation Measure 4.3-7(b) requires the applicant to offset construction emissions below the 1,100 metric ton carbon dioxide equivalent per year construction threshold. As discussed on page 4.3-94 of the DEIR, the project would not exceed the applied threshold of 10,000 MT CO_{2e} per year during operations and reclamation. Therefore, no carbon offsets are required for operations. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 27 - Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 150-20

The commenter states that many videos online show a variety of wildlife at or near the site and asks why these animals were not taken into account in the report. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 585-18.

Response to Comment Ind 150-21

The commenter asks what type of bird survey was done for the DEIR and if the survey done early when there are likely to be birds. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.4 (Biological Resources) of the DEIR, Master Response 30 - Biological Study Technical Adequacy, and Master Response - 37- Birds and Raptors.

Response to Comment Ind 150-22

The commenter asks how the conservation easement downstream is included in the evaluation of impacts. It is assumed the commenter is referring to the “Bennett Street Grasslands” on South Fork Wolf Creek. The legal status of the conservation easement owned by the Bear Yuba Land Trust is not relevant to the analysis of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Responses to Group Letter 2. The commenter is also referred to Master Responses 32 – Temperature of Mine Water Discharge, Master Response 33 - Groundwater Dependent Vegetation, Master Response 34 – Resident Fish, Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, Master Response 36 – Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek, Master Response 37 – Birds and Raptors, and Master Response 38 – Foothill Yellow Frog and California Red Legged Frog.

Response to Comment Ind 150-23

The commenter asks why recent surveys of wildlife, birds, and plants were not taken into account in the DEIR, but provides no specifics on which surveys are not taken into account. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.4 (Biological Resources) of the DEIR and Master Responses 30 – Biological Study Technical Adequacy, Master Response 31 – Rare Plants, Master Response 37 – Birds and Raptors, and Master Response 38 – Foothill Yellow Legged Frog and California Red Legged Frog.

Response to Comment Ind 150-24

The commenter asks how the habitat restoration bond amount is calculated but provides no details as to what habitat restoration bond is referenced. No response is possible, nor is bonding required to be addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-25

The commenter asks what state of restoration is required to meet the bond but provides no details as to what bond is referenced. The commenter is referred to the Reclamation Plan in Appendix C of the DEIR.



Response to Comment Ind 150-26

The commenter asks what the impacts to fish and wildlife are, such as fish swimming upstream. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.4 (Biological Resources) of the DEIR and Master Response 34 – Resident Fish.

Response to Comment Ind 150-27

The commenter asks what the project's cumulative impacts to wildlife are. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.4 (Biological Resources) of the DEIR, Impact 4.4-6.

Response to Comment Ind 150-28

The commenter asks where the existing surface water quality is documented. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and Appendix K.2 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-29

The commenter asks what is the shallowest depth where explosives will be used, and if this depth is taken into account in the modeling and vibration information. As discussed in Appendix M of the DEIR, blasting would take place 500 feet and deeper, except for the service shaft, which would breakthrough to the surface. Blasting vibrations were calculated for the service shaft and for drifting and longhole blasting at 500 feet below ground surface and deeper.

Response to Comment Ind 150-30

Page 4.6-4 of the DEIR states:

NV5 believes the feature [inferred fault in Brunswick vicinity] formed during the Mesozoic era, at least 65 million years ago. They consider it inactive and designate it as a Type C fault zone "with a low seismicity and a low rate of occurrence". Based on ECM's knowledge of the geology of the area, we are in agreement with NV5's conclusion, and no evidence has been found that suggests there might have been any recent fault movement in the general site area. In support of NV5's and ECM's conclusion, further review of the Chico quadrangle map shows that Saucedo and Wagner's interpretation of the fault shows it to terminate at the north edge of mapped Tertiary volcanics (MPv), at a location a little over a half mile south of the New Brunswick Shaft. Since the map does not show the fault crossing the volcanic unit, we conclude that there has been no fault movement to break the overlying Miocene volcanic rock since its deposition in the Miocene Epoch 5 to 23 million years ago. If otherwise, the overlying Miocene volcanic unit would also be displaced, or at least fractured.

As discussed in Section 4.5-1 of the DEIR, based upon substantial evidence in the record, the project includes a request to amend the Final Map for Bet Acres recorded in February 1987 in Book 7 of Subdivision Maps at Page 75 to remove the "200' Building Setback From Fault", as shown on Sheet 4 of Final Map #85.

In addition, a management plan was prepared pursuant to Nevada County LUDC Section L-II 4.3.8 to address potential seismic hazards associated with the previously-identified inferred fault alignment. It is NV5's professional opinion that the subject fault, identified on the property in Map 85-7, does not qualify as a seismically active area as defined by Nevada County LUDC Section L-II 4.3.8.B, and the proposed project development within the designated building setback fault zone is generally feasible from a geotechnical engineering standpoint. The County's independent consultant, ECM, concurred with this determination.



While the analysis shows that an active fault likely does not exist, out of an abundance of caution, the County has concluded that a significant impact could occur without mitigation. Mitigation Measure 4.6-1 requires that prior to approval of Improvement Plans, the design recommendations from the Brunswick Industrial Site Geotechnical Report (November 18, 2019) shall be incorporated into the Plans to the satisfaction of the Nevada County Building Department.

Response to Comment Ind 150-31

The commenter asks what the plan for accidents is, the level of accidents that are anticipated, and what impact should be expected when that happens. CEQA does not require the analysis of speculative impacts. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

Response to Comment Ind 150-32

The commenter asks what the odds are of a tunnel collapse. Near surface workings were evaluated in Chapter 4.6 (Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources) of the DEIR and were found to be a less than significant impact after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.6-29.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 1150-33

The commenter asks how the past history of environmental impacts to the region was taken into account but provides no further details. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA, and Master Response 9 - Historical Mine Waste at Centennial Site.

Response to Comment Ind 150-34

The commenter asks how hexavalent chromium, sulfuric acid, and other chemicals will be stored. The project does not propose to use or store hexavalent chromium. The details of volumes of reagents located on-site are not required for the analysis of the DEIR and further, engineering level detail is not required in an EIR. (*Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 20, 26.) As stated on page 4.7-31 of the DEIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) requires that prior to the transport, storage, or use of hazardous materials, the mine operator shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The County shall review and approve the HMBP prior to the use or storage of hazardous materials on-site.

Response to Comment Ind 150-35

The commenter asks how workers will be protected from the asbestos silica in the rock. Occupational (worker) health and safety in mines is governed by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). Please also see Master Response 21 – Silica Health Risk.

Response to Comment Ind 150-36

The commenter asks how the DEIR addresses wells that are not indicated on the State's online database. All available details about well construction and testing in the area of impact have been reviewed and tabulated from well completion reports, which are available for the majority of properties. Additional well information will be collected, if necessary, as part of the Well Mitigation Plan (Appendix K.9), which has been revised to clarify this and is attached to the Final EIR as Appendix D.



The commenter states that NID records show that more mines exist, even in the area of the 30 properties to be connected to the NID. The commenter provides no information regarding the referenced NID records or evidence of more mine workings that have not been included in the analysis; and therefore, no response is provided.

Response to Comment Ind 150-37

The commenter states that NID estimates of the number of affected wells differs substantially from the DEIR. The commenter provides no information on the referenced NID estimate. The commenter is referred to responses to Agency Letter 10 and Master Response 13 - Historic Hydrogeologic Assessments.

Response to Comment Ind 150-38

The commenter asks how the hydrology has changed in the last 15 years since the studies were done. Water level data has been collected for many years over a period spanning two decades. As stated on page 26 of Appendix K.2, monitoring of water level in wells for up to 79 wells was undertaken from 1995-2001 and 2003-2007. As noted in the report, no long-term increasing or decreasing trends are observed in the data. Therefore, the age of the sample data does not limit the usefulness of this data. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 13 – Historic Hydrogeologic Assessments.

Response to Comment Ind 150-39

The commenter asks how hydrology-related impacts will change over 80 years, the life of the project. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), Appendices K.2 and K.3 of the DEIR, and Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model.

Response to Comment Ind 150-40

The commenter asks how the hydrology model accounts for the rock if it turns out not to be homogenous. The groundwater model does not assume that rock is homogenous and includes geological units, faults, and changes in hydraulic conductivity with depth. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and Appendices K.2 and K.3 of the DEIR. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 150-41

The commenter asks what the acceptable limit is for the lowering of the water level in neighboring wells. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and Appendices K.2 and K.3 of the DEIR. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 150-42

The commenter asks to what extent within the mineral rights boundary the dewatering of the mine will draw down water levels. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), Appendices K.2 and K.3 of the DEIR, and Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model.

Response to Comment Ind 150-43

The commenter asks how many water samples were taken and were they representative of the different tunnels. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and



Appendices K.2 of the DEIR, as well as Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 150-44

The commenter asks why NID water usage is estimated at 0.4 gallons per minute but capped at 400 per day instead of 576. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Agcy 10-4.

Response to Comment Ind 150-45

The commenter asks what will happen to the water, land, and tunnels once the mine has closed. The commenter is referred to the Reclamation Plan, Appendix C of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-46

The commenter asks why the mine does not reuse the treated water from dewatering efforts. As discussed on pages 3-39 and 3-40 of the DEIR, treated groundwater is used for mine service water, dust suppression at the Brunswick site, and for makeup water in the process plant. As stated on page 2 of Appendix N, the mine would have a positive effect on water supply. NID could adjust its flows upstream to use the extra water available downstream if it desired to.

Response to Comment Ind 150-47

The commenter asks why the payment for NID water would not transfer to future homeowners. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Agcy 10-6.

Response to Comment Ind 150-48

The commenter asks if the neighboring wells be sampled and measured in advance for a baseline. Water quality baseline will be sampled in advance of dewatering at monitoring wells and not in domestic water wells. The commenter is referred to Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 150-49

The commenter asks if the connection to NID will be made in advance of the dewatering. Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(c) requires that prior to commencement of initial mine dewatering, the Project Applicant shall implement the Well Mitigation Plan by connecting 30 properties in the East Bennett Road area to the NID potable water system.

Response to Comment Ind 150-50

The commenter asks if new impervious surfaces (paving, roofing, etc.) are accounted for in the hydrology and runoff reports. As stated on page 4.8-73 of the DEIR, the hydrologic calculations and detention studies for both sites anticipate runoff at potential future industrial development levels, though industrial development is not proposed at this time, and separate environmental review and permitting through the County would be required prior to any on-site industrial development. Therefore, the sizing of the detention basins is conservative.



Response to Comment Ind 150-51

The commenter asks how the project would be a net water producer as stated in the DEIR. As discussed on page 10 of Appendix N of the DEIR, the project will produce a surplus of water from the natural groundwater flow into the ground workings. Once the initial dewatering is completed, approximately 1,224,000 gallons per day are estimated to be pumped to the surface on an on-going basis and treated at the water treatment plant to maintain the dewatered mine. The groundwater consumed during operations is estimated to be 84,000 gpd.

Response to Comment Ind 150-52

The commenter asks what is the shortest amount of time that a permit could be issued where the Project Applicant would still move ahead with the project. The investment criteria of the applicant are not known or required to be analyzed in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts. Nevada County General Plan Policy 17.7 states that “Use permit time limits for each project shall be established on a case-by-case basis. Time limits shall be based on the reasonably expected life of the mining operation and potential conflicts with future neighboring land uses.” (DEIR, p. 4.6-22.)

Response to Comment Ind 150-53

The commenter asks how ambient noise levels at the neighboring properties will be less after the mine goes into production, day and night. The noise analysis was not intended to imply that the project would result in an overall decrease in existing ambient noise levels at any sensitive receptors in the project vicinity. Rather, it estimates that the noise generation of the project by itself would be below existing ambient noise levels experienced at the nearest residences. The commenter is referred to Response to Comments Ind 585-2 and 585-4.

Response to Comment Ind 150-54

The commenter asks what the impacts are of sustained noise over months and years. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration) and Appendix L of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-55

The commenter asks why the allowed noise differs from the already established noise regulations. The project would be compliant with established noise regulations. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration) and Appendix L of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-56

The commenter asks how the DEIR takes into account the County’s goals for energy conservation and GHG reduction. The commenter is referred to Master Response 25 – Nevada County Energy Action Plan, and Master Response 27 - Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 150-57

The commenter asks if the anticipated GHG emissions meet Senate Bill 32 limits. Senate Bill 32 is a statewide GHG emissions plan. The commenter is referred to Master Response 27 – Greenhouse Gas Thresholds. As a basis for choosing 10,000 MT CO₂e as the threshold of significance for operational GHG emissions, the DEIR provided the following reasoning: “For operations, because the project is an industrial project that includes stationary sources (i.e., diesel generators used for emergency power), the project’s GHG emissions were compared to the 10,000 MT CO₂e per year quantitative threshold, which, as described above, is used by SMAQMD, PCAPCD, BAAQMD, and SCAQMD for industrial and/or stationary source emissions



of GHGs. The substantial evidence for this GHG emissions threshold is based on the expert opinion of various California air districts, which have applied the 10,000 MT CO_{2e} per year threshold in numerous CEQA documents where those air districts are the lead agency.” (DEIR, p. 4.3-43.)

With respect to PCAPCD’s use of the MT CO_{2e} per year operational threshold, it is noted that on October 13, 2016, the PCAPCD adopted GHG emissions thresholds, which were designed to analyze a project’s compliance with applicable State laws including AB 32 and SB 32.¹ Insofar as the project’s operational emissions are below the above-stated threshold (DEIR, Table 4.3-23), the project’s emissions would not impede attainment of SB 32 goals. Additionally, Mitigation Measure 4.3-7(b) of the DEIR requires the purchase of carbon offsets for construction GHG emissions to reduce the impact to a level of insignificance.

Response to Comment Ind 150-58

The commenter asks whether the project includes plans are electronic vehicles, reuse of water, solar energy, or other renewable sources of energy.

All of the underground mine vehicles would be electric vehicles, as discussed in Chapter 3 (Project Description), Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), and Appendix E.1 of the DEIR. The proposed parking lot includes 14 electric vehicle charging spaces, as shown in Table 3-6 of the DEIR.

As discussed on pages 3-39 and 3-40 of the DEIR, treated groundwater is used for mine service water, dust suppression at the Brunswick Industrial Site, and for makeup water in the process plant. As stated on page 3-39 of the DEIR, the process plant would run on a closed circuit (recycling of all process water). As stated on page 2 of Appendix N, the mine would have a positive effect on water supply. NID could adjust its flows upstream to use the extra water available downstream if it desired to.

Regarding a solar energy system, while solar panels are not currently proposed as part of the project, the roof space of the project buildings may be available in the future for installation of solar panels to reduce the project’s reliance on the energy grid. However, any such solar power generation would be small in comparison to the requirements of the project. Notably, the GHG emissions presented in the DEIR are conservative, since California regulations will reduce GHG emissions overtime. For instance, Senate Bill 100 requires that zero carbon energy resources supply 100% of electric retail sales to customers by 2045. Neither this requirement, nor the progressive steps to achieve it (i.e., 44% of electricity by 2024, 52% by 2027, and 60% by 2030 be procured from renewable energy sources) were accounted for in the GHG analysis.

Response to Comment Ind 150-59

The commenter asks what the project’s traffic impacts are during evacuations. The commenter is referred to Master Response 5 – Evacuation Zones.

Response to Comment Ind 150-60

The commenter asks whether the trucks are included in the impacts in the other categories such as air quality and noise or just in the traffic. Trucks are analyzed in both the air quality and noise

¹ Placer County Air Pollution Control District. *California Environmental Quality Act Thresholds of Significance: Justification Report*. October 2016.



Chapters of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Chapters 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) and 4.10 (Noise and Vibration) of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-61

The commenter asks how explosives will be stored on site and protected in the case of wildfire. Explosives will be stored underground as described in Chapter 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of the DEIR. As discussed at length in Chapter 4.7 of the DEIR, transport, storage, and use of explosives is highly regulated by all levels of government. In addition, as stated on page 4.7-31 of the DEIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) requires that prior to the transport, storage, or use of hazardous materials, the mine operator shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The County shall review and approve the HMBP prior to the use or storage of hazardous materials on-site. Mitigation Measure 4.13-2 requires the applicant to submit a comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan, inclusive of the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites, for the review and approval by the County Fire Marshall's Office. The applicant shall implement all provisions of the Vegetation Management Plan during the project construction, operations, and reclamation activities.

Response to Comment Ind 150-62

The commenter asks whether the 24,000 gallons of diesel stored on site will be protected in the case of wildfire. As stated on page 4.7-29 of the DEIR:

The tanks would be located in the industrial building complex area. Diesel fuel is considered a Class II liquid, and as such, the tanks would be regulated in accordance with Chapter 23 of the California Fire Code (CFC). Chapter 23 of the CFC includes robust design requirements for above-ground fuel storage tanks, including but not limited to requirements for overfill protection, spill containment, and dispenser emergency shutoff valve. Compliance with CFC requirements, as determined by the Fire Marshall's Office, at time of improvement plan review, would reduce fire hazards, including potential leaks, related to on-site fuel storage tanks.

In addition, as stated on page 4.7-31 of the DEIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) requires that prior to the transport, storage, or use of hazardous materials, the mine operator shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The County shall review and approve the HMBP prior to the use or storage of hazardous materials on-site. Mitigation Measure 4.13-2 requires the applicant to submit a comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan, inclusive of the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites, for the review and approval by the County Fire Marshall's Office. The applicant shall implement all provisions of the Vegetation Management Plan during the project construction, operations, and reclamation activities.

Response to Comment Ind 150-63

The commenter asks what the project's traffic impacts are during wildfire evacuation. The commenter is referred to Master Response 5 – Evacuation Zones.

Response to Comment Ind 150-64

The commenter asks how chromium and other chemicals will be stored on site and protected in the case of wildfire. The project does not propose to use or store chromium. The details of chemical storage located on-site are not required for the analysis of the DEIR and further, engineering level detail is not required in an EIR. (*Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 20, 26.). As stated on page 4.7-31 of the DEIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) requires that prior to the transport, storage, or use of hazardous



materials, the mine operator shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The County shall review and approve the HMBP prior to the use or storage of hazardous materials on-site. Mitigation Measure 4.13-2 requires the applicant to submit a comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan, inclusive of the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites, for the review and approval by the County Fire Marshall's Office. The applicant shall implement all provisions of the Vegetation Management Plan during the project construction, operations, and reclamation activities.

Response to Comment Ind 150-65

The commenter inquires about the maximum number of project employees that would be on site at any given time and what is the evacuation plan for them. The DEIR indicates that a maximum of 111 employees are expected during a shift at the Centennial or Brunswick Industrial Sites. (DEIR, Table 3-8, p. 3-37.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 5 – Evacuation Zones.

Response to Comment Ind 150-66

The commenter asks how the DEIR has accounted for the more pronounced dry/wet cycles in the wildfire plan. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 150-67

The commenter asks what alternate sites are available for the disposal of the tailings. The commenter is referred to Master Response 11 - Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets.

Response to Comment Ind 150-68

The commenter asks what alternative mixed-used projects were considered. No alternative mixed-use projects were considered in the DEIR. The reasonable range of alternatives considered in the DEIR are discussed in Section 2.4 and Chapter 6 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-69

The commenter asks what the typical permit term for a gold mine is in other localities. This comment is too general for a response. Nevada County General Plan Policy 17.7 states that "Use permit time limits for each project shall be established on a case-by-case basis. Time limits shall be based on the reasonably expected life of the mining operation and potential conflicts with future neighboring land uses." (DEIR, p. 4.6-22.)

Response to Comment Ind 150-70

The commenter asks why the previously approved Industrial Center was not included. The Nevada County Business and Industrial Centre was analyzed as part of the No Project alternative and is discussed on pages 6-11 through 6-13 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 150-71

The commenter asks what other alternatives the County Planning staff considered for this site. All alternatives considered in the DEIR are discussed in Section 2.4 and Chapter 6 of the DEIR.



Individual Letter 151

From: [Dain Langston](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIR](#)
Cc: dainlangston@gmail.com
Subject: Rise Mine EIR Comments
Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:21:07 PM

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Ind 151-1

The Porter-Cologne Act, also known as the California Water Code, Section 7, describes 31 separate elements that must be monitored before discharge into a creek. One example (31) elements that must be monitored is temperature of the discharge water in comparison to the temperature of the creek. The standards set within these regulations require the creek to be measured upstream prior to discharge and then the temperature of the creek post discharge. The regulations state the total divergence of the net temperature must not be more than five degrees. This indicates the net change in creek temperature can not change practically than 4.4 degrees Fahrenheit. That is the difference between the measured water temperature upstream and same downstream minus the accuracy of the measurement device warranting a difference of no more than five degrees allowed by regulation.

In the case of the Empire Mine Study in 1969, this was found to be nearly impossible to comply because of the volume of water being discharged in comparison to the volume of water in the creek and the large amount of heating the water was exposed to by treatment on the surface.

The EIR must describe in detail how compliance with the California Water Code, Section 7, will be achieved. It must describe the instrumentation for compliance in detail. To recall, the proposed discharge will fill Englebright Lake every eighteen months.

Ind 151-2

The primary contamination element in the water is Realgar is not addressed once in the EIR. Realgar, a sulfides of arsenic, was the primary water contaminate mentioned in the Empire Mine 1969 Study by Newmont conducted by Stanford Research Inst. on behalf of Newmont Mines for the proposed reopening of the Empire Mine. At that time, it was determined that Realgar, which always occurs with gold in the area of the Empire mine is safe and stable until it is exposed to free oxygen and light at around 715 nm in wavelength. Only under these conditions Realgar converts to a free form of water-soluble arsenic. The current proposed plan to treat this form of arsenic is not known reduce this form of arsenic in solution with water. The only suitable and safe method proposed in the Newmont Report for the Empire is an ionic exchange with resins specially designed and ion loaded to bond with the resins and metal sulfides. There are other less concerning sulfides which are safe and stable until exposed to free oxygen. These are not addressed. This subject of Realgar must be addressed in detail. Apparently, the draft has no knowledge of the occurrence of metal sulfides in gold bearing hydro vents which is the reason why gold is present. Metal bearing sulfides



are required chemically to transport gold in thermal hydro vents. It is always assumed metal sulfides are present unless the gold has been exposed to light and air for a period of time of several hundred years. This is a very basic engineering premise of USGS when dealing with hydro vent gold structures and water. To not deal with this issue exposes the lack of detailed knowledge of the authors of the EIR have concerning the treatment of water in Sierra Gold Strata.

Ind 151-3

The water treatment plan is required to have some comprehensive cogent presentation on how the metal sulfides presents in the dewatered mine, once the area is open to free oxygen and light, will be processed when the formally stable sulfides are converted to a water-soluble form.

The EIR for a mine is required to state the entire list of water components being monitored and how the monitoring will be made ready to ensure continued compliance. There is no mention of the standards required by the Cal-EPA for water test laboratory testing, licensing, and compliance. The Empire proposed a one site licensed laboratory for the testing of discharge water and the publication of monthly compliance reports.

Ind 151-4

The EIR however does make a point of a requirement to comply with the lighting standards of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) since the mine is located in a rural area. The reviewer is appreciative of this acknowledgement.

Ind 151-5

I was a student in graduate school when I was drafted by my Stanford professor to work on the Empire Mine study in 1968-69. The treatment plan was one of the reasons it was proposed to transport water via a pipeline to an NID plant for mixing demineralized water with ditch water on Brunswick Hill. The apparent cost of reopening the mine was the primary reason Newmont decided to give the land to the state and not reopen the mine.

I worked in semiconductor processing as an engineer, was a design engineer specializing in compression and modulation of digital signal processing and was the US representative to the UN ITU-R (International Telephone Union) in Geneva during the Clinton-Obama administrations and I am now retired.

Daun Langston
21790 McDaniel Rd
Big Oak Valley, CA 95977
530-263-9293



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 151: DAUN LANGSTON

Response to Comment Ind 151-1

The commenter implies that the project will not be able to comply with regulatory requirements regarding temperature of discharged water from the mine dewatering. However, the project is able to and will be required to comply with the regulatory requirements for mine water discharge. Please see Master Response 32 – Temperature of Mine Water Discharge, and Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 151-2

The commenter asserts that the DEIR did not adequately analyze realgar, a sulfide of arsenic, which is asserted to be of concern at the Empire Mine. The 1969 study referenced by the commenter is not provided or available for review and therefore no comment can be provided on this study. The mineral realgar is not mentioned in published geological studies of the Empire Mine nor any other mines in the Grass Valley area (see page 36, The Gold Quartz Veins of Grass Valley, Johnson USGS 1940). Arsenic is noted to occur in arsenopyrite in the Empire Mine and certain other mines, but was rarely observed in the Grass Valley area. Arsenopyrite was noted to be more common in the Nevada City area. The proposed water treatment plant is capable of treating arsenic in water and the Empire Mine is currently discharging treated mine water using a similar water treatment method (aeration and oxidation). Please see Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 151-3

The commenter asserts that the DEIR's water treatment plan is required to provide more information on how sulfides will be treated. The DEIR discusses metal sulfides and water treatment constituents and requirements in detail. Please see sections 4.8 and Appendices K.2 and K.4 of the DEIR. Also see Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. The design and function of the proposed water treatment plant was analyzed by the County's independent consultants, who concluded that the water treatment plant would be capable of treating the water produced from dewatering to regulatory standards for water quality. The commenter requests more information on treatment of water and specifically sulfides of arsenic; however, adequate information is provided in order to assess the environmental impacts of the project, and engineering level detail is not required in an EIR. (*Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 20, 26.)

Response to Comment Ind 151-4

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Comment noted.

Response to Comment Ind 151-5

The commenter provides background on the Empire Mine proposed reopening and the commenter's professional background. Comment noted.



Individual Letter 152

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2022 Dist 1

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

To: Nevada County Board of Supervisors
From: Dave and Dianna Connell
Regarding: Idaho-Maryland Mine

If you were building a new home, would you give that job to a contractor of questionable character? A company that went bankrupt with court cases continuing? The obvious answer is "No Way!" Yet here we are with Rise Gold wanting to reopen and work the Idaho-Maryland Mine for 80 years! This contractor is on shaky ground (literally and figuratively). We are definitely opposed to this mine reopening under any circumstances. There are many questionable issues surrounding the reopening of the mine for which we have concerns: noise pollution, air pollution, wells being depleted, dump trucks running 24/7, employment promises that are highly suspect, and a deceptive company running the show. Sounds like a recipe for disaster! Let's avoid this one!

Ind 152-1

David L. Connell 12764
Dianna L. Connell Butterfly Dr
Barbara La Plante 13000 Redwood Place N-city
NO MINE!
Carol Arnold 12927 Butterfly Drive N.e.
NO MINE! NO MINE



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 152: DAVE AND DIANNA CONNELL

Response to Comment Ind 152-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 153

~~I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine~~

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$22,000 including benefits. The mine will also spawn an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) Dave + Keran Erickson
Address POB 74 Chicago Park, Ca ZIP 95712
Phone _____
Email Address _____

No Way!

Ind 153-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 153: DAVE AND RENAE ERICKSEN

Response to Comment Ind 153-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 154

From: [david.taylor](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Mine
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:46:42 AM

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Ind 154-1

No mine we need to have water
Dave



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 154: DAVE TAYLOR

Response to Comment Ind 154-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 155

From: David Agran <david@agranconsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 5:37 AM
To: 'David Agran'
Cc: Idaho MMEIR; Planning
Subject: Agran - Banner Mtn 13 year resident and WELL owner - Concerns for further study in EIR of Rise Gold Folly

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Dear Mr. Kelley

I would like to officially submit my concerns to the DEIR Process – and ask for further study as part of the Rise Gold (folly),

Ind 155-1

I own a single family home on 13755 Quaker Hill Cross Road (closest intersection Crystal Wells). It is a single family home with a well. I have been in residence for 13 years. On initial inspection the well was low producing at 3gpm. Anecdotally, I believe that my well is more tenuous than it was 13 years ago. My house is near the top of Banner Mtn at an elevation of 3600'. The edges of the East boundary of the Mineral rights are around 3 miles from my property at an elevation of roughly 3000'. Water flows downhill, I have significant concern that dewatering the mine of millions of gallons of water and then maintaining a dry mining environment for the next 85 years, will potentially significantly decrease the longterm sustainability of my well and all of the wells in the vicinity. I do realize lots of studies have been conducted.... BUT WHAT IF THEY ARE WRONG??? How will the Board of supervisors protect us, the community members they are elected to serve if their data, and assumptions and all of the unknowns and uncertainties of this kind of analysis and assessment is WRONG. (It is even more troubling given the legal problems, pollution problems that Rise Gold and its current management are facing in Canada... there are serious impact going on with our Northern neighbors on their last project...so clear proof that "Someone was wrong" and "and something seriously went wrong" (and that poor community is now dealing with the aftermath... don't let that be us.).

Ind 155-2

This is especially dire given the very real impacts that Climate Change is having, and will continue to have on an escalating basis over the next 85 years as the duration of this permit allows.

Ind 155-3

There are many other areas where the significant impacts of reopening Rise Gold are pure folly, but I will address my comments to those that immediately affect me as a homeowner and citizen reliant on my functioning well for life and sustenance. **Chapter 4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality Report**

I was startled to read on Regional Groundwater Occurrence page 8, where The EMKO study showed Well draw downs in a 1-2 mile area.... This permit is for 85 years. Further study considering those at higher elevations on Banner Mtn must be studied. Also well mitigation plans need to be put in place for all those wells that may be impacted over an 85 year permit duration. Water flows downhill, there are 72.8 miles of tunneling (pg 17), and no assurances that other abandoned tunnels from other mines may not also be impacted by the dewatering. Sustainable groundwater preservation act (page 32)

Ind 155-4

As written in the
Nevada County General Plan



	<p>Mineral Management (Pg 35) Goal 17.1 Policy 17.24 Regardless of the General Plan designation, subsurface mining shall be conditionally permitted throughout the County. Said mining shall be allowed only after impacts on the environment and affected surface land uses have been adequately reviewed and found to be in compliance with CEQA. Of particular importance shall be the impact of the operation on surface land uses, water quantity and quality, noise and vibration, land subsidence, and traffic associated with surface access. All other related impacts shall also be addressed.</p>
Ind 155-5	<p>Water and sustainably producing wells of existing homeowners is prime. Rise Gold's needs are subservient to this right, and should be clearly mitigated by the County and Rise Gold for the entire 85 years of this permit duration.</p>
Ind 155-6	<p>Predictive Simulations (p.38). Where it is possibly useful assessing historical data going back to 1956 when the IM Mine stopped operations, I do not see any predictive assumptions made or studied that include the realities of Climate change. Our county is dryer, hotter, less snow, more fire danger, more drought- less water secure than at the turn of the 1900's and in 1956. All of this affects our groundwater and wells. Studies that accurately factor in the real and escalating effects of Climate change should be studied.</p>
Ind 155-7	<p>Where the mining scenario is for 25 years. The permit is for 85 years. They may not be mining in year 86, but my house will still be standing and will require a sustainable well. Rise Gold and the County must have an ironclad guarantee that the community's water supply is protected</p>
Ind 155-8	<p>P 55) Thus, the water level within the mine workings would eventually decrease as much as 3,200 feet due to the project.</p> <p>What impact does this have on the wells at higher elevations and near their boundaries? What if their assumptions, and science is wrong...? and the mine adversely affects our wells? How is the community protected by the county and insured by Rise Gold of this very real possibility. We are at the top of the mountain, appropriate study on well impacts beyond their mineral rights is the responsible thing to do.</p>
Ind 155-9	<p>P 62 It is also noted that public concerns have been expressed regarding a scenario in which mining operations encounter a fractured bedrock aquifer and drain out the water, thus, impacting groundwater supply wells. Fractures or geologic discontinuities decrease with depth due to the weight of overlying geologic materials. The mining would occur in the deeper geologic units where the fractures, if present, are closed or have smaller apertures, which would not transmit significant quantities of water. The scenarios addressed in the Itasca modeling cover a wide range of probable situations that may be encountered and the potential impacts to groundwater levels.</p> <p>How do we know this is true, if studies considering the higher elevation of Banner Mountain wells is not being considered?</p>
Ind 155-10	<p>Pg 66 the applicant has prepared a Well Mitigation Plan (February 2, 2021) that would connect up to 30 properties in the East Bennett area to the NID potable water system. The properties would have the option to be connected to the potable water system prior to commencement of initial mine dewatering. The Well Mitigation Plan will obligate the applicant to fund the engineering, permitting, construction, and installation of main water piping and water meters to each property, as well as NID water charges for ongoing water supply.</p>



Ind 155-11

If the folly of Rise Gold is allowed to continue, this well mitigation needs to be expanded and protected for all community members so impacted by Rise Gold dewatering (so that declaring bankruptcy which allows them to walk away and the homeowners and county left holding the dry-well fetid bag can NOT happen.

And I am not even touching upon the pollution counter to the county's Green goals, the noise and traffic and air pollution around brunswick basin, or the risks to the habitat and water resources near and below the mind. Mining was part of our historical facts (which we are still cleaning up), but should NOT be part of our glorious future.

Thank you Mr. Kelley for your attention to this very real issue. Water is life. don't allow Rise Gold take advantage of the community so they can get filthy rich and leave behind us to deal with the filth

Ind 155-12

Respectfully submitted,

David Agran M.Ed BCC
Banner Mountain
13755 Quaker Hill Cross Road
Unincorporated Nevada County
davidagran@gmail.com
760 310 6869



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 155: DAVID AGRAN

Response to Comment Ind 155-1

The commenter is concerned that the project's dewatering of the Idaho-Maryland Mine could negatively impact private wells and is concerned about the ramifications if the technical studies are wrong. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Please also see Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 155-2

Please see Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 155-3

The commenter requests further study of well drawdown considering higher elevations at Banner Mountain. However, no groundwater drawdown is predicted in this area as shown on Sheet 12 of Appendix K.2 to the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 and Appendices K.2 and K.3 of the DEIR. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Sheet 16 attached to the Final EIR as Appendix L.

Response to Comment Ind 155-4

The commenter provides an excerpt of the Nevada County general Plan. Consistent with the referenced General Plan policy (Policy 17.24), the impacts on the environment and affected surface land uses have been adequately reviewed in the DEIR. As noted in Policy 17.24, of particular importance shall be the impact of the operation on surface land uses (see Chapters 4.4 (Biological Resources) and 4.5 (Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources)), water quantity and quality (see Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells), noise and vibration (see Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration), land subsidence (see Chapter 4.6, Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources), and traffic associated with surface access (see Chapter 4.12, Transportation and Circulation).

Response to Comment Ind 155-5

The commenter states that the Project Applicant should mitigate for any groundwater impacts for the life of the project but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 155-6

The commenter questions the utility of historical data from the Idaho-Maryland Mine in light of climate change but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 155-7

The commenter states that the DEIR should analyze impacts to groundwater wells over the life of the project rather than 25 years. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 155-8

The commenter asks about groundwater level impacts at higher elevations and near the mineral rights boundaries. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future



Mining Areas, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Sheet 16 attached to the Final EIR as Appendix L.

Response to Comment Ind 155-9

The commenter requests further study of well drawdown considering higher elevations at Banner Mountain. However, no groundwater drawdown is predicted in this area as shown on Sheet 12 of Appendix K.2. The commenter is referred to Sheet 12 of Appendix K.2 and Chapter 4.8 and Appendices K.2 and K.3 of the DEIR. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Sheet 16 attached to the Final EIR as Appendix L.

Response to Comment 112-10

The commenter states that the DEIR underestimates the number of private wells potentially impacted by the project but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. In addition, please see Appendix D to this Final EIR for an updated Well Mitigation Plan.

Response to Comment Ind 155-11

The commenter states that gold mining is part of the County's past and not its future. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, regarding their generally expressed concerns.

Response to Comment Ind 155-12

The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 156

From: [David Agran](#)
To: [hcbosupervisors](#)
Subject: I DO NOT Support our community taking the SIGNIFICANT RISKS of Opening Rise Gold... bad idea any way you slice it.
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:05:05 PM

Dist 1

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Honorable County Supervisors,

I am deeply concerned by the movement to open the significantly risky Rise Gold Mine. Nevada City and Nevada County has had a glorious history as a Gold Mining Community... That is our past. IT IS PURE FOLLY to consider it as our Future. Why???

1. How can we TRUST the Rise Gold Corporation and certainly not its Principle snake oil salesman corporate executives. They will certainly make millions off of Rise Gold... if not from the gold, than from the capitol investors, they are already reeling in... and if they aren't, they declare bankruptcy and move on as they did in Canada, leaving behind the mess and clean up and no resources to put things right.... They get all the benefit, the community takes on all the risk... How does anyone or group or community or county protect themselves from the downside of a decades and decades long project, with tons of uncertainty, plus the challenges compounding by drought and climate change and being in an area where WATER is essential for survival, in short supply, and getting scarcer. Most importantly, there is no easy Plan B for us holding the bag. One needs water to live. Of course they want to make mega millions.... But their risk is minimal... the long term – decades and decades and decades and decades of risk we the community take -- is forever.

How does one trust them?:

- The press releases, and spin and marketing for raising money whether espousing the results from the EIR, or the NID meeting, or their paid consultant reports, or their severely limited poll of 500 people(that didn't even include people around the mine site), shares all the great news that supports their position, but leaves out the significant questions (i.e. concerns raised by NID), and the concerns and limitations and questions raised by the EIR, especially those areas requiring more study. If they are already stretching the truth, and showing their mastery of spin...how can we trust them, now and certainly into the future. God forbid some chemical spill or pollutant leak or other catastrophe strikes, how can we trust them that they will act ethically and tell the truth and clean up their messes.... They haven't shown that proclivity in the past, or now, once they are green lit, why should they in the future.
- How can we trust them... a Canadian company, set up in Nevada (to avoid the more stringent oversight of CA law), with pollution and catastrophe and litigation and

Ind 156-1

Ind 156-2



	<p>massive clean-up in Canada from their last project... where they just declared bankruptcy and they walk away leaving the community to deal with their mess. (It is a strategy that worked for them in Canada, why not in Nevada County. If the Rosy projections fall short or when "the ohh shits" happen they just pack up and move on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Or they sell out their interests and move on, leaving a new owner /operator to deal with it and one where the county does not have the fail safes and contractual obligations as they did with the original permit holders. • How does the county protect themselves and our communities and our water and our environment if they do that. They reap the rewards and we take on all the risk. • How can we trust them when so much is at stake if anything goes wrong.
Ind 156-3	<p>2. Water is a scarce and precious commodity, which only is getting scarcer with the uncertainty's of climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I live on the top of Banner Mtn. I have a low producing well, that has degraded further during the 13 years I have been here. If they drain out millions of gallons of water below me.... The simple laws of gravity kick in and my well becomes less producing... How am I protected and all the other well owners sitting adjacent and above their mineshafts from this potential eventuality... what if it takes 10 years for that to happen given geologic faults and cracks etc... Yes their hydrologists report said it wont impact me and my well... BUT WHAT IF THEY ARE WRONG, what if their assumptions are wrong, what if their science is wrong, what if their data analysis is wrong. How do you our sworn elected officials protect us from that? I do not have an NID pipe underground along Quaker Hill Cross Road that I can easily tap into ... I am screwed!... I'm selling my property at a massive loss, spending thousands on a water tank and thousands more to have water trucked and delivered to my house weekly for basic survival needs.
Ind 156-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even inconsistencies from the 25 year old EIR study for Emgold said 100 wells could be impacted... Current EIR claims only 7 or maybe 30... WHAT IF THEY ARE WRONG. And in the 90's Climate change and our perpetual droughts and fires were not even on anyones radar. Please actively consult and work with NID... to get their honest take on what could go wrong and how to mitigate for it if that is even possible.
Ind 156-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other than the scarcity of water, there is a huge concern of arsenic and other heavy metals leaching out and spoiling our wells, our streams our hapitat
Ind 156-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold sure is bright and shiny and makes you rich, but you sure cant drink it, or bath in it, or put forest fires out with it.....
Ind 156-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your decision literally effects people's LIVES. Physical and economic
Ind 156-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please consider the economic loss of people who have saved for decades buying their most precious asset... their homes, their houses, the roof over their families heads... what happens to the value of those houses if their wells run dry or get contaminated, and NID is not an option??? Economic ruin. How do you protect us from that risk... even looking out the decades that this permit will allow.
Ind 156-9	<p>I don't live adjoining the mineral rights, or along that part of the county that will see the real impacts of noise, traffic, pollution... regardless what they say -- their industrial waste, their cement processing, their gold mining processing, their trucks will have a significant visual, noise, air and water impacts on the community for miles around, and everyone who is frequenting the shops in</p>



Ind 156-10

Brunswick basin. Doesn't The County have longterm Green goals in place for our county?... It seems like Rise Gold sets those back significantly.

Please consider what the elected officials of NC and GV think also, we are a collective community. This is too big a community wide, county wide issue to have the voices of only 5 people make this decision. Please listen to the positions of our elected city officials, and the professional, hired City leaders and managers on these impacts.

I know the potential jobs and tax revenue must leave County Supervisors salivating at the possibilities – but you please can not pimp out the community and risk the health and safety and longevity of our community to decades of pollution, dry wells, economic and environmental risk and uncertainty.....

Ind 156-11

And if your common sense is on the wane and you decide to support this Ponzi scheme folly... I hope you are smart enough to protect our interests, our longterm health and water and community for decades into the future. Maybe a security bond of hundreds of millions funded before they start mining, solid contracts protecting and insuring everyone's water supplies for a hundred years into the future, maybe profit sharing on the resources to compensate all the county residents (Similar to the checks every Alaskan resident gets every year)???

If the community is going to suffer the calamity, please make sure that Rise Gold is fully protecting and compensating the community for the pillage, and mitigating ALL the RISKS decades into the future so we are not left holding the fetid, rotten bag... as they drive out of town with millions in the bank and not a care in the world.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

David Agran M.ED BCC
13755 Quaker hill Cross Road (Banner Mtn)
Nevada City
760 310 6869



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 156: DAVID AGRAN

Response to Comment Ind 156-1

The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The commenter also references the Project Applicant's reputation. The commenter is referred to Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 155-2

The commenter is referred to Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 155-3

Please see Response to Comment Ind 155-1.

Response to Comment 155-4

The commenter references a prior draft Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The commenter is referred to Responses to Nevada Irrigation District Comment Letter Agcy 10, Master Response 13 - Historic Hydrogeologic Assessments, Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 155-5

The commenter is concerned that the project will contaminate groundwater wells with arsenic and other heavy metals. Because the mining activities will only lead to the drawdown of groundwater and thus not provide recharge to the domestic wells, the mining activities at the project site should not affect the water quality of the domestic wells. The commenter is referred to DEIR Appendix K.8, page 14.

Response to Comment Ind 155-6

This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR but has been forwarded to the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 155-7

The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 155-8

The commenter is concerned about the project's potentially negative impacts to property values and private wells. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. Regarding impacts to property values, the commenter is also referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts. Regarding impacts to private wells, the commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 155-9

The commenter is concerned about impacts top aesthetics, noise, air quality, and hydrology but does not comment on the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response



1 and DEIR Chapters 4.1 (Aesthetics), 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), and 4.10 (Noise and Vibration).

Response to Comment Ind 155-10

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 155-11

The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.



Individual Letter 157

Dist 1

15 MARCH 2022
DAVID T. BOWMAN 16463 TERRARAX PL.
GRASS VALLEY CA 95945-9354
REGISTERED VOTER PROPERTY OWNER
TAX PAYER RESIDENT SINCE 1969
RET. N.C. ELEM. TEACHER

MATT KELLEY SENIOR PLANNER
NEVADA COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.
950 MAIDU AVE. SUITE 170
NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-7902

RE: LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO THE ISSUING OF A PERMIT TO REOPEN THE IDAHO - MARYLAND MINE; MY COMMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT.

Ind 157-1

MY OPPOSITION IN PART IS BASED ON:

1.) THE EIR'S INADEQUATE AND INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE HYDROLOGY OF THE MOVEMENT, SEDIMENTATION OF NATURAL OCCURRING, PREVIOUS AND PROPOSED MINERALS; WATER QUALITY IN THE DEWATERING'S HIGH VOLUME 24/7!

Ind 157-2

2.) THE EIR'S UNSPECIFIED MOVEMENT AND PLACEMENT AND TOXICITY OF SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE AGGREGATE BY TRUCKS OVER ALREADY INADEQUATE ROADS TO SITES IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTY - TRAFFIC IMPACT.

Ind 157-3

3.) THE EIR'S DISREGARD FOR A THOROUGH EVALUATION OF THE IDAHO - MARYLAND BRUNSWICK, NEWBRUNSWICK MINE SITES AS HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SITES "... WITH THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL THE MAJOR MINE DRIFT SHAFTS AND THE PROXIMITY OF THE SUPER FUND SITE - THE BANNER LAVA CAP MINE, TOXICITY IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN RELATION TO STATE STANDARDS FOR PEOPLE, FLORA + FAUNA FOR H₂O QUALITY!

Ind 157-4

4.) THE EIR'S REQUEST FOR AN 80 YEAR OPERATING PERMIT IS OUTRIGHT TOO LONG! TO COMMIT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, PRESENT AND FUTURE, TO 80yrs. by FIVE, HOWEVER WELL MEANING; LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF AIR, WATER AND KNOWLEDGE ON MINING DEMINERALIZATION CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES; BASED ON AN EIR PREPARED BY THE APPLICANTS IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE CITIZEN COMMUNITY! THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IS BEST SERVED WHEN THE COMMUNITY OF VOTERS CAN VOTE ON THE ISSUE OF SUCH IMPACT AND IMPORTANCE.

EACH SUPERVISOR RECEIVED

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sincerely, David T. Bowman

C.C. SUPERVISORS(S)
MINE WATCHER. N.C. ORG.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 157: DAVID BOWMAN

Response to Comment Ind 157-1

Please see Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR in regard to potential impacts to hydrological resources.

Response to Comment Ind 157-2

Please see Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR in regard to potential traffic impacts related to aggregate hauling.

Response to Comment Ind 157-3

Please see Master Response 4.

Response to Comment Ind 157-4

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 158

15 MARCH 2022

DAVID T. BOWMAN 16463 TERRAPAX PL.
GRASS VALLEY CA 95945-9354
REGISTERED VOTER PROPERTY OWNER
TAX PAYER RESIDENT SINCE 1969
RET. N.C. ELEM. TEACHER

MATT KELLEY SENIOR PLANNER
NEVADA COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.
950 MAIDU AVE. SUITE 170
NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-7902

RE: LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO THE ISSUING OF A PERMIT TO REOPEN THE IDAHO - MARYLAND MINE; MY COMMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT.

MY OPPOSITION IN PART IS BASED ON:

Ind 158-1

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Ind 158-2

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Ind 158-3

3.) THE EIR'S DISREGARD FOR A THOROUGH EVALUATION OF THE IDAHO - MARYLAND, BRUNSWICK, NEWBRUNSWICK MINE SITES AS HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SITES "... WITH THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL THE MAJOR MINE DRIFT SHAFTS AND THE PROXIMITY OF THE SUPER FUND SITE - THE BANNER LAVA CAP MINE, TOXICITY IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN RELATION TO STATE STANDARDS FOR PEOPLE, FLORA + FAUNA FOR H₂O QUALITY!

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Sincerely, David T. Bowman

C.C. Supervisors (5)
MINE WATCHER N.C. SER.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 158: DAVID BOWMAN

Response to Comment Ind 158-1

Please see Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR in regard to potential impacts to hydrological resources.

Response to Comment Ind 158-2

Please see Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR in regard to potential traffic impacts related to aggregate hauling.

Response to Comment Ind 158-3

Please see Master Response 4.

Response to Comment Ind 158-4

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 159

From: [David Costa](#)
To: [hcbosupervisors](#)
Subject: Rise Gold Mine
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 2:41:20 PM

Dist 3

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Ind 159-1

I am absolutely opposed to the opening of Rise Mine in Nevada county. I am a voter of this county since 1979. I have paid property taxes and sales tax here all these years. I believe the mine opening will harm our air quality as well as our traffic and water quality. Water is a precious resource and should not be used on mining in this county.

Sincerely

David R Costa
230 Horizon Circle
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 159: DAVID COSTA

Response to Comment Ind 159-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 160

From: David Figuly <dfiguly@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 7:42 PM
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: No Mine

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Matt Kelley, Senior Planner April 2, 2022
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Ind 160-1

I live on Cedar Ridge near the Idaho Maryland Mine. I have lived in this neighborhood about 20 years and we are raising our family here.
I believe after reading a great deal of the DEIR that No Project would be the best decision the Board of Supervisors could vote for. The report stated on page 2-7
"Based on the preceding alternatives analysis, the No Project (No Build) Alternative would be the environmentally superior alternative."

Ind 160-2

But if the Board decides to consider points that discuss the possible re-opening, then please also consider not authorizing the building variance.
The Planning Department's Project Description included this statement:
"the project would also include the following entitlements: 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 the maximum height limit allowed pursuant to the Light Industrial Zoning District." (Nevada County LUDC, Section L-II 2.5 – Industrial Uses, Table L-II 2.5.E).
I think on this request - to not follow the rules already in place and receive variance that is so much greater than the maximum height limit - is another reason not approve the re-opening of the mine.

Ind 160-3

The mining operation regardless of how it is described is not a "light industrial" business.
The county defines M1 (light industry) code as:
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.
A gold mine in the middle of a residential area is NOT compatible with the current adjacent land uses. Before the mine closed in 1956, the number of people in the area were far fewer and much less was known about the short and long term consequences of this type of mining on water, the habitat, noise, air pollution, traffic, to identify a few. But luckily, we have learned a lot about the pros and cons of hard rock mining.
Blasting new tunnels will disturb the surrounding neighborhood, similar to the what happened when Rise's test drilling created noise and vibrations which disturbed many of the residents on Bennett and nearby homes. The residents finally had to convince the powers to be to make RISE stop the blasting overnight so they could sleep. A resident on Bennett published a letter to the Union (August 25, 2020) about the disruptive vibrations during the exploratory drilling. Rise proposes to blast 24/7 in a larger area. I don't understand how blasting and then removing 1000 ton of rock each day is light industry.
The mining operation is not engaging in production, repairing, distribution or warehousing of goods and equipment. US Legal (<https://definitions.uslegal.com/l/light-industry/>) describes



“light manufacturing activity that uses moderate amounts of partially processed materials to produce items of relatively high value per unit weight. Light industries require only a small amount of raw materials, area and power. The value of the goods produced is relatively low and they are easy to transport. Light industries cause relatively little pollution when compared to heavy industries. As light industry facilities have less environmental impact than those associated with heavy industry zoning laws permit light industry near residential areas. It is a criterion for zoning classification. The manufacturing of clothes, shoes, furniture, consumer electronics and household items are a few examples of light industries.”

Certainly, this does not describe a full-scale mining operation.

The mining operation will be processing tons of rock daily, crushing and hauling it to its Centennial Site for a few years and then the waste rock will collect it at Brunswick until it can be hauled to contractors to use it elsewhere in the county and state. This “distribution” is daily for 50-plus round trips by heavy trucks that will haul the waste tailings, 1000 tons daily for years and years. These trucks will be passing through residential areas. Heavy polluting trucks will also haul the waste rock to highway 49 or down 174 for further transport to other parts of the region and state. The noise, dust and exhaust will affect the citizens’ quality of life in the county and surrounding region. This type of “distribution” is not the delivery of newly assembled items from light industry, its characteristic of a heavy industry.

To break apart the ore which may or may not contain gold, requires that rock be crushed (stamped) and possible findings be removed and sent on for processing. To do this, buildings will be built that are nearly 4 times taller than what is allowed in a “light Industrial” M1 zone.

Table 4.11-2 Building Summary provides the height of proposed structures:

Headframe max height 165 feet

Hoist Building 50 feet

Process Plant 64 feet

Shaft Service

Headframe in shaft building 80 feet

Hoist 50 feet

These would not be compatible with the surrounding land use that is mostly residential and a very few commercial buildings that are mostly 1 story. The current 65-foot shaft is an eye-sore that is already 20 feet higher than what is currently allowed. The proposed headframe is 2.5 times taller than the current out of compliance shaft. It would be almost 4 times taller than what the current regulations allow. The proposal also asks for a hoist building allowance of 50 feet AND a process plant 64 feet in height, 19 feet too tall.

Highway 174 to Brunswick is a major gateway into Grass Valley. It is not designated as “scenic” but it is attractive as residents and tourist approach and enter the city. The noise, the dust, the diesel fumes from the mining operation and the too tall structures would create a negative impact on the traveler. As a resident of the area, these are not acceptable trade-offs. The mine “wins” and we get to breath dust, fumes, diesel particulate matter and see the out of compliance structures as we wait in more traffic. These are NOT acceptable variances in a M1 Light industrial zone.

The DEIR states: “The Brunswick Industrial Site is currently zoned Light Industrial (M1) with Site Performance Combining District (SP). Implementation of the project would include rezoning the Brunswick Industrial Site to Light Industrial with Mineral Extraction Combining District (M1-ME). The primary purpose of the Mineral Extraction Combining District is to inform the public of the potential for mineral extraction. However, the base zoning district of M1 would remain unchanged.” (4.3-72 pdf 364)

The mining operation is clearly not a light Industrial company. It is an industry that does NOT meet the definition or intent of the policy of establishing a light industry project. Rezoning it with ME (mineral extraction) added doesn’t work because the industry is not truly a M1 project.

I don’t think the rezoning is so the public is better informed about “the potential of mineral extraction, it is because without the rezoning the mining operation can’t occur.

The rezoning of M1 - light industrial to M1-ME does not support the county policy of what M1 is and what kind of activities should and should not occur on the site.

Respectfully,
David Figuly
Cedar Ridge, CA



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 160: DAVID FIGULY

Response to Comment Ind 160-1

The commenter urges the County to adopt the “No Project” alternative. The commenter’s opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 160-2

The commenter requests that the County reject the height limit variance for the project’s structures. The commenter’s request is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 160-3

The commenter offers their opinion of what should be allowed in M1 light industrial zoning. However, as discussed on page 4.9-16 of the DEIR, subsurface mining is allowed in all base districts, including the M1 base district, subject to approval of a Use Permit. Surface mining is allowed in the M1 base district and where the property is zoned ME. The commenter also states that the project is not compatible with adjacent residential land uses. The project’s effects on the nearest residences are evaluated throughout the technical chapters of the DEIR. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers.

The commenter states that the project will result in adverse impacts to water, habitat, noise, air pollution, and traffic but offers no additional information on which to formulate a response. The commenter is referred to DEIR Chapters 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), 4.4 (Biological Resources), 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), 4.10 (Noise and Vibration), and 4.12 (Transportation and Circulation).

The commenter states that underground blasting will disturb the surrounding community. The DEIR concludes that noise- and vibration-related impacts from blasting would be less than significant (DEIR, p. 4.10-38, 51.) The commenter also states that blasting would occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The DEIR states that blasting activities are proposed to take place twice daily with blasting between shifts at 7AM and 7PM with 3 to 4 drift rounds blasted every 12 hours between shift changes and longhole blasts of approximately 3,300 tons of rock taking place once every 3-4 days. (DEIR, p. 4.7-28.) The commenter states that the applicant previously disturbed the surrounding neighborhood with overnight blasting. However, no such previous blasting has taken place.

The commenter’s concerns regarding aesthetics are noted. Chapter 4.1, Aesthetics, Impact 4.1-2, of the DEIR evaluates the effects of the project’s structures on the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings as viewed from public viewpoints. Based on the photographic simulations prepared for the project, the DEIR concludes that the proposed project would substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings, and while the DEIR includes mitigation to address the impact to the extent feasible, the project’s aesthetic impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. The commenter’s opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.




Individual Letter 161

4/4/22, 10:29 AM

(45 unread) - davidmgeorge@att.net - AT&T Yahoo Mail

Failure Notice 2

Yahoo/Inbox

 **MAILER-DAEMON@yahoo.com** <mailer-daemon@ya> Mon, Apr 4 at 10:19 AM
To: davidmgeorge@att.net

Sorry, we were unable to deliver your message to the following address.

<MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us>:
550: permanent failure for one or more recipients (mmeir@co.nevada.ca.us:550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. AS(201806281) [BLOGCC02FT042.eop-gcc02.pro...])

----- Forwarded message -----
Hide original message

I am a 5th generation resident of Nevada County. I realize how significant the mining industry has been to our County. However, I don't feel the impact on wells, air quality, noise and traffic is worth the 200 or so jobs, The reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine has the potential to destroy much that makes our area so treasured.

Please DO NOT approve its reopening!!

David M. George
530-272-1101
P O Box 866
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

Ind 161-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 161: DAVID GEORGE

Response to Comment Ind 161-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 162

From: Dave Hardy <hardware1197@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 12:39 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Public Comment: Idaho Maryland Mine Project

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David & Victoria Hardy
Bourbon Hill Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
PO Box 599002
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Dear Commissioners,

I am a retired government employee from a large County in California where I served for about 30 years. I say this having the perspective of managing a large budget of taxpayer funds and making recommendations on public policy to elected officials.

My wife and I wanted to write to you to support you making your objective decisions regarding the Rise Gold Idaho-Maryland Project. Living in Nevada City, we began to see the "No Mine" signs popping up all over the County and as property owners, voters, and citizens we decided to research the issue thinking it was a ballot measure or similar and wanted to be informed.

We looked into the project objectively and it seemed to have the potential for significant impact on our County both good and bad. As we tried to do this research we kept slamming into some outrageous and alarming claims from people and the group opposed to the project. As we dug in further, using objective sources, we found these claims are completely exaggerated and downright preposterous and from our perspective were crafted to whip up hysteria.

While hopefully our opinion will not matter to you, my wife and I strongly support this project. I say this with all due respect and deference to the science and fact based decision you are making. My research showed a very strong and convincing prospect for significant economic benefits and environmental improvements to our County and that prospect didn't match up with the cult-like opposition and their claims.

I describe it this way because as I discovered the social media side of this discussion, I realized it wasn't a discussion at all. Social media was an echo chamber of alarmism. I was confronted by claims like "We don't know if the mining will cause earthquakes" and "All of our wells will go dry like (insert unrelated project here)" and the "CEO of Rise wants to destroy our land and is a terrible incompetent person." (Some paraphrases).

When I attempted to counter some of these claims publicly with actual evidence and facts, a cult like mob descended on me and my family. I was called names, my right to have an opinion on the subject was questioned, and I was accused of

Ind 162-1



being an employee of the project for even suggesting anything good could come of it. I also discovered a large number of folks feel like we do who contacted me privately for having courage to speak up. They support the economic and environmental benefits of the project but they choose to keep it to themselves for fear of the mob.

Having spoken to folks who live close to the mine site, I have heard their legitimate concerns about oversight and the mitigation measures. They have a legitimate need to be heard. I was disgusted that the concerns of these legitimate stakeholders were being drowned out by false information being peddled in an attempt to drum up hysteria by armchair activists wanting to appear virtuous on social media.

So I put myself in your shoes, where before you even have deliberated on the matter you are publicly accused in social media of taking bribes based on the outcome, and you are threatened with political consequences if you do not bow to the hysteria. Knowing that you must make an objective decision and that you must use facts and evidence to make this decision, I want to tell you you are supported in doing so!

We have read the DEIR, and support the project permits being issued. We are satisfied that the mitigation measures and oversight described in that document will be sufficient to address any risk proposed by this project. We look forward to having a thriving, modern, safe, and clean mining enterprise in our County.

-David and Victoria Hardy



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 162: DAVID AND VICTORIA HARDY

Response to Comment Ind 162-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 163

Section Comment on HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Commenter: DAVID HERBST, PhD, stream research scientist

University of California, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz

Representing my own opinion and expertise as a stream scientist expert on acid mine drainage impacts and recovery of stream ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada.

I am a permanent resident of Nevada City as of 2021 (10696 Cement Hill Road)

Background:

I have been research scientist with the University of California since 1986, affiliated with the institutions above and hold degrees from Oregon State University and the University of California at Davis. My work as a scientist has been related mostly to the ecology of streams and the influence of a variety of types of disturbance from climate change and drought, to water diversions, sediments, livestock grazing, introduced species, wildfire, and notably the effects of acid mine drainage on stream ecosystems. It is this latter subject that I draw on to inform the comments on the next pages.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this DEIR.

This is an important issue to the community and important that we are all given the chance to make comments. This is a highly technical issue and requires deep reading and understanding to really get at the core of potential problems. As such I find it particularly offensive that the proponent RiseGold would send a glossy brochure to the entire community claiming that “the science is clear” and that the “DEIR confirms that the Mine will not...cause water quality or quantity impacts”. I disagree. The DEIR is incomplete and naive at best and misleading at worst. As the Planning Commission and County BOS representatives I hope you will be careful and thorough in your review of the real facts or lack thereof.

Ind 163-1



Ind 163-2

Issue Identified:

Stream hydrology and the augmentation of flows to South Fork Wolf Creek by inputs from the dewatering of the mine

How would the natural flow regime of this stream be affected is the basic concern here. Page 4.4-69 reports an estimate of the flow range for S. Fk. Wolf Crk - showing that adding 5.6 cfs (first 6 months of pumping) would about double the natural peak flow of winter runoff, and far more at other times. The range of natural background flow in this creek is about 0.2 cfs baseflow to 6.5 cfs peak winter runoff (p.466). Winter storm flows were noted by Balance Hydrologics (2020 report) at 11-17 cfs, and claimed that these flows did not generate erosion or sediments. However, this was not accompanied by any quantitative analysis of turbidity or suspended matter transport during the course of this event so it is not possible to actually quantify the potential for erosion with persistent higher flows that are unnatural to this channel. More important is that this does not assess the impact of altered flows on benthic macroinvertebrate populations, the foundation of food webs in streams supporting other aquatic life such as fish, amphibians and riparian wildlife. Data regarding aquatic life is absent and erosion is estimated based on theory rather than observation. Even the long-term dewatering pumping after the initial 6-month period is estimated to be 1.9 cfs and thus would be about twice the flow that is typical of mid-range hydrograph. The flows added by NID to this same water body can be substantial but are periodic and short-term.

Ind 163-3

Action Needed

Significant biological impact assessment needs to consider benthic macroinvertebrates (BMIs) and the organic matter/algae that are the foundation of the food chain in this section of the creek and downstream of the project. The post-project NPDES permit would require BMI biomonitoring but this does not satisfy the need to assess what the effects would be before the project is implemented. At that point it's too late and this is an inadequate measure if damages are already done. Page 472 does indicate the project could have a significant adverse impact (but that it could be mitigated, though again this has not been adequately ascertained for lack of data). These flows are effects that cannot be mitigated. Studies need to be done to determine how the drainage dewatering of the mines could alter what currently lives in the natural stream of S.Fk.Wolf Crk, so these need to be surveyed to evaluate vulnerability to these wastewater discharges. This concerns not only flow alteration, but chemical and metals water quality as expressed in the next issue (below). Such a biological survey of the BMIs should be expressed in terms of the highest taxonomic resolution (genus, species where possible). Detailed data on the aquatic invertebrate community in the South Fork and mainstem of Wolf Creek would be needed simply to set a baseline for whatever happens in the future. Turbidity monitoring, stream gauging and better studies of the distribution of sediments in the channel are also needed.

Ind 163-4

Background

The natural flow regime of mountain streams from winter and spring runoff to summer and fall baseflow are an important sort of clock for the successful timing of life cycles, growth and reproduction of aquatic life. When the natural hydrograph is disrupted, so too are these cycles and the natural processes of streams (Yarnell et al 2010). Erosion and scouring and downstream deposition of sediments can present further problems for organisms living on stream bottoms, another common legacy of hard rock mining.

Relevant References in the DEIR: Section 4.8



Issue Identified

Water quality of discharges and chemical/metals constituents and their toxicity

According to the report, p.466: *proposed project will discharge a maximum of 5.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) of treated mine water to South Fork Wolf Creek and such discharges will be in compliance with the waste discharge requirements of General Order R5-2016-0076, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) No. CAG995002 for Tier 3 Dischargers: Discharges of wastewater from hard rock mines.*

Table 12 in the guidance from the State above includes their technology-based effluent limitation for hard rock mining, which may not be as stringent as water quality-based criteria, but in any case, are not appropriate to evaluating the effects of metals on aquatic invertebrates.

Table 4.8-2 concentrations report NO quantitative values for the “after-treatment” proposed discharge water but the amounts of at least Fe and Mn shown for untreated water of the existing shaft are at levels toxic to aquatic life. In Appendix K2 Table 3.6 does give data on different depths sampled in the Brunswick Shaft but these are mostly restricted to values for Fe and Mn, while other metals that can be significant toxic constituents are unreported. Toxicity should be expressed in terms of how it alters the viability of stream life when exposed continuously as in this case. So chronic tests rather than short-term acute testing of mortality (as was done in the case of the trout reported Appendix K2 of the DEIR) are what is needed to evaluate true toxicity. Life cycle exposures should be done with the most sensitive organisms present in the natural stream community.

Regarding the sampling methods used to collect and analyze stream water are not described in enough depth to tell where and in what numbers data was taken. What is the underground architecture of the abandoned mine shafts, how deep and how branched are these shafts? They should be checked thoroughly in case there are pockets with differing contaminant levels.

Table 4.8-2, p. 667 (and Appendix K2 Table 3.6) gives the analysis of Tier 3 effluent limits (acute drinking water exposure limits) but these report only single values, or more often not given as a value below the “screening level”, and so does not represent the range of value over time and space of the “mine shaft” sampled. The “screening level” appears to be a low sensitivity analysis (cannot find if the analytical instruments used are even specified or their analytical precision). The Table fails to give values below that level and are inadequate for a true quantitative analysis. What’s more, these limits have nothing to do with chronic exposures to the aquatic life present in the mine shafts to be dewatered.

Fortunately, in a recently published scientific paper with colleagues we show data bearing on this question that comes from long-term field investigations (Clements et al. 2021). Studying the chronic metals impacts on BMI communities from 4 long-term (20+ yrs) Superfund restoration projects from across the western US (in CA, CO, ID, MT) we found the threshold at which the EPT community (the sensitive mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies) diversity unravels. This level corresponds to the lab bioassay estimates for chronic exposures producing sublethal damages to growth and reproduction of test organisms, so our field data validated this concentration of combined metals as the limit to the vitality of aquatic life. Importantly these are chronic sublethal effects rather than the acute lethal mortality limits that the trout bioassays used. Those are not how you’d want to evaluate these problems because they are short exposures and look for mortality only instead of the continuous exposures (chronic tests)

Ind 163-5



that are both realistic and look for how metals/chemistry produce life function impairments. Acute testing is completely inappropriate to assessing the problem. More appropriate to know is that the action of metals toxicity is additive and chronic, so all should be combined as units expressing the total effect-levels rather than individual chemical concentrations. We call these units for each metal/toxicant the criterion continuous concentration CCCs (or aquatic life criteria), and in combination as a sum, the cumulative criterion units (CCUs). Using CCUs recognizes that toxicity is additive and you cannot protect aquatic life only meeting the limits of individual metals since they act together to produce toxicity (as demonstrated in the study cited). At CCU=1 is the limit beyond which sublethal effects produce impaired function and that's exactly what we found in those field studies, so is the best predictor for combined metals toxicity from mines. So, what we need are better data on all the metal constituents as their exact values (and ranges) and how variable these concentrations might be in different shaft compartments.

According to calculations of CCUs, the existing shaft water is toxic (CCU > 5), and after treatment also appears to be toxic but cannot be determined when the screening limits show only "<300" for Fe for example, which at that level alone would exceed CCU=1. So the analysis is inadequate in providing data that is quantitative and sensitive enough in resolution of concentrations of metals, and does not show the variations in the distribution of constituents. As a separate issue the concentration of total ionic solutes (conductivity) is reported at ~400 μ S in the existing shaft and no values given for after treatment. This often cannot be controlled by treatment and represents what may be a very high value compared to the background natural level of specific conductance in S. Fk. Wolf Creek which is typically in the range of 50-100 μ S (Table 3-8 of Appendix K2). Conductivity of 400 is quite high for Sierra streams and studies have shown it is another factor that can limit BMIs.

Action Needed

Basically the data shown is not sensitive enough and does not even report real numbers for many of the toxic metals. The RWQCB standards for Tier 3 hard rock mine effluent is also negligent in not including many of the toxic constituents from hard rock mines. So we need that data to calculate the CCUs after treatment, and need to validate the method used to determine what those concentrations would be for the treatment proposed. Bottom-line the water quality data needs improvement in detection levels and thorough sampling. Data must also include sulfate concentrations (SO₄), acid generating capacity, and acid neutralizing capacity. Seepage from existing or new tailings should be included along with chemical analysis of samples mine shaft compartment waters. Chronic toxicity tests with native organisms should be included with these analyses (not acute tests).

Background

There is a long history of the use of aquatic invertebrate communities to assess the extent of damages to resources produced by mine drainage, and recovery of streams undergoing restoration.

Relevant References in the DEIR: Section 4.8 and Appendix K2 (Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis)

Ind 163-6



References Cited:

Clements, W.H., D.B. Herbst, M.I. Hornberger, C.A. Mebane, and T.M. Short. 2021. Long-term monitoring reveals convergent patterns of recovery from mining contamination across 4 western US watersheds. *Freshwater Science* 40:407-426.

Yarnell, S.M., J.H. Viers, and J.F. Mount. 2010. Ecology and management of the spring snowmelt recession. *BioScience* 60:114-127.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 163: DAVID HERBST

Response to Comment Ind 163-1

This is an introductory comment and does not provide a specific comment on an environmental issue associated with the project. Comment noted.

Response to Comment Ind 163-2

The commenter states that erosion is estimated based on theory rather than observations. However, as discussed in Sections 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 of Appendix K.1, Balance Hydrologics, Inc. conducted channel reconnaissance where they evaluated channel and bed conditions, collected sediment samples, characterized bed sediment size and delineated SF Wolf Creek into distinct reaches based on geomorphic metrics. Observations during baseflow preceded observations and measurements made during elevated flows in January 2020.

The commenter states that a quantitative analysis of turbidity or suspended matter transport at flows from 11-17 cfs was not conducted. However, as stated on page 4.8-36 of the DEIR, the purpose of the geomorphic analysis is to determine if the project will cause substantial erosion or siltation on or offsite. Contrary to the commenter's assertion, as discussed in Appendix K.1 and shown in Table 5.5 of Appendix K.1, the predicted range of streamflow when bed sediment mobility will occur was calculated using quantitative methods. As stated on page 54 of Appendix K.2, turbidity values were also higher in the upstream location, at the proposed treated water discharge point, than they were at the downstream location. This finding suggests that there are existing sources of fine sediment located upstream of the proposed discharge location and additional runoff that enters South Fork Wolf Creek as the flow moves downstream tends to dilute the turbidity from upstream. As shown in Table 3-10 of Appendix K.2, turbidity at Reach B was 79 NTU at 9.7 cfs flow and at reach F was 48 NTU at 17.3 cfs. As demonstrated by the data, the increase in flow, similar to the maximum proposed discharge, past the proposed discharged point (Reach B) decreased turbidity. As such, the data provided in the DEIR suggests that the maximum 5.6 cfs discharge into South Fork Wolf Creek, which will meet basin plan turbidity standards as required by the RWQCB, will dilute turbidity caused by upstream sources rather than add turbidity to the creek. Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a) requires the applicant to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the Notice of Applicability (NOA) shall be received before initial mine dewatering can begin. Water quality standards, enforced by the RWQCB, include total suspended solids and turbidity. Therefore, mine water discharge will not exceed turbidity thresholds.

The project would not cause substantial erosion or siltation and would be required to meet water quality goals per Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a). Therefore, impacts to aquatic invertebrates and benthic macroinvertebrates would also not be significant. Please see Master Response 36 - Flows in South Wolf Creek, and Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Wolf Creek, regarding the discharge flow volumes and quality, potential for erosion, and species impacts. Please also see Response to Comment Grp 31-12 regarding benthic macroinvertebrates.

Response to Comment Ind 163-3

The commenter asserts that the project could cause impacts to benthic macroinvertebrates. The biological impact to benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) from mine water discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek has already been analyzed in the DEIR. (see DEIR, p. 4.4-70.) The commenter provides no information as to why the specific impact to organic matter/algae would be necessary in the analysis of the DEIR. The project's discharge would meet all water quality goals per Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a) and would not cause substantial erosion or siltation. Therefore, it



would not have a significant impact on sensitive aquatic resources. Please see Master Response 36 - Flows in South Wolf Creek, Master Response 32 - Temperature of Mine Water Discharge, and Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Wolf Creek, regarding the discharge flow volumes, temperature, and quality, potential for erosion, and species impacts. Please also see Response to Comment Grp 31-12 regarding benthic macroinvertebrates.

The commenter states that the post-project NPDES permit would require BMI biomonitoring and therefore detailed baseline data on BMI is required. However, no such monitoring is required under NPDES CAG995002 Order R5-2022-0006 waste discharge requirements for limited threat discharges to surface water. As discussed on page 4.8-31 of the DEIR, the Regional Water Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan, Fifth Edition, for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (the Basin Plan). The requirements of NPDES CAG995002 are designed to implement the goals of the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Plan. These beneficial uses include WARM, COLD, and WILD uses which specifically consider preservation and enhancement of aquatic invertebrates. As shown in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan, these beneficial uses, also applicable to South Fork Wolf Creek, are as follows:

- Municipal and domestic supply (MUN)
- Agricultural supply, including stock watering (AGR)
- Hydropower generation (POW)
- Water contact recreation, including canoeing and rafting (REC-1)
- Non-contact water recreation, including aesthetic enjoyment (REC-2)
- Warm freshwater habitat (WARM) – Uses of water that support warm water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates.
- Cold freshwater habitat (COLD) – Uses of water that support cold water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates.
- Wildlife habitat (WILD) – Uses of water that support terrestrial or wetland ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation and enhancement of terrestrial habitats or wetlands, vegetation, wildlife (e.g., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates), or wildlife water and food sources.

Response to Comment Ind 163-4

The commenter states that the flow regime of mountain streams is an important sort of clock for timing of life cycles, growth, and reproduction of aquatic life and that when the natural hydrograph is disrupted so too are these cycles. However, the project would only increase baseflow through the discharge of treated mine water and would not change the natural hydrograph with higher flows in winter and lower flows in summer. Please also see Response to Comment Grp 2-5.

The commenter states that erosions and scouring and downstream deposition of sediments can present further problems for organisms living on stream bottoms. However, the project would not cause substantial erosion or siltation and therefore would not impact these organisms. Please see Master Response 36 - Flows in South Wolf Creek.

The commenter states that technology based effluent limitations are not appropriate for evaluating the effects of metals on aquatic invertebrates. However, as stated on page D-19 of NPDES



CAG995002 Order R5-2022-006, Section 301(b) of the Clean Water Act require permits to include conditions meeting the applicable technology requirement at a **minimum**, and any more stringent effluent limitation necessary to meet water quality standards. (see Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a).)

The commenter also states that no quantitative values are provided for iron and manganese after treatment in Table 4.8-2. However, Table 4.8-2 shows that iron must be less than 300 ug/L and manganese must be less than 50 ug/L. The commenter states that the amounts of iron and manganese before treatment are at levels toxic to aquatic life. However, the water would be treated before discharge per Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a) and therefore the pre-treatment values are not relevant to the analysis. Furthermore, neither iron nor manganese have maximum contaminant levels for the protection of aquatic life and the water quality goals are based on the secondary drinking water standards (for taste and odor)². The commenter states that a different toxicity test (chronic rather than acute) should be performed on water currently in the mine shaft and that pockets of different water quality could exist in the underground architecture of branching mine shafts. However, such a test and analysis are not required for the analysis because existing water in the mine working would be treated prior to discharge, and treated mine water must meet all water quality objectives prior to discharge (see Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek).

The commenter states that sampling methods used to collect and analyze stream water are not described in enough depth to tell where and in what numbers data was taken. However, the DEIR contains voluminous baseline surface water quality data. The baseline surface water quality data are described within Section 3.4.1.2 and presented in Tables 3.5 through 3.10 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR. The baseline data include results from samples collected from the underground workings, from drains that discharge water from the underground workings, from Wolf Creek, and from South Fork Wolf Creek. The results include field parameters, general water chemistry parameters, and metals. In particular, Table 3-8 of Appendix K.2 contains pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), electrical conductivity, and oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) measurements from three locations along South Fork Wolf Creek and two locations on the former SPI site that discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. Table 3-8 of Appendix K.2 presents laboratory analytical results for 18 general water chemistry parameters and 19 different metals from two samples collected along South Fork Wolf Creek at locations that will be upstream and downstream of the proposed treated water discharge location. Table 3-10 of Appendix K.2 provides field measurements of flow, temperature, specific conductance, pH, and turbidity for two locations (upstream and downstream) along South Fork Wolf Creek measured during five different storm flow conditions, including summer baseflow, early-season post-storm (comparable to first-flush) flows, winter baseflow, rising flows during a “qualifying rain event of 1.25 inches, and peak flows during the same “qualifying rain event”. Additional details regarding flow conditions and baseline water quality conditions in South Fork Wolf Creek are also provided in Appendix K.1 of the DEIR. Further analysis of the baseline water quality data is provided in Section 3.4.2 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR. In particular, data from South Fork Wolf Creek are presented on Figures 3-12 and 3-19 while the baseline data from the underground workings, drains, and Wolf Creek are presented on Figures 3-12 through 3-18. As such, the DEIR presents substantial evidence on the data associated with water quality, sufficient to support the conclusions of the DEIR.

² https://public3.waterboards.ca.gov/wqgapps/WQ_view.jsp?backUrl=iron&chemName=Iron
https://public3.waterboards.ca.gov/wqgapps/WQ_view.jsp?backUrl=Manganese&chemName=Manganese



Response to Comment Ind 163-5

The commenter states that Table 4.8-2 of the DEIR provides only single values and not ranges of values for current water quality in the mine shaft and screening levels in the table are insufficient for a true quantitative analysis and that recently published scientific papers (Clements et al 2021) and chronic tests (criterion chronic concentrations) should be used to determine water quality requirements for the mine water discharge. The commenter also states that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) standards for Tier 3 hard rock mine effluent (as described in NPDES CAG99500) are negligent for not including many of the toxic constituent for hard rock mines. However, the water quality requirements for treated mine water are determined by the CVRWQCB, which is the responsible agency for the regulation of the mine water discharge. As discussed on page 4.8-31 of the DEIR, the Regional Water Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan, Fifth Edition, for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (the Basin Plan) that designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Plan. Mine water discharge must be treated to meet water quality goals that are protective of aquatic life and other beneficial users. Please see Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

The commenter states that conductivity of water in the shaft is high and cannot be controlled by treatment. There are no US EPA water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life for electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, and sulphate (see page D-34 of Order R5-2022-0006). However, the secondary MCL for electrical conductivity of 900 umhos/cm is the recommended level for the protection of agricultural supply by the Central Valley Water Board (see page D-34 and D-35 of Order R5-2022-0006). As discussed on page 4-5 of Appendix K.4, electrical conductivity (EC) is associated with Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Appendix K.2 listed EC values for the New Brunswick Shaft water as approximately 385 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. The mobilized divalent ions from the carbonate and sulfide minerals would add to that specific conductance, although it would require significant contributions of Ca, Mg, and SO_4 to surpass the NPDES CAG995002 screening level of 900 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. However, if treatment is deemed necessary for TDS mitigation at some point during mining operations, mobile ion exchange water softeners would be deployed as opposed to building additional permanent infrastructure that may not be needed or only needed for relatively short periods. These mobile units are readily available, and various vendors offer the service of replacing them as necessary as the resin becomes spent and in need of regeneration. Additionally, the resins used for these constituents are common throughout the industry for softening water and do not pose a health or environmental risk. Therefore, the proposed water treatment plant is capable of ensuring that conductance of discharged mine water meets water quality goals and the required Notice of Applicability would ensure compliance (see Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek).

The commenter states that seepage from existing or new tailings should be tested for sulfate concentrations, acid generating capacity, and acid neutralization capacity. Please see Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA, Master Response 9 - Historical Mine Waste at Centennial Site, and Master Response 8 - Mine Waste Characterization.

Response to Comment Ind 163-6

Please see Responses to Comments Ind 163-2 through Ind 163-5. Comment noted.



Individual Letter 164

From: [David Herbst](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIR](#); [hcolosupervisors](#); [Matt Kelley](#)
Subject: comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine DEIR
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 12:00:21 PM
Attachments: [Issues Identified Comments IM-DEIR DBHerbst.docx](#)

Dist 1

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Please find my comment letter attached.

Thank you

David Herbst

--

David B. Herbst, Ph.D.
research scientist, mountain streams & saline lakes
Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory
Mammoth Lakes, California
and Institute of Marine Sciences
University of California Santa Cruz
and Marine Science Institute, UC Santa Barbara
(760) 258-6066
WEB: https://linkprotect.eudasy.com?url?a=https%3a%2f%2fherbstlab.msi.ucsb.edu&c=E.L.hUOri2G0Oy_W-53LsbjK0N3p3YICswxH9dlzAOMNH42OWGiIzZL3LaApl-rsj84S7cbCneOeqlls2sQmFePEGkr50IkHn7Ez9pZ6MMR1&typo=1



Section Comment on HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Commenter: DAVID HERBST, PhD, stream research scientist

University of California, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz

Representing my own opinion and expertise as a stream scientist expert on acid mine drainage impacts and recovery of stream ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada.

I am a permanent resident of Nevada City as of 2021 (10696 Cement Hill Road)

Background:

I have been research scientist with the University of California since 1986, affiliated with the institutions above and hold degrees from Oregon State University and the University of California at Davis. My work as a scientist has been related mostly to the ecology of streams and the influence of a variety of types of disturbance from climate change and drought, to water diversions, sediments, livestock grazing, introduced species, wildfire, and notably the effects of acid mine drainage on stream ecosystems. It is this latter subject that I draw on to inform the comments on the next pages.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this DEIR.

This is an important issue to the community and important that we are all given the chance to make comments. This is a highly technical issue and requires deep reading and understanding to really get at the core of potential problems. As such I find it particularly offensive that the proponent RiseGold would send a glossy brochure to the entire community claiming that “the science is clear” and that the “DEIR confirms that the Mine will not...cause water quality or quantity impacts”. I disagree. The DEIR is incomplete and naive at best and misleading at worst. As the Planning Commission and County BOS representatives I hope you will be careful and thorough in your review of the real facts or lack thereof.

Ind 164-1



Ind 164-2

Issue Identified:

Stream hydrology and the augmentation of flows to South Fork Wolf Creek by inputs from the dewatering of the mine

How would the natural flow regime of this stream be affected is the basic concern here. Page 4.4-69 reports an estimate of the flow range for S. Fk. Wolf Crk - showing that adding 5.6 cfs (first 6 months of pumping) would about double the natural peak flow of winter runoff, and far more at other times. The range of natural background flow in this creek is about 0.2 cfs baseflow to 6.5 cfs peak winter runoff (p.466). Winter storm flows were noted by Balance Hydrologics (2020 report) at 11-17 cfs, and claimed that these flows did not generate erosion or sediments. However, this was not accompanied by any quantitative analysis of turbidity or suspended matter transport during the course of this event so it is not possible to actually quantify the potential for erosion with persistent higher flows that are unnatural to this channel. More important is that this does not assess the impact of altered flows on benthic macroinvertebrate populations, the foundation of food webs in streams supporting other aquatic life such as fish, amphibians and riparian wildlife. Data regarding aquatic life is absent and erosion is estimated based on theory rather than observation. Even the long-term dewatering pumping after the initial 6-month period is estimated to be 1.9 cfs and thus would be about twice the flow that is typical of mid-range hydrograph. The flows added by NID to this same water body can be substantial but are periodic and short-term.

Ind 164-3

Action Needed

Significant biological impact assessment needs to consider benthic macroinvertebrates (BMIs) and the organic matter/algae that are the foundation of the food chain in this section of the creek and downstream of the project. The post-project NPDES permit would require BMI biomonitoring but this does not satisfy the need to assess what the effects would be before the project is implemented. At that point it's too late and this is an inadequate measure if damages are already done. Page 472 does indicate the project could have a significant adverse impact (but that it could be mitigated, though again this has not been adequately ascertained for lack of data). These flows are effects that cannot be mitigated. Studies need to be done to determine how the drainage dewatering of the mines could alter what currently lives in the natural stream of S.Fk.Wolf Crk, so these need to be surveyed to evaluate vulnerability to these wastewater discharges. This concerns not only flow alteration, but chemical and metals water quality as expressed in the next issue (below). Such a biological survey of the BMIs should be expressed in terms of the highest taxonomic resolution (genus, species where possible). Detailed data on the aquatic invertebrate community in the South Fork and mainstem of Wolf Creek would be needed simply to set a baseline for whatever happens in the future. Turbidity monitoring, stream gauging and better studies of the distribution of sediments in the channel are also needed.

Ind 164-4

Background

The natural flow regime of mountain streams from winter and spring runoff to summer and fall baseflow are an important sort of clock for the successful timing of life cycles, growth and reproduction of aquatic life. When the natural hydrograph is disrupted, so too are these cycles and the natural processes of streams (Yarnell et al 2010). Erosion and scouring and downstream deposition of sediments can present further problems for organisms living on stream bottoms, another common legacy of hard rock mining.

Relevant References in the DEIR: Section 4.8



Issue Identified

Water quality of discharges and chemical/metals constituents and their toxicity

According to the report, p.466: *proposed project will discharge a maximum of 5.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) of treated mine water to South Fork Wolf Creek and such discharges will be in compliance with the waste discharge requirements of General Order R5-2016-0076, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) No. CAG995002 for Tier 3 Dischargers: Discharges of wastewater from hard rock mines.*

Table 12 in the guidance from the State above includes their technology-based effluent limitation for hard rock mining, which may not be as stringent as water quality-based criteria, but in any case, are not appropriate to evaluating the effects of metals on aquatic invertebrates.

Table 4.8-2 concentrations report NO quantitative values for the “after-treatment” proposed discharge water but the amounts of at least Fe and Mn shown for untreated water of the existing shaft are at levels toxic to aquatic life. In Appendix K2 Table 3.6 does give data on different depths sampled in the Brunswick Shaft but these are mostly restricted to values for Fe and Mn, while other metals that can be significant toxic constituents are unreported. Toxicity should be expressed in terms of how it alters the viability of stream life when exposed continuously as in this case. So chronic tests rather than short-term acute testing of mortality (as was done in the case of the trout reported Appendix K2 of the DEIR) are what is needed to evaluate true toxicity. Life cycle exposures should be done with the most sensitive organisms present in the natural stream community.

Regarding the sampling methods used to collect and analyze stream water are not described in enough depth to tell where and in what numbers data was taken. What is the underground architecture of the abandoned mine shafts, how deep and how branched are these shafts? They should be checked thoroughly in case there are pockets with differing contaminant levels.

Table 4.8-2, p. 667 (and Appendix K2 Table 3.6) gives the analysis of Tier 3 effluent limits (acute drinking water exposure limits) but these report only single values, or more often not given as a value below the “screening level”, and so does not represent the range of value over time and space of the “mine shaft” sampled. The “screening level” appears to be a low sensitivity analysis (cannot find if the analytical instruments used are even specified or their analytical precision). The Table fails to give values below that level and are inadequate for a true quantitative analysis. What’s more, these limits have nothing to do with chronic exposures to the aquatic life present in the mine shafts to be dewatered.

Fortunately, in a recently published scientific paper with colleagues we show data bearing on this question that comes from long-term field investigations (Clements et al. 2021). Studying the chronic metals impacts on BMI communities from 4 long-term (20+ yrs) Superfund restoration projects from across the western US (in CA, CO, ID, MT) we found the threshold at which the EPT community (the sensitive mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies) diversity unravels. This level corresponds to the lab bioassay estimates for chronic exposures producing sublethal damages to growth and reproduction of test organisms, so our field data validated this concentration of combined metals as the limit to the vitality of aquatic life. Importantly these are chronic sublethal effects rather than the acute lethal mortality limits that the trout bioassays used. Those are not how you'd want to evaluate these problems because they are short exposures and look for mortality only instead of the continuous exposures (chronic tests)

Ind 164-5



that are both realistic and look for how metals/chemistry produce life function impairments. Acute testing is completely inappropriate to assessing the problem. More appropriate to know is that the action of metals toxicity is additive and chronic, so all should be combined as units expressing the total effect-levels rather than individual chemical concentrations. We call these units for each metal/toxicant the criterion continuous concentration CCCs (or aquatic life criteria), and in combination as a sum, the cumulative criterion units (CCUs). Using CCUs recognizes that toxicity is additive and you cannot protect aquatic life only meeting the limits of individual metals since they act together to produce toxicity (as demonstrated in the study cited). At CCU=1 is the limit beyond which sublethal effects produce impaired function and that's exactly what we found in those field studies, so is the best predictor for combined metals toxicity from mines. So, what we need are better data on all the metal constituents as their exact values (and ranges) and how variable these concentrations might be in different shaft compartments.

According to calculations of CCUs, the existing shaft water is toxic (CCU > 5), and after treatment also appears to be toxic but cannot be determined when the screening limits show only "<300" for Fe for example, which at that level alone would exceed CCU=1. So the analysis is inadequate in providing data that is quantitative and sensitive enough in resolution of concentrations of metals, and does not show the variations in the distribution of constituents. As a separate issue the concentration of total ionic solutes (conductivity) is reported at ~400 μ S in the existing shaft and no values given for after treatment. This often cannot be controlled by treatment and represents what may be a very high value compared to the background natural level of specific conductance in S. Fk. Wolf Creek which is typically in the range of 50-100 μ S (Table 3-8 of Appendix K2). Conductivity of 400 is quite high for Sierra streams and studies have shown it is another factor that can limit BMIs.

Action Needed

Basically the data shown is not sensitive enough and does not even report real numbers for many of the toxic metals. The RWQCB standards for Tier 3 hard rock mine effluent is also negligent in not including many of the toxic constituents from hard rock mines. So we need that data to calculate the CCUs after treatment, and need to validate the method used to determine what those concentrations would be for the treatment proposed. Bottom-line the water quality data needs improvement in detection levels and thorough sampling. Data must also include sulfate concentrations (SO₄), acid generating capacity, and acid neutralizing capacity. Seepage from existing or new tailings should be included along with chemical analysis of samples mine shaft compartment waters. Chronic toxicity tests with native organisms should be included with these analyses (not acute tests).

Background

There is a long history of the use of aquatic invertebrate communities to assess the extent of damages to resources produced by mine drainage, and recovery of streams undergoing restoration.

Relevant References in the DEIR: Section 4.8 and Appendix K2 (Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis)

Ind 164-6



References Cited:

Clements, W.H., D.B. Herbst, M.I. Hornberger, C.A. Mebane, and T.M. Short. 2021. Long-term monitoring reveals convergent patterns of recovery from mining contamination across 4 western US watersheds. *Freshwater Science* 40:407-426.

Yarnell, S.M., J.H. Viers, and J.F. Mount. 2010. Ecology and management of the spring snowmelt recession. *BioScience* 60:114-127.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 164: DAVID HERBST

Response to Comment Ind 164-1

This letter is a duplicate copy of Individual Letter 163. Please see comments and responses in Individual Letter 163.



Individual Letter 165

From: [David Kimmel](#)
To: [BCS Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Natana Spohler](#)
Subject: Please read my comments on the Rise Gold Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine Re-opening
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 2:26:46 PM

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Ind 165-1

Dear Supervisors,

My name is David Kimmel, I live on Lake Forest Drive in Lake Wildwood in District 4.

Thank you for considering my comments.

I am convinced this mine project would be a very bad decision for our county because:

1) Mines are known for being destructive to the surrounding environment. This one would be close to the center of Grass Valley not in a far off isolated location. Why risk it?

2) Rise Gold has never opened a mine and has never made a profit. Their current CEO's prior venture polluted the local environment, went bankrupt and left the local community with a big cleanup bill. Does it make any sense to place our county's welfare in such a person's hands? Why risk it?

3) Do you really know the economic impact in terms of discouraging tourism, making our county less attractive to high tech businesses, damaging wells, and decreasing property values? The current environmental review process doesn't include any analysis or study of those economic impacts. Please follow due diligence and include an economic analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

Don't allow our community to be harmed!

Thank you.

David Kimmel



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 165: DAVID KIMMEL

Response to Comment Ind 165-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.



From: David Morris <Davidpoppy7@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

Individual Letter 166

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Matt Kelley:

As a long-time resident of Nevada County, I have recently learned more about historical and modern-day mining than I ever cared to know. While the advertised benefits for reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine, particularly well-paying jobs, have a potential benefit for the area, I am more concerned about the quality of life in the heavily populated areas that will be impacted for years to come.

The results of de-watering the mine shafts may cause consequential and unwanted results; the heavy trucks with their many daily trips through essential arteries will be a major nuisance with the resulting noise and pollution; the disposal of the water from the mining operations could cause damage to existing streams and embankments;...there are so many negatives associated with the mine reopening that I fail to see how anyone could approve an IER with so many unresolved issues.

Please save the citizens of Nevada County from having to face this ordeal.

David Morris

10205 Banner Lava Cap Road
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 432-8931

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Ind 166-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 166: DAVID MORRIS

Response to Comment Ind 166-1

Please see Master Response 1 as well as Master Response 35.



Individual Letter 167



IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT
DRAFT EIR COMMENT FORM

To document the author of comments received, please provide the following information. Thank you.

Name: DAVID Lee. O'DONNELL

Address: P.O. Box 624 Downieville, CA 95936

Organization (if applicable): _____

Please provide us with your written comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR by **5:00 PM, April 4, 2022**. Comments may be placed in the comment box located in the back of the Board of Supervisors Chambers during the Special Public Meeting of the Nevada County Planning Commission. Written comments may also be submitted (email or hardcopy) to the address below:

**Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us**

Ind 167-1

I am GOLD MINER I am Third Generation
GOLD miner IN my FAMILY, I Grew UP
IN Sierra County ALLEGHANY, CA. I HAVE
OVER 50 years plus under my BELT
IN MINING. We need MINING IT WILL put
more people TO work. I am IN FAVOR
For The Idaho-Maryland mine To start up
we are short on minerals we need TO
mine our ^{own} minerals. Don't Get minerals
Somewhere ELSE. Every DAY IN Life we
use some type minerals, here just a few
Cell phones CARS Computers Lites medicine
This just few things what minerals PLAY
Big part MAKE EVERYTHING IN Life To make it
run.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 167: DAVID O'DONNELL

Response to Comment Ind 167-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 168

From: dave@daveandlisa.net
To: [RCS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Proposed Idaho Maryland Mine Reopening
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 2:45:24 PM

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Ind 168-1

I'm a land owner and resident of Nevada County. While the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine would not directly affect me or my property, I'm still opposed to it. I have read quite a bit about the positives and negatives of this endeavor and I think the checks in the minus column dwarf the ones in the plus column. Restarting a mining operation that shut down over 70 years ago when the immediate nearby population has grown by leaps and bounds not a wise choice in my book.

I understand the need to provide good paying jobs in order to bolster our county's economy but at what expense will these jobs cost in clean air and water as well as the health and well being of the population in general? Also, how many current local residents benefit from these jobs?

Ind 168-2

The track record for Rise Gold is pretty sketchy at best and the mining industry in general is not exactly known for cleaning up the damage they have done to the environment. Rise has undertaken a large public relations campaign to try and convince Nevada County residents, yourself and the other members of the Board of Supervisors with in my opinion are some very dubious claims. I've looked over the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan for reopening the mine and it left a lot of questions in my mind.

Ind 168-3

I feel that our county would be much better served by welcoming businesses like farming, ranching, tourism and high tech that embrace other aspects of our heritage. I know mining is a big part of the history in our county but frankly, after studying quite a bit of this history and the impact it still has on our environment even after the last mine ceased operation 65 years ago.

David Putnam
16318 Footehold Dr.
Grass Valley, CA. 95949



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 168: DAVID PUTNAM

Response to Comment Ind 168-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 168-2

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 168-3

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 169

From: dave@daveandlisa.net
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Proposed Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mining Operation
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:50:12 AM

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Ind 169-1

I'm a land owner and resident of Nevada County. While the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine would not directly affect me or my property, I'm still opposed to it. I have read quite a bit about the positives and negatives of this endeavor and I think the checks in the minus column dwarf the ones in the plus column. Restarting a mining operation that shut down over 70 years ago when the immediate nearby population has grown by leaps and bounds not a wise choice in my book.

Ind 169-2

I understand the need to provide good paying jobs in order to bolster our county's economy but at what expense will these jobs cost in clean air and water as well as the health and well being of the population in general? Also, how many current local residents benefit from these jobs?

Ind 169-3

The track record for Rise Gold is pretty sketchy at best and the mining industry in general is not exactly known for cleaning up the damage they have done to the environment. Rise has undertaken a large public relations campaign to try and convince Nevada County residents, yourself and the other members of the Board of Supervisors with in my opinion are some very dubious claims. I've looked over the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan for reopening the mine and it left a lot of questions in my mind.

Ind 169-4

I feel that our county would be much better served by welcoming businesses like farming, ranching, tourism and high tech that embrace other aspects of our heritage. I know mining is a big part of the history in our county but frankly, after studying quite a bit of this history and the impact it still has on our environment even after the last mine ceased operation 65 years ago.

David Putnam
16318 Footehold Dr.
Grass Valley, CA. 95949



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 169: DAVID PUTNAM

Response to Comment Ind 169-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 169-2

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 169-3

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 170

From: David Unterman <dance7@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 6:01 PM
To: Matt Kelley; Clerk of Board
Subject: DEIR alternatives section is unrealistic

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Ind 170-1

Mr. Kelley and Supervisors,

I'm a Nevada County resident since 1979, with experience in property development and environmental review. I raised a family here and have owned homes.

Ind 170-2

The draft EIR's Chapter 6, on alternatives to developing the mine, makes speculative, unsupported statements about alternative development. This broad-brush treatment is not the final word on other uses for the property.

Pages 6-11 to 6-13 summarize the maximum buildout of the property as industrial uses, office park, and service business light manufacturing. Then it notes downsides to these uses. On page 6-13 it states, "auto dismantling yards and milling and planing facilities would potentially create noise impacts similar to or greater than the proposed project."

Ind 170-3

Likewise, the DEIR notes that other uses permitted in the current M1-SP zoning would have their own impacts on noise, aesthetics, traffic and air quality. Smaller projects wouldn't get this level of environmental review, so they could cumulatively have worse impacts. However, the maximum development proposed by the DEIR is totally speculative.

Ind 170-4

These alleged bad neighbors are not real. Heavy equipment repair businesses are not eager to locate in Nevada County. Lumbering is on the decline.

Ind 170-5

The draft mentions office uses and fitness centers. There are already vacant retail spaces being converted for fitness centers and offices.

Ind 170-6

The DEIR suggests that large warehouse and distribution centers would locate on the site. But the site wouldn't be suitable. In reality, this county gave birth to Mountain Peoples Warehouse, but it later moved away, since Placer County has much easier access to both highways and rail lines.

Ind 170-7

In summary, the Alternatives Analysis is flawed. It invents other uses that would never actually occur, then it compares impacts from those uses to the impacts from the mine. That's a meaningless comparison.

The draft points out that gradual, piecemeal development at the current M1SP zoning would have impacts. That's correct, but zoning could change in the future. The County has ways to regulate alternative development. Just zoning the property for industry doesn't mean the industry will locate here.

David Unterman 10679 Bragg Ave., Grass Valley CA 95945

Phone 530 272 4650 For text 530 263 3297



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 170: DAVID UNTERMAN

Response to Comment Ind 170-1

The comment is an introductory statement and does not address the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 170-2

The comment expresses a general opinion that the discussions in Chapter 6, Alternatives Analysis, of the DEIR are speculative, and cites pages 6-11 through 6-13 of the DEIR. As detailed on page 6-11 under the No Project (Alternative Use) heading, in the event that the proposed project is not developed, a Project Proponent could choose to develop the Brunswick Industrial Site consistent with the existing zoning. Development of the Brunswick Industrial Site with industrial uses, consistent with the current M1-SP zoning, could reasonably be expected to result in above-ground uses that are more intensive in certain respects than the proposed project. Page 6-13 of the DEIR provides the following:

As shown in the above list of permitted uses for the existing property zoning, intense uses such as Auto Dismantling Yards, Wholesaling and Distribution Facilities are already permitted without the need for a discretionary County permit. As such, under existing zoning, uses are allowed by right that potentially could cause substantial noise, traffic, aesthetic and air quality impacts without the need for further CEQA review or mitigation. Notably, the permitted use such as Distribution Facilities and Office/Professional would likely have substantial traffic impacts. The permitted uses including Auto Dismantling Yards and Milling and Planing Facilities would potentially create noise impacts similar or greater to the proposed project.

With respect to Auto Dismantling Yards and Milling and Planing Facilities, the comment does not provide specific examples of how the above uses would not potentially create noise impacts similar or greater to the proposed project. It should be noted that the operative phrase in the above passage is “potentially create.” Absent an equal-level analysis of a hypothetical use facilitated by the current M1-SP zoning, which is not required under CEQA, “potentially create” is the accurate way of describing potential impacts that could result from uses facilitated by the current zoning. As such, the discussions and analyses in the DEIR are adequate.

Furthermore, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(a) requires that an EIR describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(a), the alternatives evaluated in the DEIR serve to foster informed decision-making and public participation and provide enough information to enable the County to make a reasonably informed judgement about the relative merits of the alternatives.

The CEQA Guidelines do not require an equal-level analysis of alternatives, relative to the assessment of the proposed project. The level of specificity at which the DEIR analyzes project alternatives is sufficient to provide adequate comparison of potential impacts that would occur from implementation of each alternative, relative to those identified for the proposed project. Thus, the DEIR provides enough information to enable the County to make a reasonably informed judgement about the relative merits of the alternatives. To the extent that the Alternatives Analysis chapter of the DEIR provided more specific information for each evaluated alternative, such as



analysis potential noise levels or modeling of GHG emissions, such data would not change the conclusions of the Alternatives Analysis chapter.

Response to Comment Ind 170-3

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(3), an analysis of a “no project” alternative must discuss what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services. As detailed on page 6-11, the DEIR discusses development that could be facilitated by the current M1-SP zoning for the Brunswick Industrial Site in the event that the proposed project is not approved, which is consistent with the requirements set forth by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(3). Therefore, the discussions and analyses in the DEIR are adequate.

Please see Response to Comment Ind 170-2.

Response to Comment Ind 170-4

Please see Responses to Comments Ind 170-2 and 170-3.

Response to Comment Ind 170-5

As discussed, the DEIR discusses development that could be facilitated by the current M1-SP zoning for the Brunswick Industrial Site in the event that the proposed project is not approved, which is consistent with the requirements set forth by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(3). Please see Responses to Comments Ind 170-2 and 170-3.

Response to Comment Ind 170-6

Please see Responses to Comments 170-2, 170-3, and 170-5.

Response to Comment Ind 170-7

Please see Responses to Comments 170-2, 170-3, and 170-5. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 171

From: [David Ward](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine proposal
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 1:45:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Cannot identify Dist

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Ind 171-1

Dear Board members, my name is David Ward. I love living in Nevada City! This mine proposal has me a little upset. I know the area where it is proposed and I can not imagine more traffic in that area or on our local hwys. With the new housing that is being built in the Loma Rica Basin makes me wonder why a project of this size is even being thought about. Any addition of large trucks driving on hwy 174 or hwy 20 would make those hwys very dangerous and bog down already congested roads. I appreciate you listening and hearing my opposition to this project. I moved here to be in the country and not near an environmental liability that this most development will certainly be.

Best regards,
David

Davidwardstickart.com
530.613.0754



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 171: DAVID WARD

Response to Comment Ind 171-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 172

DEAR SIRs,

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO
VOICE MY OPPOSITION TO THE
REOPENING OF THE IDAHO-MARYLAND
MINE IN GRASS VALLEY.

I WENT ON-LINE AND SAW
THE DSTRUCTION OF THE ENVIROMENT
CAUSED BY RISE GOLD MINE LOCATED
ON BANKS ISLAND LOCATED IN BRITISH
COLUMBIA , CANADA

THANK-YOU
Dawn Co

530-272-4158



Ind 172-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 172: DAWN C

Response to Comment Ind 172-1

Please see Master Response 1 as well as Master Response 3.



Individual Letter 173

From: Dawna Johnson <bmergirl61@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comment on the DEIR for the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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To: Members of the Nevada County Planning Commission, Nevada County Board of Supervisors, and Nevada County Planning Department Staff

To All Concerned:

Ind 173-1

I live in Grass Valley and have for over 11 years. I have ties to this community back to the 1970's, which led me to eventually move here.

This application to re open the Idaho-Maryland Mine actually surprised me, given the growth that has happened, especially above and around the applicable sites, and the hundreds of new residences that have been approved and/or are in various stages of construction. Then there was the recent issues from the Siskon Mine on the San Juan Ridge .. why would we even entertain this?

Ind 173-2

My background is nearly 4 decades in construction, CFO and owner of a general contracting corporation to be specific, and mortgage lending, underwriting and processing. I have varying levels of experience in building codes, permitting, zoning, ordinances, bonding, set backs, mineral rights, easements, etc. I'm no scientist, engineer, hydrologist, etc but I am capable of seeing a document (subject DEIR) that appears to be woefully inadequate and lacking in many areas. First thought was, where is the mention of the Centennial site? It's my understanding, this document assumes that work has been done, but it has not, and will have a myriad of impacts of its own. That must be addressed since it was being considered as a super fund site.

Ind 173-3

As to my real estate experience, I am especially concerned about property values. As it is for many of us, our home is our largest asset. I trust the disclosure to potential new home owners is adequate, especially on the new construction contracts that are very nearby the subject site.

Ind 173-4

There are so many areas with deficiencies that many other people brought up at the March 24, 2022 meeting, which I attended, and my hope is that you will address every one of them, as you said you would. My concerns are all of the many negative impacts across the board from air to water (specifically wells, especially during a sever drought and here in high risk fire area), fire impact and evacuation, noise, road degradation, and the local tourist economy (which I hope will be adequately addressed in the Economic Impact Report forthcoming) Even with mitigation, much of it remains significant and unavoidable, leaving a degraded Quality Of Life for every single resident of this county, current and future, and anyone who works or visits here.



Ind 173-5

From my experience with bonding, and the history of the applicant, there is no amount that would be enough, if he can even get one, having forfeited in the past. Regarding the proposed well mitigation alone, no cost should fall upon current or future homeowners affected. I witnessed the NID meeting and heard the General Managers statement. They have concerns. The approval given was conditional, most notably the statement that they would re visit the subject if there are any changes to the DEIR.

Ind 173-6

I am of the opinion that this report needs a complete overhaul or be completely redone. I recommend NOT approving this report to the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,
Dawna Johnson



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 173: DAWNA JOHNSON

Response to Comment Ind 173-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 173-2

Please see Master Response 4.

Response to Comment Ind 173-3

Please see Master Response 2.

Response to Comment Ind 173-4

While the DEIR concluded that significant and unavoidable impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project, according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, if the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposal project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable." As such, the County would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations to address the aforementioned significant and unavoidable impacts. Please see also Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 173-5

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 173-6

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 174

From: DC <dcspooner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 4:43 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Unacceptable Project

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Hello,

Writing as a Nevada County resident and a senior manager for the State of California.

If this project were to come across my desk for unbiased comment in the form of a Legislative Questionnaire, my comments would be as such:

Grid has been proven unable to support current consumption; additional consumption unacceptable
Environmental impact unacceptable
Impact to quality of life unacceptable
Impact to local businesses unacceptable
Impact to local wildlife unacceptable

Ind 174-1

This sends the state backwards in terms of environmental impact and negatively impacts the economy of Grass Valley, as a boutique community and tourist destination built on the back of its natural beauty and the engagement the area offers with the environment.

This is no longer a mining town. Residents who have built the community and positively benefited the economy of the county over the past several decades did not sign up for this. It is the responsibility of local and state government - you and I - to advocate for our constituents and to be the voice of the people.

Per the draft EIR, this is a business endeavor that risks harm to the community of Grass Valley in multiple ways and returns little to nothing to the community. Ask yourself - if you or your parents or your child were looking to purchase a home or business directly adjacent to this project - would this project improve or devalue that property?

Your job is to vote on behalf of the community who gave you the opportunity and privilege to speak on their behalf. Your job is to vote no.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 174: DC SPOONER

Response to Comment Ind 174-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.



Individual Letter 175

From: debarmanino@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: EIR Idaho/Maryland Mine concerns

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To the Planning Commission of Nevada County

Ind 175-1

There are many issues that I am concerned with on this project but the main issue for me is air quality. Greenhouse gas emissions.....the report excluded elements that would put the project over an arbitrary threshold limit but recent climate change goals say the threshold should be net zero. Remember we all breath the same air. Please do not recommend the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. Thank you
Deb Armanino LeBlanc



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 175: DEB LEBLANC

Response to Comment Ind 175-1

Please see Master Response 1 as well as Master Response 27.



Individual Letter 176

Dist 3

March 20, 2022

Debbie Lindh
642 Partridge Rd.
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2022
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

To: Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, Ca 95959


Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you out of concern regarding the Rise Gold Corporation's attempt to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. My family and I are absolutely against this proposal. Please take into consideration this company's history at other sites that they have mined. They have left those sites in horrible condition and are in fact being sued by previous victims of Rise Gold's promises. I have always found that words are meaningless for determining what a person and/or entity is like, it is actions that tell you the truth. The actions of this company have left disasters in their wake. This is not a trustworthy company.

Ind 176-1

I also am genuinely concerned about our property values and the quality of our water. We are and continue to be in a drought. We do not need a business that will rely on water usage. Please care about your community and do not support this proposed project. Mining is our history, please leave it there, in history!

Sincerely,



Debbie Lindh



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 176: DEBBIE LINDH

Response to Comment Ind 176-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3, as well as Master Response 16.



Individual Letter 177

From: Deb McKitrick <ndcoker.deb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 1:26 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Mine

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Nevada County Planner Matt Kelly

Ind 177-1

Below are my humble thoughts of the reopening of the Idaho mine.

If you consider the recent digging at Chernobyl in Ukraine and the illness caused to soldiers in a "thought to be safe area", you have to consider the toxins known and unknown that would be dug up from the Idaho mine. Is gold worth the health of the citizens of Nevada county?

Ind 177-2

If you look around Nevada County and see the scars left from mining. You have to consider the permanent damage that will be left 5 miles from town and beyond the county's borders. Are 300 possible jobs worth destroying beautiful Nevada County forever?

Ind 177-3

Considering that we are in a drought, is taking giant volumes of precious water destroying wells and creeks, uprooting the habitat of plants and animals worth gold? This is beyond reasoning.

Ind 177-4

Noise and traffic pollution will destroy the quality of life and discourage tourism.

Ind 177-5

All of this will decrease the value of property, and decrease property taxes to the county.

Ind 177-6

Rise gold company has a long history of destroying the environment and not cleaning it up.

Ind 177-7

Leave the Idaho mine as history. Encourage modern businesses to come to Nevada county.

Please save our beautiful Nevada County and do not allow this mine to be reopened.

Thank-you,
Debbie McKitrick
14934 Greenhorn rd.
530 272-7515



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 177: DEBBIE MCKITRICK

Response to Comment Ind 177-1

Potential impacts related to reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment were addressed under Impact 4.7-2 of Chapter 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the DEIR. Please see also Master Response 8.

Response to Comment Ind 177-2

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 177-3

Please see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 177-4

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 177-5

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 177-6

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 177-7

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 178

From: deborah.churchill
To: [Idaho NMEFB](#)
Subject: Opposed to Empire mine opening
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 7:43:14 AM

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Ind 178-1

My backyard is literally across the street from the mine. 12655 Gem Ln, Grass Valley, CA 95945

I am opposed to the opening of the mine due to noise, air and water quality issues. I have lived in my home over 20 years and will have to sell if the mine opens. Already the noise at Brunswick & Greenhorn intersection is obnoxious.

With proposed 24 hour operation of the mine my quality of life will be greatly reduced. If I have to sell my property, it will be at a reduced price, due to this mining operation.

I implore you to vote NO on allowing this mining operation to happen.

I propose that Nevada County buy this property, and make a park, storage facility, RV park for temporary travelers. Something can be accomplished with this property other than the mining for gold!

Vote NO!

THANK YOU

Deborah Churchill
12655 Gem Ln, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-961-2825



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 178: DEBBIE CHURCHILL

Response to Comment Ind 178-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 179

From: Deborah Curtis <knit.pony@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comment on Mine DEIR

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I am a resident of Grass Valley. I moved to Nevada County 20 years ago to raise my children close to nature.

I am very concerned about the mine project. I feel the projections in the Draft EIR are poorly calculated. I believe more water will be required to "wet down" the toxic pilings each day than what is presented in the DEIR. Questions have not been answered. What happens during drought? What if we are all evacuated for a wildfire? Will the pilings still get watered down? I am concerned that toxic particles will get into our air in Grass Valley and that it will no longer be a desirable place to live. I own my condo in downtown Grass Valley, close to Brunswick, and I am concerned that its value will plummet.

Please ask for a more thorough EIR and answers to our questions.
Deborah Curtis
196 Rockwood Drive,
Grass Valley CA

Ind 179-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 179: DEBORAH CURTIS

Response to Comment Ind 179-1

The comment expresses a general opinion that more water would be required to wet down toxic pilings, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response. For further discussion of water supply during drought conditions, see Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, as well as Chapter 4.11, Public Services and Utilities, of the DEIR. In addition, impacts related to Wildfire are addressed in Chapter 4.13 of the DEIR. Furthermore, as discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR, the proposed project would be required to prepare an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan to ensure underground mining activities and use of project-generated fill would not result in the emission of asbestos containing dust.



Individual Letter 180

March 30, 2022



Dear Mr. Matt Kellen and
Members of the Planning Commission,

Some elements of history are
highly valued and worth investments.
Items like custom-made furniture,
or heirloom seeds; even a hand-written letter.

Other historic experiences are never
never worth repeating: massacring
native Americans, clearcutting
forests, and polluting our planet.

Do NOT reopen the Idaho-
Maryland Mine. We the people beg
you to choose health, safety, water
and the wellness of our planet.
Our birds beg you. Our local homes
with wells beg you. Our health
officials protecting our air beg you.

Choose the people over any
potential profit or gain. Please
listen to the voices of this community
and say no to those wanting to further
pillage the planet.

email:
msp1113@comcast.net

Respectfully yours,
Deborah Pinto
39 Park Ave
NE 95959

Ind 180-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 180: DEBORAH PINTO

Response to Comment Ind 180-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 181

From: [Maureen Miranda](#)
To: [Matt Kelley](#)
Subject: Why I oppose the re-opening of the Idaho Maryland mine
Date: Sunday, February 6, 2022 5:48:41 PM
Attachments: [page1image35572352.png](#)
[page1image35572544.png](#)
[page1image35572736.png](#)
[page2image34603776.png](#)
[page2image34603392.png](#)
[page2image34603584.png](#)
[page3image34710528.png](#)
[page3image34710720.png](#)
[page3image34710912.png](#)
[page3image34711104.png](#)
[page3image34711296.png](#)
[page4image34761024.png](#)
[Gov Newsom.pdf](#)
[Members of Senate and Assembly.pdf](#)

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Nevada County Planning Dept Matt Kelley Senior Planner Feb 5,2022

CC: Board of Supervisors:

Heidi Hall
Ed Scofield
Dan Miller
Susan Hoek Richard Anderson

(Dist 1) (Dist 2) (Dist 3) (Dist 4)

(Dist 5)

CC: Cea NC. Org

To Whom it may concern:

We Oppose the RE-OPENING 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 re-opening 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 process, would result in the

Ind 181-1

Ind 181-2



- contamination of ground water, surface water and soil. The atmosphere will have significant detrimental effects on humans, animals and vegetation.
- Ind 181-3** Should the mine be allowed to re open the endangered species cohabitating in this area, in particular, the yellow leg frog and the pacific ficher will become extinct .
- Ind 181-4** Statistically mining kills and injures more workers than any industry, nearly 15,000 per year.
- Ind 181-5** There are estimations of 47,000 abandon mines spread throughout every county in California, leaving the land decimated, contaminated, and abandoned.
- Ind 181-6** Mining is currently responsible for 4-7% of Green house gases. Consider the impact of radioactive gases, such as the radon that is emitted from the sludge in a 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.
- Ind 181-7** Furthermore , tectonic earthquakes can also collapse mine openings and tunnels with weak infrastructure.
Mining would impact and 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. Brunswick Rd, adjacent to the mine site, had a massive sink hole several years ago. There have been several others as well.
- Ind 181-8** How is it that , Mr. Ben Mossman, CEO of Rise Gold Co. was able to acquire permits to potentially re-open this mining project, with NO investigation of his previous business history?
Records show that he abandoned the Hechate Strait Mining project on Bank Island in Canada and then filed Bankruptcy .



	<p>He has many violations and fines according to the Canadian Fisheries Environmental Management and Water Acts.</p> <p>The investigation of that project shows again ,that he violated the environmental management act by dumping mine debris in the woods at the site. He was also sited for failure to report spills that affected the safety of fish and food.</p> <p>Consequently , Ben Mossman is facing charges for damages caused. Mr Mossman has already shown his disdain and disregard for this community by not complying with the Timber Harvest Plans rules and regulations.</p> <p>Mr Mossman also ignored riparian set back requirements for streams in Nevada County at his East Bennett project site.</p>
Ind 181-9	<p>Property values in the vicinity of East Bennett, Brunswick, Idaho Maryland and Greenhorn will decrease drastically.</p>
Ind 181-10	<p>If we should have a fire disaster such as the devastating fire that happened in Paradise Ca, a sufficient water supply will not be available .</p>
Ind 181-11	<p>DRAINS OUR WATER. “Water is one of the most precious resources we have, but Rise Gold plans pump out 3.6 million everyday for 6 months and another 1.2 for up to 80 years - flooding creeks, destroying habit, and putting 300 plus private wells at risk.” CEAF</p>
Ind 181-12	<p>Traffic congestion , noise pollution and damage to roads (that will be continuous for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for a projected 80 years). Are crucial issues as well.</p>
Ind 181-13	<p>This proposal with all the toxic chemicals involved, the explosive materials being trucked shipped and stored, is simply an accident waiting to happen.</p>
Ind 181-14	<p>Rise Gold estimates 70 jobs will be provided for local residents.</p> <p>The Gold profits leave this community , but the decimated quality of life will remain.</p> <p>This community will gain nothing in return for the environmental destruction it will be left with.</p>



This horrendous plan of reopening this mine with all the detrimental damage it will cause is Unthinkable and Unacceptable .

Please STOP the CARNAGE that the proposed re-opening of this mine will bring to this community.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. Deborah Shriver



Maureen Miranda

Email: mozophoto1@yahoo.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 181: DEBORAH SHRIVER AND MAUREEN MIRANDA

Response to Comment Ind 181-1

The commenter believes the project would have adverse impacts to the community. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 181-2

The commenter lists a variety of environmental concerns but does not provide any specific comments. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 181-3

The commenter asserts that project implementation would result in endangered species in the project area becoming extinct, including the foothill yellow-legged frog and the pacific fisher. Potential impacts to special status plant and wildlife species are evaluated in DEIR Chapter 4.4 (Biological Resources) and are each mitigated to a less than significant level. With regards to foothill yellow-legged frog, the commenter is referred to Master Response 38 - Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog and California Red-Legged Frog. The pacific fisher does not inhabit the project area.

Response to Comment Ind 181-4

The commenter states that mining accidents cause 15,000 injuries or deaths per year. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers but does not address a specific environmental concern or the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 181-5

The commenter states that California has approximately 47,000 abandoned mines, leaving land decimated and contaminated. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers but does not address a specific environmental concern or the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 181-6

The commenter states that project will emit radioactive gases, such as radon, from the sludge in a tailings pond. The project does not include a tailings pond. The project's potential to emit greenhouse gas emissions is addressed in DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy). The impacts were found to be less than significant after mitigation.

Response to Comment Ind 181-7

The commenter states that the project would result in ground collapse or sinkholes. Ground collapse is discussed in Chapter 4.6 (Geology, Soils and Mineral Resources) beginning on DEIR page 4.6-44. As described in this section, "sink holes" occur within limestone environments and are caused by the dissolution of the stone itself creating a cave just below the ground surface. This type of ground collapse would not be expected in the project area which is granitic. Instead, mine-related collapse in the project area could occur where a vein outcrops on the surface and around mineshafts and other near surface mining features. A Geotechnical Assessment of Near Surface Mine Features conducted for the project recommended closure of several near surface features prior to development. Mitigation Measure 4.6-3(c) requires closure of these features under the direction of licensed geotechnical engineer and would reduce the potential for collapse



to a less than significant level. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 29 - Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 181-8

This comment concerns the reputation and prior mining projects of the Project Applicant. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers but does not address a specific environmental concern or the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 181-9

The commenter states that the project would have adverse impacts on property values. CEQA does not require the EIR to consider economic impacts such as decreased property values. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 181-10

The commenter states that a sufficient water supply will not be available to fight a devastating fire if the project is implemented. The commenter provides no substantial evidence that the project will result in a lack of sufficient water supply for firefighting purposes. Water used for firefighting in the project area would be provided by Nevada Irrigation District which obtains its water supply from surface waters. The commenter is further referred to Master Response 6 - Wildfire Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 181-11

The commenter states that dewatering the mine would have a number of adverse impacts to the community. Project impacts related to drainage and potential flooding are addressed under Impact 4.8-3, beginning on DEIR page 4.8-69. Project impacts on wildlife habitat are addressed under Impact 4.4-2, beginning on DEIR page 4.4-68. Project impacts on groundwater levels and recharge are addressed under Impact 4.8-2, beginning on DEIR page 54. Please also see Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 36 – Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 181-12

The commenter states that the project will result in traffic and noise pollution but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. Project impacts related to traffic congestion and noise pollution are addressed in DEIR Chapter 4.12 (Transportation) and Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration), respectively. Mitigation Measure 4.12-6(a) requires the project's construction phase traffic control plan to include monitoring for roadbed damage and specify timing for completing needed repairs. Mitigation Measure 4.12-6(b) requires that prior to commencement of engineered fill hauling, the Project Applicant shall enter into separate road maintenance agreements with Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley to provide the project's fair share of funding for maintenance of roadways commensurate with the project's impact to pavement conditions on both Nevada County and Grass Valley roadways, including Brunswick Road between E. Bennett Road and SR 49, and E. Bennett Road between project driveway and Brunswick Road.

Response to Comment Ind 181-13

The commenter states that the project is an accident waiting to happen because of the project's use of "explosive materials" and "toxic chemicals", but the commenter does not state why the DEIR is inadequate with regard to analyzing potential hazards. Further, the commenter's reference to "toxic chemicals" is unclear. For example, it is noted on page 3-25 of Chapter 3 that mercury or cyanide would not be used in gold mineral processing. Potential hazards associated



with the use, transport, and storage of hazardous materials and explosives during project operation are addressed in detail in Chapter 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials).

Response to Comment Ind 181-14

The commenter states that the project's adverse impacts outweigh its benefits. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Comment 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.



Individual Letter 182

Feb 2,2022

- Ind 182-1 Governor Newsom,
We are writing about your California Comeback Plan, AB1346.
We have attempted to call your attention to the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine, in Grass Valley, Ca. 60 miles northeast of Sacramento.
This project of the proposed re-opening of the mine will have much more of a devastating effect on California's air pollution & water resources than gas powered tools & vehicles will ever have.
- Ind 182-2 This mine if allowed to reopen will use on a daily basis, 1200 gallons of fuel per day and 120 METRIC TONS of CO2 will be released into the atmosphere.
- Ind 182-3 This is just the tip of the iceberg, as to the pollutants this mine has the potential capability of releasing into the air & water in this community.
- Ind 182-4 As you are aware Governor Newsom the drought situation is wreaking havoc on the Sierras and the Foothill Forest. However, Ben Mossman CEO of Rise Gold Co, Formally (Yellow Giant gold mine south of Prince Rupert on Banks Island), estimate the use of,
1 MILLION GALLONS of water per day, effecting our wells. What with the extreme risks of wildfires in this area this leaves NO water supply to effectively protect this community.
- Ind 182-5 Governor Newsom, we need your HELP to make the banning of this mine a priority. We need to be a part of this \$ 15 Billion Dollar climate package investment plan.
We firmly believe that there will be Catastrophic & Devastating lasting effects on this community.
You and your constituents, listed below , who also supported your AB 1346 Bill neglected to respond to our letter dated (Oct 16, 2021).
CC: Assembly Member: Jim Wood (AB-9)
CC: Senators:
Lena Gonzalez (SB 40 Robert Hertzberg (SB 273)
Nancy Skinner (SB 170) Josh Becker (SB 596)
Bill Dodd (SB109) Henry Stern (SB 423)



Feb 2, 2022

After a recent follow up call to your office, we were informed that there was not record of our letter ever reaching your office. Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Deborah Shriver
Maureen Miranda @ mozophoto1@yahoo.com
P O Box 2998 Grass Valley, CA. 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 182: DEBORAH SHRIVER AND MAUREEN MIRANDA

Response to Comment Ind 182-1

This letter is addressed to Governor Newsom and opposes the project. In the interest of CEQA's public participation goals, the County construes this letter as a comment on the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 182-2

The commenter is concerned about the potential air quality impacts of the project but does not identify any inadequacies of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy).

Response to Comment Ind 182-3

The commenter is concerned about the project's potential hydrological impacts to private wells but does not identify any inadequacies of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to DEIR Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality).

Response to Comment Ind 182-4

The commenter is concerned about the project's potential hydrological impacts to private wells in light of the drought, but does not identify any inadequacies of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to DEIR Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. The commenter appears to reference the Project Applicant's reputation. The commenter is referred to Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 182-5

The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers.



Individual Letter 183

February 5, 2022,

Members of the Senate and Assembly,

Lena Gonzalez (SB40), Nancy Skinner (SB170), Bill Dodd (SB109),
Robert Hertzberg (SB273), Josh Becker (SB596), Henry Stern (SB423).

The information contained in the emails in regards to your
California Comeback Plan AB 1346.

The re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine proposal should be included
as a PRIORITY.

It encompasses all of the issues you are to attempting to address.

~WATER QUALITY~

~WILDLIFE~

~GREENHOUSE GAS~

~ZERO EMISSIONS~

Grass Valley is one of the vulnerable communities you speak of protecting.
PLEASE, do not overlook this potential disaster.

Thank you
Deborah Shriver
Maureen Miranda mozophoto1@yahoo.com

Ind 183-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 183: DEBORAH SHRIVER AND MAUREEN MIRANDA

Response to Comment Ind 183-1

This comment is a copy of a letter addressed to members of the California Legislature referencing various proposed legislation and broadly listing potential environmental impacts of the project. In the interest of CEQA's public participation objectives, the County construes this letter as a comment on the project. The commenter references potential impacts to water quality, wildlife, GHG emissions, and reducing emissions. The commenter does not identify any inadequacies with the DEIR and is referred to the following DEIR Chapters: 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), 4.4 (Wildlife), and 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy).



Individual Letter 184

Nevada County Planning Dept
Matt Kelley Senior Planner
Feb 5,2022

CC: Board of Supervisors:
Heidi Hall (Dist 1)
Ed Scofield (Dist 2)
Dan Miller (Dist 3)
Susan Hoek (Dist 4)
Richard Anderson (Dist 5)

CC: Cea NC. Org

To Whom it may concern:

We Oppose the RE-OPENING 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 re-opening of this mine, if granted would have devastating and catastrophic effects on this community.

Ind 184-1

The environmental affects it would have on our water, atmosphere and wildlife, through the emissions of chemicals in the mining process, would result in the contamination of ground water, surface water and soil. The atmosphere will have significant detrimental effects on humans, animals and vegetation.

Should the mine be allowed to re open the endangered species cohabitating in this area, in particular, the yellow leg frog and the pacific ficher will become extinct .

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 California, leaving the land decimated, contaminated, and abandoned.



Mining is currently responsible for 4-7% of Green house gases.
Consider the impact of radioactive gases, such as the radon that is emitted from the sludge in a 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.

Furthermore , tectonic earthquakes can also collapse mine openings and tunnels with weak infrastructure.

Mining would impact and 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. Brunswick Rd, adjacent to the mine site, had a massive sink hole several years ago. There have been several others as well.

How is it that , Mr. Ben Mossman, CEO of Rise Gold Co. was able to acquire permits to potentially re-open this mining project, with NO investigation of his previous business history?

Records show that he abandoned the Hechate Strait Mining project on Bank Island in Canada and then filed Bankruptcy .
He has many violations and fines according to the Canadian Fisheries Environmental Management and Water Acts.

The investigation of that project shows again ,that he violated the environmental management act by dumping mine debris in the woods at the site. He was also sited for failure to report spills that affected the safety of fish and food.

Consequently , Ben Mossman is facing charges for damages caused. Mr Mossman has already shown his disdain and 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 site.



Property values in the vicinity of East Bennett, Brunswick, Idaho Maryland and Greenhorn will decrease drastically.
If we should have a fire disaster such as the devastating fire that happened in Paradise Ca, a sufficient water supply will not be available .

DRAINS OUR WATER. “Water is one of the most precious resources we have, but Rise Gold plans pump out 3.6 million everyday for 6 months and another 1.2 for up to 80 years - flooding creeks, destroying habit, and putting 300 plus private wells at risk.” CEAF

Traffic congestion , noise pollution and damage to roads (that will be continuous for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for a projected 80 years). Are crucial issues as well.

This proposal with all the toxic chemicals involved, the explosive materials being trucked shipped and stored, is simply an accident waiting to happen.

Rise Gold estimates 70 jobs will be provided for local residents.

The Gold profits leave this community , but the decimated quality of life will remain.

This community will gain nothing in return for the environmental destruction it will be left with.

This horrendous plan of reopening this mine with all the detrimental damage it will cause is Unthinkable and Unacceptable .

Please STOP the CARNAGE that the proposed re-opening of this mine will bring to this community.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Deborah Shriver



Maureen Miranda
Email: mozophoto1@yahoo.com



**INDIVIDUAL LETTER 184: DEBORAH SHRIVER AND MAUREEN
MIRANDA**

Response to Comment Ind 184-1

This letter is identical to Individual Comment Letter 181. The commenter is referred to Responses to Comments Ind 181-1 through Ind 181-14.



Individual Letter 185

From: [Deborah Van Stone](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: Mine
Date: Thursday, January 6, 2022 8:04:06 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.

Ind 185-1

Please cancel this mine. We in the community do not want it for numerous reasons. Environmental impact traffic on small roadways, overpopulation in our area. These are some of our main concerns. There also will be little financial benefit for our community as you're not even a local or USA company.
Sincerely
Deborah Van Stone-Stapleton



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 185: DEBORAH STONE-STAPLETON

Response to Comment Ind 185-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 186

From: Debra Dworaczyk <debradworaczyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:27 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: No Mine

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Ind 186-1

Please do not approve this mine. We are already living with the destruction and pollution of previous mining activities and must not be subjected to more. We need clean air and water, no mines!

Debra Dworaczyk
530-5594324



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 186: DEBRA DWORACZYK

Response to Comment Ind 186-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 187

RECEIVED

EACH SUPERVISOR REC'D

FEB 07 2022

February 11, 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisors Susan Hoek, Chair, Heidi Hall, Ed Scofield, Dan Miller, Hardy Bullock
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dist 1

Ind 187-1

Dear Nevada County Supervisors:

We are strongly opposed to the Rise Gold Mine project based on decades as medical practitioners and researchers. The proposal from Rise Gold Mine, Inc. to reconstruct a large gold mining industry in Nevada County presents a serious public health risk.

It is our professional opinion that the medical impacts on residents of the Grass Valley area will be unacceptable, resulting in public health and respiratory damage.

Of the impacts analyzed, air pollution is most likely to physically harm residents. Asbestos alone has required huge national expenditures to remediate because it causes cancer.ⁱ

Ind 187-2

As with many impacts in the DEIR, it asserts that impacts can be mitigated resulting "in less-than-significant health effects". But "since *asbestos was found in lab samples* from the mine, APM-AQ-3 (Asbestos, Serpentine, and Ultramafic Rock Management Plan (ASUR Planⁱⁱ)) would be implemented and an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan would be required to limit potential exposure."

Ind 187-3

Acceptable levels of public health and safety rely on mitigation plans that consultants like Dudeck, a firm in Sacramento, prepare. In this most dangerous case, the mitigation of cancer-causing toxins such as asbestos and silica depend on containment (trapping, isolating and filtering contaminated air). It's not plausible to sufficiently trap the toxic particles *that are in the 1-5 micron size range* from surface processing and trucking (100 trips per day) serpentine tailings.ⁱⁱⁱ The trucking alone is an unacceptable vulnerability: how could trucks carrying 20 tons of tailings down Brunswick and Whispering Pines Rd. be loaded and sealed for the trip and the dumping? And this is all within typical air movement distance from mine trucking and dumping sites to several medical facilities including our hospital. This is to say nothing of the diesel exhaust which now is planned for additional state-wide regulation.

Ind 187-4

Nevada County residents, particularly those in the vicinity of the mine, are becoming aware that their lungs and overall health are likely to be damaged by the continuous mining operations. Overall, the proposed Rise Gold Mine will be a source of not only obvious impacts for your constituents but also known specific health hazards like asbestos and excessive noise.

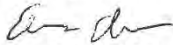


In conclusion, we predict that the respiratory damage from air borne toxins such as asbestos will have a significant health impact in our County. Air pollution alone is sufficient cause to reject the mine proposal, and it cannot be mitigated because airborne asbestos fibers are too small to be filtered by Rise Mine's proposed mitigations.

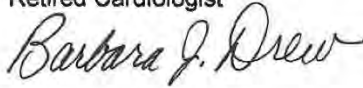
We urge you to not vote to approve the Rise Gold Mine. It would be the worst project to ever occur to our County in post-mining era times. Furthermore, the opposition is so large in numbers of voters and legal clout that it would be serious political folly – and a terrible legacy for your years of County service.

Ind 187-5

Sincerely,



Denis Drew, MD
Retired Cardiologist



Barbara Drew, RN, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Cardiac Nursing & Clinical Professor of Medicine in Cardiology,
University of California San Francisco

CC:

Jill Blake, Public Health Director
Dr. Sherilynn E. Cooke, Public Health Officer
Ryan Gruver, Director
Health and Human Services Agency
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 120
Nevada City, CA 95959

¹ **Domestic Asbestos Exposure: A Review of Epidemiologic and Exposure Data**, Emily Goswami et al., *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2013, 10(11), 5629-5670; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph10115629>

ⁱⁱ Ditto

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/what-makes-air-unhealthy/particle-pollution>, **Particle Pollution**, American Lung Assoc. and United States EPA, 2020.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 187: DENIS AND BARBARA DREW

Response to Comment Ind 187-1

The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

The commenter states that the health risk to the public from the project, including asbestos, is unacceptable but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is directed to Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) of the DEIR. The analysis of the DEIR has concluded that the health risk to the public is less than significant after mitigation.

Response to Comment Ind 187-2

The commenter is concerned about the potential for asbestos emissions. The DEIR analyzes impacts associated with asbestos and includes mitigation measures to reduce impacts to less than significant. (DEIR, Chapter 4.3.) The commenter is referred to Master Response 22 – Conservatism of Asbestos Assumptions. Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 of the DEIR requires the submission of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan (ADMP) to the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) for review and approval. The ADMP has minimum requirements as described in the mitigation measure. Additional measures, such as air monitoring if required by the NSAQMD, would be detailed in the ADMP. As discussed on page 4.3-61 of the DEIR, the applicant has prepared an Asbestos, Serpentinite, and Ultramafic Rock Management Plan (ASUR Plan), which is designed to exclude asbestos containing material, serpentinite, or ultramafic rock from the engineered fill produced as part of the project (see Appendix E.2). Additionally, the ASUR Plan is designed to minimize asbestos content in the engineered fill produced by the project and from rock mined and processed.

Response to Comment Ind 187-3

The commenter states that the DEIR does not take into account the possible asbestos emissions when engineered fill is transported to the Centennial Industrial Site. Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 of the DEIR requires an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan which requires that trucks used for hauling material off site shall be maintained such that spillage cannot occur from holes or other openings. All loads to be hauled off site shall be adequately wetted to prevent visible dust from escaping during transportation and shall either be completely covered with tarps or have at least six inches of freeboard on the sides of the bed of the vehicle, with no excavated material extending above the edges of the vehicle bed at any point. The commenter is also referred to Response to Comment Ind 187-2, and Master Response 22 – Conservatism of Asbestos Assumptions.

The commenter is also concerned about diesel exhaust from project trucks. Diesel exhaust has been analyzed in the health risk assessment for the project. The commenter is referred to DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy).

Response to Comment Ind 187-4

The commenter is concerned about potential asbestos-related health impacts to residents living near the project site. The commenter is referred to Response to Comments Ind 187-1 through 187-3. The commenter is also concerned about noise impacts generated by the project. Noise from mining operations and trucking has been analyzed in the DEIR and found to be less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is referred to DEIR Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration).



Response to Comment Ind 187-5

The commenter is concerned about potential asbestos-related health impacts generated by the project. The commenter is referred to Response to Comments 119-1, 119-2, and 119-3. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - (Non-EIR/Administrative Issues).



Individual Letter 188

From: Denise Bellas <dbellas@royalplywood.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comments on the DEIR FOR IM MINE

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Mr. Kelley,

Ind 188-1

Many of the community were not able to attend the March DEIR review, due to the event being held during working hours. Otherwise, I think you would have seen triple the attendance.

I would imagine that the County is under pressure to bring in more money for development, and fear of legal ramifications, for not allowing this to go thru. As I cannot imagine many other reasons the county would be considering this mine. The community does not want it in their City or County limits, for so many obvious reasons.

Ind 188-2

1. I would like to know if Rise Gold is going to clean up the existing toxic conditions prior to any further steps of mining being taken. Why should that not be a mandate?

Ind 188-3

2. This area would need to be re-zoned for mining. Who would get to approved that and on what basis? This area has grown, over many decades, in to a residential area primarily. Otherwise, maybe Rise Gold would be required to offer to purchase each of those homes at market value prior to mining. As once the mining starts those home values will drop significantly.

Ind 188-4

It is difficult for me to understand why a County would not value the support the desires of their community. This is a step in the wrong direction. Have Mr. Mossman mine some area that is not in the middle of our town.

Denise Bellas
13797 Allison Ranch Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 188: DENISE BELLAS

Response to Comment Ind 188-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 188-2

As discussed in Section 1.3, Approach to Centennial Industrial Site Baseline, of Chapter 1, Introduction, of the DEIR, separate CEQA review of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Centennial Industrial Site is being conducted with DTSC as the CEQA lead agency. DTSC released the CEQA document (Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration [MND]) for the “Centennial M1 Property Clean-Up Project Remedial Action Plan” project, SCH# 2021070473) for public review on July 26, 2021. The IS/MND identifies mitigation measures with which Rise, as the property owner responsible for implementing the Centennial M1 Property Clean-Up Project Remedial Action Plan (Centennial Clean-Up Project) would need to comply, prior to and during remedial activities associated with the RAP, that would ensure that physical impacts to the environment are mitigated to a less-than-significant level. For further discussion of this separate remedial project see Master Response 4.

Response to Comment Ind 188-3

Approval of the Rezone for the proposed project is a discretionary action subject to approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors. In regard to concerns related to property values decreasing, see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 188-4

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter’s concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 189

From: [Denise Cain](#)
To: [hcdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: No reopening of Idaho Maryland
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 7:27:33 PM

Dist 1

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Ind 189-1

As a resident of Nevada County, Dist. 1,
I strongly oppose the proposal to re open.

Denise Cain
15855 Banner Quaker Hill Rd
Nevada City, Ca



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 189: DENISE CAIN

Response to Comment Ind 189-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 190

From: DENISE ILMANEN <groovyboomer@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 7:51 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: DEIR comments related to the proposed mine

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Ind 190-1

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Just briefly, the environmental impact alone appears to be far-reaching and possibly never-ending. This community cannot afford to exist under those terms. My specific additional concerns are: the use and impact of hazardous materials and water issues related to the actual mining operation; and potential impact on air quality, which is already an issue in this county.

Ind 190-2

Lastly, this company brings with it a checkered past, to say the least.

Thank you,
Denise Ilmanen
213 Celesta Drive
Grass Valley 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 190: DENISE ILMANEN

Response to Comment Ind 190-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 190-2

Please see Master Response 3.



Individual Letter 191

From: [Denise Rockwood](#)
To: [hdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022 1:59:59 PM

Dist 3

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Ind 191-1

Why on earth would any logical person even consider allowing this mine when we already have so many environmental issues. Air pollution, arsenic in our water, fires, etc. Not to mention we are already in a drought, and our infrastructure is stressed. So does granting permission to a business which will tax that even further. make any sense whatsoever?

Ind 191-2

Can Rise Gold be trusted with such a deplorable history not to contribute to the problems of this fragile community? If they operate as they have in the past and are not able to protect our community with all the promises made they fold their business and leave us to clean up their mess. How will the EPA be able to contend with further destruction to our environment? There are already major toxic waterways just in this community alone, and the EPA has no budget to deal with existing issues. It seems that allowing this could very possibly be sending us in a critically wrong direction.

Ind 191-3

I have read a bit about what it will do to property values, but that does not address what it will do to already astronomical insurance costs, and then how that will affect real estate sales? Who would choose to live here, and then what does that do to our local economy?

If you allow this to move forward I believe it will be at the peril of all of us who call this home.

Character can be judged by the way one treats those who can neither hurt you or help you.

Denise Rockwood
Property Manager/Sales Agent
530 802 6588
Intero Real Estate Services
170 E. Main Street
Grass Valley, CA. 95945
dennysden58@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 191: DENISE ROCKWOOD

Response to Comment Ind 191-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 191-2

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 191-3

Please see Master Response 2.



Individual Letter 192

From: [Dennis Wolfers](#)
To: [hcbosupervisors](#)
Subject: No Mine
Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 3:09:48 PM

Dist 4

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I oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

My family & I moved to Nevada County from the Bay Area more than 20 years ago. We have enjoyed a cleaner, quieter life here. We plan to continue to live in our home in Rough and Ready through our retirement years.

Any resumption of mining activity in the county can only serve to strain our inadequate infrastructure, and degrade the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

--

Thank you,
Dennis Wolfers
530-277-8909 cell
530-271-1052 home

Ind 192-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 192: DENNIS WOLFERS

Response to Comment Ind 192-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 193

From: Diana <dianarunnels@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 10:53 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org; dianarunnels@yahoo.com
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Concerns

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my concerns about the Mine Project.

Ind 193-1

There are so many concerning facets about the project relating to the flawed and inconclusive DEIR presented to our community. I will focus on the first that come to mind, but please know that all the topics represented thus far, by so many, including County and private professionals and consultants, are absolute concerns as to why this project looms as a disaster situation for our community.

Ind 193-2

Hydrology is a priority concern, personally having experienced drilling a deeper well just a few years ago. This was a huge expense: the drilling operation itself; the subsequent need to purchase a more powerful well pump due to the deeper depth. There is no "aquifer mapping". We have a water shortage and we have been warned about ongoing drought conditions. None of us can feel comfortable with our wells continuing to support our needs. But! We can anticipate the absolute fact that the Mine Project will pump water at a high volume continually; this is part of the mining process. There is no way any testing that has been performed to date can be presented as evidence and justification for the assumed impact of the Mine Project. This is a fact.

Ind 193-3

Furthermore, the pumped water that will be added to Wolf Creek...the hazardous materials, contaminated water...and other unknown hydrological impacts has unknown environmental impacts. Other parts of the hydrological studies presented are short-sighted. We do have the very visible Empire Mine "ponds", the mining influenced water (MIW) project that represents the contaminants that resulted from mining in our area. We should learn from this incredibly costly "fix".

Ind 193-4

One cannot anticipate sinkholes once water is depleted. There are many examples of sinkholes in our gold country in general, knowing of the extensive mining, tunneling that occurred when mining was extensive. Sinkholes are dangerous and there have been more incidents within our drought years, without intentionally pumping more existing water from the ground.

Ind 193-5

All the issues that are now being documented will impact properties in our community. We hear of new employment opportunities adding to the tax base in our county. But the costs of doing business (allowing the Rise Gold mining operation) will have immediate negative impact. If a mine is in operation, it will only be a short time until there will be economic impact: real estate sale dependent disclosures of potential mining impact; increased home insurance costs, living in an already high-risk fire area; real estate values will drop.



Ind 193-6

Rise Gold still faces litigation that looms as an example of how another mining project has been severely mismanaged. This fact in itself should be a glaring factor as to why our county should not approve another mining endeavor.

Regards,
Diana Runnels
13797 Sontag Hill Road
Grass Valley



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 193: DIANA RUNNELS

Response to Comment Ind 193-1

The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 193-2

The commenter is concerned about the project's impacts to private wells, especially in light of the drought, but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate with respect to hydrology impacts. The analysis in the DEIR concluded that impacts to domestic wells is less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR, Master Responses 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 193-3

The commenter is concerned about the project's discharge of treated water to South Fork Wolf Creek but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate with respect to hydrology impacts. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR and Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 193-4

The commenter is concerned about ground collapse and sinkholes from the dewatering of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 193-5

The commenter is concerned the project will negatively impact property values in the community. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 193-6

The commenter references the Project Applicant's former projects. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.



Individual Letter 194

No name/address

~~I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine~~

~~Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.~~

~~Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.~~

~~Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.~~

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____

**WE ARE COMPLETELY
OPPOSED TO THE MINE
REOPENING.
THANK YOU**

MAR 21 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ind 194-1

Dist 4

~~I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine~~

~~Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.~~

~~Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.~~

~~Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.~~

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____



Ms Diane L. Cherry
PO Box 94
N San Juan, CA 95960

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2022
ZIP

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 194: DIANE CHERRY

Response to Comment Ind 194-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 195

From: Diane Figuly <difiguly@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 10:18 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: No Mine

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Dear Matt Kelley,

I have lived in Grass Valley my whole life. I live on Cedar Ridge that adjoins the Brunswick site. I have lots of concerns about the mine's possible reopening. I want to focus on air quality because I use an inhaler. Pollutants and particles in the air affect my health and my family's. Rise's operation will add more than significant pollutants to the air.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC; part of the World Health Organization) classifies Diesel engine exhaust classified as "carcinogenic to humans". Rise expects Diesel trucks to make 100 trips a day to load and unload engineered fill once the mine is operating. Table 4.3-9 (pdf page 345) estimates 10,196,310 on road vehicle trip miles for the first 5 years of delivery to Centennial, 11,841,310 miles for the next 6 years and 291,450,740 for the remainder of the mines operation (70 years). Added to that is the construction phase pollutants and all the deliveries of other goods and services to the mine adding to the pollution.

The American Lung Association rates California air with an F grade for high ozone days. (<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/california>). The California Air Resources Board states that "DPM (Diesel Particulate Matter) is typically composed of carbon particles ("soot", also called black carbon, or BC) and numerous organic compounds, including over 40 known cancer-causing organic substances. Examples of these chemicals include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, and 1,3-butadiene. Diesel exhaust also contains gaseous pollutants, including volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). NO_x emissions from diesel engines are important because they can undergo chemical reactions in the atmosphere leading to formation of PM_{2.5} and ozone." (ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/overview-diesel-exhaust-and-health)

It seems like the Conclusion in the DEIR (pdf page 393) sums up Rise's position on Greenhouse Gases. It says "the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Consequently, the project's impact is less than cumulatively considerable." With miles and miles of Diesel trip and other equipment adding vast amounts of pollutants, the Rise solution is to say "oh well" if the county, state and federal agencies doesn't have a clear regulation, then adding this pollution over time is not a problem. I disagree with the narrow thinking. The possible amount of pollution the 80 years the project will add to the declining air quality must be substantially reduced from the beginning by Rise and not just depend on other's efforts at more "green" energy generation.

Ind 195-1



As I read the 4.3 chapter, it seems like Rise's choice of mitigations were usually minor like keeping equipment tuned up or buying Tier 4 engines in the Rise vehicles. These are least possible conservation solutions kept many of the predicted pollution readings often under the maximum load limit for the region. Thinking of it in a different way, Rise can/will produce a lot of pollution and greatly impact the environment and on health locally.

As I read the chapter 4.3 I found that the discussion was focused on

-
-
- the "conservative assumptions"
(example: pdf page 341, 351, 363, 386, 387)
- or "conservative approach" (example pdf page 336, 353),
- conservative
- *something else*
(example: pdf page 352, 389, 395)
-
-
- use a "common sense" approach
(example: pdf page 357)
-
-
- "where feasible"
- *use this instead of that*
(example: pdf page 387)
-

This allows the discussion to be focused on the best-case scenarios. For example, Rise will decrease pollution from diesel trucks by tuning them up regularly, not idling more than 5 seconds and more. This doesn't seem to balance the huge amount of CO₂, NO_x, PM₁₀ and other pollutants they are releasing with the mining operation. Adding 80 years of pollution described on Table 4.3-19 showing daily mitigated totals of emissions, there are 8,889,940 lbs produced in Rise's own estimates, almost 9 million pounds.

Rarely in this section did I find a range of best-case to worse-case situations provided except one in addressing a PSPS power shutoff. (pdf page 395) In that case, diesel generators would run the following equipment during a grid power outage:

-
-
- for dewatering
-
-
-
- ventilation
-
-
-

Ind 195-2

Ind 195-3



- compressed air system
-
-
- electric locomotion
-
-
- lighting
-
-
- hoist operations
-
-
- processing plant slurry
-
-
- water treatment
-

Imagining the snowstorm this past Dec 25th with an 8 day stretch without PGE electricity, I would have imagined Rise doing the following: use the generators to make sure everyone is safely out of the mine and shut down operations. That's what my neighbors and I did - we did use our generators after turning off everything we could, reducing the house temperature drastically, and getting by. Why would it be necessary for Rise to keep the slurry going so the materials don't "fall out"? Why is it ok for them to use a significant amount of diesel so there is little to no delay in getting the gold? Their data built 10 days of generator use into their charts but using diesel for 8 days to do the processes they describe seems more than wasteful after making sure the employees are safe.

Ind 195-4

The data is sparse or uses data that is not truly reflective of the area. The NSAQMD - the Air District for Nevada, Plumas and Sierra counties is located on Litton near Briar Patch (a mile away). It's unclear in the data presented if that was the only sensor site used for the baseline for O₃ and PM_{2.5} (pdf page 302) The other pollutants (such as CO, NO_x, PM₁₀) were evaluated from data collected in Yuba City, 31 miles away. The footnote for Table 4.3-4 says: "The data collected at these stations are considered generally representative of the air quality experienced in the project vicinity." With the possibility of producing so much emission pollution from the diesel round trips dumping tailings, why wasn't baseline data collected locally and then monitored locally? How does Yuba City air reflect what is happening along Brunswick? Is it *generally representative*?

Ind 195-5

It is unclear how data was arrived at in another example. The difference in pollution was reduced by some unknown type of mitigation compared in Table 4.3-17 (amounts estimated before mitigation) and Table 4.3-19 (amounts estimated after mitigation are applied). (pdf pages 360 and 365) When these two tables are compared, it appears the only difference is in the Off-Road Equipment rows.



↑ OFF ROAD EQUIPMENT - year 2021 Construction Phase

Pollutant identified <i>Maximum - pounds/day</i>	4.3-17 chart value - before mitigation	4.3-19 chart value - after mitigation
ROG	6.71	3.25
NOx	53.84	15.97
CO	50.83	54.08
PM ₁₀	2.30	0.60
PM _{2.5}	2.15	0.60

In that section, what accounted for the dramatic change in the amount of pollutions produced daily wasn't evident. Finally, in the Mitigation section (pdf page 369) DEIR stated the 2nd chart reflects the reductions that would occur with implementation of APM-AQ-1 and APM-AQ-2 and associated with Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(b), which would result in a reduction in construction contractors' equipment exhaust criteria air pollutants during project construction (year 2021). Footnote 39 indicates the construction contractors would buy equipment with Tier 4 engines. This is a best-case scenario but life is messy and many contractors may not have this new equipment to use or not enough to bring down the pollution levels given in the tables. What happens then? Rise can blame the contractors and not be at fault?

Ind 195-6

Mitigation Measures 4.3-1(b) is to submit a plan - Construction Exhaust Emissions Minimization Plan. This plan will include recommending 1) using alternative sources of power so portable diesel engine use is greatly reduced. 2) Diesel engines bigger than 50 hp should use a Tier 4 engine or if not a 25 hp should have a 3 Tier engine.

Bullet point A explains: "For purposes of this mitigation measure, "commercially available" shall mean the availability of the Tier 4 Final equipment, taking into consideration factors such as critical path timing of construction and geographic proximity of the equipment location to the project sites." (pdf page 369). Bullet point B says someone will keep records of this effort to comply.

Does this mean that if no one worked out the details, Rise's construction contractors can/will use construction equipment that is available but not necessarily to the desired code and efficiency? What happens when monitoring doesn't match the very conservative assumptions given in the charts?

Overall, these are the areas where the DEIR is inadequate:

Ind 195-7

-
-
- The Plan tends to reflect conservative assumptions that aren't a comprehensive reflection of what might happen and what will be a possible solution to the best case and the worse-case situations.
-

Ind 195-8

-
-
- The plan doesn't address how it will remove pollutants the construction or operation of the mine generate. It does try to limit some but overall adds vast quantities of polluting gases and particles to the local area and the region.

Ind 195-9

-
-
-
- It doesn't fully address how some people's health will be impacted and the consequences be address.



Ind 195-10

- in treatment and financial support. (Example asbestos entering air and cumulatively cause asbestosis.)
-
-
- Some of the mitigations are “iffy”, the DEIR used the phrase “common sense”. For example, if a contractor’s equipment is older and doesn’t have a Tier 4 engine, it is “common sense” to used anyway and ignore the higher levels of pollution that is generated. The shift of responsibility is from Rise to the sub-contractor in the construction phase. Clear
- concise alternatives need to be included in the DEIR if Rise is using the mitigation to claim the pollutant level will be in the attainment level.
-
-

Ind 195-11

-
- The extended use of diesel generators when grid power electricity wasn’t near by the work area
- and when the electrical grid goes down cancels some of the few efforts to reduce these pollutants in the atmosphere in other phases of the mining operation.
-
-
- The overall amount of pollutants with successful mitigation used as described is still too much
- to add to the cumulative effect of climate change, more severe weather events, more intense wildfires, and decline in air quality. What can be done to lower the pollution much more over the 80 years.
-

Respectfully,
Diane Figuly



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 195: DIANE FIGULY

Response to Comment Ind 195-1

The commenter provides information regarding the health effects of diesel and criteria air pollutants and disagrees with conclusions in the DEIR regarding air quality impacts. The County acknowledges the comment and notes it expresses the opinions of the commenter and does not raise a specific issue related to the adequacy of the analysis of the DEIR. The comment is part of the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.

Response to Comment Ind 195-2

The commenter asserts that the mitigation measures applied in the DEIR to reduce air pollutant emissions were usually minor and suggests that the emissions associated with the entire life of the project would be substantial. As discussed on page 4.3-41 of the DEIR, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) established thresholds of significance for CEQA purposes to achieve and maintain the National and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). Because an AAQS is based on maximum pollutant levels in outdoor air that would not harm the public's health, and air district thresholds pertain to attainment of the AAQS, a project that complies with the thresholds established by a local air district, such as the NSAQMD, would not result in adverse effects to human health related to criteria pollutant emissions. Criteria air pollutant emissions from the project, including ozone precursors and particulate matter, have been analyzed in the DEIR and have been found to be less than significant after mitigation. The commenter's opinion that the analysis is based on the "best-case scenarios" does not raise a specific issue related to the adequacy of the analysis of the DEIR. Conversely, the DEIR's air quality analysis was not based on best-case scenarios, but rather was based on conservative assumptions. The County has included the comment as part of the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.

Response to Comment Ind 195-3

The commenter asserts that the DEIR should analyze a worst-case scenario for generator use, and the associated air pollutant emissions. However, the use of emergency backup generators is speculative and is not required to be analyzed under CEQA. (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15384.) The CEQA Guidelines state that if a particular impact is too speculative for evaluation, the agency should note its conclusion and terminate discussion of the impact (14 CCR 15145). California courts have consistently held that "an EIR is not required to engage in speculation in order to analyze a worst case scenario." (see *Napa Citizens for Honest Government v. Napa County Bd. of Supervisors* (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 342, 373.). Additionally, the commenter asserts that use of diesel fuel for generators may be wasteful, but does not provide evidence of why such use would be wasteful. The potential for wasteful use of energy was analyzed in Impact 4.3-4 of the DEIR, and the County determined that the project would not result in wasteful use of energy. Please also see Response to Comment Agcy 8-17.

Response to Comment Ind 195-4

The commenter questions the selection of ambient air quality monitoring stations summarized in the "Local Air Quality Monitoring" section of the DEIR, Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy). The ambient criteria air pollutant data are presented for context and are used to determine the NSAQMD's compliance with the AAQS and to set applicable thresholds of significance. Therefore, they are provided for context, but were not directly used in the analysis of the project's impacts from criteria air pollutants. Significance determinations in the DEIR are



based on comparison to the NSAQMD thresholds, which were developed based on compliance with AAQS. Further, the NSAQMD reviewed all versions of the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Report (included as Appendix E.1 in the DEIR) and did not identify issues regarding the ambient air monitoring stations selected.

Response to Comment Ind 195-5

The commenter questions the validity Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(b) included in the DEIR based on Tier 4 equipment availability. Tier 4 engines for horsepower between 11 horsepower and 75 horsepower were available starting in 2008. For engines with horsepower between 75 and 175, Tier 4 engines were available starting in 2012. For engine horsepower between 175 and greater than 1,200, Tier 4 engines were available starting in 2011. As such, equipment engines that meet Tier 4 emission standards are currently available at the time of this analysis, and would continue to be available during the project's construction year. Please refer to the US EPA's Nonroad Compression-Ignition Engines: Exhaust Emission Standards for details (available: <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P100OA05.pdf>).

Based on the California Air Resources Board's OFFROAD2017 model, which uses past data on the adoption rate of previous engine Tiers after their introduction to forecast future year adoption rates, the 2019 statewide construction fleet would include 41,862 pieces of diesel equipment meeting Tier 4 Final emission standards, representing approximately 30% of the statewide construction fleet. Tier 4 Final equipment fleet populations would grow to 50,886 and 61,039, representing 36% and 42% of the 2020 and 2021 construction fleets, respectively. Project construction was assumed to commence in January 2021 and end in December 2021. Project construction may begin at a later date, in which case the supply of Tier 4 Final equipment would be higher. California Air Resources Board's OFFROAD2017 inventory shows more than 40,000 pieces of Tier 4 Final equipment are included in California's construction fleet and cleaner engines, including Tier 4 Final, would be integrated into large and medium fleets to meet CARB regulations for off-road diesel vehicles. Therefore, it is feasible for the project to utilize and incorporate Tier 4 Final equipment for project construction.

The commenter questions what will happen if contractors do not use Tier 4 engines as assumed in the DEIR; however, those engines are currently available, and the DEIR requires use of Tier 4 engines, if available. Mitigation Measure 4.3(b) requires a Construction Exhaust Emissions Minimization Plan. As stated in the mitigation measure (page 4.3-77 of the DEIR), this Plan must be submitted to Nevada County for review and approval. The mitigation measure requires the applicant to maintain and submit records to Nevada County concerning its effort to comply with this requirement. This mitigation measure is clear on the requirement of the applicant and its contractors to use Tier 4 F engines and the involvement of the County to ensure compliance. The applicant is responsible for the oversight of contractors or sub-contractors who perform work on the project site. Moreover, the County has ample authority to revoke the project's permits if the operator does not comply with the required mitigation measures and conditions of approval. Please see Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 195-6

This comment also pertains to Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(b) included in the DEIR. Please see Response to Comment Ind 195-5 above.

Response to Comment Ind 195-7

The commenter suggests that the air quality analysis included in the DEIR is not a comprehensive analysis and does not reflect a worst-case scenario. Please see Response to Comment Ind 195-3 above regarding worst-case scenario analysis. The commenter's opinion that the analysis is not



comprehensive does not raise a specific issue related to the adequacy of the analysis of the DEIR. CEQA requires a good faith effort to estimate emissions from the project during construction and operation. As such, estimation of emissions during the construction and operation of the project are based on the best project-specific information and industry-standard emission factors that were available at the time of analysis, as thoroughly described in the “Method of Analysis” of Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR, beginning on page 4.3-44.

Response to Comment Ind 195-8

The commenter suggests that the air quality analysis in the DEIR does not address the air pollutant emissions generated by the project. Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR and the attached Health Risk Assessment (included in Appendix E.1) address the criteria air pollutant emissions from the project, as well as the toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions and associated potential health risk impacts, which have been analyzed in the DEIR and have been found to be less than significant after mitigation.

Response to Comment Ind 195-9

The commenter states that the air quality analysis in the DEIR does not address how some people’s health will be impacted by air pollutant emissions generated by the project. A Health Risk assessment has been completed for the project (see Appendix E.1 in the DEIR) and the DEIR determined that public health impacts from exposure to project TAC emissions (including asbestos in fugitive dust) will be less than significant after mitigation.

Response to Comment Ind 195-10

The commenter questions the “common sense” aspect of mitigation in the DEIR. Notably, the phrase “common sense” is used once in Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) within the context of Applicant Proposed Measure (APM)-AQ-1 and applies to the minimization of construction equipment idling. The complete text is on page 4.3-65, as follows:

Unnecessary construction vehicle idling time shall be minimized. The ability to limit construction vehicle idling time is dependent on the sequence of activities and when and where vehicles are needed or staged. Certain vehicles, such as large diesel-powered vehicles, have extended warm-up times following start-up that limit their availability for immediate use. Where such diesel-powered vehicles are required for repetitive construction tasks, these vehicles may require more idling time. The project shall apply a “common sense” [emphasis added] approach to vehicle use such that idling is reduced as much as possible below the maximum of 5 consecutive minutes required by regulation (13 CCR 2449 and 2485). If a vehicle is not required for use immediately or continuously for activities or for other safety-related reasons, its engine shall be shut off.

As indicated in this APM, the “common sense” approach to vehicle use is to limit idling as much as possible below the maximum of 5 consecutive minutes required by regulation (13 CCR 2449 and 2485). However, this does not supersede or contradict the provisions of the regulatory requirement. This APM does not relate to Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(b) and the use of higher tier engines during construction. Please see also Response to Comment Ind 195-5 above.

Response to Comment Ind 195-11

The commenter states that extended use of emergency diesel generators cancels some of the project’s efforts to reduce air pollutant emissions and contends that the project results in too much overall pollutants “to add to the cumulative effect of climate change, more severe weather events, more intense wildfires, and decline in air quality.” Firstly, the analysis of the extended use of emergency diesel generators is speculative and beyond the reasonable control of Rise Grass Valley, Inc., and as such, is not required under CEQA. Nonetheless, for purposes of the HRA,



diesel emergency generators were assumed to operate for up to 100 hours per year. (see DEIR, p. 4.3-79.) The commenter's opinion that the project results in too much overall air pollutants does not raise a specific issue related to the adequacy of the analysis of the DEIR. The County has included the comment as part of the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.



Individual Letter 196

~~I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine~~ *Do not*

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) *1125 Diane Bowler*

Address *P.O. Box 42 NW* ZIP *95959*

Phone *204 Upperpark NC*

Email Address *Do not support*

Ind 196-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 196: DIANE GOULD

Response to Comment Ind 196-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 197

From: [Diane Gould](#)
To: [hcdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Mine
Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022 7:20:16 AM

Dist 1

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Ind 197-1

Do not reopen the mine the increased air pollution, risks to waterways and traffic are not worth it. It would negatively impact our community
Diane Gould
207 upper park Nevada city
Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 197: DIANE GOULD

Response to Comment Ind 197-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 198

From: Diane <sby4dmg@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 7:43 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine

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Hello,

Ind 198-1

I support the position of CEA FOUNDATION & MineWatch Coalition and strongly recommend a NO VOTE for the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

I'm concerned how this proposal impacts wells in the area. The FEIR needs to analyze all the wells potentially impacted by the project. The impact analysis on wells in the DEIR is inadequate, underestimates impacts, and proposes inadequate mitigation measures.

Ind 198-2

I worked in the field of Electronics Wafer Fabrication and am familiar with disposal and "cleaning/filtering" of chemicals, acids, and gasses used to manufacture silicon circuits. Roof mounted "Scrubbers" emitted gasses that had passed through filters and were claimed to be safe for the environment. Yet, many employees found the paint peeling on their cars which were parked in the company parking lot. Spent chemicals/acids were "filtered" and "treated", then released into sewer storm drainage and many years later, unsafe contamination levels were found in the waterways in the surrounding areas.

Ind 198-3

The discussion of water quality impacts related to loss of wetland vegetation on DEIR page 5-7 is inadequate because potential loss of cover vegetation due to road widening required near the creek is not discussed. Mitigation should include a 100 foot centerline [or more] of creek setback from the road construction zone.

Ind 198-4

My husband and I planned our Retirement in Grass Valley, are now full time residents, and built a home, hiring local contractors to do the work, buying materials locally, membership/participation in local Clubs/Organizations, and patronizing many local businesses throughout the years.

We Love Nevada County. In our view, The Idaho-Maryland Mine will not bring economic gains to the County, as claimed, nor enhance Quality of Life for the good citizens.

--
Regards, Diane Graham



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 198: DIANE GRAHAM

Response to Comment Ind 198-1

The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The commenter states that the analysis of impacts to domestic water wells in the DEIR is inadequate but does not provide evidence of such. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR, Master Responses 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 198-2

The commenter states that electronic wafer fabrication facilities have damaged cars and chemicals entering storm drains contaminated local water ways in their experience. The project does not include electronic wafer fabrications. Air quality impacts from the project have been analyzed in the DEIR and have been found to be less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR. Water quality impacts are addressed in Chapter 4.8 and found to be less than significant after mitigation.

Response to Comment Ind 198-3

The commenter states that the discussion of water quality impacts related to loss of wetland vegetation on page 5-7 of the DEIR is inadequate because loss of vegetation due to road widening near the creek is not discussed and that the mitigation should include a 100-foot setback from the creek. The page number provided by the commenter does not appear to be correct. Disturbance to wetlands and vegetation communities from the project, and management plans for work within 100 feet of perennial streams, are discussed and analyzed in Chapter 4.4 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 198-4

The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.



Individual Letter 199

Dianna Suarez
suareztribe@yahoo.com

April 4, 2022

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902 (530) 265-1423

Dear Sir, I have lived in this area since 1974 when my parents moved to Lake Wildwood. I have lived in both Nevada City and Grass Valley and within the Bear River watershed since that time. I retired from the US Forest Service as a Forester. Since my retirement, I have been involved in learning all I can about our watersheds and rivers. I am concerned about many issues with the mine. One of my concerns is dewatering of local groundwater to reopen Idaho Maryland Mine, by the Rise Gold Corporation

Let's start with some facts:

- According to the Nevada Irrigation District website, 1 million gallons of water equals 3.07 acre feet. An acre foot of water is a volume the size of an acre, 1 foot deep.
- According to the Rise Gold Technical Report, inflow to the mineshaft is estimated to be 1,375 acre feet per year, and 2,500 acre feet of water currently fills the mine workings.(This differs from the Hydro report by 3 af)
- According to an internet search including the NID website, the value of an acre foot of water varies greatly but averages from \$50 to \$70 locally. It is currently \$400/af in the valley, and going for up to \$2000/af to desperate farmers.

The following statements of fact are based on information from Rise Gold's website, and personal research.

- The mining company plans to pump out the 2,500 acre feet during the first 6 months to drain the shaft, (Groundwater and Hydrology Analysis Report for the Idaho Maryland Mine by EMKO for Rise, page 13)
- and $(1.224 \text{ million gallons per day} \times 3.07 \text{ af/million gallons}) \times (365 \text{ days/yr} = 1,372 \text{ acre feet/yr})$ (page 15) annually to maintain it.
- The permit is for 80 years.
- They will use Wolf Creek as a conveyance. Wolf Creek is a tributary to Bear River below Combie Reservoir and upriver from Camp Far West Reservoir owned by South Sutter Water District.
- The water that Rise Gold plans to pump is groundwater that would otherwise be used by the People with wells for free, local creeks, ponds, wildlife, trees, and vegetation.

Ind 199-1



Dianna Suarez
suareztribe@yahoo.com

April 4, 2022

- NID has a diversion from Wolf Creek into the Tarr Ditch below where the water would enter Wolf Creek. The Tarr Ditch has around 20 customers who take water for \$12 per acre foot because of a legacy easement, including NID Director Rich Johansen and Nevada County Supervisor Sue Hoek.

So, based on these facts, and as we enter another dry period where the value of water is rapidly increasing; we must look at what this may mean in loss of value to our communities.

- During the first 6 months, the mine operators will discharge between \$125,000 and \$175,000 worth of water down Wolf Creek into Bear River. (2,500 acre feet x \$50-\$70/af)
- The next six months will see \$34,300 to \$48,000 down the creek and between \$68,600 and \$96,000 will flow down the creek annually for up to 80 years (1,372 af x \$50-\$70/af).
- In the first decade, a whopping \$776,700 to \$1,087,400 of valuable water will be lost to this community. That is over a million dollars worth of water down the creek in the first decade!!

The next decade will see an additional \$687,500 to \$962,500 down the creek, and for the next 60 years thereafter; for a grand total of between \$5.6 and \$7.8 million dollars worth of valuable water down the creek and out of our communities. Meanwhile, local citizens whose wells have been dewatered will pay ever increasing rates for water that was once free.

Another fact: In only 35 years Rise Gold will have dewatered and discharged enough water down Wolf Creek to fill Scotts Flat Reservoir to capacity.

(2,500 af + 686 af = 3,186 af first year,
+ 1,372 af/year thereafter. 3,186 + 9(1,372) = 15,534 af first decade
+ 13,720 af second decade + 13,720 af third decade = 42,974 af
+ 6,860 af next 5 years = 49,834 af
Scotts Flat capacity is 49,000 af)

Ind 199-2

Please address the following:

1. How will the monetary costs of lost groundwater value be returned to the community?



Dianna Suarez
suareztribe@yahoo.com

April 4, 2022

- Ind 199-3** 2. How will the groundwater and dependant ecosystems be restored from the loss of 49,000 acre feet of water after 35 years?
- Ind 199-4** 3. What are the cumulative impacts over 35 years, of 49,000 acre feet of groundwater deficits, to the ecology of the Bear River watershed?
- Ind 199-5** 4. Where is the risk assessment for drier landscapes and increased wildfire as a result of groundwater removal over 35 years and 49,000 acre feet of depletion?
- Ind 199-6** 5. The Bear River is already impacted with point source pollution from legacy mining. Where is the risk assessment to Bear River from further arsenic and other mine pollutants?
- Ind 199-7** 6. Will Rise Gold pay for water quality monitoring in Bear River?
- Ind 199-8** 7. What is the response time to enforcement when water quality monitoring determines that mine runoff exceeds acceptable levels of pollution?
- Ind 199-9** 8. As Rise Gold pumps out groundwater under their private land, what is the impact to other private parcels' groundwater adjacent to the property?
- Ind 199-10** 9. Does Rise Gold have the rights to groundwater belonging to the citizens of Grass Valley?
- Ind 199-11** 10. Where does Rise Gold's groundwater end and the groundwater protected by the Public Trust Doctrine begin?
- Ind 199-12** 11. What is the beneficial use provided by the water that Rise Gold pumps out of the mine shafts? Will they need a water right to do this?
- Ind 199-13** 12. Please consider that Rise Gold may eventually need a water right to pump and dispose of groundwater. Are you prepared to grant this water right, that is covered by the Public Trust Doctrine, to a private corporation?

Ind 199-14 Just because fractured rock aquifers are not currently well understood, does not mean that the cumulative effects of groundwater depletion are not significant. The fact that they are **not** well understood, raises this issue to a significant risk that currently has no mitigation.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Dianna Suarez**

suareztribe@yahoo.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 199: DIANNA SUAREZ

Response to Comment Ind 199-1

The commenter provides an estimate of the value of water which will be discharged to South Fork Wolf Creek and asserts that the project will take this water away from the community. However, the groundwater which would be pumped from the proposed underground mine and treated at the surface is not currently available for use by surface users, as it is far deeper than groundwater wells in the project area. As discussed on page 10 of Appendix N of the DEIR, the proposed project will have a surplus of water from the natural groundwater flow into the ground workings. Once the initial dewatering is completed, approximately 1,224,000 gallons per day are estimated to be pumped to the surface on an on-going basis to maintain the dewatered mine. The groundwater consumed during operations is estimated to be 84,000 gpd. Notably, the water that will be discharged into South Fork Wolf Creek is not lost and can be used by downstream water users, including Nevada Irrigation District.

Economic benefits or water prices are not required to be analyzed by CEQA in the DEIR. Please see Master Response 2- Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 199-2

Please see Response to Comment Ind 199-1. The water that will be discharged into South Fork Wolf Creek is not lost, as asserted by the commenter, and can be used by downstream water users, including Nevada Irrigation District. Please see Master Response 2- Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 199-3

Groundwater dependent vegetation will not be significantly impacted by the project and therefore no restoration is proposed. Please see Master Response 33 - Groundwater Dependent Vegetation.

Response to Comment Ind 199-4

The commenter asks what the cumulative impacts to the Bear River Watershed would be of 49,000-acre -feet of groundwater deficits. The South Fork Wolf Creek is a tributary to Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek is a tributary to the Bear River. As discussed on pages 4-8-65 and 4-8-65 of the DEIR, mine dewatering is estimated to reduce baseflow in South Fork Wolf Creek by up to as 0.1 cfs and in Wolf Creek by up to 0.75 cfs. During maintenance dewatering, 1.9 cfs would be added to the baseflow of South Fork Wolf Creek. Therefore, the baseflow in Wolf Creek and the Bear River would increase by approximately 1 cfs and the project would not create an impact from groundwater deficits, cumulative or otherwise, to the Bear River watershed.

Response to Comment Ind 199-5

The commenter asks for a risk assessment related to drier landscapes and increased wildfire from groundwater removal. As stated on page 4.13-21 of the DEIR, the dewatering of the mine would not affect the available moisture for vegetation in the project area because the existing depth to groundwater is already below the typical rooting depths in higher topographic areas while adequate flows would occur in South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek to maintain groundwater levels in the lower topographic areas. The dewatering would not, therefore, increase fire risk due to reduced groundwater levels. Please also see Master Response 33 - Groundwater Dependent Vegetation.



Response to Comment Ind 199-6

The commenter asserts that the Bear River is impacted from legacy mining pollution including arsenic, and asks for an assessment of risk to Bear River from the project's pollutants. Please see Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. The DEIR analyzes water quality impacts to South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek from the project, which flow into the Bear River. (see DEIR, Chapter 4.8.) The Regional Water Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan, Fifth Edition, for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (hereinafter Basin Plan) that designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Plan. The Basin Plan at page 2.3 states that the "...beneficial uses of any specifically identified water body generally apply to its tributary streams." The Basin Plan does not specifically identify beneficial uses for South Fork of Wolf Creek but does identify present and potential uses for the Bear River, to which the South Fork of Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek are tributary. As discussed on page 4.8-31 of the EIR, the beneficial uses of Bear River and South Fork Wolf Creek are identical and therefore the potential downstream impacts to the Bear River are already analyzed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 199-7

The commenter asks whether the applicant will pay for water quality monitoring in Bear River. Water monitoring requirements will be specified in the Notice of Applicability for the water discharge. Please see Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. It is unlikely that water monitoring in the Bear River would be required, as the discharge from the project is far upstream of Bear River, in the South Fork Wolf Creek, and monitoring points would likely be placed closer to the discharge point. Any required water monitoring would be paid for by the applicant.

Response to Comment Ind 199-8

The commenter asks what the response time to enforcement would be if water quality monitoring determines that mine runoff exceeds acceptable levels of pollution.

Mitigation Measure 4-8-1(b) requires that prior to commencement of construction activities, the applicant shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Central Valley RWQCB for coverage under the Construction General Permit applicable for any site on which construction is to occur, and prepare a Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (C-SWPPP) and reporting requirements. The SWPPP must be complied with until such time as terminated as a result of the completion of construction and permanent site stabilization or until an Industrial SWPPP becomes applicable to the site pursuant to Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(c). Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(c) requires that prior to commencement of operations at the Brunswick Industrial Site, the applicant shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Central Valley RWQCB for coverage under the Industrial General Permit for the Brunswick Industrial Site and prepare an Industrial Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (I-SWPPP).

Any water quality monitoring requirements and reporting requirements would be specified in the C-SWPPP and I-SWPPP. The response and response time to enforcement would be determined by the Central Valley RWQCB.

In addition, as discussed in Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for the water discharge into South Fork Wolf Creek is required by Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a). As stated in the mitigation measure, the owner shall be required to submit quarterly monitoring reports to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Upon receipt of the complete Notice of Intent (NOI), if the discharge is deemed eligible for coverage under the General Order, the CVRWQB will issue a Notice of Applicability (NOA). The NOI shall include evaluation



of potential constituents of concern and demonstrate that water treatment plant (WTP) design shall successfully treat mine water to meet the water quality standards and treatment goals. The NOA will specify monitoring and reporting program requirements. All NPDES permits are required to specify requirements for recording and reporting monitoring results. General monitoring provisions of the General Order require that samples taken for the purpose of monitoring be representative of the monitored activity. Records of monitoring must be kept and maintained and reports to the CVRWCB quarterly. Any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment must be reported orally within 24 hours from the time the Discharger becomes aware of the circumstances. A report shall also be provided within five (5) days of the time the Discharger becomes aware of the circumstances. If the discharge is not deemed eligible for coverage under the General Order, the mine operator would need to apply for project-specific waste discharge requirements to achieve water quality that meets applicable water quality standards; however, it is expected that the discharge will qualify for coverage under the General Order based on the available industry standard methods to reduce iron and manganese (and potentially ammonia and arsenic) and the existing use of the General Order for the nearby Empire Mine and North Star Mine water discharge.

Response to Comment Ind 199-9

The impact to groundwater in private parcels in the mine area has been extensively analyzed in the DEIR. Please see Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 199-10

Rise Gold owns subsurface mineral rights and has the right to dewater the underground works to access the valuable minerals subject to a permit from the County. Moreover, Rise Gold has appropriate water rights on its properties.

Response to Comment Ind 199-11

The public trust doctrine applies to navigable waters, but not to groundwater in subsurface mine works.

Response to Comment Ind 199-12

As stated on page 2 of Appendix N, the mine would have a positive effect on water supply. NID could adjust its flows upstream to use the extra water available downstream if it desired to. The beneficial uses for water in South Fork Wolf Creek are provided on page 4.8-31 of the DEIR. Rise Gold owns subsurface mineral rights and has the right to dewater the underground works to access the valuable minerals subject to a permit from the County. Moreover, Rise Gold has appropriate water rights on its properties.

Response to Comment Ind 199-13

Rise Gold owns subsurface mineral rights and has the right to dewater the underground works to access the valuable minerals subject to a permit from the County. Moreover, Rise Gold has appropriate water rights on its properties. The public trust doctrine applies to navigable waters, but not to groundwater in subsurface mine works.

Response to Comment Ind 199-14

The commenter suggests that fractured rock aquifers are not well understood. Please see Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model. The commenter also appears to allege that there is no mitigation provided with regard to groundwater depletion. However, the DEIR requires implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.8-2(a), 4.8-2(b) and 4.8-2(c) to mitigate water supply



impacts related to dewatering. Please also see Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.



Individual Letter 200

From: [Natana Spohler](#)
To: [ROS Public Comment](#)
Subject: the proposed mine
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 2:26:34 PM

Dist 4

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Dear Nevada County Supervisors,

Ind 200-1

My name is Diedra Spohler and I live on Lake Forest Drive in Penn Valley, District 4. I have lived in our beautiful county for over 20 years now and consider myself very fortunate to have discovered such a special and beautiful location.

Ind 200-2

I am very concerned about the proposed mine for the following reasons:

Ind 200-3

1. Mines are known for being destructive to their surrounding environment. This one would be close to the center of Grass Valley not in a far off isolated location and would disturb residences with the noise pollution.

Ind 200-4

2. It would lower the water table during a time of drought when water is already a rare and precious commodity.

Ind 200-5

3. The increased traffic and pollution from the diesel trucks would make this a less desirable location to live in.

Ind 200-6

4. Rise Gold has never opened a mine and has never made a profit. Their current CEO's prior venture polluted the local environment, went bankrupt and left the local community. This does not inspire trust that they care about their impact nor that they are willing to take responsibility for cleaning up the messes they make.

Ind 200-7

5. It is likely that the mine would discourage tourism and also make our county less attractive to high tech businesses and decrease property values. The current environmental review process doesn't include any analysis or study of the economic impacts. Please follow due diligence and include an economic analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

Don't allow our community to be harmed!

Thank you,
Diedra Spohler



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 200: DIEDRA SPOHLER

Response to Comment Ind 200-1

The comment is an introductory remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 200-2

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 200-3

Please see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 200-4

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 200-5

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 200-6

Please see Master Response 2.

Response to Comment Ind 200-7

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 201

March 30, 2022

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Ind 201-1

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Idaho-Maryland Mine DEIR. Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

My wife and I have lived on Cedar Ridge Dr. since 2008. Some of the characteristics that attracted us to this area include: natural beauty of the area, cultural resources, responsible government, and volunteering opportunities. We are both active in the community as volunteers, donate thousands every year to local charities, we buy local and use local contractors for all work done on our property. We will move if this project is approved.

Every community member commenting on the DEIR has unique experience and background, and hopefully that is taken into consideration by those reviewing the DEIR comments. I have over 30 years experience as an engineering manager and have successfully scoped and managed several multi-million dollar programs during my career. My point is I understand technical and financial risk and I have background scoping large projects.

I can also spot BS when I see it.

Rise Gold Corp's proposal to open Idaho Maryland presents a host of economic, quality of life, and ecological threats to our community. The DEIR has uncovered some of the issues we would face should this project be approved and in this letter I will be focusing on some of these concerns.

General observations:

Ind 201-2

- Out of date data used throughout the document. We understand it takes awhile to generate these reports. However, a lot of the data is four years old and does not reflect the changes our community is undergoing.

Ind 201-3

- The DEIR is reliant on reports commissioned by Rise Gold. Another set of experts should be used to generate unbiased reports. Peer review is not enough.

Ind 201-4

- The DEIR fails to address the Centennial site clean up effort that Rise has committed to do. It needs to be included in this DEIR since this DEIR is dependent on the clean up being done properly. The DEIR needs to be redone with the Centennial plans taken into account. Furthermore, this project shouldn't be approved until Centennial is cleaned up or there is at least funding in place for the work.



	Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Cited in DEIR
Ind 201-5	<p>We've all seen the categories cited in the DEIR with "significant and unavoidable" impacts. The staff report did a good job of summarizing those sections. Here's my opinion:</p> <p>4.1-2 Aesthetics As noted in this section of the report, the tall structures that will be as much as 165 Ft. high and the tailing dump sites will alter the landscape in a very negative way. Brunswick road is a gateway to the county. Residents and visitors travel that road every day and would be subjected to these views.</p> <p>I don't see a way around this issue, so based on this the DEIR should be rejected.</p>
Ind 201-6	<p>4.1-4 Aesthetics As noted in this section of the report, this project would have "significant and unavoidable" cumulative impacts due to build out in the area. I strongly disagree with the assertion in the report that the Brunswick site is surrounded by industrial zoning, it is residential zoning. This error needs to be corrected as it is misleading to reviewers.</p>
Ind 201-7	<p>Also the section on lighting is incorrect. With the addition of facility lighting, trucks running until 10PM, employee traffic, etc., light pollution will increase dramatically. Those living near the mine will see it, those farther away will see fewer stars due to the light pollution.</p> <p>Again, based on the results of this section, the project should be rejected.</p>
Ind 201-8	<p>4.10-1 Noise and Vibration</p> <p>The report states that noise and vibration during construction of the pipeline would be "significant and unavoidable" impacts even after mitigation. In fact, this entire section glosses over the effect of noise and vibration on the surrounding neighborhoods. All the discussion about "growler" beepers, etc is not going to happen. In addition, Rise has no control over their contractors.</p> <p>This section is one of my greatest concerns. We have a little road noise in the area, but not nearly the scale that the mine would impose on the neighborhood. Any noise over the current levels would be a nuisance and health risk. Trucks would be running 6AM-10PM so we would only be able to sleep between 10PM-6AM.</p> <p>Our quality of life would go down, perhaps that is not considered an environmental impact?? Regardless, the community has concerns about the noise and vibration due to the mine operation and this needs to be looked at in detail.</p>
Ind 201-9	<p>4.12-1, 4.12-8, and 4.12-10 Transportation</p> <p>The report states that the impact of traffic would be "significant and unavoidable" on several intersections in the area. This is true! Furthermore, the report understates the impact because it doesn't take into account vendor traffic, etc..</p> <p>Based on results of the this section, the DEIR should be rejected.</p>



	Sections of DEIR that need more work
Ind 201-10	After reviewing the document I found the following sections that need to be addressed. As I've stated, my impression is that Raney and their consultants didn't take this document seriously, they should not have used the reports commissioned by Rise Gold.
Ind 201-11	4-3 - AIR QUALITY, GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, AND ENERGY It is difficult to respond to this section due to the following issues:
Ind 201-12	1. <u>Data</u> presented in the DEIR is outdated, uses info from 2018. 2. Yuba City was used as a location for some of the air quality data. Yuba City is not representative of Nevada County. It isn't part the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB), either. This demonstrates that the team that prepared the DEIR is not familiar with our area.
Ind 201-13	3. There is a lot of "boilerplate fluff" info presented (all about climate change, regulations, etc) that appears to be filler meant to increase the length of the document. IMO that could be in an appendix as it obscures the basic message that the project would make air quality worse.
Ind 201-14	<u>I do not believe Raney took this section seriously. It needs to be redone. Raney needs to use accurate air quality data and correct locations when evaluating the air quality impact on our community.</u>
Ind 201-15	Here's what is true: Air quality has been terrible in Nevada County for the past few years. Furthermore, our PM and Ozone levels often exceed acceptable levels. The truck and employee traffic will further reduce our air quality. "Sensitive Receptors" on page 4.3-11 doesn't address the issues properly. First of all there are many elderly people living near the mine site and along the truck routes. Also, there are at least two pre-schools in Cedar Ridge that would be sensitive receptors.
Ind 201-16	Further more, the DEIR states in section 4.3-4 that the mine would have a "less than acceptable" result in the inefficient or wasteful use of energy. The mine would consume power equivalent to 5000 homes. How is that not wasteful?
Ind 201-17	4.4 - Biological Resources My comment here is that the authors have not addressed the fact that there are many species of animals living in the Brunswick site area. For example, the authors state "The field surveys did not record any observations of deer". This is not factual, especially at the Brunswick site. There is currently a herd of deer in the area. Furthermore, bear, fox, and mountain lions live in the area. We have a saying in industry: "Show your work", meaning the report writer should explain how they arrived at the conclusions. More work is needed in this section.
Ind 201-18	4.7-1 Hazards and Hazardous materials The DEIR states that the level of significance after mitigation would be "Less than Significant". According to the DEIR, around 14 tons of explosives would need to be transported to the



Ind 201-19	<p>Brunswick site every 14 days. 365 tons of explosives/year, equivalent to 30K tons over the life of the project.</p> <p>In my opinion, the DEIR did not adequately address the risk of transporting so much explosive material through our community. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would happen if one of the trucks detonated in transit? - What is the risk to the surrounding area if explosives detonate at the job site before they are stored underground? I would expect at a minimum wildfire would be a concern. <p>On the subject of evacuation routes, the document incorrectly states: "Brunswick Road is considered a secondary evacuation route." For many residents it is the primary evacuation route. It is as if Raney didn't take a look the fact that many people live near the site. If the mine goes in the traffic from trucks and employees during an evacuation would be significant.</p> <p>More work is needed in this section.</p>
	<p>4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality</p>
Ind 201-20	<p>This section fails to adequately address the potential impacts to wells in the area. Past experience (North San Juan) has made clear that we simply do not know how the mine will impact wells. Since past experience shows that mine operators often go bankrupt, a substantial bond with a factor of safety of 2X need to be required from Rise.</p>
Ind 201-21	<p>The bottomline is that the claim only 31 homes would be impacted is a flawed premise. 100s of wells serving homes and business could be impacted according to other sources. The models used in the DEIR need to be reviewed and updating.</p>
Ind 201-22	<p>Furthermore, it makes no sense to pump millions of gallons from under ground when we are in a long term drought. We will be sending our water down the hill.</p> <p>This entire section should be redone with current data.</p>
	<p>4.9 - Land Use and Population and Housing</p>
Ind 201-23	<p>Table 4.9-1 and Figures 4.9-1, 4.9-2, and 4.9-3 illustrate the problem with the Brunswick site clearly. The proposed mine is surrounded by low density residential zoning. Furthermore, homes are in all those areas. Hard rock mining is not compatible with this location. The fact that the zoning would need to be changed to accommodate the mine makes this clear.</p>
Ind 201-24	<p>On Page 4.9-9 Table 4.9-5 presents Housing Vacancy rates. Again, this info is at least 3 years old. Vacancy rates are lower and prices are going up. This needs updating with current information.</p>
Ind 201-25	<p>Page 4.9-25 section 4.9-3 (Population growth) glosses over the impact on population growth in the area. Here again the authors of the DEIR show ignorance about Nevada County by claiming 22% vacancy rate. They lump in the 51% vacancy of the Truckee numbers (those are probably air B&Bs) in there and the data is over 3 years old.</p> <p>This section needs to be redone.</p>



Ind 201-26	<p>4.11 - Public Services and Utilities</p> <p>The project would require the county to change the Brunswick site zoning from light industrial to light industrial with mineral extraction. The surrounding area is zoned as residential. It is obvious to even casual observers that hard rock mining is not compatible with the surrounding area. It would be a bait and switch for those of us that bought here with the understanding that mineral extraction was prohibited.</p> <p>Thus the zoning change should not proceed.</p>
Ind 201-27	<p>4.13 - Wildfire</p> <p>As noted in the DEIR, the mine will be a source of ignition (welding, trucks, explosives, etc). So the mine would add wildfire risk to the community. We happen to live above the Brunswick site and if a fire started it would no doubt impact our neighborhood.</p> <p>I feel this section doesn't adequately address the risk to the community.</p>
Ind 201-28	<p>I am sure many more qualified organizations and individuals will comment on this DEIR. All I can provide is my own opinion. My hope is that we can close this matter quickly so our community can focus on growing our economy in ways that don't harm the environment, lower property values, and impact our quality of life. Once this attempt to open the mine is rejected, the property should be re-zoned to prohibit mining.</p> <p>Thank you again for taking the time to read my comments. You have a lot of responsibility on your shoulders, I trust you will make the right decision for the community.</p>
Ind 201-29	<p>Regards,</p> <p>Don Haislet P.O. Box 1462 Cedar Ridge, 95924</p>



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 201: DON HAISLET

Response to Comment Ind 201-1

This comment is introductory in nature. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 201-2

The commenter states that out-of-date data is used in the DEIR but does not specify which data and how it affects the analysis of the DEIR. No specific response is possible – Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 201-3

The commenter states that reports commissioned by the Project Applicant are biased and that independent, third-party consultants should also produce reports. The DEIR incorporates expert opinion from consultants not hired by the Project Applicant and peer review of technical reports was conducted by consultants hired by the County including Raney Planning and Management, Madrone Ecological Consulting, ECM, West Yost, Saxelby Acoustics, and TJKM. The commenter provides no information as to why they believe the peer review is insufficient and therefore no response is provided. CEQA also allows a lead agency to accept a DEIR prepared by the Project Applicant or Project Applicant's consultant. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15084(d)(3).) In this case, the DEIR was not prepared by the Applicant, but rather certain technical information that was independently peer-reviewed by the County's team of consultants.

Response to Comment Ind 201-4

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to address the Centennial Industrial Site cleanup. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 - Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 201-5

The commenter states that the County should not approve the project based on the significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts. Aesthetics has already been determined to be a significant and unavoidable impact, in part due to the visibility of the proposed headframe. (DEIR, p. 4.1-15.) The commenter's concerns have been forwarded to the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 201-6

The DEIR does not assert that the Brunswick site is surrounded by industrial zoning. Chapter 4.1 of the DEIR states there are existing industrial sites within the vicinity of the project location. (DEIR, p. 4.1-22.) The commenter is also referred to Figure 3-5 (Existing General Plan Land Use Designations), Figure 3-6 (Existing Zoning Designations), and Table 3.2 (Surrounding Land Uses and Closest Receptors) of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 201-7

The commenter states that the DEIR's discussion of aesthetic impacts is incorrect because the addition of vehicle and facility lighting will dramatically increase light pollution. Vehicle lights have been analyzed in the DEIR. As stated on page 4.1-23 of the DEIR, all work at the Centennial Industrial Site would be done between 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM. Hauling and dumping of engineered fill at the Centennial Industrial Site would occur between 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM. Placement, compaction, and grading of the engineered fill would occur between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM. The project would not include the installation of any new lighting elements on the



Centennial Industrial Site. Lighting during nighttime hauling and dumping of engineered fill would be limited to haul truck headlights. On-site mobile equipment would not include the addition of substantial reflective surface that would affect the surrounding area. Therefore, the potential for the project to create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the vicinity of the Centennial Industrial Site would be less than significant. With regard to the Brunswick Industrial Site, vehicles would be entering and exiting the site mostly during daytime hours, considering shift changes at 7:00 AM, 3:30 PM, and 7:00 PM. While hauling of materials off-site would occur until 10:00 PM, which would add light from vehicle headlights, such lighting sources would not result in substantially increased light pollution relative to existing vehicle traffic on local roadways. Placement, grading, and compaction of engineered fill at Brunswick Industrial Site would not occur during nighttime hours.

Facility lighting has been analyzed in the DEIR. Please see Pages 4.1-24 through 4.1-29. As stated in the DEIR, based on the photometric plan prepared for the Brunswick Industrial Site, the lighting intensities at the northern property line, near East Bennett Road, are at 0.0 foot-candles, and thus, light spillover is not projected to occur off-site. The nearest proposed pole-mounted LED, which is International Dark Sky Association compliant, would be located approximately 100 feet from East Bennett Road. Thus, the existing sensitive receptor along New Brunswick Court would not be impacted by light spillover from the proposed on-site lighting. Similar conclusions can be made for the remainder of the property boundaries, based on the Photometric Plan; no light spillover is projected to occur at the property boundaries.

Response to Comment Ind 201-8

The commenter states that the DEIR understates the noise impacts of the project but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. Noise impacts from the project, with the exception of construction noise related to the installation of the potable water pipeline, have been found to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.10-31.) The commenter states that certain mitigation measures (e.g., “growler” beepers for trucks) will not be implemented. On the contrary, Mitigation Measure 4.10-1 requires all mobile equipment to be fitted with broad-band “growler” type back-up warning devices rather than the conventional “beeper” devices. All mitigation measures are included in the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), which is included as Chapter 4 of this Final EIR. The MMRP would be adopted along with EIR certification, should the Board of Supervisors take these actions. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 3 - Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 201-9

The commenter states that vendor traffic has not been considered in the DEIR. The commenter is incorrect; the DEIR accounts for vendor traffic and the impacts were found to be less than significant. (DEIR, p. 4.12-56. Table 4.12-7.)

Response to Comment Ind 201-10

The commenter states that DEIR should not have used consultants commissioned by the Project Applicant.

The DEIR incorporates expert opinion from consultants not hired by the applicant and peer review of technical reports was conducted by consultants hired by the county including Raney Planning and Management, Madrone Ecological Consulting, ECM, West Yost, Saxelby Acoustics, and TJKM. The commenter provides no information as to why they believe the DEIR is insufficient and therefore no response is provided.



Response to Comment Ind 201-11

The commenter states that out-of-date data is used in the DEIR but does not specify which data and how it affects the analysis of the DEIR. No specific response is possible – Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 201-12

The commenter states that the DEIR utilized Yuba City as a location for air quality data, which the commenter states is not representative of Nevada County. As stated on page 4.3-10 of the DEIR, because the Grass Valley station only monitors ozone (O₃) and PM_{2.5}, additional measurements were taken from the Yuba City monitoring station (773 Almond Street, Yuba City, CA 95991), approximately 31 miles west of the project sites. The data collected at these stations are considered generally representative of the air quality experienced in the project vicinity. Further, this information is not used to model the project's emissions, and thus, has no bearing on the findings of the analysis.

Response to Comment Ind 201-13

The commenter states that regulatory background information in the DEIR is only included to increase the length of the DEIR. The information provided in Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR is to provide information sufficient to evaluate the impacts of the project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines. It is not included in the DEIR in order to increase the length of the document.

Response to Comment Ind 201-14

The commenter states that Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR needs to be redone but provides no information of what deficiencies are present in the analysis. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR and Response to Comment Ind 201-12.

Response to Comment Ind 201-15

The commenter mentions certain sensitive receptors, including elderly people living near the mine site and along the truck routes, as well as two preschools in Cedar Ridge. As discussed in Section 2.1 of the Health Risk Assessment, the cancer risk accounts for the higher sensitivity of infants and children by applying age-specific daily breathing rates and age-sensitivity factors (ASFs). Accordingly, the HRA evaluates and reflects conservative, health-protective methodologies to assess health impacts to adults, as well as infants, children, and other sensitive subpopulations.

As stated on page 27 of the Health Risk Assessment (Appendix E1 of the DEIR), the maximally exposed individual residence (MEIR) would be the nearest existing residence to the north of the Brunswick Industrial Site. Emissions would be dispersed as distance increases from the emission source. Given that the Health Risk Assessment presents the health risk levels at the maximally exposed individual, all other receptors in the vicinity of the project, including the above-mentioned receptors, would have less exposure and consequently less potential health risk than the MEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 201-16

The commenter states that project would result in wasteful energy usage. As stated on page 4.3-88 of the DEIR, APM-AQ-1 and Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(b) would ensure that only high-efficiency off-road equipment is used during project construction, operation, and reclamation. Electrically powered equipment used on-site would primarily be served by grid-supplied electricity, which would originate from an increasingly renewably sourced mix of energy, and, if emergency power is required, the emergency generators would be Tier 4 Final compliant engines. On-road vehicles are required to meet stringent state and federal requirements related to fuel efficiency. All project vehicles would be required to comply with the existing requirements, which would ensure that on-road vehicles would be operated in an energy efficient manner. Accordingly, the proposed project



would not result in an inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy, and the impact would be less than significant. (DEIR, p. 4.3-86.) Please also see Response to Comment Agcy 8-17.

Response to Comment Ind 201-17

The commenter states that the DEIR's biological surveys do not account for all of the species living in the area. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 585-18.

Response to Comment Ind 201-18

The commenter is concerned that the project's transport and storage of explosives could lead to an accident. Please see Master Response 10 – Explosives, Reagents, and Brunswick Fill. CEQA does not require the analysis of speculative impacts. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.”

Response to Comment Ind 201-19

The commenter states that the DEIR incorrectly identifies Brunswick Road as a secondary evacuation route and not a primary evacuation route. As stated on page 4.7-11 of the DEIR, primary evacuation routes in Nevada County consist of the major interstates, highways, and principal arterials identified on the Nevada County General Plan Land Use Map. The routes designated on the General Plan Land Use Maps as minor arterial or major collector routes shall be considered secondary evacuation routes on a Countywide basis. These routes supplement the primary evacuation routes, and provide egress from local neighborhood and communities.

Response to Comment Ind 201-20

The commenter states that the DEIR underestimates the number of private wells that could be impacted by the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15- Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 201-21

The commenter states that the DEIR underestimates the number of private wells that could be impacted by the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15- Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 201-22

The commenter states that it is unwise to dewater the mine in light of the drought. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 -Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 201-23

The commenter states that residential zoned parcels near the Brunswick site make the project unsuitable for the area. As discussed on page 4.9-16 of the DEIR, subsurface mining is allowed in all base districts, including the M1 base district, subject to approval of a Use Permit. Surface mining is allowed in the M1 base district and where the property is zoned ME.

Response to Comment Ind 201-24

The commenter states that the DEIR requires updated housing vacancy data. The vacancy rates shown in Table 4.9-5 of the DEIR are derived from the 2019 Nevada County Housing Element Update and is the most current information available for use in the analysis of the DEIR.



Response to Comment Ind 201-25

The commenter states that the DEIR inaccurately portrays vacancy rates in the County. The vacancy rates shown in Table 4.9-5 of the DEIR are broken down by area and 22.5% is the average vacancy rate for Nevada County. Vacancy rates range from 8% in Grass Valley and Nevada City to 51% in Truckee. This data, derived from the 2019 Nevada County Housing Element Update, is the most current information available for use in the analysis of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 201-26

The commenter states that the project is not compatible with surrounding land uses. The potential incompatibilities resulting from mine operation (e.g., noise, dust) are evaluated throughout the technical sections of the DEIR. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 201-27

The commenter states that the DEIR inadequately addresses the project's effect on wildfire risk. As stated on page 4.13-22 of the DEIR, the incorporation of defensible space around proposed structures at the Brunswick Industrial Site, as well as designing buildings in conformance with Chapter 7A of the CBC, would help to slow the spread of wildfire moving through the area. In addition, proposed improvements at both Sites would reduce the vegetation fuel load in the area. Nevertheless, vegetation would remain on both Sites and would need to be managed on an ongoing basis and Mitigation Measure 4.13-2 requires the applicant to submit a comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan, inclusive of the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites, for the review and approval by the County Fire Marshall's Office. The applicant shall implement all provisions of the Vegetation Management Plan during project construction, operations, and reclamation activities. Implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the above potential impact to a less-than-significant level.

Response to Comment Ind 201-28

The commenter urges the County to not approve the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 201-29

The commenter thanks the County for taking the time to review the comments within the letter. The comment is noted.



Individual Letter 202

From: [Don Madden](#)
To: [Idaho MMEFB](#)
Subject: My public comment is that it will be a MISTAKE to reopen that mine in town. I want to go on record. We oppose the opening of this mine. To degrade our town, our sweet little town, would be a very big mistake.
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2022 10:19:27 AM

Ind 202-1

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Sincerely yours, Don Madden and Gracie Robinson

Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 202: DON MADDEN AND GRACIE ROBINSON

Response to Comment Ind 202-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 203

From: kwvoors1@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Matt Kelley
Cc: 'Don Davis'; 'Karen Voors'
Subject: Idaho Maryland Gold Mine Project

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Donald and Karen Davis
606 Long St.
Nevada City, CA 95959
dond@aia.com
kwvoors1@gmail.com

Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner

Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Dear Sir,

I am a long-term resident of Nevada County, living most of the last 30 years in Nevada City. I am troubled by the consideration of a project with such a potential to degrade the quality of life in our town. I am against the mine project. With the potential of such mediocre returns to the community, I don't understand why such a project would even be considered.

During my time in Nevada County, I lived briefly in a community that allowed a major employer to build and staff a number of buildings. While the community was assured the infrastructure would be addressed for the increased traffic, agreements made as part of the installation did not cover the actual costs. The community was forced to spend millions to maintain its infrastructure.

I see no reason in the DEIR to believe this would not be the case with the IDAHO MARYLAND GOLD MINE PROJECT. In section 4.12-1 of "Project-Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures", the DEIR says "However, even after mitigation, the project's impact to the Brunswick Road/SR 174 intersection would be significant and unavoidable." And its conclusion is as follows:

Conclusion Based on the above, under both Scenarios #1 and #2 the proposed project would increase traffic through three intersections already identified as operating unacceptably under Existing and EPAP Conditions. Thus, a significant impact to the Brunswick Road/Idaho Maryland Road, Brunswick Road/SR 174, and Idaho Maryland Road/Centennial Drive intersections would occur under the EPAP Plus Project Conditions.

Ind 203-1



With such conclusions, I feel the project is unreasonable for our community and, in the least, requires legal assurances the community would not be required to maintain its infrastructure for the benefit of the applicant.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald and Karen Davis



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 203: DONALD AND KAREN DAVIS

Response to Comment Ind 203-1

Please see Master Response 1. While the DEIR concluded that significant and unavoidable impacts would occur associated with level of service (LOS) at the Brunswick Road/Idaho Maryland Mine Road intersection, SR 174/Brunswick Road intersection, and the Idaho Maryland Mine Road/Centennial Drive intersection, according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, if the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposal project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable." As such, the County would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations to address the aforementioned significant and unavoidable impacts.



Individual Letter 204

From: DONALD J GAGLIASSO <donauldgagliasso@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org

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To: Matt Kelley

I am Donald Gagliasso at 14035 Diamond Court, Grass Valley 95945
We are one of the "30 wells" that will supposedly be impacted by this project.

Ind 204-1

I am opposed to the mine for all the usual reasons. I do have some questions if the mine is opened.

1) Who is paying for the water when the wells run dry? I heard the mine is going to bring water up East Bennett but not sure who pays to supply it to the residents. Is it the retired fixed income residents? Is it Nevada County tax payers? Is it the Canadian Gold Mine who supposedly is going to make millions on the project?

Ind 204-2

2) I have been in construction trucking for over 55 years. The mine wants to haul 1500 yards a day. Is that 1500 loose yards or in place yards (big difference in load count)? Depending on what type of truck the mine uses that 75 to 150 loads a day. I would image the mine will use the most economical loading equipment. A good loading operator can load over 200 loads in 8 hours. Going to the Centennial site a truck should make 4 loads an hour so in an 8 hour day they would need +/- 5 trucks for an 8 hour shift. Why do we need 24 hour working permit?

Ind 204-3

3) The mine hopes to send dirt to construction sites. What jobs in Nevada County need import? The jobs I see are either a balance site or an export site. If there is a construction site, is Nevada County going to let that job operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week?



- Ind 204-4** 4) The only jobs that may need import would be in the valley. Since it takes an hour to get to Roseville in a car it will take longer for a truck. Most cities will not allow a construction site to work 24 hours a day, Saturdays are iffy and Sundays are not allowed. The only jobs that work at night are Cal Trans projects. Again why 24/7 work days? A contractor is lucky if they can work a 10 hour day. Is the County going to make the trucks use a designated truck route? A truck will only be able to haul 3 loads or less in an 8 hour day. That would be a minimum of 50 trucks a day leaving Nevada County with what kind of a traffic problem?
- Ind 204-5** 5) If the mine plans on hauling 500,000 yards a year, what happens to the dirt if there is no construction projects to accommodate them? Are there going to be piles of tailings left all over the site?
- Ind 204-6** 6) If the mine does haul to other construction sites owners are very leery of taking material that has certain contaminated materials even if they are within the States limits. I have had jobs where any arsenic dirt would not be allowed. They do not want to take the risk. So if Rise Gold cannot find a place to take the dirt where is it going to go?
- Ind 204-7** 7) Construction sites do not work in wet conditions and depending on the storm could take weeks to dry up. What is the mine going to do with the dirt if they cannot haul? The construction industry for dirt hauling has always planned on a 200 day work year. Again why 24/7 work hours?
- There are two environmental specs on contaminated materials, residential jobs and commercial jobs. Residential jobs are more restrictive than commercial.
- Ind 204-8** 8) As far as digging in the tunnels, unless the mine is using wheel barrels, an operator can dig 1500 yards in a 10/12 hour day depending on the material. Again why 24/7?
- Ind 204-9** 9) Rise Gold talks about using only tier 4 equipment. Two things are misleading with this statement. All off road construction equipment by State of California law must be tier 4. All on road trucks do not have a tier rating. Again by law they must be complying with a pollution spec from a specific year. Today I believe that all trucks must comply with a 2010 year engine or newer to operate and be licensed in California.
- Ind 204-10** 10) Just received a letter from Rise Gold about NID water. They said they will pay to have NID piped to our address. Is this only before they de-water or can we wait to see if our well is impacted by them and have it done after



losing our well? Why should Rise Gold pay our monthly water bill but not the person to whom we sell? How will that effect our selling price? Can we have Rise Gold pipe NID water to our location and not hook up to the service?

Donald Gagliasso
donaldgagliasso@comcast.net



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 204: DONALD GAGLIASSO

Response to Comment Ind 204-1

The commenter is opposed to the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The commenter asks who will pay for NID service to the properties along East Bennett Road identified in the DEIR. As stated in Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(c) of the DEIR, prior to commencement of initial mine dewatering, the Project Applicant shall implement the Well Mitigation Plan by connecting 30 properties in the East Bennett area to the NID potable water system. The Project Applicant shall be responsible for fully funding reimbursement for water charges, for monthly fixed service charges and use of up to 400 gallons per day, will continue until the sooner of the following occurs: 1) the property is sold by the owner after the NID connection is accomplished and paid for by Rise; or 2) the property is annexed into the City of Grass Valley.

Response to Comment Ind 204-2

The commenter questions the number of truck trips necessary to transport the engineered fill. As stated on page 3-28 of the DEIR, the average transport of engineered fill will 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. Truck payloads will be approximately 20 tons per truck and therefore will require up to 100 round trips per day and an average of 50 round trips per day. As shown in Table 3-7 of the DEIR, trucking of engineered fill is proposed for 16 hours per day.

Response to Comment Ind 204-3

The commenter questions whether there will be a local/regional construction market for the engineered fill. The commenter is referred to Master Response 11 - Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets.

Response to Comment Ind 204-4

The commenter reiterates concerns with the project's ability to market engineered fill in the local/regional construction markets. The commenter also asks whether the DEIR identifies a specific trucking route, states that the trucking will cause traffic impacts, and questions the need for trucking 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Regarding using engineered fill for the local/regional construction markets, the commenter is referred to Master Response 11 - Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets. The project also does not call for trucks to run 24/7. As shown in Table 3-7 of the DEIR, trucking of engineered fill is proposed for 16 hours per day. Trucking routes are shown in Figure 3-13 of the DEIR. Lastly, Chapter 4.12 (Transportation) analyzed traffic impacts with a maximum of 100 round trips per day and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation, with the exception of traffic at the SR 174 and Brunswick Road intersection, and Brunswick Road/Sutton Way, where impacts would be significant and unavoidable even with implementation of mitigation.

Response to Comment Ind 204-5

Please see Master Response 11 - Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets.

Response to Comment Ind 204-6

Please see Master Response 11 - Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets.



Response to Comment Ind 204-7

Please see Master Response 11 - Engineered Fill Utilized in Local and Regional Construction Markets.

Response to Comment Ind 204-8

The commenter asks why some of the project components will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. However, a reduced hours alternative where the Idaho-Maryland Mine would operate 12 hours a day was considered but rejected because the Alternative is not anticipated to reduce a significant project impact. (DEIR, p. 6-13–14.)

Response to Comment Ind 204-9

The commenter states the DEIR is misleading because it states that all off-road construction equipment will be required to utilize Tier 4 Final engines, despite the fact that the State already requires this. Regulations regarding diesel engines are discussed on page 4.3-23 of the DEIR. Contrary to the commenter's assertion, Tier 4 Final engines are not required for all off-road construction equipment in California.

Response to Comment Ind 204-10

The commenter asks when NID water service would be connected to the property and why the Project Applicant will not pay for a subsequent purchaser of the Property. As stated in Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(c) of the DEIR, prior to commencement of initial mine dewatering, the Project Applicant shall implement the Well Mitigation Plan by connecting 30 properties in the East Bennett area to the NID potable water system. As stated in the Well Mitigation Plan (Appendix K.9 of the DEIR), it is unlikely that the reduction in water column of wells in the E. Bennett area will make these wells unusable. Therefore, property owners may decide to retain and continue using their water wells.

The commenter states that the applicant should pay for water for any parcel connected to NID water supply for the life of the mine, even after the parcel is sold. The Well Mitigation Plan (Appendix K.9 of the DEIR) takes a conservative approach and presumes that an owner who decides to connect to the NID system has been impacted by and at the fault of the mining operation, even if no impact to groundwater well supply has occurred. As such, the Well Mitigation Plan was designed to be even more conservative than Nevada County General Plan Policy 17.12, which requires an impact as a prerequisite to the obligation to pay for water, which policy states "If it is determined that the operator is at fault, impacted owners shall be compensated by the operator." A new homeowner would not be impacted because the impact would have previously occurred, and the cost of purchasing water from NID for that new homeowner would be the same as buying any other home connected to NID's water supply. The provision of free water as a selling feature to a new buyer is not contemplated by the policy.



Individual Letter 205

From: Donn Carlson <donncarlson51@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 7:34 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR

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Ind 205-1

No on the mine. With the drought, this not a time to be pumping ground water. How can you hold rise gold accountable to clean up their mess, after they declare bankruptcy? No bond could be large enough.

Donn Carlson
Nevada county voter



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 205: DONN CARLSON

Response to Comment Ind 205-1

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3, as well as Master Response 16.



Individual Letter 206

April 2, 2022

LETTER TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING REOPENING IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Ind 206-1

I am not a scientist or an expert of any kind in environmental matters. I have read the draft EIR and the CEA Foundation's response. While the latter certainly represents, at the very least, a difference of opinion regarding the potential environmental impact of reopening the Idaho-Maryland mine, the bottom line for me is that I see VERY LITTLE potential benefit to the Grass Valley community versus a GREAT DEAL OF POTENTIAL RISK.

Ind 206-2

The regional drought and water issues alone cause me enough concern to SAY NO to reopening the mine. This is a long-term commitment: 80 years. Climate change even now is inflicting untoward and unexpected consequences in Nevada County. If the extreme draught conditions continue – and there is nothing to say that they won't – water will become a scarce commodity. Then what?

Ind 206-3

At this point, I endorse the findings of the CEA Foundation. Air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution and dumping of harmful substances are all issues that will affect not only the health of human beings and other creatures living in the Grass Valley area, but also many other aspects of quality of life. Clearly, property values will not be enhanced by the close proximity of a gold mine operating 24 hours a day, although that is of less concern to me than the human impact.

Ind 206-4

Reopening the mine may look like a quick fix to some who are decrying the loss of income from growing marijuana, for example. But such notions are simply short-sighted and lack vision for the future. This is step backward into a past that resulted in all of the detriments folks are concerned about. A self-serving ERI by a company whose reputation is already highly questionable and has no incentive to do any more than the meet the minimum standards of mitigation, is no substitute for the creativity needed to develop new industries to carry us forward.

Ind 206-5

PLEASE SEE THE ARTICLE BELOW:

<https://www.aol.com/disaster-american-west-could-face-090023596.html>

Sincerely,

Donna Peizer
347 Horizon Circle
Grass Valley, CA 95945
dpeizer@aol.com
Phone: 925-451-5698



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 206: DONNA PEIZER

Response to Comment Ind 206-1

The comment is an introductory remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 206-2

Please see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 206-3

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 206-4

Please see Master Response 3.

Response to Comment Ind 206-5

The referenced article refers to climate change in the American west, and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 207

From: Donna Taggart <donna.taggart@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: Proposed Rise Gold Mine

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To The Nevada County Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Rise Gold Mine. Although I am not an expert I realize how much impact this operation will have on our community for years to come. I am especially concerned about the environmental impacts. Although the Draft Environment Impact Report is trying to address mitigation measures to all the environmental problems this operation will create I don't believe all the negatives can be addressed. As an example, the depletion of the water table (especially during a drought) with the solution being to put some residents on NID water is hardly a solution. The water loss will affect residents elsewhere and the Wolf Creek and other streams. There is so much more possible pollution to water, air quality, noise levels, and traffic. Please consider how this will affect quality of life for all residents in our community including wild life and plant life. We all need clean air, water and peace where we live.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

Donna Taggart
638 Zion St.
Nevada City, CA 95959
donna.taggart@icloud.com

Sent from my iPad

Ind 207-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 207: DONNA TAGGART

Response to Comment Ind 207-1

Please see Master Response 1, as well as Master Response 16.



Individual Letter 208



Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

March 12, 2022

Subject: Comments on draft EIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2020070378)

Dear Mr. Kelley,

From the first time I heard of the proposal to reopen this old mine my gut reaction was that this was the wrong project in the wrong place. Mining operations satisfy a necessary part of our industrial needs but putting an industrial drill and blast mining operation under and around our homes and businesses seems an obvious mismatch.

Ind 208-1

Although there are a number of good reasons to deny this project, I will focus on a few of the more onerous issues.

Dewatering - Wasting Potable Water

Rise Gold is proposing to pump (dewater) and discharge, into a nearby creek, 3.6 million gallons of ground water every day during their initial dewatering of the mine site. This will be a six month time period. After the first six months they intend to pump 1.2 million gallons of water per day thereafter for as many years as the mine produces profitable gold. They need to remove the water so they can get workers and equipment to the ore bodies.

Ind 208-2

According to the CA Legislative Analyst's Office the average water use in California is 85 gallons/person/day. So, during the initial 6-month dewatering phase of this project, Rise Gold will be pumping and dumping enough of our drinking quality ground water to supply 42,000 people with potable water every day. During the operational phase, which will go on indefinitely, enough water will be pumped to supply 14,000 people with potable water every day. This is more than the entire population of Grass Valley. This jaw dropping waste alone, of our most valuable resource, should disqualify this project from further consideration.

In a region where our rainfall and groundwater recharge are becoming more unpredictable every year, (Lake Oroville was unable to produce electricity last summer due to the lowest lake level ever recorded) the idea of discarding this large volume of precious drinking water, relied upon by many of our residents, so a foreign company can cash-in on a mineral resource, is obscene.

Ind 208-3

Dewatering - Effect on Residential Wells

The mining company has paid for a report that predicts dewatering will have a minimal effect on domestic wells. It is important that we understand that the modeling methods used by Rise Gold generate



yield will be predetermined to define "well damage". Extent/seriousness of measured well damage will trigger pre-determined remedies. Development of well monitoring program will be made an actionable condition of approval. Paid for by Rise Gold and managed by Nevada County Environmental Health Department.

- Rise Gold to provide financial securities, either bonds or cash account, to be used to rectify well damage identified by the well monitoring program. Nevada County will administer funding accounts and determine when use of funds are justified.
- This well monitoring program should allow any and all means to rectify well damage caused by Rise Gold, including installation of piped water systems, property buyouts or mining operational modifications.

Ind 208-4

I believe that we should reject this project. But if we don't, we need strong/no nonsense protections in place for our community. Rise Gold needs to back-up their claims that they will not pollute or damage residential and business properties with meaningful financial assurances on top of their promises and marketing puff.

Sincerely,



Doug Farrell, Nevada County Resident



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 208: DOUG FARRELL

Response to Comment Ind 208-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 208-2

Potential impacts related to whether the proposed project would substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin are addressed under Impact 4.8-2 in Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR. As discussed therein, with the implementation of mitigation, impacts would be less than significant. In addition, an assessment of both project-level and cumulative impacts on potable water supplies is included in Chapter 4.11, Public Services and Utilities of the DEIR. As noted on page 4.11-50, notwithstanding the potable demand of 26.4 acre-feet per year associated with the project, the proposed project would be a net contributor of water to the NID water system as a result of the project's discharge of treated mine dewatering water to South Fork Wolf Creek (850 gpm or about 1,371 ac-ft/yr).

For further detail regarding groundwater related to drought and climate change conditions, see Master Response 16.

Response to Comment Ind 208-3

Please see Master Responses 14 and 15.

Response to Comment Ind 208-4

Please see Master Responses 1 and 3.



Individual Letter 209

From: Douglas Haussler <tenfishhaussler@att.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Rise Grass Valley and the IM mine

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Ind 209-1

Having been around here since the 1960's I have seen a whole lot of what was attractive about this area change for the worse. Unfortunately reopening the Idaho Maryland mine would be yet another polluting eye sore with more traffic, noise and potential water issues for any one in the area.
I encourage the commission to stand behind the majority of the residents in NOT Approving the reopening of the mine.
Best Regards, Doug Haussler
(home owner in the Greenhorn road area)



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 209: DOUGLAS HAUSSLER

Response to Comment Ind 209-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 210

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
NC Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, Ca 95959

March 15, 2022

Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisions,

Ind 210-1

I am writing this letter in opposition to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. I was raised in Grass Valley and my husband and I are registered voters here in Nevada County and we are deeply concern about Rise Mining Company intentions.

We have a number of concerns and here is why we are opposed to the reopening of the mine: The depletion of our well water. We live on Greenhorn Road, just one mile from the mine site. The real possibility that we could lose or end up with contaminated water is very real.

Ind 210-2

Traffic. What a traffic nightmare it will be if the planned 100 trucks coming and going 24/7 comes to fruition, let alone the damage to our roads. The congestion for people going to work and school will be horrendous, besides the potential of accidents. This will cause significant traffic issues on East Bennett St, Brunswick Road and Hwy 174.

Ind 210-3

We are also concerned about the Greenhouse gases and noise pollution that mining will produce.

Ind 210-4

Keep our county an area that people want to live in. Clean living, water, air and less traffic. Is the pursuit of gold really worth the environmental destruction? The real potential for significant and unavoidable auto accidents with 20 ton trucks and the cars and school buses that travel this route is a valid concern for everyone.

Ind 210-5

We believe that gold being removed by a foreign company who has no interest in our community should be avoided at all costs and ask the everyone vote NO to Rise Mining Company.

Sincerely,
Ed and Lynette Cepeda
13663 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 210: ED AND LYNETTE CEPEDA

Response to Comment Ind 210-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 210-2

Regarding concerns about increased traffic resulting from the proposed project, please refer to Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR. As discussed on page 4.12-67 of the DEIR, all segments along Brunswick Road and E. Bennett Road would continue to operate at LOS D or better under EPAP Conditions, while the SR 174 segment would continue to operate at LOS E. However, the proposed project would have minimal effect on the segment of SR 74 from EPAP Conditions. As such, the DEIR concluded that impacts to study roadway segments under the EPAP Plus Project Condition would be considered less than significant.

Response to Comment Ind 210-3

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 210-4

The DEIR addressed impacts regarding whether the project would substantially increase hazards to vehicle safety under Impact 4.12-6, and concluded that with Mitigation Measures 4.12-6(a) through 4.12-6(f), a less-than-significant impact would occur. Therefore, impacts related to hazardous roadway conditions were adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 210-5

Please see Master Response 3.



Individual Letter 211

From: [BOS Public Comment](#)
To: [Matt Kelley](#); [Brian Foss](#); [Caleb Dardick](#)
Subject: FW: Against the mine
Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 7:38:14 AM

Dist 1

From: Ed Suchow <gv_eq@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 12:10 PM
To: BOS Public Comment <BOS.PublicComment@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Against the mine

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My wife and myself are opposed to the Idaho Maryland mine opening. In over 20 years I have never seen this community so united against a common cause. All you have to do is pick up our local newspaper every day to they to see someone writing more eloquent than I about the dangers to our community and lifestyle. Pick any of the number of reasons the writers have expressed to the newspaper against this operation opening. Any one of them would be a good reason to stop this project. Please consider the downside risk to our community and do not ignore the passionate citizens, especially the ones that have a personal stake in this.

Thank you.

Ed Suchow. 530 277 2201

Sheryl Zimmerman 530 277 5350

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Ind 211-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 211: ED SUCHOW

Response to Comment Ind 211-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 212

From: [Ed Suchow](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIB](#)
Subject: Against the mine
Date: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:39:16 AM

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Ind 212-1

I am opposed to the Idaho Maryland mine opening. In over 20 years I have never seen this community so united against a common cause. All you have to do is pick up our local newspaper every day to they to see someone writing more eloquent than I about the dangers to our community and lifestyle. Pick any of the number of reasons the writers have expressed to the newspaper against this operation opening. Any one of them would be a good reason to stop this project. Please consider the downside risk to our community and do not ignore the passionate citizens, especially the ones that have a personal stake in this.

Thank you.

Ed Suchow. 530 277 2201

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



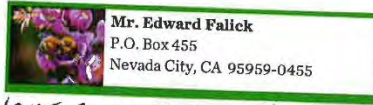
INDIVIDUAL LETTER 212: ED SUCHOW

Response to Comment Ind 212-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 213



HOME ADDRESS: 110 1/2 BOULDER ST. NEV. CITY
530-265-2784



~~TO~~

MATT KELLEY, SENIOR PLANNER
NEVADA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

SIR:

RE: THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT:

THIS MINE WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR THE
COMMUNITY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE
QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEVADA COUNTY.
WE DEFINITELY OPPOSE THIS OPERATION.

Edward Falick (EDWARD FALICK) 530-265-2784

Ind 213-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 213: EDWARD FALICK

Response to Comment Ind 213-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 214

Edward Falick

3/5/22

Box 455

Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: THE IDAHO - MARYLAND MINE PROJECT

ATT: MATT KELLEY

MATT:

I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT THIS PROJECT BEFORE.

LET ME STATE AGAIN:

I DON'T WANT THIS PROJECT IN NEVADA COUNTY.

HERE ARE SOME REASONS:

ITS A LOUSY IDEA. IT WILL BE A RAPE OF THE LAND NO MATTER WHAT THEIR PR. PROFESSED IN THE MANY MAILERS I'VE RECEIVED.

THE DISRUPTION OF OUR QUIET AND LAID BACK

LIFE STYLE WILL BE IMMENSE WITH SEMIS MOVING BACK AND FORTH 24/7, THE POLLUTION

TO THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS THE NOISE, THE LACK OF

OVERSIGHT AND THE GENERAL DESTRUCTION OF OUR LAND. WELLS AND SPRINGS ARE

ADVERSELY AFFECTED. WATER AND CLEAN AIR ARE

MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD. A BAD IDEA ALL AROUND.

Edward Falick

Dinda Martiny



Ind 214-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 214: EDWARD FALICK AND LINDA MARTING

Response to Comment Ind 214-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 215

From: [Eileen Stutz](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Rise Grass Valley Inc.
Date: Friday, February 18, 2022 1:07:38 PM

Dist 3

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Please do not support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Let's put the welfare of our beautiful county ahead of the greed of a few. The Grass Valley area has suffered enough from mine pollution over the decades. Those who cannot (or won't) remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Ind 215-1

Thank you for your kind attention,
Eileen Stutz
P.O. Box 1332
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
(530 274-1665



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 215: EILEEN STUTZ

Response to Comment Ind 215-1

Please see Master Response 1.



Individual Letter 216

From: EJ Sheffner <edsheffner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 3:57 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: Comments on DEIR for Idaho Maryland Mine

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Ind 216-1

I am a tax payer in Nevada County and part time resident, although my family has resided in the county since the 1970's. My primary concerns about the DEIR are as follows:

- The report acknowledges that the operation of the mine will have an impact on environmental factors including air quality, water quality, traffic, noise etc, but it does not consider the cumulative impact of all those factors on the quality of life. The mitigation factors considered for each element of the report will, at best, reduce the impacts, but will not eliminate them. The cumulative effect of the fully mitigated impacts is not described or considered, and the final EIR should do so.

Ind 216-2

- The DEIR appears to rely on existing state and federal environmental regulatory agencies to assure that the mine operation meets the environmental standards established in the use permit(s) and that those agencies will take appropriate action in a timely manner to alter or shut down the mine operation if necessary. If that is the approach recommended it is likely to be inadequate and the final EIR should include more comprehensive and timely monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Ind 216-3

- The DEIR appears to assume that any environmental standard of the mine operation not met will be discovered quickly (if not immediately) and that corrective action will be taken. The report does not describe how that monitoring will occur or the potential impact should, for example, air quality or water quality standards be exceeded for weeks, months or longer.

Edwin Sheffner
13920 Miller Road
Nevada City
edsheffner@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 216: EDWIN SHEFFNER

Response to Comment Ind 216-1

As described on page 5-3 of the DEIR, CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 requires that an EIR discuss the cumulative and long-term effects of the proposed project that adversely affect the environment. A discussion of cumulative impacts is provided in each of the technical Chapters of the DEIR, and further information regarding the cumulative analysis and the cumulative setting used within the DEIR is provided in Chapter 5, Statutorily Required Sections, of the DEIR. As such, cumulative impacts were adequately addressed within the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 216-2

Please refer to Master Response 1. Where a comment provides the opinion, preference, or observation of the commenter (e.g., opinions on the merits of the project that are unrelated to its environmental impacts), without substantiation, this is acknowledged for the record, and no further response is provided. All comments, whether substantiated by facts or simply reflecting the position of the commenter, will be considered by the County throughout this process.

Response to Comment Ind 216-3

Please refer to Master Response 1. As discussed under impact 4.3-1 in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR (see page 4.3-73), according to the NSAQMD, implementation of recommended mitigation measures for Level A and B thresholds (included as Mitigation Measure 4.3-1[b] below) would reduce project impacts to a less-than-significant level during all years of project construction, operations, and reclamation. Impacts to water quality are addressed in Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, Impact 4.8-1, of the DEIR. As discussed therein, all potential sources that could result in water quality degradation are proposed to be managed in a manner that would minimize potential water quality impacts. Furthermore, these activities would be regulated and monitored through permitting by the RWQCB, which would be required prior to the onset of mine dewatering and construction. Mitigation Measures 4.8-1(a) through 4.8-1(e) were included within the DEIR to ensure compliance with the aforementioned requirements.



Individual Letter 217

RECEIVED

Dist 3

February 22, 2022

FEB 24 2022

To: The Nevada County Board of Supervisors

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Re: Re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine

I am writing to the Board to express my concerns about the plan to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine property by a company calling itself Rise Grass Valley.

My family and I have lived in Nevada County for more than 40 years. Grass Valley has been our home and the community environment surrounding our place has been a good, positive space to raise our children and now our grandchildren.

The Environmental Impact Report has been published and widely distributed by Rise Gold, which now is naming itself, Rise Grass Valley . The report claims no significant impacts will occur to water, air quality, and the natural environment from noise or vibrations during mine operations. Where is the conversation about whether this type of business is appropriate for Nevada County? Where are the details on how long it will take this business to achieve the positive economic impact stated in their ads and brochures? What recourse does Nevada County have if operations don't proceed as proposed by the company?

Spending money to publish ads in The Union and sending brochures in the mail to generate support for their project has not been looked upon as a way to gain confidence. They are using the history of past mining of the Idaho Maryland Mine as a reason to accept the idea of a profitable repeat of the mine experience. There are legitimate concerns about correcting mistakes, cleaning up accidents, and acting responsibly in the wake of possible mismanagement of the project. The reputation of Rise Gold is not trustworthy.

This not a business that Nevada County needs or wants operating in our communities.

I ask that you vote "no" on this matter when it comes before you. The people of Nevada County will not be able to cast their vote except through your actions – so consider well your important responsibility of representing the voters.

We depend upon the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to look after the best interests of the communities of Nevada County. This project does not further the goals stated by the Board of Supervisors.

Elaine Westfall 557 Blight Rd. Grass Valley 95945



Ind 217-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 217: ELAINE WESTFALL

Response to Comment Ind 217-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.



Individual Letter 218

February 22, 2022

To: The Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Re: Re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine

I am writing to the Board to express my concerns about the plan to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine property by a company calling itself Rise Grass Valley.

My family and I have lived in Nevada County for more than 40 years. Grass Valley has been our home and the community environment surrounding our place has been a good, positive space to raise our children and now our grandchildren.

The Environmental Impact Report has been published and widely distributed by Rise Gold, which now is naming itself, Rise Grass Valley . The report claims no significant impacts will occur to water, air quality, and the natural environment from noise or vibrations during mine operations. Where is the conversation about whether this type of business is appropriate for Nevada County? Where are the details on how long it will take this business to achieve the positive economic impact stated in their ads and brochures? What recourse does Nevada County have if operations don't proceed as proposed by the company?

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We depend upon the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to look after the best interests of the communities of Nevada County. This project does not further the goals stated by the Board of Supervisors.

Elaine Westfall 557 Blight Rd. Grass Valley 95945

Ind 218-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 218: ELAINE WESTFALL

Response to Comment Ind 218-1

Please see Master Responses 1, 2, and 3.



Individual Letter 219

From: [swoolman](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIB](#)
Cc: [swoolman](#)
Subject: EIR Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
Date: Saturday, February 5, 2022 8:15:20 AM

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Ind 219-1

Hello Mr. Kelley,

I have waded through the Draft EIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine proposal, the arguments against allowing the mine to go forward and the arguments put forth by Rise Gold in favor of their project.

And, have concluded that the many highly negative impacts and potential risks for an extremely long time outweigh any of the benefits to the community that the mine might have.

So..I suggest that the proposed mine use of the property be denied.

Thank You,

Elaine Whooley

20493 New Rome Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

Ind 219-2

As a side note... the use of the term, "no significant impact," in the EIR seems to be a very subjective, or at least limited, assessment in what should be an objective presentation of facts.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 219: ELAINE WHOOLEY

Response to Comment Ind 219-1

Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 219-2

As discussed in Section 4.0.4, Determination of Significance, in Chapter 4.0, Introduction to Analysis, of the DEIR (see page 4.0-2), four categories of impacts were used for the project-specific impacts within the DEIR: no impact, less than significant, significant, and significant and unavoidable. The CEQA Guidelines require that the determination of significance be based on scientific and factual data. The specific criteria for determining the significance of a particular impact are identified within in each technical chapter of the DEIR, and are consistent with significance criteria set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, based on the professional judgment of the EIR preparers, or supported by substantial evidence in the record considered by the County as the CEQA Lead Agency. As such, the DEIR adequately addressed all impacts based on significance criteria set forth in the CEQA Guidelines.



Individual Letter 220

Ind 220-1

I do not support
I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for the county and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) *Evelyn Cruz* **RECEIVED**

Address *12263 Appaloosa Ct* **FEB 25 2022 P 95949**

Phone *530 268-4660* **NEVADA COUNTY**

Email Address _____ **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 220: ELALINA CUSS

Response to Comment Ind 220-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 221

From: Eli Duber <eli.duber@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR

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Ind 221-1

Acid mine drainage is still prevalent in Wolf Creek today from mining activities that ceased decades ago. The "Reclaimed Condition" section (pg. 8-50) states that "Once mining is completed, dewatering ceases, and the underground workings are allowed to flood with groundwater, the same reducing conditions that occur under existing conditions within the mine workings would develop again, preventing oxidation of sulfide minerals". This statement neglects the fact that sulfide minerals will be exposed to air during the 80 years of mining operations. When dewatering ceases, acid mine drainage will inevitably reoccur.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 221: ELI DUBER

Response to Comment Ind 221-1

The commenter states that acid rock drainage is still prevalent in Wolf Creek from historic mining and would reoccur once dewatering ceases. The commenter also states that oxidation would occur after the mine is dewatered and during the 80-year project, which would lead to acid rock drainage. It is important to note that acid rock drainage has not occurred from historic mining of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. (Master Response 9 – Historical Mine Waste at Centennial Site.) Although oxidation of sulfide minerals may occur after the dewatering process, carbonate minerals in the project host rock, would quickly neutralize any acid. (DEIR, p. 4.8-49; Appx. K.2, p. 13.) Further, mitigation measures require the applicant to submit a Report of Waste Discharge (RoWD) and receive approval of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) prior to the placement of cemented paste backfill (CPB). (see Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(d) relating to CPB and for engineered fill (barren rock and sand tailings) see Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(e)). The CVRWQCB will determine the appropriate method of rock testing for the purposes of developing WDRs. Please also see Master Response 8 – Mine Waste Characterization.

As discussed on page of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR, the restoration of the post-mining discharge through the drains would be comparable to existing conditions and, thus, not an impact under CEQA. (DEIR Appx. K.2, p. 109.) However, once the mine discharge from the drains resumed, compliance measures may be required by the CVRWQCB to address the Basin Plan, antidegradation, and other water quality standards. These measures might include sealing off areas of the underground workings that are the primary source of arsenic in the existing drain water, sealing the underground workings sufficiently to prevent seepage of water from the connected mine workings, obtaining an Individual NPDES permit upon closure, or treating of the mine water seeps after closure.



Individual Letter 222

From: [Eli Ferrier](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIR](#)
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine statement
Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:50:29 AM

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Ind 222-1

Dear Senior Planner Matt Kelley,

I live in a neighborhood very near the mine site. I am about 2-3 miles away and in the wolf creek drainage. Our well is a shallow well (80ft deep) and my concerns about the impact of the proposed mine have not been assuaged by reading the EIR from Rise Gold company. The low number of wells that is stated would be affected by the massive hydrologic changes to the area would not include my home or my neighbors. Yet, following the basics of hydrology, It seems likely that my well would very likely be dewatered by a lowering of the water table due to the pumping proposed mine site.

Ind 222-2

I firmly believe that the mine is a foolish and short sighted venture that will lower property values and would be the final straw for born and raised locals, myself and my family, to finally give up on this place and move away. The impacts of noise and truck traffic in our rural neighborhood seem inescapable and these impacts, when coupled with the high stress of fire season, I would likely leave and take my two businesses with me.

Please stop this mine.

Many Thanks,

Eli Ferrier

CTE Instructor, Construction Technologies
Silver Springs High School
Grass Valley, California

eferrier@njuhd.com
cell: 530.828.2136

"Be joyful, though you have considered all the facts." -Wendell Berry



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 222: ELI FERRIER

Response to Comment Ind 222-1

Please see Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 222-2

Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.



Individual Letter 223

From: [Elise Piscopos Stupi](#)
To: [Idaho NMEIR](#)
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org; [ken stupi](#)
Subject: Idaho-Maryland Mine DEIR Comments
Date: Sunday, April 3, 2022 1:04:49 PM

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Dear Mr. Kelley,

Ind 223-1

My husband, Ken, and I have been residents of the Wawona Madrono subdivision of Grass Valley for over 5 years. Our house is located just outside the northeastern border of the Idaho-Maryland Mine mineral rights area and is under a mile, as the crow flies, from both the Centennial and Brunswick Industrial sites. After reviewing the DEIR, we believe the Report to be inadequate for the reasons noted below.

Ind 223-2

Our first major concern is water. One of the biggest risks posed by the mine is the possibility of damaging or destroying our wells, yet the DEIR only includes protections for 30 well owners off of Bennett Road and even those protections are inadequate as they cover the first 5 years, not the full 80 years of mining planned. The Report repeatedly acknowledges the high level of uncertainty in hydrological models. Yet, there is no acknowledgement of risk or plan to safeguard the roughly 525 private wells within a ½ mile of the mineral rights boundary which includes our well. We rely on our well as the cost to hook up NID water was prohibitive for us. Given the effects from mine dewatering, probable contamination, and drought, the Report's proposed mitigations are invalid and inadequate.

Ind 223-3

Our second major concern is noise and glare. The mine will be operating 24/7 with many mine operations occurring during the night. Sound carries, especially at night, so we fully expect the noise decibel and light level to increase exponentially disrupting sleep. Moreover, the plans for blasting don't follow the U.S. mining guidelines that restrict blasting during evening hours. Thus, in this area too, the DEIR fails to correctly address these matters.

Ind 223-4

Our next major concern is air pollution and traffic. Trucks traveling between the industrial sites will be spewing toxic dust particles into the air. Traffic safety too along Brunswick, an already busy and dangerous road, will be adversely impacted. Just in the last 12 months, there was a fatal accident at the intersection of Brunswick and Loma Rica. Yet, the DEIR has downplayed the traffic volume and called Brunswick a low-traffic road.

Ind 223-5

Finally, the potential negative impacts to our water, air, land, health, property, and environment as a whole cannot be understated. The final EIR must fully and accurately identify the risks posed to the entire area within the mineral rights boundary and a complete set of safeguards to protect our community now and in the future.

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Elise and Ken Stupi

13068 Madrona Leaf Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 223: ELISE STUPI

Response to Comment Ind 223-1

This comment is introductory in nature and the commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate. Responses to specific comments are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 223-2

The commenter states that the DEIR understates the number of private wells potentially impacted from the dewatering of the mine and is generally concerned about dewatering the mine during a drought. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change. As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has now provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 223-3

The commenter states that the project would cause adverse noise and glare impacts, especially with regard to operations at night, but does not identify how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The DEIR analyzes noise from operations, including during the night, and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration) of the DEIR and Response to Comment Grp 21-130.

Regarding the impacts from glare, the DEIR states that the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area, and a less than significant impact would occur. (DEIR, p. 4.1-29.) As stated on page 4.1-24 of Chapter 4.1:

Based on the proposed lighting types and locations discussed above, a Photometric Plan was prepared for the Brunswick industrial Site by a registered professional electrical engineer (M. Niels Engineering, Inc.). Figure 4.1-2 through Figure 4.1-5 present the Photometric Plan and increases in visible light that are estimated to occur following implementation of the proposed exterior lighting plan. Key considerations include effects to the night sky, which are addressed through the lighting types proposed, as discussed above. The other key consideration are the lighting intensities at the property boundaries near locations where existing sensitive receptors are in close proximity.

As shown in the figures, the lighting intensities at the northern property line, near East Bennett Road, are at 0.0 foot-candles⁹, and thus, light spillover is not projected to occur off-site. The nearest proposed pole-mounted LED, which is International Dark Sky Association compliant, would be located approximately 100 feet from East Bennett Road. Thus, the existing sensitive receptor along New Brunswick Court would not be impacted by light spillover from the proposed on-site lighting. Similar conclusions can be made for the remainder of the property boundaries, based on the Photometric Plan; no light spillover is projected to occur at the property boundaries. Furthermore, the proposed buildings would be painted with nonreflective, nonmetallic paint, which would not cause glare. Lighting or reflective surfaces would not be added upon reclamation of the Brunswick Industrial Site, and reclamation activities would not occur at night.



Lastly, the commenter states that project does not adhere to federal mining guidelines for blasting during nighttime hours. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Grp 21-144.

Response to Comment Ind 223-4

The commenter is concerned about air pollution and traffic and states that the DEIR understates the amount of traffic on Brunswick Road. Traffic impacts from trucks are evaluated in Chapter 4.12 (Transportation) of the DEIR and are less than significant after mitigation, with the exception that the impact to the intersection at SR 174/Brunswick Road would be significant and unavoidable even after implementation of mitigation. Air emissions from the project are less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is referred to DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy). Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 of the DEIR requires an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan which requires that trucks used for hauling material off site shall be maintained such that spillage cannot occur from holes or other openings. All loads to be hauled off site shall be adequately wetted to prevent visible dust from escaping during transportation and shall either be completely covered with tarps or have at least six inches of freeboard on the sides of the bed of the vehicle, with no excavated material extending above the edges of the vehicle bed at any point.

Response to Comment Ind 223-5

The commenter generally states that impacts to water, air, land, and health must be fully analyzed but provides no additional information and does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Chapters 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), 4.4 (Biological Resources), and 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the DEIR. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas. The commenter also states the project will impact property values. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.



Individual Letter 224

From: Elise Zink <ultimatelc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Please, no mine

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to ask that Matt Kelley, Senior Planner, be encouraged to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report submitted by Rise Gold. It is imperative that all components of this project are well researched and deeply considered. The health of our water and our children rests on this decision.

Please do what is best for the health of your community. There are other ways to improve our employment rates/job availability. We must learn from the mistakes of the Past and make better decisions for our Future.

Most sincerely,
Elise Zink

Ind 224-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 224: ELISE ZINK

Response to Comment Ind 224-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 225

From: Elissa Preston <grandvalleymarmots@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: Comments re: proposed mine

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April 3, 2022
Mr. Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Ind 225-1

Re: Comments on the DEIR on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Mr. Matt Kelley,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the possibility of the Rise Grass Valley (subsidiary of Rise Gold) project moving forward. We moved our family to the Nevada City area 7 years ago, attracted by the thriving local communities in Grass Valley and Nevada City, which include a strong and balanced economy of retail, industry, construction, professional jobs, and arts. The area's natural beauty, slowly won back since the original mining devastated the area, attracts tourists and new residents.

It is foolish and short-sighted, not to mention unnecessary, to reintroduce mining into the community. We need to focus economic activity in our community on businesses that will be here for the long haul, not here to mine gold briefly and leave behind a legacy of environmental degradation as Rise Gold CEO Benjamin Mossman has done at his bankrupt Banks Island Gold site in British Columbia. Those of us who live here have a vested interest in ensuring the long-term health of the community. Rise Gold does not.

Ind 225-2

Community health is predicated on having clean water and air. The DEIR (pg 201) indicates that the project will use 1,224,00 gallons per day of water. The DEIR goes on to detail that only a small part of this water will come from NID. The Well Mitigation Plan (Appendix K9) indicates that the 'expert opinion' of Rise Gold's hydrology analysis is that only 1 well may be negatively impacted by the mines water use (Appendix K9, pg 1). Yet the firms used to develop the analysis and reports are firms that cater to the industry – it is in their best interest to make the project possible for Rise Gold!

The findings of the 'expert opinion' are highly suspect; they did not include any actual well monitoring during the dewatering done for mine exploration (5-year project beginning in 1996).

Ind 225-3

Those of us who live here in Grass Valley and Nevada City will shoulder all the risks, but we are being asked to put our trust in Rise Gold that they will follow through on all the testing described in the DEIR. We are also expected to trust that no one outside of the underground activity area will be impacted, since all monitoring wells, except one, detailed in the DEIR (Appendix K8, Figure 1) are within the Mineral Rights Boundary.

In addition to water availability issues around the massive water use by the mine, I also wonder where all this water will go. Table 2-1 of the DEIR indicates mitigation measures are not required to deal with expanded "water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage" (Impacts 4.11-6 and 4.11-8) needs due to the mine. Pages 177-180 then goes on to detail an on-site water treatment facility to treat water before it is dumped into South Fork Wolf Creek. This treatment being planned for implies that the mine will produce wastewater that



requires treatment. However, the plan never addresses how this system will deal with extreme weather events. One spill of toxic wastewater can lead to irreparable harm to downstream ecosystems.

Consider a snow event followed by rain, which would lead to a rapid melting of the snowpack and massive runoff. When a severe flood event hits, how will the mine deal with all the water coming through their treatment ponds? Our community will be stuck with the aftermath, just as the Gitxaala Nation was stuck with the mess from mine waste overflowing into the surrounding environment at Benjamin Mossman's bankrupt Banks Island Gold site after heavy rains hit the site June 24-25 of 2015.

It's common civil engineering practice to design to the 25-year flood event. Unfortunately, severe weather events are becoming more common. The DEIR makes no mention of planning for flood events, certainly not 100-year flood events, not even 25-year flood events. This shows a callous disregard for the communities his mines operate in. He and his mine are no friend to our community.

Ind 225-4

Grass Valley and Nevada City already have bad air as we receive pollution from Sacramento and the Bay Area. We don't reap their tax dollars, but we do get their air pollution. If the Idaho-Mayland Mine is approved we will enjoy the pollution from all the heavy trucks and machinery, the dust created by this operation. This dust that will contain asbestos, and silica among many other harmful contaminants that will affect us all, but especially children and those with asthma and other illnesses. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) "identified DPM (Diesel Particulate Matter) as a toxic air contaminant based on published evidence of a relationship between diesel exhaust exposure and lung cancer and other adverse health effects." And "these effects include premature death, hospitalizations and emergency department visits for exacerbated chronic heart and lung disease, including asthma, increased respiratory symptoms, and decreased lung function in children. Several studies suggest that exposure to DPM may also facilitate development of new allergies. Those most vulnerable to non-cancer health effects are children whose lungs are still developing and the elderly who often have chronic health problems."

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/overview-diesel-exhaust-and-health> The DEIR claims no significant impact coming from mine operations. It is patently absurd to think that all the diesel exhaust, asbestos, silica and other contaminants that will soon be in our air (and lungs) if mine operations begin will have no impact or be less than significant (Table 2.1). This is so outrageous it would be laughable—if it weren't for the fact that our community will suffer the health impacts for decades to come.

Ind 225-5

One last item – traffic. Let's pick just one traffic issue from the DEIR, the SR-174/Brunswick Road intersection. The DEIR indicates significant impact. The mitigation "project's fair share contribution toward the improvements necessary to improve intersection operations to an acceptable level. The Agreement shall include the fair share calculations and total payment amount. Based on the Caltrans methodology to assess fair share, it is estimated that the fair share percentage is 14.9%." So Rise Gold will be paying just 14.9% of the mitigation costs at this one intersection? Residents of the region will be suffering the result of all this truck traffic, including the impediment to rapid emergency response by our firefighters and emergency workers – and we'll also be footing most of the bill for the mitigation!

Ind 225-6

These issues with the DEIR are just the tip of the iceberg. I urge you to see this DEIR for what it is, a document crafted to hide and obfuscate the damage this mine will do in order to get the project approved. There are hundreds of millions of dollars at stake for Rise Gold, and they will do what it takes to try to get this approved. This community, and its elected and appointed officials, need to see through the disingenuous claims of no harm that are repeated throughout the DEIR. In our own community we are still cleaning up from the prior generation of hard rock mining, and in communities throughout the globe, hardrock mining leaves a wake of devastation to the environment and communities as it mines profits at our expense.

Sincerely,
Elissa Preston, RN
Benjamin Preston, teacher
Nevada County residents



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 225: ELISSA AND BENJAMIN PRESTON

Response to Comment Ind 225-1

This comment is introductory and the commenter opposes the project and references the project Applicant's prior mining project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 225-2

The commenter states that DEIR and supporting studies are biased in favor of the Project Applicant. However, the DEIR notes that an independent consultant, West Yost, peer reviewed several hydrology-related studies and after implementation of certain revisions, agreed with their findings. (DEIR, p. 4.8-40.) The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The analysis provided in Section 4.8-2 of the DEIR concludes that the proposed mining operations could result in adverse effects to seven domestic water supply wells in the East Bennett area during the life of the mining operation. No significant impacts to domestic water wells are predicted in other areas. The predictions include the use of a 100% safety factor, multiple sensitivity scenarios, and have been peer reviewed by the County's independent expert consultant.

Response to Comment Ind 225-3

The commenter is concerned that an extreme weather event could overwhelm the onsite wastewater treatment system before the mine water is treated. As discussed on page 4.8-73 and -74 of the DEIR:

Based on a 2019 survey by Nevada City Engineering, Inc., the volume of the pond with two feet of freeboard below the elevation of the emergency overflow spillway is 23 acre-feet. The freeboard volume is 6.6 acre-feet. The spillway is also two feet below the lowest point on the berm surrounding the pond. At the maximum mine dewatering rate of 2,500 gpm, the pond has the capacity to hold the volume of water that would be dewatered during two days of pumping. At the maintenance dewatering rate of 850 gpm, the pond has the capacity to hold the volume of water that would be pumped over more than six days. The total runoff from the 6.4 acre watershed for the pond resulting from a 100-year, 24-hour storm would be approximately 5.7 acre-feet. Thus, the freeboard volume is more than adequate to retain the runoff from an extreme storm event. Overall, the existing clay-lined pond has more than adequate capacity to accommodate operational flexibilities for dewatering and water treatment, and to retain stormwater runoff from the area surrounding the pond.³⁹

Response to Comment Ind 225-4

The commenter states that the DEIR incorrectly states air quality impacts will be less than significant but does not explain why the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR which provides the analysis of air quality impacts and health risk assessment. As discussed in Section 2.1 of the Health Risk Assessment for the project, implementing the OEHHA Guidance, as was done for the project, reflects conservative, health-protective methodologies to assess health impacts to adults, as well as infants, children, and other sensitive subpopulations. For example, the reference exposure levels (RELs) used in the evaluation of non-cancer risk are designed to protect the most sensitive individuals in the population, including infants and children, by selecting appropriate toxicological data and including margins of safety. Accordingly, the evaluation methods are assumed to protect children and other sensitive subpopulations (groups



of more highly susceptible individuals) from adverse health effects in the event of exposure. A similar approach was taken for cancer risk, which accounts for the higher sensitivity of infants and children by applying age-specific daily breathing rates and age-sensitivity factors (ASFs), as well as conservative exposure period, fraction of time at home, and cancer potency factors as recommended by OEHHA.

Asbestos and silica release have been evaluated in the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 21 and 22.

Response to Comment Ind 225-5

The commenter takes issue that the Project Applicant's fair share contribution towards transportation improvements is 14.9%. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15041(a), Authority to Mitigate:

A lead agency for a project has authority to require feasible changes in any or all activities involved in the project in order to substantially lessen or avoid significant effects on the environment, consistent with applicable constitutional requirements such as the "nexus" and "rough proportionality" standards established by case law

As stated above, the mitigation obligation of the project must be roughly proportional to the project's contribution toward the impact.

Regarding impeding firefighters and emergency workers, the commenter is also referred to Master Response 5 - Evacuation Zones.

Response to Comment Ind 225-6

The commenter concludes with a general statement of opposition to the project. The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 226

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902



March 2022

Dear Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

Ind 226-1

I write to express my complete disapproval of the plan to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The reasons are many.

While Nevada County has its history based on mining, that time has come and gone. Nevada City/Grass Valley has transitioned into a tourist destination and a quiet, residential community. A mine destroys all of that. Mining is loud, pollutes, does not create as many jobs as Mossman's group would have us believe, and our roads are not equipped to handle the amount of traffic the mine would generate. These are small towns that would be forced to put up with 24/7 operations starting early in the am and lasting well into the evening.

Ind 226-2

It is surprising that we would even consider this option presented by Ben Mossman who has a proven track record for his deceitful and irresponsible, i.e., criminal, actions with his mine in Canada. Let me remind you that he was convicted of environmental crimes in Canada, which he is currently appealing. You have allowed him to present an "independent" draft EIR that hardly addressed the many problems this mine would create. Their tactics for swaying the community to be in favor are slick at best. It was a fine PR campaign but they have lied to all of us on their shiny brochures and they have solicited input from a wide circumference of communities that would not be impacted. Let's focus on how the immediate community would be affected. You had an enormous outpouring of the local community at the March 24th hearing which spilled outside of the building even though you met on a workday morning. The Board of Supervisors need to listen to the people they were elected to represent. They must be honest and represent us.

Ind 226-3

In addition to the above, the timing seems preposterous to consider opening a mine, which will require a significant amount of water, during a historic and ongoing drought. Not only does this affect the wells of the people near the mine, it is also an extremely important factor considering we live in an area of extreme fire danger. You have had experts present on this. Please listen to this. Not only is it our water source that we need to protect, you also need to consider the additional amount of pollutants added to an area that is already heavily exposed to contaminants every single time we have a fire and our air quality is hazardous. The health considerations for our community are tremendous.

This proposal is for an 80 year commitment. Think about that, most of us will be dead by the time that contract expires. Our children won't be or maybe they will be



from the health consequences. Or, they might simply move away because the environment will have become intolerable.

I ask that you please follow the desires of this community by not allowing this project to move forward.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Mendelsohn
13186 Nob Hill Dr.
Nevada City, CA 95959
elizabeth@photoncreative.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 226: ELIZABETH MENDELSON

Response to Comment Ind 226-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 226-2

Please see Master Response 3. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Ind 226-3

Please see Master Response 16 in regard to drought and climate change. In addition, wildfire impacts are addressed in Chapter 4.13, Wildfire, of the DEIR, as well as Master Response 6. Air quality is addressed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.



Individual Letter 227

From: Liza Barron <lizabarron88@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:16 PM
To: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org; Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Comment on Idaho-Maryland Mine DEIR

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Good Afternoon,

I'm Elizabeth Barron. I wanted to express my concern about the potential re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. I have lived in Grass Valley for nearly 6 years and I intend to make this my home for a very long time. After reviewing the DEIR I am concerned about noise, and air pollution.

Ind 227-1

I live only 1.5 miles from the mine and the DEIR does not sufficiently assess or mitigate potential noise impacts. Per the *Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Nevada County, CA Acoustical Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report Salter Project 22-0039*, "nighttime noise is not adequately addressed in the DEIR. It outright dismisses the potential for noise impacts due to sleep disturbance and inappropriately excludes this consideration from the analysis." As a Registered Nurse I work and night and sleep during the day. If noise levels are above acceptable levels at night, how will they be during the day when I am trying to sleep between shifts?

Aside from noise, I care more about the health and well being of me and my neighbors.

Ind 227-2

The DEIR does not adequately address toxic material mitigation like asbestos. According to a review by Pam Heard RRT, "Just because Rise believes that they will be able to control the distribution of material to 0.01% asbestos content does NOT mean that they can control the amount of asbestos in the actual mined material. The content of asbestos in the serpentinite is unknown until tested-this requires blasting, excavation, crushing, skipping, conveyance to the surface, deposition and storage to then be followed by testing. Ventilation from the mine during these underground processes will emit asbestos to the ambient environment. This quantity of asbestos emissions is unknown and CANNOT be assumed to be only 0.01%... The World Health Organization (WHO) concurs that there is no safe level of asbestos exposure."

Ind 227-3

There are several other issues not addressed in the DEIR. Inadequate estimates of mining impact will put peoples health at risk. In a community that has an large percentage of elders with chronic health problems like cancer and cardio-pulmonary disease, we don't need it to get worse.

We need to protect our community. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Elizabeth Barron
408-410-1465



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 227: ELIZABETH BARRON

Response to Comment Ind 227-1

The commenter states that the DEIR's analysis of noise impact are inadequate with regard to sleep disturbance. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Grp 21-130.

Response to Comment Ind 227-2

The commenter states that the DEIR inadequately addresses the risks poses by asbestos emissions. The commenter is referred to Response to Comments Grp 7-6, 7-7 and Master Response 18 - Air Quality Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 227-3

The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 228

From: elisabeth linsky <seenskincare@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: The Mine

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To Whom it May Concern,

Ind 228-1

I am deeply concerned about plans to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine. It will be incredibly destructive to our local lands. We should not be considering damaging our lands for the sake of profit. There are countless ways the mine could have damaging effects reported in the DEIR that concern me.

-The poor air quality. We already navigate dangerous air quality during fire season.

-A potential loss of water. California can't afford to lose any more water!

Ind 228-2

-Potential contaminants and hazardous materials. The process to reopen the mine requires pumping water from the existing mine, filtering and releasing it into our beloved Wolf Creek. What about the chemical compounds used in mines? It's just dangerous. We know better.

Ind 228-3

-The impact on the flora and fauna of the area.

Ind 228-4

-What about the quality of life for the neighborhoods nearby?

Ind 228-5

If the company were to go bankrupt or abandon its interests, which has historically often happened, it will be up to us locals to repair what remains. Our county has a long history of dissemination of our beautiful lands in the name of greed. We can't let history repeat itself once again. We need to take a stand for our future.

Fifteen year resident and business owner in our dear Nevada County,

Elisabeth Linsky
seenskincare@gmail.com
415-745-0826



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 228: ELISABETH LINSKY

Response to Comment Ind 228-1

Please see Master Response 1. Air quality is addressed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR. Please also see Master Responses 13 through 16 regarding groundwater. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 228-2

Please refer to Chapter 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the DEIR for more information related to mining waste. In addition, please see Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 228-3

Please refer to Chapter 4.4, Biological Resources, of the DEIR for more information related to impacts on flora and fauna. In addition, Master Responses 30 through 38 provide additional responses to biological resource comments. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 228-4

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Ind 228-5

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 3. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 229

From: Ellen Davis <winterlaurel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: NO to the mine!

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Ind 229-1

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my objection to the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. The impact of the mine would be detrimental to the local environment and quality of life of the residents.

The toxic waste could easily get into the groundwater, they would use up a huge amount of water when we are already in drought conditions, and the dust in the air would really degrade the quality of the air- which is already bad because of the pollutants that drift up from the valley, and imagine how much worse it would get during smoke season!

The constant noise, vibrations from heavy trucks and equipment would ruin the peace and quiet of the neighborhoods.

Quiet should not be underrated - noise has a significant impact upon the health and well-being of those exposed to it. I have a friend who lives in the neighborhood and is selling their house because of the proposed mine project. If they wait and see, then they would get less for their home, and may not be able to afford another home in this area.

And how much of this money would actually go back into the community? How many jobs and revenue would it actually bring to locals? I used to live in Alaska and the oil, gas, and mining companies have reaped huge profits and have had negative impacts upon the wild landscape. While the residents do get some oil dividends through the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) that amount is a tiny fraction of what gets taken out of the state in profits, and the politicians have been trying to get their grubby hands on the PFD. Even if it was a lot more - is the money still worth ruining the environment? There are no jobs on a dead planet.

Thanks for listening,

Ellen Davis



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 229: ELLEN DAVIS

Response to Comment Ind 229-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.



Individual Letter 230

From: Ellen Johnson
To: Sue Hoek; [bdofsupervisors](#)
Cc: Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Heidi Bullock; Jeff Foster
Subject: Rise Gold Mine Concerns
Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022 1:37:12 PM

Dist 4

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Ind 230-1

Dear Sue Hoek and Supervisors of Nevada County,

My husband and I live in Nevada County having moved here approximately 5 years ago with our businesses and to create a small farm. Part of our attraction to this area was the beauty and pristine nature of the environment. However, it has recently come to our attention that you are considering offering the company, Rise Gold Mine, an opportunity to open and do mining in our county. **We are concerned and strongly opposed for many reasons.**

Ind 230-2

Those include: Soil pollution, groundwater pollution, deforestation, depletion of natural resources, destruction of habitats, endangerment of species, loss of biodiversity, landslides, ecological imbalance, traffic, noise issues, effects on our already drought and high-fire risk, high amounts of particulate matter caused by the crushing and compacting of gravel putting our community at higher risk for lung and breathing problems not to mention the dangers and poor working conditions in the mines.

Ind 230-3

To quote other sources on the detrimental impact on gold mining:

"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. Producing gold for one wedding ring alone generates 20 tons of waste."

Links:

1. <https://earthworks.org/campaigns/no-dirty-gold/impacts/#:~:text=Gold%20mining%20is%20one%20of%20the%20most%20destructive%20industries%20in%20the%20world%20and%20ecosystems>
2. <https://www.brilliantearth.com/gold-mining-environment/>
3. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/environmental-disaster-gold-industry-180949762/>
4. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1146979.stm>
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/10/us/as-a-gold-mine-prepares-to-close-montana-argues-over-the-hole-in-the.html>
6. <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna28596948#VEfObYvF95k>

Ind 230-4

Our own community has raised a number of concerns regarding the exploratory operations and non-compliance issues:

Ind 230-5

- 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.

Ind 230-6

- 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).

Ind 230-7

- Failure to follow the approved grading plan.

Ind 230-8

- Multiple violations of Storm Water Management best practices.

- Violation of a subsequent Comprehensive Management Plan.

Ind 230-9

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.



Ind 230-10	Drilling operations can continue for many months.
Ind 230-11	• 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.
Ind 230-12	• Repeated noise complaints from residents with homes near the mine site.
Ind 230-13	• Repeated light pollution complaints due to bright floodlights. And dust.
Ind 230-14	• Hundreds of gallons of drilling fluid compounds and lubricants are used. Strong odors of solvents reported by passing cars.
Ind 230-15	• <u>Since no permit is required for exploratory drilling, there is no prescribed oversight from County officials, enforcement action is driven by complaints.</u>
Ind 230-16	• There are <u>no requirements for restoration or reclamation plans.</u>
	• There is <u>no bonding, licensing, or insurance required.</u>
	Documents filed by RISE reveal some objectionable aspects of the planned mining operation. These include the following:
Ind 230-17	• 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.
Ind 230-18	• 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 <u>inexcusable.</u>
Ind 230-19	• 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.
	We insist, for the betterment of our communities, that you stop this mining operation before it begins any exploratory or other purpose. Nevada County can find other job opportunities that will have a healthier and sustainable impact on our beloved California area.
Ind 230-20	Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions which are shared by a large number of this community.
	Sincerely,
	Ellen Johnson & Jeff Foster Big Oak Valley residents

Ellen Johnson
vocalvisions@gmail.com
 310-487-0048
www.ellenjohnson.net
www.vocalvisions.net
www.soundvisionsmedia.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 230: ELLEN JOHNSON

Response to Comment Ind 230-1

This comment is introductory in nature and the commenter opposes the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 230-2

The commenter generally lists a variety of perceived adverse impacts associated with the project such as groundwater pollution, traffic, and noise, but does not specifically state why the DEIR is inadequate or provide any other information on which to formulate a more specific response. All of the issues raised by the commenter have been analyzed in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4 of the DEIR and Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 230-3

The commenter alleges that gold mining in general is ecologically destructive and provides web links to articles on gold mining. This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. For that reason, the County provides no further response to this comment other than to note that page 3-25 of Chapter 3, Project Description, of the DEIR states mercury or cyanide would not be used in gold mineral processing.

Response to Comment Ind 230-4

This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-5

This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-6

This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-7

This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-8

This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-9

This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-10

The impact to groundwater levels from mine dewatering and mining is extensively analyzed in the DEIR. See Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR, Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.



Response to Comment Ind 230-11

This comment does not appear to address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration. With respect to noise associated with potential future operations of the project, see Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-12

This comment does not appear to address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration. With respect to lighting associated with potential future operations of the project, see Chapter 4.1, Aesthetics.

Response to Comment Ind 230-13

This comment does not appear to address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration. With respect to hazardous materials associated with potential future operations of the project, see Chapter 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

Response to Comment Ind 230-14

This comment does not appear to address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 230-15

This comment does not appear to address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration. Regarding the Reclamation Plan for the project, see Appendix C to the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 230-16

The commenter states that the project does not require any bonding, licensing, or insurance. The project requires an approved Reclamation plan. To ensure that reclamation will proceed in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan, the County shall require as a condition of approval Security that will be released upon satisfactory performance. The applicant may pose Security in the form of a surety bond, trust fund, irrevocable letter of credit from an accredited financial institution, or other method acceptable to the County and the State Mining and Geology Board as specified in State regulations, and which the County reasonably determines are adequate to perform reclamation in accordance with the mining operation's approved Plan. The commenter is referred to page 4.6-24 of the DEIR and Appendix C of the DEIR.

A mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and is included as Chapter 4 of this Final EIR. The mitigation measures and conditions of approval will be enforced by the County. To the extent the applicant receives permits from other state and federal agencies, those agencies will be responsible for their enforcement.

Response to Comment Ind 230-17

The commenter references several impacts associated with the project such as the placement of engineered fill, noise, and traffic, but does not provide any specific comments on the adequacy of the DEIR. All issues raised by the commenter are analyzed in the DEIR. Please see Chapters 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy), 4.4 (Biological Resources), 4.10 (Noise and Vibration), 4.12 (Transportation) of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 230-18

The commenter states that the project's energy usage is inexcusable, especially in the context of the climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 25 – Nevada County Energy



Action Plan, Master Response 27 - Greenhouse Gas Thresholds, and Response to Comment Agcy 8-17.

Response to Comment Ind 230-19

The commenter states that the dewatering of the mine would require a permanent purification system to remove contaminants and that the discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek would place the creek at “flood state.” As stated on page 4.8-51 of the DEIR, after mining is completed, and as underground mine workings fill with groundwater, water from the underground mine workings would begin to seep from the existing drains. The water that would seep from the underground workings is anticipated to have similar water quality to the water that currently discharges from the existing drains. Specifically, it may contain elevated levels of iron and manganese. Therefore, the conditions after mining is completed would be similar to existing, or baseline, conditions, such that re-activation of the seeps would not represent a potentially significant impact under CEQA. Although part of the existing environmental setting, some of the seeps have elevated arsenic levels that could pose a threat to human health or the environment. However, despite these existing discharges from the drains, the reported concentrations of all metals and other constituents in the Wolf Creek samples are well below the NPDES water quality standards.

The mine water discharge would not put South Fork Wolf Creek at “flood stage”. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR and Master Response 36 - Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 230-20

The commenter urges that the County not approve the project. The commenter’s opposition to the project is noted for decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 231

From: [Ellen Macdonald](#)
To: [Idaho NMEIR](#)
Subject: Rise Gold Mine
Date: Sunday, April 3, 2022 7:16:45 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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To: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Dept.
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

April 3, 2022

From: Ellen Macdonald
10581 Bragg Avenue
Grass Valley, CA. 95945

Ind 231-1

Re: Proposed Rise Gold Mine Project
My name is Ellen Macdonald and I have lived at the above Grass Valley location since 1997. My reading and understanding of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) have been restricted to the hazards of the proposed project with particular attention to those hazards to our watershed, wildfire risk, and air quality. These three areas were all considered to have significant impacts from the proposed project unless there were mitigations made by one of the four alternatives listed.

The first alternative was "NO Build", no mine project at all, and of course has little to no impact on our environmental quality. The elimination of the Centennial Industrial Site, alternative 2, has fewer impacts than the other two. I think the two other alternatives, #'s 3 & 4, should not be considered at all since both are just as hazardous to water and air quality or are worse than the original proposal.

Ind 231-2

That leaves #'s 1 & 2 alternatives to the original proposal. I am still concerned about this proposed mine even with the mitigation from the elimination of the Centennial Industrial Site. For me, it comes down to simply why mess with our watershed at all when we are already in another drought cycle, with the likelihood of yet another summer of wildfires all around us and the resulting poor air quality from those fires. There is no reason to believe that next year will not be another dry one. These more frequent and longer drought periods seem to be the climate pattern now for Northern California.

Ind 231-3

What makes this mine proposal even worse to me is that it's all for gold for a private company. I think we would be taking too many risks to the environment if the mine is approved and all that for gold. If we were all discussing a public works project, such as the Centennial Dam, we would be having an entirely different conversation.

I realize that I am not saying anything that you on the Planning Commission don't already know or haven't already heard from others in the community. Lord knows I could never be as articulate about the EIR as those citizens who so knowledgeably spoke to you on the 24th of March at the public hearing at the Rood Center. But I still feel as strongly as everyone else in opposition to the proposal of this mine reopening.

Thank you,
Ellen Macdonald



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 231: ELLEN MACDONALD

Response to Comment Ind 231-1

The mitigation measures proposed to reduce impacts to a less than significant level in Section 4 of the DEIR are not reliant on the alternatives discussed in Chapter 6 of the DEIR. The Alternatives Analysis chapter of the EIR (Chapter 6 of the DEIR) includes consideration and discussion of a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, as required pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6. The primary intent of the alternatives evaluation in an EIR, as stated in Section 15126.6(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, is to “[...] describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.”

A comparison of environmental impacts for project alternatives is provided in Table 6-1 of the DEIR. Alternatives 3 and 4 would have similar or fewer air quality impacts than the project and similar or greater hydrology and water quality impacts as the project.

Response to Comment Ind 231-2

The commenter is concerned about the project’s hydrological impacts in light of the drought and climate change but does not state why the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 231-3

The commenter urges the County not to approve the project. The commenter’s opposition to the project is noted for decisionmakers. Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



From: Elliot Schneiderman <elliot.schneiderman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Matt Kelley
Subject: Critique of Groundwater Modeling submitted for consideration into final EIR
Attachments: CritiqueOfGroundwaterModeling_Schneiderman.pdf

Individual Letter 232

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Hi Matt,
Thanks for sending a copy of the Todd 2007 report.

Attached please find a pdf of a 4-page critique of Groundwater Modeling and Analyses in the Rise Gold draft EIR, which I am submitting for review and consideration into the final EIR.

Kindly let me know that you received and are able to open and read the pdf file.

Sincerely,

Elliot Schneiderman

On Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 11:03 AM Matt Kelley <Matt.Kelley@co.nevada.ca.us> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Schneiderman:

My apologies for the delay in being able to reply to your email. Attached is a copy of the 2007 Hydrogeologic Assessment of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Todd Engineers.

Thank you and if you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Matt Kelley

Senior Planner

Ind 232-1





Planning Department

County of Nevada

Community Development Agency

950 Main Ave., Suite 170 office 530-265-1222

PO Box 599002

<https://www.nevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department>

Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

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I am out of the office every other Friday as follows: 1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4...

PLANNING PUBLIC COUNTER NOTICE

The Customer Service Counter for Nevada County CDA - Planning Department is open from 8:00am – 3:30pm for new application submittals and appointments. Walk-ins are welcome from 8am to 5pm. To schedule an appointment with staff please contact the Planning Department at 530-265-1222, Option 2 or planning@co.nevada.ca.us. If you have any questions about our services, please contact us by email at planning@co.nevada.ca.us or by phone at 530-265-1222 Option 2.

From: Elliot Schneiderman <elliott.schneiderman@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 3:55 PM

To: Idaho MMEIR <Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us>

Subject: Todd 2007 Report

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Hi Matt,

I just spoke with you by phone about the document:

Todd Engineers. (2007). Hydrogeologic Assessment Idaho-Maryland Mine, Prepared for Idaho-Maryland Mining Corporation Grass Valley, CA. Emeryville, California.



This document is referenced in the Rise Gold EIR and appendix k2 as the source of key hydraulic conductivity parameters used in the groundwater modeling and analyses. The derivation of these parameters are not provided in the EIR, and the groundwater modeling and associated analyses cannot be properly evaluated without knowing how these parameters were derived. The Todd 2007 report should be added to the EIR. Please let me know if, when and how this report will be made available.

Sincerely,

Elliot

elliott.schneiderman@gmail.com

518-653-2041



Critique of Groundwater Modeling and Analyses in Rise Gold Draft EIR

Elliot M. Schneiderman, PhD
Senior Research Scientist, New York City Water Supply, Retired
March 26, 2022

Rise Gold performed numerical groundwater modeling and analyzes based on an underlying conceptual model of groundwater flow in fractured bedrock (Appendix K2 Sect. 3.5). A critical assumption inherent in the conceptual model is that groundwater flow in the fractured rock aquifer can be treated as equivalent to flow in a porous media aquifer. In a porous-media aquifer groundwater flows through the gaps between small particles as laminar flow, and forms a hydrologic continuum whereby average values of aquifer properties can be used to accurately characterize the flow system. Darcy's Law (and models including MINEDW based on Darcy's Law) generally holds only for flow through porous media. As stated in the Appendix K3 (p22): *"The groundwater flow model [MINEDW] is only designed to simulate the groundwater flow through porous media based on Darcy's law"*.

Groundwater in a fractured rock aquifer typically flows through complex pathways in fractures surrounded by non-porous solid rock. The flow regime tends to be more heterogeneous, anisotropic, and discontinuous than in porous media. A good deal of research has focused on the specific conditions under which fractured rock can be treated as equivalent to a porous media. As pointed out in NRC (1996), three factors must be considered in determining whether an equivalent porous media approach is justified to evaluate groundwater flow in a fractured rock aquifer: (i) the geology of the fractured rock, (ii) the scale of interest and (iii) the purpose for which the model is being developed. Briefly, the number of fractures and their interconnections must be so numerous and interconnected throughout the area of interest such that flow in individual fractures averages out similarly to the behavior of porous media.

Since the groundwater flow regime in fractured rock is by nature discontinuous, it cannot simply be assumed to be equivalent to flow in porous media. The USGS (Risser and Barton 1995) and the USEPA (1991) provide procedures for determining if a fractured rock aquifer can be reasonably treated as equivalent to porous-media. These procedures include (i) evaluating fracture density by mapping, geophysical investigations, and borehole flow metering; (ii) aquifer testing to demonstrate continuity of hydrologic response over the area of interest; and (iii) evaluating the continuity and smoothness of the water level surface in observation wells, where anomalously high or low water levels could indicate hydraulic discontinuities, and in which case the equivalent porous-media approach is not appropriate.

The Rise Gold Draft EIR simply assumes that the fracture rock aquifer flow regime can be treated as equivalent to a porous media aquifer, with no justification provided for this critical assumption. Fracture density, interconnectivity and patterns within the area of interest have not been evaluated, and aquifer testing to demonstrate hydraulic continuity has not been performed. The Draft EIR does present water level data in observation wells within the mineral boundary of the mine and in outlying areas, but does not address the continuity of the water

Ind 232-2



Ind 232-3

level surface. Figure 1 below shows the depth to water in observation wells in the Greenhorn Area and Outlying Areas (from appendix K2 tables 4.3 and 4.4). These data reveal significant discontinuity and lack of smoothness of the water level surface in observation wells throughout the area of interest.

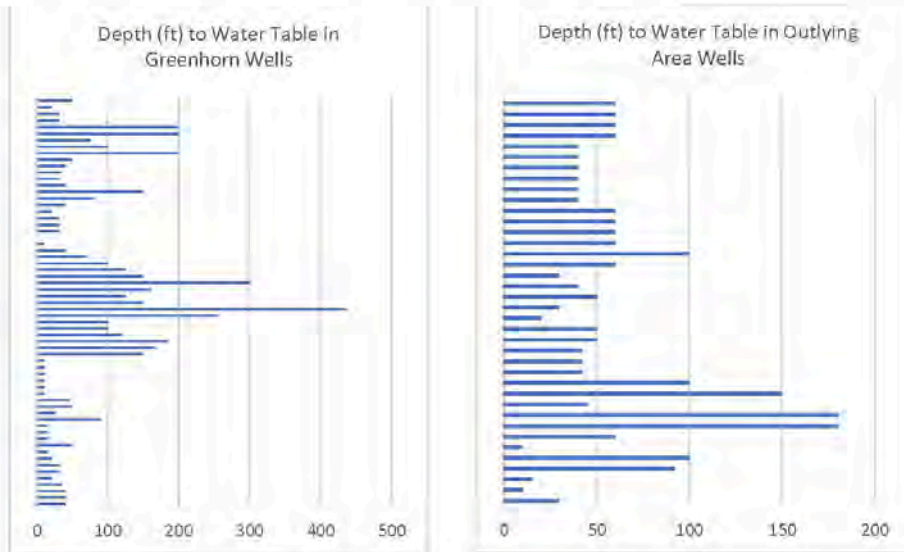


Figure 1: Depth (ft) to top of water column in Greenhorn Wells and Outlying Area Wells, displayed in order of Rise Well Id #'s (see Appendix K2 tables 4.3 and 4.4)

Todd (2007) analyzed well hydrograph data from 1994 – 2007. Their data analysis revealed significant hydrologic discontinuity in both depth to water and seasonal drawdown in adjacent observation wells. Average water levels in wells located within 800 ft of each other were found to vary by more than 100 feet, and seasonal drawdown patterns vary significantly (figure 2 below). These analyses clearly indicate a degree of hydrologic discontinuity that is incompatible with behavior of a porous-media aquifer, and shows that at the scale of the study area the equivalent porous-media assumption is not valid for this fractured rock aquifer.



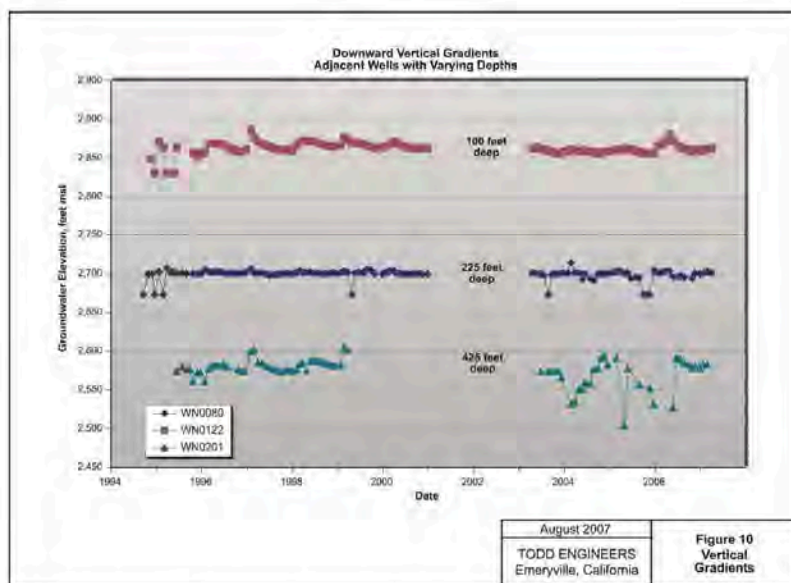


Figure 2: Hydrographs of adjacent observation wells (Todd 2007, figure 10)

The hydrologic discontinuities of the fractured rock aquifer revealed in the water level and hydrograph data for observation wells imply that the details of individual fracture sets (location, density, orientation, interconnections, aperture, and channeling properties of fractures) are important determinants of groundwater flow to individual wells. In the equivalent porous-media approach the details of individual fracture sets are ignored in favor of hydraulic coefficients that represent the volume-averaged behavior of many fractures within the fractured rock body. There are approaches to evaluating groundwater flow in fractured rock aquifers that account for the heterogeneity and discontinuities in the flow regime (Cook 2003, Risser and Barton 1995), including the discrete model approach where fracture properties and flow path geometry are explicitly characterized and accounted for; and the statistical model approach where fracture properties and geometry are measured on representative samples of bedrock and scaled up to generate plausible fracture maps of the study area which are then analyzed statistically. The Draft EIR does not consider either of these alternative approaches that might be applicable to the Rise Gold aquifer.

The lack of hydrologic continuity and failure to meet the critical assumption of porous-media equivalency essentially invalidates the results of the MINEDW modeling and associated analyses based on Darcy's Law, and thus call into question the validity of predicted drawdown isopleths based on the groundwater model (appendix K3); the groundwater monitoring plan (appendix K8) which locates wells based on the model predicted drawdown isopleths; the well mitigation plan (appendix K9) that identifies 30 individual wells that may be impacted based on model results;

Ind 232-4



the proposed mitigation measures (Draft EIR table 2.1, 4.8-2(a)) that include development of potentiometric surface contour maps based on the groundwater monitoring plan (a.3), and projecting impacts for individual wells (a.4); and the peer review by West Yost (Appendix K9) which is lacking in not addressing the critical assumption of porous media equivalency in the Rise Gold conceptual model of groundwater flow in fractured bedrock.

References:

- Cook PG (2003) A Guide to Regional Groundwater Flow in Fractured Rock Aquifers. CSIRO, Land and Water, Glen, SA, Australia. 108p.
- National Research Council (NRC) (1996) Rock Fractures and Fluid Flow: Contemporary Understanding and Applications. National Academy Press, Washington DC. 551p.
- Rise Gold Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Idaho Maryland Mine Project, SCH#2020070378, Prepared for County of Nevada, California by Raney Planning and Management, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 2021, 1070p. <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/3436/Idaho-Maryland-Mine-Draft-EIR>
- Rise Gold Draft EIR Appendix K2, Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, Nevada County, CA, prepared by EMCO Environmental, Inc. El Dorado Hills, CA, Feb. 2021, 775p.
- Rise Gold Draft EIR Appendix K3, Predictions of Groundwater Inflows to the Underground Mine Workings at the Idaho-Maryland Mine, Prepared by Itasco Denver Inc., Lakewood, CO, Nov. 2020, 96p.
- Rise Gold Draft EIR Appendix K7, Peer Review of Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis and Groundwater Model Reports for the Idaho Maryland Mine Project, Nevada County, CA, prepared by West Yost Water Engineering, Aug. 2020, 19p.
- Rise Gold Draft EIR Appendix K8, Groundwater Monitoring Plan Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, prepared by Itasco Denver Inc., Lakewood, CO., Feb 2021, 46p.
- Rise Gold Draft EIR Appendix K9, Well Mitigation Plan Idaho-Maryland Mine Project, prepared by Rise Grass Valley Inc, Feb. 2021, 5p.
- Risser, DW, and GJ Barton, GJ, 1995, A strategy for delineating the area of ground water contribution to wells completed in fractured bedrock aquifers in Pennsylvania: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 95-4033, 30p.
- Todd. 2007. Final report hydrogeologic assessment Idaho-Maryland Mine. Prepared by Todd Engineers for Idaho-Maryland Mining Corporation, August 2007, 102p.
- USEPA, 1991. Delineation of Wellhead Protection Areas in Fractured Rocks. EPA Report /570-9- 91/009, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, USEPA, 144p.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 232: ELLIOT SCHNEIDERMAN

Response to Comment Ind 232-1

This comment is a cover letter regarding the submission of Individual Letter 232. No response is required.

Response to Comment Ind 232-2

The commenter asserts that the model used by Itasca to analyze groundwater flow for the DEIR assumed a porous nature for the bedrock without any support for that assumption, and failed to consider three factors set forth in a National Research Council (NRC) report to determine whether such assumption was appropriate. However, the three items that the commenter referenced from the NRC (1996) document were considered by Itasca in the formulation of their conceptual and numerical models. The conceptual model used by Itasca, in simple concepts, assumes that the shallow bedrock is significantly fractured so that it behaves hydraulically like a porous media. Below the shallow, fractured bedrock is the intact bedrock whose fractures are closed due to the vertical stresses caused by the overlying bedrock. The intact bedrock also behaves as a porous media in that groundwater flow is primarily through the extremely small pores in the rock. Itasca assigned low hydraulic conductivities and storage coefficients to the intact bedrock in which mining will occur, but higher hydraulic conductivities to the fractured bedrock closer to the surface. These assumptions were not based on mere speculation, but on observations from historic groundwater data and local geology as discussed in Section 2.4 of Appendix K.3 to the DEIR.

Because of the large scale of the area considered by Itasca in their conceptual and numerical models, and observations of groundwater and geologic data, a porous media approach was followed. This was the most reasonable approach to take due to the scale of the model area and observed data. In addition, Itasca considered the purpose of the model, which is to estimate groundwater flow and drawdowns due to mining. This approach is acceptable, as noted by the NRC (1996), a reference used by the commenter. On page 310 of this book, the following is presented:

“The level of detail required in the conceptual model depends on the purpose for which the model is being developed—for example, whether it will be used to predict fluid flow or solute transport. Experience suggests that, for average volumetric flow behavior, predictions can be made with a relatively coarse conceptual model provided data are available to calibrate the simulation model. Thus, a continuum approximation may be used to predict well yields with sufficient accuracy, even if a fracture network is poorly connected.”

The continuum approximation mentioned in this paragraph, from the NRC report referenced by the commenter, is a porous media approximation. As such, the authority cited by the commenter (NRC) actually supports the approach taken for the DEIR’s analysis. The application of a continuum (porous media) approximation is applicable to mining projects in that it is used generally to estimate flows from the mine and drawdowns in water levels due to dewatering, a situation similar to predicting well yields as discussed by the NRC (1996).

A porous media approach is appropriate for the purpose of the model. It should be noted that the USEPA (1991) document has two case studies that involve numerical modeling to assess the extents of capture zones resulting from pumping wells. The purposes of the modeling were for wellhead protection, and this involves determining what portions of the aquifer contribute groundwater to a well, a situation that is similar to modeling drawdowns as the result of dewatering



from an underground mine. In both of the case studies discussed in the USEPA (1991) document, the numerical models assumed an equivalent porous media as their basis, similar to the DEIR's analysis. As such, the approach followed by Itasca is the same as that used by the USEPA.

Response to Comment Ind 232-3

The commenter provides Figure 1 to support its argument that the differences in depths to water are an indication that the shallow bedrock in which the wells are screened is highly heterogeneous and discontinuous. However, the data presentation can be misleading because it is based on the depth to groundwater. In areas with appreciable topographic variation, the depth to water can be simply a function of the ground-surface elevation and depth of the well and not necessarily indicative of substantial variations in the groundwater table. In addition, the data include a mix of the depth to first-encountered water during drilling and the depth to the static groundwater level once drilling was completed and the water level was allowed to equilibrate. The static depth to water is representative of the groundwater table at the well location. However, not all of the Well Completion Reports for the wells listed in Tables 4.3 and 4.4 of Appendix K.2 provided the static depth to water. Finally, as noted above, the depth to water measurements were made at the time each well was drilled. As noted in Appendix K.2, seasonal fluctuations in individual wells can vary by up to 30 feet, and in other areas can vary by up to 50 feet. These fluctuations are not reflected in the data from the Well Completion Reports because the wells were drilled at different times of the year. Notwithstanding the above limitations, the chart below shows the groundwater surface elevations for wells in which the static water level after drilling was reported in the Well Completion Reports. The groundwater surface elevation is within a band ranging from about 2,740 feet above mean sea level (ft amsl) to 2,855 ft amsl in all but three wells. This range is consistent with the variability that would occur due to the gradient of the groundwater table. While there is certainly some variability within the fractured bedrock, the extent and magnitude of that variability is limited and not as widespread as inferred by the commenter.

The above discussion shows the importance of obtaining the measured water levels from designated monitoring wells, which is required for the project as part of the groundwater monitoring plan. The measured water levels from the domestic wells and drill boreholes show that the variability in water levels is not necessarily due to heterogeneity but can be due to other factors. These factors include whether the water-level measurement was made before or after pumping the well and where the well is located in the groundwater flow system.

It should also be noted that there appear to be some plotting errors on the commenter's provided charts. For example, in the chart for the Greenhorn area wells, there are six wells in sequence where the commenter has plotted a depth to water of approximately 10 feet. Reviewing the data from Table 4-3 of Appendix K.2 reveals that there are not six wells total with a reported depth to water of 10 feet, let alone six in a row by Rise well number. Thus, the commenter's graphs do not accurately represent the data and do not substantiate the commenter's opinion.

The commenter uses Figure 2 to substantiate his opinion that a porous media approach is not valid for understanding groundwater flow in shallow bedrock. All three of these wells are located in the E. Bennett area nearby the Old Brunswick Mine shaft, which is dewatered (empty void) to an elevation of ~2,500 ft amsl. It must be noted that these wells are not adjacent, but up to 800 feet apart.

As noted on page 23 of the EMKO hydrology report, W19 (previously called WS122), W7 (previously called WS80), and WS201 are within the predicted 2019 drawdown cone created by the historical mining as denoted in Figure 5-3 of Itasca's groundwater flow model report (Itasca



2020). Well WS201 is drilled within feet of the Old Brunswick Shaft in the center of the predicted drawdown cone and experiences the greatest drawdown (water level in the well is ~90 feet above the water level in the mine). WS122 and WSS80 are at a similar position in the drawdown cone, but WS80 is located in the gully of an ephemeral creek, while WS122 is on a hillside. The formation of a drawdown cone, predicted by Itasca's groundwater flow model (Itasca 2020) and confirmed by the measured water levels in these three wells, substantiates that the model methodology (assuming a porous media approach) is a valid approach. .

The differences in water levels in wells does not by itself indicate whether the geologic materials behave as a fractured or a porous media. However, the fact that field-measured water levels match those predicted by the numerical groundwater flow model used by Itasca supports the assumption of using a porous media approach.

A porous media representation is an appropriate way to model a fractured bedrock system at the scale of this project. However, the DEIR acknowledges that without the implementation of a groundwater monitoring program and well mitigation plan, the project could result in a significant impact to groundwater supplies. A Groundwater Monitoring Plan (GMP) is required for the project under Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(a). As described on page 4.8-66 of the DEIR the measurements of water levels in the monitoring wells can be used to verify the groundwater drawdowns as dewatering progresses to provide sufficient time to predict adverse impacts to domestic wells before they occur so that appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented. As stated in Section 3.0 of the GMP, the dewatering of the existing mine workings, prior to the commencement of actual mining, is analogous to a largescale pumping test that is a common tool in the field of hydrogeology to assess how drawdowns in the water-bearing zones. Monitoring wells in closer proximity to the mine will generally experience drawdowns before wells farther away. The measurements of water levels in the monitoring wells can be used to verify the groundwater drawdowns as dewatering progresses to provide sufficient time to predict adverse impacts to domestic wells before they occur so that appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented. Please see Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 - Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

As noted in Master Response 15, the applicant has also provided a Domestic Well Monitoring Plan to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 232-4

This comment summarizes the commenter's prior arguments and has been addressed in the previous responses. Please see Responses to Comments Ind 232-1 and Ind 232-3.



Individual Letter 233

3/24/2022

225 S. Auburn Street
Grass Valley, CA
95945

950 Maidu Avenue, #170
Nevada City, CA
95959



Mr. Matt Kelley: Nevada County Planning Department,

Ind 233-1

Do you realize that Rise Gold plans to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine for **80 years**? That's almost an entire lifetime! Do you want your children and grandchildren to suffer through the noise and pollution of the mine for decades? The Idaho-Maryland Mine will, additionally, contaminate the precious air and water of our beautiful county. It will likely cause thousands of people to move away because of noise, traffic, pollution, and decreases in property values. Even the people out there who support the mine don't want their property values to go down! I believe that you should stop the mine because it would pollute the air, it would destroy our valuable water, and especially because it would ruin our quality of life.

Ind 233-2

Do you want to poison our air? According to MineWatch NC, "Grass Valley already gets an "F" for air quality today. The mine will only make it worse." Grass Valley most likely gets an F because of all the smoke during the summer. Can you imagine having smoke **and** a mine at the same time for 80 years? The mine would unearth, move, and crush hundreds of tons of rock. All that dust would go into the air and add to pollution. That could severely impact the lives of people in Nevada County with health problems like asthma and chronic lung disease. Mercury used in the mine for a variety of reasons can also become airborne. Inhaling mercury vapor can harm the nervous, digestive, and immune systems, kidneys, and liver. Mercury can even be fatal (World Health Organization). I can't imagine living in an area where I would have to deal with that but I will if the mine is reopened. "In addition, mine tailings, which may contain finely ground and even toxic waste, can become airborne..." (WMAN). That would also harm many people and could make many day-to-day activities impossible. I don't want my air to become contaminated.

Ind 233-3

Water is the most treasured resource in the world. It would only be wasted by the mine and its need for water. According to Environmental Risks of Mining, mines need a lot of water for extraction, processing, and waste disposal. Research also shows that Rise Gold plans to dump **3.6 million gallons** of water every day for 6 months and then **1.2 million gallons** after that for the better part of 80 years (MineWatch NC). All that wastewater depletes groundwater and pollutes nearby water sources. I feel sick thinking about what effects that much water will have on the Yuba River, Nevada County, and the state as a whole. The state has also been in a drought for years and that makes water even more valuable. American GeoSciences has shown that waste rock often contains pyrite. When pyrite is exposed to air or water, it goes through a process known as oxidation. That process is acidic and can make entire areas bare. If water gets into contact with pyrite-laden waste rock, the oxidation that results can acidify the water. All that from just the waste. According to MineWatch NC, the mine's effects on water would also put 300+ private wells at risk. I know many people with private wells, including myself, and the



- ↑
- Ind 233-4 results of so many people getting cut off from fresh water could be disastrous. Don't let Rise Gold poison our water.
- Ind 233-5 Have you thought about how the Idaho-Maryland Mine would affect our life? According to MineWatch NC, the mine would use up 12% of Nevada County's power, erasing all plans to curb climate change. All the effort that Nevada County has put into conserving energy would go down the drain. That seems like a waste to me. Some people might argue that opening the mine creates many more job opportunities. However, all those workers would have a high risk of getting sick. "National cancer statistics also have shown elevated death rates from cancer—particularly lung, bronchial, and trachea cancer..." (WMAN). Reopening the mine isn't worth it when so many innocent people are at risk. Constant traffic and noise from the mine will wreck our neighborhoods. Some people might say that the tax money from the gold would pay for that. That is incorrect. The mine would cause property values to go down by tens of millions (GoPetition). The trucks the mine would use would wear down the roads, forcing the county to repair them and lose yet more money. In the long run, Nevada County would, eventually, lose money. Save our neighborhoods from the mine.
- Ind 233-6 You should say no to the mine because it pollutes our air and water and destroys our well-being. Think about all the people out there with lung diseases. If the mine reopens, those people would be put at risk of getting badly sick. Do you want people to die because of you? I love Nevada County, but if Rise Gold restarts the mine, I will be forced to move. Are you willing to let hundreds of people move away just so you can get a little money? Your decision affects every single person in this community. Thousands of people look to you to make the right decision. Say no to Rise Gold and save our community!
- Ind 233-7

Sincerely,

Elsa Burt

Elsa Burt



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 233: ELSA BURT

Response to Comment Ind 233-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 233-2

Potential impacts related to dust generation are discussed in Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy of the DEIR. In addition, please see Master Response 12 – Chemical Dust Stabilizers and Master Response 20 – Conservatism of Metals Assumptions. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 233-3

Potential impacts related to water quality and groundwater depletion are discussed in Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR. In addition, please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change and Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 221-1 regarding oxidation and acidification.

Response to Comment Ind 233-4

Please see Master Response 25 – Nevada County Energy Action Plan. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the impacts of the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible, nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 233-5

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Ind 233-6

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 2. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Ind 233-7

Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 234

From: Emilie Rose <emilie@fatandthemoon.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 11:57 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: ATTN Matt Kelley

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Matt Kelley and team,

I am writing to you in STRONG opposition to the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine, as I'm sure many of my community members are today.

Our community does NOT want or need Idaho Maryland mine to reopen, this would be extremely detrimental and disastrous, as you well know.

Have some humanity, please listen to us, we want to talk, not to fight.

I urge you to take a deep look at what you are doing. Be a human.

Emilie
Creative Cultivation + Marketing

Fat and the Moon
fatandthemoon.com

Ind 234-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 234: EMILIE ROSE

Response to Comment Ind 234-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 235

From: Weissman, Emily <Eweissman@nff.org>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: Benito Santos
Subject: Comments to Idaho Maryland Mine Environmental Impact Report

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Dear Mr. Kelley,

Ind 235-1

I am writing to raise my concerns about the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine and draft EIR. Please note that I had attended the County meeting about the environment impacts of the mine, but had to leave in the afternoon and missed my spot (#102) to speak.

My husband and I live at 12300 Allison Ranch Road, which is along Wolf Creek and across from the mine treatment ponds. The EIR outlines so many concerns that will impact myself and my neighbors and community. Here are two concerns which I believe the EIR does not address:

Ind 235-2

- 1) I am very concerned about the huge amount of additional treated water that will now flow through Wolf Creek and the treatment ponds on Allison Ranch Road. In reading the EIR, I believe there wasn't sufficient study done on the potential impact to our properties along Wolf Creek if the water treatment system and treatment ponds were to fail due to the heavy volume. Also, I believe there wasn't sufficient study done on whether Wolf Creek can accommodate this heavy volume for the next 80 years. I am worried that if the treatment system and treatment pond were to fail, which can occur sometimes, that those of us living along the creek could have heavy metal contamination in our soil and water.

Ind 235-3

Page. 674 of the EIR states that the "proposed project's construction and operations involve multiple activities that could result in adverse effects on water quality, including but not limited to the discharge of mine water containing iron and manganese, discharge of construction area dewatering water". The report outlines ways to minimize potential water quality impacts, but still says that "the impact is considered significant for the purposes of this analysis and mitigation"

Ind 235-4

- 2) I believe the EIR should address the very significant impact to property values of our homes, not just homes in the Idaho-Maryland area, but also homes along Wolf Creek. Those of us along Wolf Creek will need to disclose the existence of mining activities next to our houses and this will impact the price of our homes, should we move at some point in the next 80 years or after.

Ind 235-5

My neighbors and community and I are being asked to accept this project which will have significant negative impact on our daily lives, our livelihood, our home values, and potentially our health. I ask you to please consider the community ahead of Rise Gold.

Thank you very much and appreciate the feedback process.

Regards,



Emily Weissman
12300 Allison Ranch Road

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INDIVIDUAL LETTER 235: EMILY WEISSMAN

Response to Comment Ind 235-1

This comment is introductory and the commenter has concerns about the project. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 235-2

The commenter is concerned about the discharge of treated water to South Fork Wolf Creek and the treatment ponds on Allison Ranch Road. The commenter also states the DEIR is inadequate in regard to the potential failure of the Brunswick site treatment pond and whether the South Fork Wolf Creek can tolerate the additional flows from the project. Regarding the treatment ponds near the commenter's residence, the project does not propose to discharge water to the treatment ponds on Allison Ranch Road.

Regarding the risk of overflow or the treatment pond failing, at the maximum mine dewatering rate of 2,500 gpm, the pond has the capacity to hold the volume of water that would be dewatered during two days of pumping. At the maintenance dewatering rate of 850 gpm, the pond has the capacity to hold the volume of water that would be pumped over more than six days. The total runoff from the 6.4-acre watershed for the pond resulting from a 100-year, 24-hour storm would be approximately 5.7 acre-feet. Thus, as stated on page 4.8-74, the freeboard volume is more than adequate to retain the runoff from an extreme storm event.

The geotechnical stability of the water treatment pond was evaluated in Chapter 3.6 of the DEIR. Mitigation Measure 4.6-3(b) requires the applicant to submit a grading plan, cross sections, and a slope stability analysis of proposed the clay-lined pond dam repair work, for review and approval of the Nevada County Building Department. The submittal shall be prepared and stamped by a licensed geotechnical engineer. The grading plan and cross sections shall depict typical temporary cut slope gradients, excavation depths, maximum water surface elevation, and earthwork volume estimates, and any additional geotechnical engineering methods, such as shoring, to mitigate potential slope instability.

Regarding the water treatment plant and the additional flows to South Fork Wolf Creek, the commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 and Appendix K.4 of the DEIR and Master Response 35 - Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 235-3

The commenter references Impact 4.8-1 and points out that the DEIR states the impact of referenced activities would be significant. (DEIR, p. 4.8-51.) However, below that conclusion, the DEIR provides Mitigation Measures for Impact 4.8-1, which would reduce the referenced impacts to less than significant. (DEIR, pp. 52-53.)

Response to Comment Ind 235-4

The commenter states the DEIR should address the potentially adverse impact to property values. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 235-5

The commenter's opposition to the proposed project is noted for the decisionmakers. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.



Individual Letter 236

From: [Eric Dunn](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIB](#)
Subject: Rise Gold Mine Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:24:35 AM

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Ind 236-1

District 1 homeowner and full time employee at a local business. We need to learn from the past and stop this mine from moving forward. Any short term gains of wealth be it gold, jobs, taxes, or anything else can be worth the long term detrimental effects of this project. Look no further than Ben Mossman's history of cutting and running in Canada and leaving the local community to deal with the environmental and financial fallout. Do not be so bold as to think that somehow the outcome here will be any different. We don't need more gold. We need clean water. Over 800,000 visit the Yuba each year. This is but a small example of where the true value our community now holds - it's in the nature we are surrounded by. Let's not ruin it.

Sincerely,

--

Eric Dunn
(530) 913-3164
ebdunn@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 236: ERIC DUNN

Response to Comment Ind 236-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 through 3. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 237

Date: April 3, 2022

To: Mr. Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

From: Eric Jorgensen, 11065 Peaceful Valley Road, Nevada City

Re: Idaho Maryland Mine DEIR Public Comment

Ind 237-1

Hello. I'm a resident of Nevada County and a retired Academic Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension. In retirement, my activities include founding of the Greater Champion Neighborhood Association, service as a Fire Safe Council Defensible Space Advisor; and most recently, a member of the Nevada County Energy Action Plan citizen committee.

I'm currently opposed to Mine's development as the Mine proposal and County DEIR response fail to adequately address energy consumption, greenhouse gases, and toxic emissions in both plan and mitigation.

Idaho Maryland Mine (Mine) DEIR: 4.3-1 Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases Emissions, and Energy

"4.3-9 Result in the inefficient or wasteful use of energy or conflict with a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency." "LC" (Less than Significant).

The Nevada County Energy Action Plan (EAP) "provides an analysis of the energy use within the unincorporated county limits by the community and County operated facilities as well as a roadmap for accelerating energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy efforts already underway in Nevada County. It is designed to assist the County in implementing the energy and water-energy related goals and policies in the County's General Plan and Housing Element, and inform the community of cost-effective programs and best practices that will help them save energy and money." The EAP was accepted 5-0 by the Board of Supervisors on February 12th, 2019.

Ind 237-2

EAPs were also adopted by Grass Valley and Nevada City as part of a State-wide EAP planning process structured to achieve each entity's fair share of the statewide reduction goal established by California Senate Bill (SB) 32, which requires a statewide reduction of 40 percent below 1990 GHG emissions by 2030.

The DEIR selects education options within the County's EAP to arrive at "LC". In doing so the DEIR ignores the 3 primary goals and the State's 40% GHG reduction goal. EAP goals are to:

- 1) "Improve Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Facilities, and County Operations"
- 2) "Expand the Utilization of Renewable Energy and Resilience Measures" and
- 3) "Encourage the Efficient and Safe Transportation and Use of Water Resources".

Further the Executive Summary "found that the community - including residential, non-residential, county, and public agencies - consumed 344,045,975 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity and 2,943,632 therms of natural gas in 2017. This is a decrease of 2% in electricity use and a decrease of 14% in natural gas use from the 2005 baseline of 349,789,663 kWh and 3,433,874 therms." County operated public lighting energy consumption dropped 11%. Non-residential and non-government electric consumption (industry, manufacturing) dropped 11%. Consumption dropped in all categories but "waste water" energy consumption, which increased 79% and largely offset overall County gains. The Mine proposes to double electric energy consumption for non-residential, industrial - manufacturing uses in the County. How does this energy increase offset GHG emissions?



↑ The **Energy Action Plan** is addressed in the Draft DEIR, but largely dismissed by examination of educational actions, residential solar, etc., rather than examining the intent expressed in the EAP's goals. DEIR Table 4.3-22 Project Consistency with Nevada County Energy Action Plan Energy Reduction. Measures "Encourage energy storage and grid optimization infrastructure projects that support local renewable energy systems and community resilience." This analysis is dismissed as not applicable saying this "Pertains to energy storage and grid optimization infrastructure projects." This dismissal is amplified by "Not applicable to the project because the project consists of mining activity and industrial type development." The EAP goals and delineation of electrical consumption for industry are clear. A doubling of County industrial and business electric energy consumption by the Mine certainly pertains to grid optimization infrastructure projects and County EAP goals. In mitigation measures, the issue of energy backup storage and grid (energy production and delivery) is addressed by carbon credits and diesel backup systems for storage. Alternative solutions are largely ignored.

Impact: "4.3-1 Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan." Level "S", after "LS". 4.3-8 Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs" LCC)Less than Cumulatively Significant), "4.3-9 Result in the inefficient or wasteful use of energy or conflict with a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency." "LC" (Less than Significant). Together these impacts are cumulatively significant as pertains to the County's EAP. There are significant energy alternatives, which are not proposed nor analyzed.

Ind 237-3

- 1) A Mine Electric Energy Plan. Require Mine to address consumption and storage backup requirements for development and operation in electrical mechanical operational terms with elimination of diesel. Include in plan electric green energy production requirements or mitigation of GHG in electric production as current plan doubles all current non-residential industrial electrical consumption in the County. A plan would address all energy production and storage components. The planning goal of zero net energy is becoming a standard widely addressed in climate planning by banks, corporations, cities and states. Why not the Idaho Maryland Mine?
- 2) Transport Energy. All above ground and in mine hauling and excavation equipment (trucks, loaders, etc.) be required to be electric. Examples: <https://www.epiroc.com/en-us/products/loaders-and-trucks/electric-trucks>. The equipment is available and in use. Why not require it in this 80 year project? It will certainly be used inside the mine. Why not on the surface for hauling?
- 3) Backup Energy. Utilizing stationary diesel generators is recognized as a huge source of GHG emissions. Power generation solutions such as Fuel Cell power products (example: <https://www.ballard.com/backup-power-systems>) or commercial Battery Power backup systems, (example: <https://www.backupbatterypower.com>), are compatible and available. Big investments in the wrong products (i.e. diesel trucks and diesel generators) with a mine life of 80 years runs contrary to County's Energy Action Plan and available backup alternatives.
- 4) Electric Energy Production. In California, approximately 1/3 of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are generated from electricity production. Carbon trading is not sufficient to address this issue when proposing to double Nevada County's non-residential electrical consumption. The Mine should develop local solar and wind offsets to mitigate this enormous increase in electrical consumption. Afterall, a mine full of gold can pay for 21st Century climate energy requirements.



- 5) Grandfather Clauses. The Mine operation of 80 years and construction preparation over the next decade should not be grandfathered into current law, but rather required to meet rapidly changing GHG energy standards. A project of this size and impact should not grandfather in diesel trucks or generators for the life of this equipment. A Mine zero net energy plan would address this.

The County DEIR response to energy consumption, hydrocarbons, and toxic greenhouse gas release is short term in response, dismissive of the County EAP, and uses yesterday's standards for a world requiring rapidly changing standards to address climate impacts and community threat. Please protect Nevada County citizen.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 237: ERIC JORGENSEN

Response to Comment Ind 237-1

This is an introductory comment. The commenter expresses opposition to the project and states generally that the DEIR fails to address energy consumption, greenhouse gases and toxic emissions, but does not point to specific examples in the DEIR. With regard to the commenter's opposition to the project, please see Master Response 1 - Non-EIR/Administrative issues.

Response to Comment Ind 237-2

As stated on page 4.3-89 of the DEIR, The Energy Action Plan (EAP) is not a Qualified GHG Emissions Reduction Plan under CEQA pursuant to the requirements outlined in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15183.5(D); therefore, no CEQA document can tier from the County EAP. Nevertheless, the compliance of the project with EAP strategies has been analyzed and found to be consistent with the EAP. Please see Master Response 26 - Nevada County Energy Action Plan. Batteries are not necessary for the project as they would not avoid or lessen a significant project impact.

Response to Comment Ind 237-3

The commenter asserts that the project's air quality impacts, GHG impacts, and energy use impacts are significant. The commenter then proposes several "energy alternatives" including a net-zero mine electric energy plan, use of all electric vehicles below and above ground, backup energy solutions such as fuel cells and battery power, and onsite electric energy production. All underground equipment and mineral processing will be powered by electricity. The commenter's proposed energy alternatives are not necessary because they would not reduce any significant impact of the project. Please see Master Response 26 - Nevada County Energy Action Plan.



Individual Letter 238

From: Ericha Liberty Woolley <erichaliberty@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:45 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: personal comment & request on the mine

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Ind 238-1 I grew up living in auburn, often coming up to visit grass valley & nevada city to enjoy the beautiful forest, the lively sweet rivers and streams. After graduating highschool in 2017, a big part of my journey has been to explore other places, communities, cultures along the west coast. In my travels, I have found that I am repeatedly drawn back to this special culture, feeling a strong inspiration to return again and again to this precious land. It's the living beauty of this land & the free thinking, creative & vibrant culture that I find to be so attractive & invite a sense of home. When I heard about the resurrection of this mine, I felt sad to imagine the environmental impacts that the mine would have on the land, water and wildlife.

Ind 238-2 I'm concerned that the proposal, if accepted and put into action, would impact the health of the water including the wells in the area. To honor integrity, it is necessary that the FEIR analyzes all the waterways including wells potentially impacted by the project. The impact analysis on wells in the DEIR is inadequate & underestimates impacts. There also needs to be clarification of the true impact on the local ecology. The discussion of water quality impacts related to loss of wetland vegetation on DEIR page 5-7 is not accurate because potential loss of cover vegetation due to road widening required near the creek is not looked at or mentioned. We need to honor that mitigation should include a 100 foot centerline of creek setback from the construction zone on the road.

Ind 238-3 I would love to see a higher level of integrity & empathy demonstrated through honoring the honest environmental impacts the mine would have, and choosing to not go through with this proposal. With all the efforts and energy that has been going into proposing the rise of the mine, I imagine that if all of that power was to be redirected and invested into regenerative solutions for more sustainable living within this local area, we would reap much better fruits. For example, investing in more money to encourage existing & new local organic farms, introducing more evolved educational strategies within the schools here that include social emotional learning, supporting the youth with fresh locally grown wholesome nutrition, etc. There are so many more important places to be investing time, energy, attention, and resources into that would greatly impact the wellbeing of future generations in an immensely positive way. We need to invest resources into projects that truly consider the mental, emotional, and relational health of the community, along with sustainable, restorative ecological practices and regenerative solutions.
Sincerely, Ericha Liberty Woolley erichaliberty@gmail.com 530 557 5949



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 238: ERICHA WOOLLEY

Response to Comment Ind 238-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 238-2

The comment expresses a general opinion that the impact analysis on wells in the DEIR is inadequate and underestimates impacts, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response. Please refer to Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR for information related to impacts on waterways and wells in the area. See also Master Responses 13 through 15 that further clarify groundwater concerns. Impacts to local ecology are discussed in Chapter 4.4, Biological Resources, of the DEIR. Specifically, Impact 4.4-3 addresses whether the proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community, or State or Federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means, and concluded that with implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.4-3(a) through 4.4-3(d) impacts would be less than significant.

The commenter's reference to page 5-7 is unclear. The commenter is referred to page 4.4-15 of the DEIR, where roadside drainages are discussed along East Bennett Road, and one 0.09-acre roadside wetland along East Bennett Road is identified. As shown in Table 4.4-10 of the DEIR, the roadside wetland will not be impacted by the proposed project improvements.

Response to Comment Ind 238-3

The comment does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Nonetheless, the commenter's concerns have been noted for the record and forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 239

Dr. Erika Gaylor
11548 Alta Vista Ave
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Email: erikag!@gmail.com

April 3, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Kelly:

I am a 10-year Nevada County resident who lives near the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine project. I own my home in the Alta Street area of downtown Grass Valley and have an 8 year old who attends public school in Grass Valley. I also have family that live near the San Juan Ridge Mine opened by Siskon Mining in 1994 and have seen first-hand the negative impacts of mining on the health and safety of workers, the landscape and environment, and finally the quality and quantity of well water, including the local public school's (Grizzly Hill) well which failed due to mining.

Ind 239-1

Based on my review of the letter that Minewatch/CEA wrote in response to the DEIR, I have the following significant concerns about the proposed Idaho-Maryland mine project:

(1) Re-opening and operating the Mine will have detrimental impacts on the quality of life for local citizens and the ability of the county to continue to grow economically into a desirable community to raise the next generation. It is estimated that these negative impacts will continue for at least the next 80 years and most likely accumulate over time.

Ind 239-2

(2) The DEIR is not a thorough and comprehensive report; thus, it should not be considered definitive.

Ind 239-3

(3) Many community members moved here because of the proximity to nature and outdoor recreation and the corresponding small-town feel and quiet solitude in which to enjoy nature. The report underestimates the impact of the reopening on noise, traffic, air, etc.

Ind 239-4

(4) As a Grass Valley town local, I'm concerned about the impact of reopening the mine on asbestos exposure in the community (in particular, near the mine but also transported to and from the mine), contaminants from the mining of heavy metals, and very importantly, the unknown impact of mining on water quantity and quality. Again, what many people in our community have experienced is acute and long-term negative impacts from mining and this report does not adequately address these real and perceived (but unknown) concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Erika Gaylor, Ph.D., Education Researcher, Nevada County Resident



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 239: ERIKA GAYLOR

Response to Comment Ind 239-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 239-2

The comment expresses a general opinion that the DEIR is not a thorough and comprehensive report, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response. Where a comment provides the opinion, preference, or observation of the commenter, without substantiation, this is acknowledged for the record, and no further response is provided. All comments, whether substantiated by facts or simply reflecting the position of the commenter, will be considered by the County throughout the process.

Response to Comment Ind 239-3

The comment does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 239-4

Please refer to Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for more information related to air pollution. Further information regarding the assumptions used when conducting the Health Risk Assessment for the proposed project is included in Master Responses 20 through 22, including asbestos and metals. In addition, please refer to Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR for information related to impacts on water quality and quantity. Master Responses 13 through 15 provide further clarification on wells and groundwater. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 240

Dist 1

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Nevada County Supervisors;

Businesses, homeowners, and conservationists in Nevada County are joining together to protect our neighborhoods, our local economy, and our quality of life from the Rise Gold proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We, urge the Board of Supervisors to reject this destructive proposal and instead protect our community.

We face new environmental challenges and this project seems to be a step in the wrong direction. Our duty is to protect our land and natural resources and not exploit them to their limit. As a mother I urge you to think about what world we want for our next generations and encourage you to look at our past and at the past of this Rise Gold. This is not what we want for our community.

In gratitude for your service,

 2/16/2022

Erika Johnson
17072 Pine Peak Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Ind 240-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 240: ERIKA JOHNSON

Response to Comment Ind 240-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



From: Erika Neeley <erikajoneeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: My comment for Idaho Maryland Mine

Individual Letter 241

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Hello,

My name is Erika Neeley and I am a Nevada City resident. I wanted to make sure that I voiced my opinion about the possibility of this mine opening up. I STRONGLY disagree with the idea of a mine reopening in our city, and county. I still see the devastating impacts from previous mines in the area. The polluted waters, the desert like landscaping where they used water for mining, the trash that's been left behind. I know that it will bring down the value of our homes, and bring down the value of life for our local wildlife and environment.

The releasing of toxic chemicals from mining polluting our air, we don't need anything else to bring down the quality of our air and water. The DEIR has not done enough to discuss impacts to water quality, they also need to do more to analyze how this will impact our wells, and what they plan to do to mitigate damage. Rise Gold is a new company that has never opened a mine, and never made a profit. How can we trust them to do it 'right' here? Are you willing to let our beautiful city and county be a test ground for their mining? They want to put a toxic hardrock mining plant in the middle of a residential community that goes 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, for 80 years. Imagine all the things that could go wrong- the impact on that community- the people, the land, the wildlife.

DO NOT open this mine!!! The cons WAY OUT WEIGH the pros of this.

Thank you for listening to the concerns of the people here.

Erika Neeley

Ind 241-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 241: ERIKA NEELEY

Response to Comment Ind 241-1

Please see Master Responses 1 through 3. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.



Individual Letter 242

From: Erin Carter <eecartiere@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:26 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Mine

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Please no mine reopening!

Erin Carter
12670 Arbor Lane
Grass valley

"Love your crooked neighbor with all your crooked heart."

- W.H. Auden

Ind 242-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 242: ERIN CARTER

Response to Comment Ind 242-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 243

From: Erin Smith <erinsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: DEIRcomments@cea-nc.org
Subject: NO to the mine reopening

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Ind 243-1

I am a resident of Nevada county and very concerned about the potential impacts of allowing rise gold to reopen the mine. From everything that I have read it seems like the negative impacts to our community would dramatically outweigh any possible financial benefits, and in the end would only line the pockets of rise gold while our community is left with long term environmental degradation.

Ind 243-2

The fact that this company already has a history of putting profit first and leaving environmental ruin in their wake should be red flag enough!

NO to the mine reopening!

Sincerely,
Erin Smith



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 243: ERIN SMITH

Response to Comment Ind 243-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Ind 243-2

Please see Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 244

Dist 3

RECEIVED

MAR 03 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA. 95959
March 1, 2022

Dear Supervisors Hall, Scofield, Miller, Hoek, and Bullock

I am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corporation. I have listened to and researched the arguments from Rise Gold Mine. They continue to talk about how it will benefit our community, but shy away from the possible negative impacts a project of this size could/will have on our County.

Starting in 2021, as I drive around our local communities, I see very large building projects. Homes and apartments under construction on Ridge Road, Alta Street, Old Tunnel Road, at the intersections of Ridge Road and Gold Flat, and the monster project at Dorsey and Sutton Way. These projects were approved by you, so you have deemed them valuable and necessary for the improvement of the Nevada County citizens. You have considered the traffic, and water needs for these projects.

Now you are asked to put these projects and our current homes and business at risk of not having enough water because the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project is going to need more water than is being realized. It is also hard to imagine that the mine is going to produce the number of jobs that Rise Gold is calming. I encourage you to vote against this project and protect the community and citizens of Nevada County.

Sincerely,



Eugene E. Gilligan
334 S. School Street Apt A
Grass Valley, CA. 95945
geegill116@yahoo.com

Ind 244-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 244: EUGENE GILLIGAN

Response to Comment Ind 244-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 245

Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA. 95959
March 1, 2022

Dear Commissioners Milman, Duncan, Ingram, Mastrodonato, and Greeno
I am opposed to the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold Corporation. I have listened to and researched the arguments from Rise Gold Mine. They continue to talk about how it will benefit our community, but shy away from the possible negative impacts a project of this size could/will have on our County.

Starting in 2021, as I drive around our local communities, I see very large building projects. Homes and apartments under construction on Ridge Road, Alta Street, Old Tunnel Road, at the intersections of Ridge Road and Gold Flat, and the monster project at Dorsey and Sutton Way. These projects were approved by you, so you have deemed them valuable and necessary for the improvement of the Nevada County citizens. You have considered the traffic, and water needs for these projects.

Now you are asked to put these projects and our current homes and business at risk of not having enough water because the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project is going to need more water than is being realized. It is also hard to imagine that the mine is going to produce the number of jobs that Rise Gold is calming. I encourage you to vote against this project and protect the community and citizens of Nevada County.

Sincerely,



Eugene E. Gilligan
334 S. School Street Apt A
Grass Valley, CA. 95945
geegill116@yahoo.com



Ind 245-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 245: EUGENE GILLIGAN

Response to Comment Ind 245-1

See Response to Comment Ind 244-1.



From: Eva Saelens <incaore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: NO MINE!

Individual Letter 246

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To whom it may concern,
I am a homeowner in Grass Valley in the You Bet area. My husband grew up in Colfax but we relocated to Grass Valley from Oakland two years ago.

We are extremely concerned with the environmental impact of the proposed gold mine. We are passionate about healing and honoring the beautiful ecosystem we call home. The impact of fires and drought are a tremendous stressor on this ecosystem, and it stands to get worse, according to scientists. The environmental report does not properly take these stressors into account. Fires and drought could very well be much worse than are currently projected.

We simply cannot risk this project in a delicate, rapidly changing region.

We must protect these lands. Please don't choose gold over the appropriate conservation behaviors that this cherished and troubled landscape deserves. Every living thing deserves better than this pathetic scheme.

Thank you
Eva Saelens

Sent from my iPhone

Ind 246-1



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 246: EVA SAELENS

Response to Comment Ind 246-1

Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, as well as Master Response 16 – Drought & Climate Change, and Master Response 6 – Wildfire Impacts. The commenter expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.



Individual Letter 247

From: [Eva Saelens](#)
To: [hobosupervisors](#)
Subject: Passionate NO on the gold mine
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:01:47 AM

Dist 1

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Ind 247-1

Dear Nevada County Supervisors,
Our family is asking that you strongly reject the Rise Gold proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine. We urge the Board of Supervisors to reject this destructive proposal and instead protect our community.

We are a family who recently relocated to the area from the Bay Area but my husband is from Weimar and went to Colfax High. We came back to this area because we are passionate about the ecosystem and consider the natural beauty of the foothills to be our greatest wealth. We feel a spiritual commitment to the healing of this land after gold mining's dirty and cruel legacy. We feel that we have a responsibility to make it right and to take indigenous responsibility into consideration when in relationship to this land.

This gold mine is a nightmare and continues the legacy of pain that this region still suffers from. We don't need this mine. We don't need the many problems that will spring from it. Please don't make the horrible mistake of falling for Rise Gold's song and dance. This is a supremely divine place and we must fight the instincts of those who want to exploit it.

Thank you
Eva Saelens
Wild Life Lane 95945

Sent from my iPhone



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 247: EVA SAELENS

Response to Comment Ind 247-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 248

Evelyn Soltero, MS
20405 Farrell Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946
residentialwells@gmail.com
April 4, 2022

Sue Hoek, District 4
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us

Nevada County Planning Department
Idaho.mmeir@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Idaho Maryland Mine EIR Commentary

Dear Sue Hoek and Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

Ind 248-1

I oppose the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine for myriad reasons- a lack of professionalism on behalf of Rise Gold, the sheer absurdity of removing millions of gallons of groundwater in a mega drought (LA Times February 2021; Nature Climate Change, February 2021), the claim that the mine water is "immune" from the drought, and the resulting catastrophic erosion events from the discharge of 850gpm into South Wolf Creek potentially mobilizing mercury into the greater Wolf Creek Watershed.

Also at risk is the available groundwater below the town of Grass Valley, CA. According to California's State Water Board,

Ind 248-2

Groundwater pumping can locally exceed recharge from rainfall, percolation through streams, and other sources. Excessive groundwater pumping can overdraft aquifers, emptying them faster than natural systems can replenish them. Overdraft can result in wells going dry,... depletion of surface water supplies, and cause the land to collapse (i.e., subsidence).

Ensuring sustainable management of groundwater's quality and quantity is essential for meeting California's future water supply needs. Climate change and the threat of prolonged drought highlights the need for improving groundwater recharge and storage in some groundwater basins, and protecting or restoring groundwater quality and quantity throughout the state.

The close connections between groundwater and surface water in land use, human activity, water quality, and water suppliers must be coordinated and communicated to promote wise, balanced, and sustainable use of California's groundwater resources.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/groundwater/gw_basics.html



- ↑ Thus, I find the current Draft EIR scientifically unsound. In addition to my concerns above, please address these issues:
- Ind 248-3** 1.Nevada Irrigation District treated water supply to dewatered residences:
a)*Address the discrepancy between Nevada County’s requirement for the Certificate of Occupancy, where the
“well can produce at least 3.0 gallons per minute sustained production rate. The well ordinance will grant approval for the Certificate of Occupancy for well production as low at 1.5 gallons per minute with a required minimum 1000 gallon holding tank” (mynevadacounty.com) and Nevada County Irrigation District provided a use factor of 0.4 gallons per minute (gpm)/dwelling unit. This use factor was provided by e-mail from Tonia Herrera, Nevada Irrigation District, July 22, 2020.
b)A maximum of 31 dwelling units to be connected to the District pipeline, if dewatered or experiencing non-potable water.
*What are the provisions for dewatered domestic wells above and beyond the suggested maximum of 31?
*How were the 31 dwelling units determined
*How were the hydrogeologic factors, unique to these 31 well settings, used to determine the spatial and temporal variances in these 31 wells?
*How was specific rock type and relative storativity and transmissivity applied?
*How was the resulting cone of depression interpreted?
- Ind 248-4** c)Average depth of Nevada County wells approximates 400ft.
*Since dewatering and drilling will take place within this zone, explain how it was determined that only 31 wells would be dewatered?
*Address why more wells both within the Rise Gold operational footprint and outside the mining property boundaries would not be affected.
- Ind 248-5** 2.Dewatering millions of gallons of groundwater from below the town of Grass Valley, CA.
a)Address the inability to fully assess available groundwater in fractured rock.
b)Address the nature of recharge to fractured rocks in mega drought settings. (LA Times February 2021; Nature Climate Change, February 2021)
- Ind 248-6** c)Address the stresses on groundwater and surface water connectivity when under creating rapid draw down of millions of gallons of groundwater per day in the first 6 months, and then the approximate one million gallons of groundwater removal per day thereafter.
- Ind 248-7** d)How did the dewatering assessment address the potential for a region-wide dewatering based on an active cone of depression from daily withdraw of millions of gallons of groundwater for 80 years?
- Ind 248-8** e)Explain why the millions of gallons of groundwater removed from the mine “should be immune from drought years”, according to the Raney Planning and Management Idaho Maryland Mine Water Supply Assessment Dec 2021, pg. 23.



- 3.Causative Results from dewatering millions of gallons of groundwater from below the town of Grass Valley, CA.
- Ind 248-9 a)Address the removal of millions of gallons of groundwater as it relates to California State Water Boards' directive to protect available groundwater resources:
"Ensuring sustainable management of groundwater's quality and quantity is essential for meeting California's future water supply needs. Climate change and the threat of prolonged drought highlights the need for improving groundwater recharge and storage in some groundwater basins, and protecting or restoring groundwater quality and quantity throughout the state. The close connections between groundwater and surface water in land use, human activity, water quality, and water suppliers must be coordinated and communicated to promote wise, balanced, and sustainable use of California's groundwater resources."
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/groundwater/gw_basics.html)
 - Ind 248-10 b)Address the potential for mobilizing mercury and increasing erosion when discharging 850gpm into South Wolf Creek.
 - Ind 248-11 c)Address the potential for an increase in fire risk due to decline in forest health as result of dewatering millions of gallons of water from below the town of Grass Valley, CA.
 - Ind 248-12 d)Address the potential for increased seismicity in our county due to rapid extraction of millions of gallons of groundwater (Amos et al, 2014, doi:10.1038/nature13275)
 - Ind 248-13 e)Address the potential for subsidence of residences and roadways due to rapid extraction of millions of gallons of groundwater. (Amos et al, 2014, doi:10.1038/nature13275)

Thank you for your time and consideration on these important factors.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Soltero

Evelyn Soltero
residentialwells@gmail.com
530.210.9508



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 248: EVELYN SOLTERO

Response to Comment Ind 248-1

The commenter opposes the project, asserts that Rise Gold lacks professionalism, and opposes dewatering the mine in a “mega drought”. Further, the commenter states that it disagrees that the mine is “immune” from the drought and asserts that the project will result in catastrophic erosion events from the discharge of 850gpm into South Fork Wolf Creek, potentially mobilizing mercury. With regard to the commenter’s opposition to the project, please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. Contrary to the commenter’s statement, the DEIR states that based on the water level monitoring data from private domestic wells (presented in Appendix B of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR), the amount of recharge appears to be consistent from year to year and is not substantially affected by drought or wet cycles (Chapter 4.8 at page 4.8-12) and that there are no apparent annual variations in groundwater levels due to drought or above-normal rainfall years (Chapter 4.8 at page 4.8-11).

In addition, the commenter does not provide any data or evidence to support the assertions that dewatering the mine and discharging treated water to South Fork Wolf Creek would cause “catastrophic” erosion or mobilize mercury. The geomorphology study presented in Appendix K.1 of the DEIR demonstrates that peak storm flows that exceed the discharge rate to South Fork Wolf Creek are normal events and have not caused excessive erosion. Laboratory analytical data presented in Appendix K.2 of the DEIR do not provide any evidence of the presence of mercury in the materials to be mined or within the South Fork Wolf Creek watershed in the project area. Please see Master Response 36 – Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek, and Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 248-2

The potential effects of groundwater pumping are addressed in detail in Appendix K.2 and Appendix K.3 of the DEIR and in Section 4.8.4 of the DEIR. California Department of Water Resources’ planning requirements related to sustainable groundwater management are identified as part of the Regulatory Context in Section 4.8.3 of the DEIR.

The commenter does not provide any specific data or evidence related to the risk to groundwater below the town of Grass Valley, CA, as stated in this comment. In particular, there is no evidence available to support the assertion that the project would cause “overdraft” of local groundwater supplies. Regardless, the DEIR concludes that there may be a potentially significant impact on the water supply in individual wells and provides mitigation requirements to address such impacts if they occur. (see Mitigation Measures 4.8-2(a) through 4.8-2(c).)

Response to Comment Ind 248-3

The certificate of occupancy requirements and NID’s use factor are parts of unrelated regulatory requirements that apply to different water supply sources. The commenter’s questions about these requirements do not relate to the adequacy of the DEIR.

The commenter asks how the number of parcels to be connected to NID service was determined, and what would occur if additional domestic wells were impacted. The number of hookups to NID water service in the E. Bennett area is shown to be 30, not 31, in the evaluation of Impact 4.8-2 in the DEIR. The number of initial connections is based on the number of parcels in that area, as shown on Figure 1 and in Table 1 of the Well Mitigation Plan, which is Appendix K.9 of the DEIR. Mitigation Measures 4.8-2(a) and 4.8-2(b) describe the procedures to be followed to determine whether additional wells become impacted and the actions that must be taken to mitigate those impacts, if they occur. Please also see Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater



Monitoring Wells, for an updated description of the proposed monitoring approach, which now also includes a proposal by the applicant to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

The commenter also asks questions regarding the hydrogeologic factors used to determine the zone of dewatering impact. The hydrogeologic factors used in the analysis are described in Appendix K.2 and Appendix K.3 of the DEIR. These studies provide substantial evidence on dewatering impacts, and the impact analysis in the DEIR relies upon these studies and the independent, third-party peer review described in Section 4.8.4 of the DEIR, at pages 4.8-40 to 4.8-41.

Response to Comment Ind 248-4

The commenter states that the average depth of Nevada County wells is approximately 400 ft, and then asks why only 31 wells will be impacted. The number of wells that are expected to be impacted was based on a groundwater model (see Appendix K.3 of the DEIR), and a threshold of 10%, such that a reduction in water column in a groundwater well of 10% or more was considered to be a significant impact (see Section 4.2 of Appendix K.2). Only 7 wells were found to have a significant impact based on the 10% threshold as applied to the dewatering drawdown calculated by the groundwater model. The DEIR requires mitigation, including connecting 30 parcels to NID potable water supply, even though only 7 wells were predicted to be potentially impacted. In response to commenter's questions, more wells are not expected to be impacted because the groundwater model did not predict a reduction in water level over 10% for those wells. The actual depths of the wells considered in the evaluations that support the DEIR are shown in Tables 4-1 through 4-4 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR. The well locations are shown on Sheet 12 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR and Figure 2-6 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR.

Potential dewatering effects in the operation and perimeter areas are discussed in Appendix K.2 and Appendix K.3 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 248-5

The commenter asks the County to address the assessment of available groundwater in fractured rock and address the nature of recharge to fractured rock in drought settings. Fractured bedrock conditions are discussed in Section 4.8.1 of the DEIR (at page 4.8-8), in Appendix K.2 of the DEIR throughout Section 3.3, and in Section 2.0 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR.

Recharge of the fractured bedrock is discussed in Section 3.3 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR. Water level hydrographs from numerous wells in the project vicinity show that the amount of recharge each year is relatively constant since almost all of the wells maintain a consistent magnitude of seasonal fluctuation from year to year and there are no long-term trends observed in most of the wells that can be correlated to variations in annual water-year rainfall.

Response to Comment Ind 248-6

The commenter asks about the impacts of the project's proposed dewatering on groundwater and surface water connectivity. Section 5.3 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR and Section 4.1 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR discuss project effects on surface water, including effects related to lowering of groundwater levels. It is important to note that any reduction in surface water flows in the South Fork Wolf Creek watershed would be more than offset by the discharge of treated water. Flow reductions would also occur in Wolf Creek because the drains would no longer discharge while the mine workings were dewatered. As described in Section 4.3 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR, the



loss of drain flow to Wolf Creek would be in the range of 0.13 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 0.16 cfs, while the base flow in Wolf Creek ranges from 10 cfs to 50 cfs. Thus, the reduction in flows in Wolf Creek would be de minimis.

Response to Comment Ind 248-7

The commenter asks how the DEIR assessed the potential for a region-wide dewatering based on the cone of depression caused by the project. The assessment's approach to evaluating a potential region-wide drawdown cone is described in Section 4.2.2 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR and in Sections 4.3 through 4.5 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR. To evaluate a region-wide potential drawdown cone, the bulk fractured bedrock was assumed to be isotropic and homogeneous on a very large scale, consistent with a region-wide analysis. For more localized conditions related to individual wells, a somewhat different approach and set of assumptions were used, as described in Section 4.2 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 248-8

The commenter states that it disagrees that the mine is "immune" from the drought. As described in Section 3.3.2.2 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR, the water levels in the private domestic wells have seasonal fluctuations that may range from 10 feet to 50 feet between wet and dry times of the year but remain relatively consistent from year to year within each individual well. During the monitoring period, several years with below normal rainfall occurred (2001, 2004, and 2007), multiple years with above normal rainfall occurred (1995-1998 and 2006), and several years of near-normal rainfall occurred (1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005). Despite large variations in annual rainfall from year to year, the seasonal water level cycles in individual wells remain consistent over time and the overall water levels shown on the hydrographs for each well do not fluctuate based on wet or dry climatic cycles. Based on the lack of changes in the individual well hydrographs between wet and dry climatic cycles, the amount of recharge, as described in Section 3.2, appears to be consistent from year to year and is not affected substantially by drought or wet cycles. The referenced statement is made on page 2 and page 18 of the Raney Water Supply Assessment, which is Appendix N of the DEIR, not page 23 as stated in the comment. Please also see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 248-9

California Department of Water Resources' planning requirements related to sustainable groundwater management are identified as part of the Regulatory Context in Section 4.8.3 of the DEIR. The potential effects of groundwater pumping are addressed in detail in Appendix K.2 and Appendix K.3 of the DEIR and in Section 4.8.4 of the DEIR.

Please also see Response to Comment Ind 248-2.

Response to Comment Ind 248-10

The commenter asks about the potential for mobilizing mercury in South Fork Wolf Creek. The geomorphology study presented in Appendix K.1 of the DEIR demonstrates that peak storm flows that exceed the discharge rate to South Fork Wolf Creek are normal events and have not caused excessive erosion. Laboratory analytical data presented in Appendix K.2 of the DEIR do not provide any evidence of the presence of mercury in the materials to be mined or within the South Fork Wolf Creek watershed in the project area. Please see Master Response 36 - Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek. As the project is not expected to cause significant erosion impacts and there is no evidence of mercury in the watershed or project area, there is no potential for impacts related to mobilization of mercury.

Please also see Response to Comment Ind 248-1.



Response to Comment Ind 248-11

Please see Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation. As stated on page 4.13-21 of the DEIR, it can be reasonably concluded that the dewatering of the mine would not affect the available moisture for vegetation in the project area because the depth to groundwater is already below the typical rooting depths in higher topographic areas, while adequate flows would occur in South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek to maintain groundwater levels in the lower topographic areas. The dewatering would not, therefore, increase fire risk due to reduced groundwater levels.

Response to Comment Ind 248-12

The reference cited in this comment (Amos et al., 2014, DOI:10.1038/nature13275 – abstract available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24828048/>) specifically relates to alluvial aquifers within the Central Valley of California. Please see Response to Comment Grp 8-51 regarding the expected rate of drop in water levels in the mine.

Response to Comment Ind 248-13

The reference cited in this comment (Amos et al., 2014, DOI:10.1038/nature13275 – abstract available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24828048/>) specifically relates to alluvial aquifers within the Central Valley of California. The California Department of Water Resources has specifically identified the potential for subsidence due to groundwater extraction to be related to irreversible compaction and consolidation of sedimentary clay layers between alluvial aquifer units within sedimentary groundwater basins (California's Groundwater, Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118, January 1994, pages 118-119, and Bulletin 118 2020 Update, page 5-20, available at https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/calgw_update2020/resource/d2b45d3c-52c0-45ba-b92a-fb3c90c1d4be). Such conditions do not apply to the bedrock conditions in the project vicinity. In fact, the reference cited in this comment concludes that the reduction in mass within the land surface due to groundwater extraction has actually resulted in uplift, not subsidence, in the Sierra Nevada bedrock surrounding the Central Valley.



Individual Letter 249



P-5 P31 104*****ECRLOT**B001
Fernando Garcia Rojo
PO Box 47
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924-0047

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THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE: A PROUD HISTORY

The Idaho-Maryland Mine was one of the most productive and best-known gold mines in the United States, producing approximately 2.4 million ounces between 1866 and 1955. The mine closed in 1956 as the fixed price of gold at \$35 per oz made the mining of American gold unprofitable.

Rise Grass Valley will reinstate mining and will do so with a focus on green-friendly practices and minimizing the impacts to neighbors. The project will use modern, clean, state-of-the-art mining equipment and proven techniques to produce "green gold." The result is a project

that has no significant impacts to water, air quality, and the natural environment or from noise or vibrations during operations.

When in full operation, Rise Grass Valley's Idaho-Maryland Mine project will create hundreds of good-paying jobs and realize broad economic benefits for Nevada County.

Ind 249-1



Please fill out and send back to us your support for the Idaho-Maryland Mine

WE OPPOSE
support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) FERNANDO G ROJO - Nancy Rojo
Address PO BOX 47 ZIP 95924
Phone 530 274 7336
Email Address nancytrojo@gmail.com

Need more details on our plan to re-open the Idaho Maryland Mine? Want to join our team? Please visit RiseGrassValley.com/contact and sign up.



DEIR CONFIRMS: Mine will NOT drain local wells, will not cause water quality or air quality impacts.

ALL LIES!



Concerns about mining impacts to local wells, water and air quality have been put to rest by the county's independent Environmental Impact Report. The Draft EIR confirms that the wells will NOT be adversely impacted outside of the E. Bennett area above the mine. Rise Grass Valley will install a new NID potable waterline to the E. Bennett area - paid in full by RGV. In addition, studies released in the Draft EIR confirm no significant impact to water quality, air quality, public health or traffic.

LIES

YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL

Tell the Board of Supervisors that you support Rise Grass Valley's re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Please fill out and return the attached postcard today!

1 Detach the support card on the right and fill out the reverse side.

We'll use these cards later to show the Board of Supervisors the strong support throughout the community for re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

2 Visit RiseGrassValley.Com for complete project details. Use our "Take Action" tool to send a message directly to the County Board of Supervisors through our website.



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 28 GRASS VALLEY, CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

RISE GRASS VALLEY INC
PO BOX 271
GRASS VALLEY CA 95945-9801



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 249: FERNANDO AND NANCY ROJO

Response to Comment Ind 249-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 250

From: [Florence Jacquet](#)
To: [hcbosupervisors](#)
Subject: No Mine
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 2:48:33 PM

Dist 1

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are not expecting this email or don't recognize the sender, consider deleting.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

Hi,

Ind 250-1

My name is Florence Themelis, I live in Forest Knolls, Nevada city. I oppose the reopening of the mine as digging will happen directly under my neighborhood. Why are we considering the reopening of a mine under a town full of people? It's just pure madness. We live in a beautiful community and the mine will destroy it.

We're talking a mine operating 24hrs/a day, 7 days a week for 100 years! No more peace during the day, no more sleep at night. I worked very hard to pay for my home, and my property value will plummet if the mine reopens.

We keep experiencing very serious droughts, it keeps getting worse, we're told to save water year after year. Somehow the reopening of the mine which will waste billions and trillions of gallons of water is considered?? We can live without gold, not water!

Ind 250-2

We're extremely lucky to have beautiful swimmable rivers. We moved here because of it. We can't let the mine pollute our creeks and rivers.

The destruction the mine reopening will do can NEVER be undone.

Please say NO to the reopening of the mine.

Thank you.

Florence THEMELIS.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 250: FLORENCE THEMEMPLIS

Response to Comment Ind 250-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Ind 250-2

Please refer to Chapter 4.8, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the DEIR for information related to impacts on water usage and water quality. Please also see Master Responses 13 through 16 regarding groundwater and Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. The comment expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.



Individual Letter 251

Ind 251-1	<p>Idaho Maryland Mine</p> <p>If the mine were to reopen we would lose basic qualities of life that we have been accustomed to living here in the Nevada City area.</p> <p>Areas of Concern: NOISE WATER AIR</p>
Ind 251-2	<p>Back in the early/mid 80's there was an effort to reopen the Lava Cap mine. The mining company had a crew out to our home on Banner to measure the depth of our well. They said basically "that there are 16 different reasons for a well to go dry and only one of them is mining. So, you prove it". We lucked out; the mine reopening was voted down. Will we be so lucky again?</p>
Ind 251-3	<p>QUALITY OF LIFE: All of this is going to affect tourism. Having mining vehicles and miners on the streets. Additional traffic on the roads and highways. I have heard that we have been called the jewel of the Sierra. I think with the mining we would lose that distinction.</p> <p>Frank Gould 207 Upper Park Ave Nevada City CA 95959</p>



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 251: FRANK GOULD

Response to Comment Ind 251-1

The comment expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 251-2

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Ind 251-3

The comment does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 1 and 2. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 252

LAW OFFICE OF FRANK LAWRENCE

Frank Lawrence
Tel. (530) 478-0703
frank@franklawrence.com

Zehava Zevit, Of Counsel
Tel. (323) 287-5772
zehava@franklawrence.com

April 4, 2022

Nevada County Planning Department
Attention Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Via Email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us; idaho.mmeir@co.nevada.ca.us

Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, Idaho-Maryland Mine Project

Dear Nevada County Planning Department:

Ind 252-1

I am a 23-year resident of Nevada County, and hereby respectfully submit these comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) for the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine (“Project” or “Mine”). The DEIR is deficient in countless ways. The DEIR’s analysis of the Project’s impacts on water quality and quantity – particularly in the midst of the worst drought in this area in 1200 years, *see* <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-022-01290-z> and <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/04/opinion/environment/california-drought-wildfires.html> -- is woefully inadequate. The same is true for the impacts on air quality and public health, environmental hazards and hazardous materials, waste management, seismic hazards, greenhouse gas emissions, biological and aquatic resources, aesthetics, traffic, and noise pollution, among many other issues. The DEIR’s proposed mitigation measures for all these impacts are wholly inadequate. The DEIR’s overwhelming deficits have been documented by others in extensive comments, specifically including those of the Community Environmental Advocates, which I incorporate by this reference as if fully set forth herein.

Ind 252-2

As a lawyer with more than 30 years of experience representing Indian tribes in California, I will focus my comments on the DEIR’s insufficiency with respect to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe (“Tribe”). The Project proponent and the County’s environmental consultant failed entirely to consult with the Tribe. The Tribe recently was added to the California Native American Heritage Commission’s Tribal Consultation List and is therefore entitled to meaningful consultation as a matter of State law, including SB 18, AB 52, and provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). *See, e.g.,* Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 21074, 21080-21084; Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, *Technical Advisory: AB 52 and Tribal Cultural Resources in CEQA* (June 2017) (available at <https://www.google.com/search?q=CEQA+consultation+requirements&client=firefox-b-1->

www.franklawrence.com

578 Sutton Way | No. 246 | Grass Valley, CA 95945



d&channel=tus5&ei=0EFLYpWFHdqgkPIpM2c-AM&ved=0ahUKEwiVrf2njfv2AhVaEEQIHQmBz8Q4dUDCA0&uact=5&oq=CEQA+consultation+requirements&gs_lcp=Cgdn3Mtd2l6EAM6BAgAEEEdKBAhBGABKBhGGABQ-QVYkQxgrQ9oAHACeACAAVqIAawBkgEBMpgBAKABAcgBCMABAQ&sclient=gws-wiz). The DEIR recites that its authors sought to contact the Tribe, but that half-hearted, feeble effort fails to meet CEQA's requirements, policies, or purposes requiring *meaningful* consultation. Indeed, the DEIR's Ethnographic Overview *fails to even acknowledge the present-day existence of the Tribe and its members*. See DEIR p. 4.5-2. In fact, the Nisenan people have existed here since time immemorial, and this century has seen a revitalization of the Tribe's governmental and cultural activities. See <https://www.nevadacityrancheria.org/>.

The Legislature provided in Assembly Bill 52 that:

"In recognition of California Native American tribal sovereignty and the unique relationship of California local governments and public agencies with California Native American tribal governments, and respecting the interests and roles of project proponents, it is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this act, to accomplish all of the following: (1) Recognize that California Native American prehistoric, *historic*, archaeological, cultural, and sacred places are *essential elements in tribal cultural traditions, heritages, and identities*. (2) Establish a new category of resources in the California Environmental Quality Act called "tribal cultural resources" that considers the *tribal cultural values* in addition to the scientific and archaeological values when determining impacts and mitigation. (3) Establish examples of mitigation measures for tribal cultural resources that uphold the *existing mitigation preference for historical and archaeological resources of preservation in place*, if feasible. (4) Recognize that California Native American tribes may have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices, which concern the tribal cultural resources with which they are traditionally and culturally affiliated. Because the California Environmental Quality Act calls for a sufficient degree of analysis, *tribal knowledge about the land and tribal cultural resources at issue should be included in environmental assessments for projects* that may have a significant impact on those resources. (5) In recognition of their governmental status, establish a *meaningful consultation* process between California Native American tribal governments and lead agencies, respecting the interests and roles of all California Native American tribes and project proponents, and the level of required confidentiality concerning tribal cultural resources, at the earliest possible point in the California Environmental Quality Act environmental review process, so that tribal cultural resources can be identified, and culturally appropriate mitigation and mitigation monitoring programs can be considered by the decision making body of the lead agency. (6) Recognize the *unique history of California Native American tribes* and uphold existing rights of all California Native American tribes to participate in, and contribute their knowledge to, the environmental review process pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with § 21000) of the Public Resources Code). (7) Ensure that local and *tribal governments*, public agencies, and project proponents *have information available, early in the California Environmental Quality Act environmental review process, for purposes of identifying and addressing potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources* and to reduce the potential for



	<p>delay and conflicts in the environmental review process. (8) Enable California Native American tribes to manage and accept conveyances of, and act as caretakers of, tribal cultural resources. (9) Establish that a substantial <i>adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment.</i>"</p>
Ind 252-3	<p>AB 52, § 1 (Gatto, 2014) (emphasis added). Nevertheless, <i>without any Tribal consultation whatsoever</i>, the DEIR simply concludes that "Tribal Cultural Resources were not identified for the project site." DEIR p. 4.5-11.</p> <p>The utter lack of Tribal consultation also fails to meet the promises the County made to the Tribe in Resolution No. 20-533 "recognizing the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe's historical, cultural and continued significance to Nevada County and California" <i>Id.</i> In that Resolution, the County recognized that gold mining here led to "the displacement of the Tribe and its members." <i>Id.</i> The County also acknowledged the "Tribe's continuous existence as an indigenous tribe in Nevada County, and further recognizes the Tribe's historical, cultural and continued significance to Nevada County and California." The County also "supports <i>future collaboration and agreement between the County and the Tribe</i> that strengthen each of their governments, for their mutual benefit and to <i>ensure that local land use impacts on tribal and county governments, including their citizenry, services, lands, and infrastructure, are maintained and mitigated for the benefit of all.</i>" <i>Id.</i> (emphasis added).</p>
Ind 252-4	<p>The DEIR fails entirely to assess the Mine's impacts -- historical, present, and future -- on the Tribe, its members, its ancestral lands, and its cultural resources. It fails to assess the theft of Tribal water resources and ancestral lands, the loss of hunting and gathering grounds, and impacts on Tribal cultural resources caused by the Mine and that will be perpetuated by the Mine's proposed re-opening. Moreover, the DEIR fails to assess the Mine's impacts in causing and perpetuating the genocide against the Tribe and its members, as well as the related impacts of the proposed Mine re-opening, including the badges and incidents of the genocide and its lingering intergenerational trauma. There are no mitigation measures proposed to compensate the Tribe for the genocide and its continuing impacts on the Tribe, its members, its lands, and its cultural resources. Indeed, as noted in the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, California's gold rush was in significant part responsible for the failure to ratify the California Indian treaties, including the Camp Union Treaty of 1851, to which the Tribe's ancestral leader was a signatory. See L. Miller, <i>The Secret Treaties with California Indians</i>, https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/prologue/2013/fall-winter/treaties.pdf ("in the wake of the gold rush, white Californians strongly objected to the treaties"). The Mine is responsible for the theft of the Tribe's ancestral lands, and the proposal to re-open it must include mitigation for that calamitous impact.</p>
Ind 252-5	<p>The DEIR lacks the information and analysis required to identify all the Mine's potentially significant impacts on the Tribe, its members, and its ancestral homelands, and its cultural resources. As noted by other commentors, the DEIR also lacks an accurate Project description, relies on an incomplete baseline for evaluating the Project's environmental impacts, lacks data and analyses needed to make informed determinations, underestimates or omits impacts and fails to provide effective and feasible mitigation measures.</p>



Ind 252-6

The DEIR fails to satisfy CEQA's requirements. It also fails to meet the County's obligations to the Tribe undertaken in Resolution No. 20-533. The Tribe has the right under State and County law to be fully and meaningfully consulted on the Project. The DEIR must at a minimum be revised accordingly and recirculated, with a full analysis of the Mine's impacts on the Tribe, its members, its ancestral lands, and its Tribal cultural resources. The revised DEIR must propose meaningful mitigation for the badges and incidents of the genocide, the theft of Tribal ancestral lands, the theft and destruction of Tribal natural and cultural resources, and the destruction of the Tribe's traditional way of life.

Sincerely,



Frank Lawrence, Esq.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 252: FRANK LAWRENCE

Response to Comment Ind 252-1

Commenter alleges the DEIR is deficient in “countless ways,” briefly lists multiple resource areas and generally states that the proposed mitigation measures are inadequate, citing comments of Community Environmental Advocates. The comment is introductory in nature and alleges no specific defects, requiring no specific response from the County. To the extent the commenter incorporates the comments from Community Environmental Advocates, the commenter is referred to the County’s responses to Group Letter 7 and Group Letter 8.

Response to Comment Ind 252-2

Please see Response to Comment Grp 14-2.

Response to Comment Ind 252-3

Please see Responses to Comments Grp 14-2 and Grp 14-3.

Response to Comment Ind 252-4

All cultural resources impacts are fully disclosed in Chapter 4.5 of the DEIR, which addresses known historic and archaeological resources in the project vicinity, as well as the potential for previously unknown resources to occur within the overall project site. (DEIR p. 4.5-1.) Additionally, the Nisenan Tribe is specifically cited in the Ethnographic Overview (DEIR p. 4.5-2) and Mitigation Measure 4.5-3 (DEIR p. 4.5-31) pertains to potential human remains. Importantly, the project does not propose taking any water or land owned by the Tribe or its members and the commenter does not provide any citation or evidence that the project would take either water or land owned by the Tribe or its members or that the Project Proponent’s property is currently a hunting or gathering ground for the Nisenan Tribe.

Finally, the commenter was not specific as to any allegation against the project or the Project Proponent of damage or harm to the Nisenan Tribe or its members. As required by Section 15121 of the CEQA Guidelines, the EIR will (a) inform public agency decisionmakers, and the public generally, of the significant environmental effects of the project, (b) identify possible ways to minimize the significant adverse environmental effects, and (c) describe reasonable and feasible project alternatives which reduce environmental effects. (DEIR p. 1-2.) In other words, CEQA is concerned with a project’s impact on the environment, and not “lingering intergenerational trauma” not associated with this project. Rather, the commenter cites to general allegations that the California gold rush, as opposed to the proposed project, was responsible for California not ratifying various treaties. The DEIR does, however, acknowledge that traditional lifeways were disrupted and Native people were displaced with the onset of the Gold Rush in the mid-nineteenth century. (DEIR 4.5-2.) Aside from the current project’s impacts to any cultural resources on the project site, the remainder of the cited issues are not environmental concerns recognized by CEQA. No further comment required.

Response to Comment Ind 252-5

Commenter states that the DEIR does not identify the project’s potentially significant impacts on the Tribe, its members, homelands and cultural resources. Commenter also alleges that the Project Description is not accurate and relies on an “incomplete baseline” and does not provide feasible mitigation measures.

The scope of an EIR is limited to a local agency’s evaluation of potentially significant environmental impacts of a project, which by definition are limited to physical conditions, rather



than social or economic conditions. (Pub. Res. Code § 21060.5; CEQA Guidelines § 15360.) The project's potential impacts to cultural resources is extensively detailed in Chapter 4.5 of the DEIR along with proposed mitigation. However, the comment is not specific regarding any undisclosed harm to cultural resources, or precisely how the DEIR's proposed mitigation measures fail to protect cultural resources. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 2 regarding Social and Economic Impacts.

Regarding the general allegation that the Project Description is inaccurate, the commenter is referred to Chapter 3 of the DEIR. There the DEIR provides a comprehensive description of the project in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines. (DEIR p. 3-1.) Other than the general allegation that the Project Description is inaccurate, the commenter does not point to any specific shortcoming of the Project Description, nor any missing information or changes that would make the Project Description more accurate.

For the comment's statement that the County relied on an incomplete baseline or lacks data sufficient to evaluate the project's environmental impacts, the County notes that the DEIR contains a complete description of the physical environment and all conditions in the vicinity of the project. As noted by CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a), "This environmental setting will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by which a lead agency determines whether an impact is significant." As the commenter does not cite any specific shortcoming of the DEIR's description of the physical environmental conditions, nor describe how the baseline is "incomplete," the County refers the commenter to the discussion of the baseline in the DEIR. (see DEIR pp. 1-3 through 1-7.)

On a similar note, the comment alleges that the DEIR "lacks data and analyses" needed to make informed determinations, underestimates or omits impacts and fails to provide effective and feasible mitigation measures. However, the commenter only makes this general allegation, and provides no examples or references to what data is lacking, what analyses remains unaddressed, which impacts are underestimated or omitted or what mitigation measure is ineffective. In addition to the commenter's failure to identify any specific problem with the DEIR, the commenter similarly does not posit any changes to mitigation measures nor propose new or additional measures that would remedy a perceived problem. Without specific criticisms of the DEIR that can be addressed or remedied, the County cannot be sure what changes the commenter wishes the DEIR to incorporate or how it fails to meet legal adequacy.

Response to Comment Ind 252-6

Regarding consultation requirements under CEQA and County Resolution No. 20-533, the commenter is referred to Responses to Comments Ind 252-3, Ind 252-4, and Ind 252-5 above.



Individual Letter 253

Dist 3

EACH SUPERVISOR RECORD

March 4, 2022

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MAR 07 2022

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Supervisors Heidi Hall, Ed Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan Hoeck, and Hardy Bullock,

Ind 253-1

I am a resident of Grass Valley and would like to join my voice to the chorus of local people who oppose the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. Allowing a ponderous extraction industry within the city of Grass Valley invites a multitude of risks to the health, stability, and sustainability of our community. The risks to health and environment are numerous and include damage from toxic mining dust, diesel exhaust, and toxic residues such as mercury, cyanide, and lead in our downstream ecosystems.

Ind 253-2

The prospect that more than 80 mitigations in the DEIR can be resolved is naive. Those living close to the mine will be forced to suffer the noise and congestion from 100 trips per day of trucks hauling waste rock and incur well water depletion or perhaps even loss of their wells. At their last meeting the NID board members expressed their concerns of this becoming a bigger problem than the DEIR presents and Rise Gold claims.

Ind 253-3

The risks are also financial. Residents near the mine will likely see a drop in the value of their homes, affecting the area's real estate market. Rise Gold is new to gold mining and therefore has no history of success. Rise Gold's CEO Ben Mossman has filed for bankruptcy in a past mining adventure. Should this happen again here the consequences could be disastrous. Who cleans up the waste left behind? Who pays costly legal fees to secure action? Demand for gold tends to be speculative, and there are indicators that gold may become less attractive to investors (The Economist, January 8, 2022, page 66). This does not bode well for the future of gold mining.

Ind 253-4

Furthermore, the mine will sap our electricity supply by using the equivalent of 12% of county consumption or an estimated 5,000 homes. Can our community afford to dispense such a valuable resource when facing an increasingly precarious energy future for decades hence?

Ind 253-5

And where will the mine's imported workers live? Housing in our community is already severely limited.

Ind 253-6

As you deliberate on whether to approve or deny the Rise Gold mine project, please consider this as not just a Grass Valley matter but as a county matter. Our town is a vital component of the county's financial well-being, one of its major hubs for the arts and culture, and a launch pad for people who come to explore the county's natural beauty. Help keep it so.



The risks are many and the benefits few. I urge you not to approve this dubious, multi-generational 80 year project. Current residents and their descendants will thank you.

Sincerely,



Fred Pohlmann
55 Rockwood Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
831-338-2488
pohlmannfred10@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 253: FRED POHLMAN

Response to Comment Ind 253-1

The comment does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 253-2

The comment expresses a general opinion that it is naïve to assume all mitigations within the DEIR can be resolved, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response. Please see Master Response 1, as well as Master Responses 14 and 15.

Response to Comment Ind 253-3

Please see Master Responses 2 and 3.

Response to Comment Ind 253-4

Please see Master Response 25.

Response to Comment Ind 253-5

Please see Chapter 4.9, Land Use and Population and Housing, of the DEIR regarding impacts related to housing future mine workers. As discussed on page 4.9-25, as of 2018, Nevada County has 53,745 total housing units with a 22.5 percent vacancy rate (12,098 vacant housing units). The unincorporated area of Nevada County has a total of 32,182 housing units with 4,645 vacant housing units (14.4 percent vacancy rate). Therefore, it is reasonably anticipated that the addition of 312 persons as a result of increased employment generated by the proposed project could be accommodated by existing housing stock in Nevada County.

Response to Comment Ind 253-6

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 254

G. Larry Engel
Engel Law, PC
P.O. Box 2307
Nevada City, CA. 95959
530-205-9253
Larry@engeladvice.com
www.engeladvice.com

March 30, 2022

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County, Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada County, CA. 95959-1423
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Objections to the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") SCH #2020070378 for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project dated December 2021 (the "Project") In Response to the County of Nevada (the "County") Community Development Department's Related Notice dated February 7, 2022 (the "County DEIR Notice").

Dear Matt:

I have enclosed my objection to the Draft Environmental Impact Report dated December 2021, in response to your County DEIR Notice. As one of the thousands of local community residents and voters living on Banner Mountain above or around the 2585-acre underground mine at issue, I look forward to meeting with you and your team to address various critical errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the DEIR. As I demonstrate in detail in my Objection, the disputed DEIR generally neglects our local concerns and often incorrectly treats the CEQA mine "project" as if it were just the Brunswick Industrial Site and 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road or (if the DEIR incorrectly permitted to split them) the Centennial Industrial Site. The reality is that many of the most serious mine impacts affect those of us living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. As the legal and political dispute processes persist until the 24/7/365 mining stops, hopefully long before its disputed 80-year proposed endgame, I suspect that we are among the objectors with the most enduring legal and political resistance to this DEIR and its mining plan. Since approval of the DEIR or the mine will also trigger significant law reform efforts by us affected locals, I would like to discuss such law reform efforts with you in order best to determine where we might find some common ground in our efforts to better regulate any such mine and reduce the problems stated in my and other objections.

Ind 254-1



Ind 254-1

The thousands of us such local residents and objectors above and around the 2585-acre underground mine who are at risk of such serious burdens, problems, and harms, often undisclosed or insufficiently addressed in the DEIR, dwarf those imagined new jobs for workers from who knows where. Also, the DEIR mine caused real estate value decreases would cost our area many good constructions jobs. My extensive, attached analysis demonstrates why locals like me decline to suffer this mine underneath us. It is not practical to even list those objections here, much less explain them, but my attached Objection often uses the words of the DEIR itself, as well as other proof, to expose many errors, omissions, and deficiencies. These concerns are about more than only the traditional CEQA environmental issues, such as regarding depletion of our groundwater by the mine dewatering and other traditional issues addressed by me and many other objectors. I also urge your attention to those additional problems in which I have some special expertise, such as my experienced opinions from 50 years of legal practice dealing with hundreds of failing, bankrupt, or abandoned mines and their failed or their overwhelmed insurance or surety companies. That experience suggests to me that you should study closely not just the disputed DEIR, but also the current SEC Forms 10K and 10Q on the Rise Gold Corp. website, since assurances in the DEIR about compliance, safety, and mitigation are meaningless if the miner lacks the working capital and resources to perform them timely. Saying something in a DEIR does not make it so, or feasible, or credible. If Rise cannot afford to accomplish even the insufficient DEIR safety, mitigation, and other work described in the DEIR, then the whole DEIR project is not feasible and cannot be feasible, credible, or approved.

Also, while financial consequences may be considered an indirect impact by the DEIR proponents, who ignore, understate, or otherwise fail satisfactorily to address such matters in the DEIR, opponents like me have reasonable cause for concern about such mine operations trashing our real estate values above and around the mine. These facts creating such a real estate value depression are not often revealed in the DEIR as required and are never adequately explained, even in the more obscure and surprising places where I found clues mentioned in the DEIR. Consider under these circumstances what a home seller living above or around the 2585-acre mine could say to a buyer about these issues, since we all regard the disputed DEIR as containing material errors, omissions, and deficiencies, and we still have no sufficient understanding of the unhappy realities we expect to be created underneath us if the DEIR mine were approved. In any event, such negative financial consequences explain another of many reasons why us locals' resistance will be so resolute and persistent.

The only practical solution for us locals to avoid the burdens, risks, and harms from this no net benefit DEIR mine is to defeat the DEIR and to stop the mine from reopening. If that sounds like hyperbole, like our disputes over the mine's depletion of our surface owner shared groundwater harming our already, climate change-stressed forest and plants above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, try this more scandalous example. As I demonstrate in the Objection from the DEIR's own words, this 2585-acre underground mine plans to shore up its 24/7/365 digging, tunneling, blasting, dewatering, and other mining activities for 80 years with toxic HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM (CR+6) in its cement paste. Except (perhaps) the DEIR proponents, who rarely mention the Cr+6 and never acknowledge any toxic controversy in the DEIR, everyone likely knows how a certain utility paid a giant settlement after hexavalent water pollution turned Hinkley, CA, into a ghost town with huge cemeteries from alleged CR+6



Ind 254-1

pollution of the groundwater, as illustrated in the famous reality-based, semi-horror movie *Erin Brockovich*. Whatever you may think about the science at issue with Cr+6, that danger is going to depress our real estate values and scare away people who reasonably fear this mine will turn our community into another Hinkley. Most residents (like me) will be more trusting of scores of relevant EPA reports, studies, and data on its toxic substances' website, as well as the European Union's announced ban on hexavalent chromium, than on anything this DEIR now has to say about this previously unanalyzed risk.

Why has the disputed DEIR failed to warn us even about the existence of such risk and controversy, much less evaluate the science damning Cr+6? Even if that risk were somehow contained, which would first require that risk to be revealed and fairly addressed in DEIR, imagine trying to explain this risk to a prospective home buyer (or, if you're a brave buyer, your lender, or its appraiser), when your house is above or around the 2585-acre underground mine held together by hexavalent chromium cement added daily 24/7/365 for 80 years. Note, this dangerous CR+6 is not yet in the mine as far as we know, so this miner will be fully accountable for its addition to the mine. But any governmental authority approving this DEIR or mine will also be responsible since my Objection and others now give fair warnings.

Since I and others demonstrate in objections why we believe there is no net benefit to the mine, especially in our suburban (not rural, as the DEIR claims) community, the decision to reject the DEIR and mine should be easy. As you compare the disputed DEIR and my Objection rebuttals, please consider at least three other common deficiencies, errors, and omissions that my Objection demonstrates in this fatally flawed or worse DEIR and its mine pitch:

First, whenever the DEIR addresses a controversial issue (eg, like its incorrect and unsubstantiated assumptions about our future groundwater recharge rate), the DEIR incorrectly assumes that one can judge the next 80 years [although the DEIR stops its occasional attempts at analysis by 2040] of 24/7/365 mining based on the nonpredictive past, ignoring the "new normal" of climate change causing unprecedented, chronic dryness, drought, and other environmental problems. (eg, The DEIR projects groundwater recharge based on the average annual rain between 1967 and 2017, which is not predictive of our future groundwater recharge at issue, especially since the dewatering from our **shared local** groundwater is being disposed of downriver somewhere else in the Wolf Creek).

Second, the disputed DEIR claims that any analysis of its mining beyond the next 20 years [or sometimes 15 years or cutting off at 2040, depending on the topic] is "speculation," so that the DEIR incorrectly claims that CEQA allows it to avoid discussion of any burdens, risks, or problems in the last 60 years of its mining (or after 2040) until it closes the mine. How can any responsible government blindly permit that kind of "leap of faith" for an undesirable mine without any net benefit to the community managed in this kind of situation with such admitted financial challenges by its operator, especially as every quality scientist assures us that the next 80 years will become progressively worse and drier for our climate, our weather, and our quality of life? Who, besides this disputed DEIR's advocates, will dare put our community at such unknown risk for the last 60 years [or after 2040] based on the incorrect and unsubstantiated DEIR assumption that such 60 years (or after 2040) must be the same as the next 20 years (or until 2040), which period data, in turn, is based on the climate change denying assumption that that next 20 years (or until 2040) will match the average rain between 1967 and 2017?



Ind 254-1

Third, even apart from demanding disputed DEIR approval without sufficient, reliable data, time and again my Objection reveals that the disputed DEIR incorrectly assumes, without sufficient proof or even realistic logic, that the past is predictive of our “new normal” future. It is not just the DEIR’s rebutted claim that the last 60-years after the next 20-years (of 80-years) must be the same as those first 20-years, but the disputed DEIR also contends that nothing will have changed between either (i) the closing and flooding of the mine in 1956 and now, or (ii) now and what happens underground as they mine in new and expanded places and deeper without knowing what conditions and substances they will encounter or what problems they will unleash on our community. Maybe the arsenic, asbestos, and other hazardous chemicals that were insufficiently addressed in the DEIR will get even worse in the new, expanded, and deeper mining, or maybe they’ll encounter and unearth new and worse threats. The point is that the DEIR allocates that risk of the unknown in such 24/7/365 mining for 80-years on us neighbors above and around this undesirable, no net benefit, 2585-acre underground mine. Those kinds of risk belong instead solely on the foreign controlled mine owner, whose profits will not stay in our community, and whose CEQA obligation is to address those and other errors, omission, and problems identified in my and other objections.

Because the March 24, 2022, hearing incorrectly excluded evidence that the DEIR and its miner is not economically feasible, I will also be submitting a CEQA brief to support my request for your reconsideration of that exclusion. Apart from the merits there are several additional considerations requiring such rebuttal evidence. First, the DEIR itself (at 6-14) admits that the mine is not likely feasible economically if its operation is limited to a 12-hour day, thus entitling us to explain from the SEC Form 10K and 10Q filings on the Rise Gold Corp website why that is an even bigger feasibility problem that the DEIR reveals. Second, the DEIR (at 4.3-103—104) adds a disputed, deficient, and incorrect “Non-CEQA Related Analysis” to which we must be able to object with our own rebuttal data that some incorrectly may consider outside CEQA boundaries. Third, I present legal authority that require good faith truth and reality in a DEIR that lacks them in certain cases addressed in my Objection for reasons that some seem to consider beyond the CEQA boundaries. Since many such rebuttals in my Objection expose the problems using the DEIR’s own often inconsistent or contrary words or those in Rise’s current SEC filings, that should be permitted legal impeachment to avoid allowing such incorrect data into the record.

While there is much more of concern to discuss, I urge you to read them in my Objection and others that I incorporate. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

// Larry Engel

G. Larry Engel



G. Larry Engel
Engel Law, PC
P.O. Box 2307
Nevada City, CA. 95959
530-205-9253
Larry@engeladvice.com
www.engeladvice.com

March 30, 2022

Objections to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) [SCH #20200070378] for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project dated December 2021 (the “Project”) In Response to the County of Nevada (the “County”) Community Development Department’s Related Notice dated February 7, 2022 (the “County DEIR Notice”)

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1. Statement Of My Interests And Why The County And Other Decisionmakers Should Accept My Objections And Reject the DEIR and The Mine, Including Some illustrative Opinions About the Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies In the DEIR.

A. I Am A Neighbor Personally Impacted By the 2585-Acre Underground Mine, As Well As A Voting Member of The Local Community That Will Suffer Mine Burdens, Risks, And Problems Either Ignored Or Deficiently Addressed In the DEIR.

I, G. Larry Engel, reside in my retirement house near and uphill from Idaho Maryland Road and Wolf Creek in a significantly populated, normal suburban environment. My Banner Mountain community is not the "rural" area that the disputed DEIR implies is expendable to its objectionable mining goals. My "Section 20" three-acre property could be on the surface above the **2585-acre underground mine** at issue in the core of this dispute but neglected in the DEIR analysis. However, I think that I am just nearby the mysterious surface boundary of that underground mine, although I will be in the "impact zone" for the depletion of my groundwater and other environmental harms, as well as in the "stigma zone" where proximity is sufficient to depress the value of my property and thousands like me in such relevant CEQA impact and stigma zones ignored in the disputed DEIR. We cannot be dismissed or mistreated, as the DEIR does, as if we were just a small "rural" group in the small area addressed by the DEIR around the Brunswick and Centennial sites or the 30 well owners along East Bennett Road. **The DEIR maps and the Rise public filings I've seen carefully obscure surface identifiable locations above and around that mine, and, as far as I can determine, Rise has failed to notify any of us property owners or users above or around those underground 2585-acres to be blasted, dewatered, and mined 24/7/365 for 80-years in accordance with a disputed and incorrect DEIR.**

As I demonstrate in this Objection, those of us in the impact and stigma zones are exposed to many negative mining impacts, risks, and burdens, especially as to our shared groundwater that the mining would pump away downriver somewhere else by the disputed DEIR dewatering plans. Neither I nor any of my thousands of neighbors should have to guess about the surface vs underground boundaries for the many conflicts and competitions to come if the DEIR and mine are mistakenly approved. (The best and still imprecise data readily available to me that I used in this Objection [see my # 2 below] comes from the Rise Gold Corp. current SEC Form 10K from its website, which interestingly provides better information than the DEIR on various mine and related issues; not because the 10K was required to do so, but rather because the related DEIR data was so insufficient.) Such omissions and lack of notice to surface residents are assumed by us to be a tactic to avoid provoking us until after the DEIR had some momentum to weather the coming storms, as such surface users realize the threats to themselves, their properties and trees (eg, besides environmental harms, especially to our groundwater, also the mine stigma that will harm our real estate values), and their community way of life for such a no net benefit mine. See, eg, my # 4. The decisionmakers considering this DEIR should not tolerate, much less reward, such tactics.

The disputed DEIR contains grossly deficient discussion of the many burdens, risks, and harms that would be suffered by thousands of us above or around that 2585-acre

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underground mine. My adverse risks and affects from the mine, particularly but not exclusively from the 2585-acre underground mine, would include many things addressed in my Objection that are ignored, understated, or inadequately addressed in the DEIR. Without limiting what is a long list of potential grievances, those include (i) depression of my real estate values for 80 years plus, (ii) depletion of my groundwater by dewatering that the mine sends it off downriver somewhere else with the unsubstantiated and false assurance by the DEIR that somehow, despite climate change future dryness and drought, the ground will somehow recharge, because that is what used to happen with average rainfall between 1967 and 2017, threatening the long term survival of my many (48 plus) tall trees and other plants, (iii) the threat of toxic hexavalent chromium in cement paste used to shore up that 2585-acre underground mine below or near me, and (iv) the risks of subsidence from loss of lateral or subjacent support, nuisance level noise and vibration from blasting and mining beneath or nearly beneath my property (not farther away, where the irrelevant DEIR monitor devices are located around the Brunswick and Centennial surface sites), traffic burdens from 50 to 100 trucks a day on the same key local roads 24/7/365 for 80 years, and many other problems addressed below.

I keep stating the "2585-acre" reference to that underground mine, because a casual reader would imagine from the DEIR that the only thing that mattered was the Brunswick site, a few adjacent East Bennett Road properties with 30 or 31 wells, and (although the DEIR incorrectly tries to cast it as a separate CEQA "project") the Centennial site. If the DEIR is approved, the key battles that will endure against the whole CEQA "project," as long as the mine is a threat as described in this Objection, will include the defense and competition from thousands of residents and voters living on or around the surface of the 2585-acre underground mine, many times more than the mine workers imagined coming from who knows where. See my # 14. I note that this is not just about enforcement of our competing legal rights to defeat the DEIR and stop the mine. If we suffer the loss of the water that we need from NID, we locals will exercise our rights to sink our own wells to compete for our groundwater to supply ourselves and save our forest trees and plants. (If NID does not like that idea of its customers taking whatever allowance NID provides in the coming drought cutbacks, while drilling thousands of defensive wells that interfere with the mine's dewatering, they should reassess the politics of thousands of local voters exercising their rights to elect correct thinking officials and use initiatives to clarify our competing rights.) See my # 3.F. The point is that when people discover these realities and organize to defend their homes, their community quality of life, and their peace of mind against an undesirable mine adding no net value to our community, us local defenders must prevail. No one will sacrifice their rights, property, or quality of life for such a mine however long it takes for justice to be done in the various legally and politically proper counters.

FOR THE RECORD, NOTHING IN THIS OBJECTION SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A THREAT THAT I OR ANYONE ELSE WILL SUE NID OR ANYONE ELSE, SINCE IT IS PREMATURE TO MAKE THAT KIND OF COMPLEX DECISION, AND ANY SUCH PREMATURE LEGAL ACTION WOULD NOT BE "RIPE" YET AS A JUSTICIABLE CAUSE OF ACTION. A DISCUSSION REACTING TO SOMEONE'S THREATENED FUTURE CONDUCT BY IDENTIFYING OBJECTIONS AVAILABLE FUTURE REACTION OPTIONS IS NOT A THREAT TO EXERCISE THOSE OPTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THIS IS ONLY A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT THAT MUST GO THROUGH A



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COMPLEX PROCESS BEFORE THE MINING STARTS, AND MANY IMPROVEMENTS AND REFORMS ARE POSSIBLE THAT MAY REDUCE THE NEED FOR SUCH LOCAL SELF-DEFENSE FROM SUCH FORESEEABLE DEIR/MINING BURDENS, RISKS, AND HARMS. THE REASONS FOR THIS OBJECTION COUNTER DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE REACTIONS AND DISPUTE REMEDIES INCLUDE TO EXPLAIN WHY, IF IT PROCEEDS, THE DEIR NEEDS TO BE REDONE TO CORRECT ERRORS, OMISSIONS, AND OTHER DEFICIENCIES. The reasons for the urgent or strong commentary about local reactions now is that history of such conflicts shows what could follow involving legal, political, and competitive self-defense possibilities that have commonly occurred in similar such situations, which discussions reflects a desire to assure that the DEIR advocates and decisionmakers: (i) take our local concerns seriously, (ii) improve the next version of the DEIR, if any, and (iii) address more comprehensively and appropriately the local issues and concerns in this and other objections, including all those appropriate concerns voiced at the March 24, 2022, County hearing. What we want is peace and the status quo.

What this Objection also does, as lawyers do, is to correct the DEIR on some of its many disputed express and implied legal assertions and illustrate the need for technical reforms in the DEIR and mining by reporting about the litigation, political, and competitive options from examples of other such unrelated mining and environmental approval disputes with some similar circumstances. See my #'s 4 and 14. In other words, the goal of this Objection is to reduce in advance the issues in dispute here for our common good, rather than just to combat problems in appropriate ways after the mining begins and the burdens, risks, and harms become actual instead of theoretical and require appropriate counters.

Besides us defending ourselves, our property, and our local environment, we are also defending our larger community. Even for those distant from many, direct mine impacts, the community suffers a harmful "opportunity cost" from allowing this mine for no net benefit, as explained in my #4. It is part of the CEQA noncompliance that is most frustrating in the DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies, where the DEIR is supposed to address the cumulative effect of the whole mine "project," including the 2585-acre underground mine, on key issues. There is a margin for what our community environment can safely tolerate as environmental impacts. This no net benefit mine (see my #4) exhausts that margin more and faster than the DEIR reveals or admits, leaving less margin for what else could be tolerated by competing uses by us residents and by desirable businesses that benefit our community. Each of the cumulative impacts of the whole mine deplete our safety margin of what can be tolerated, and, if government decisionmakers now give away to this DEIR mine for 24/7/365 operations for 80 years (of which only the first 20 [or up to 2040] is even attempted to be analyzed by the DEIR), then the inevitable result would be political and legal reforms (see my #3.N) and legal enforcements of our surface rights that eventually stop the mine, whether by appropriate counters or by allowing our competing uses and law reforms against the disputed DEIR mining plan. As explained below, if the mine is not stopped, more undesirable and exploitive opportunities will follow, as happened in the Bay Area with Richmond after Chevron and Benicia after Valero.

What happens then? If government insisted that the DEIR be made more realistic, correct, compliant, and useful, the DEIR itself would prove the obvious: if this disputed DEIR mine (which must include the 2585-acre underground mine the DEIR often ignores) is allowed



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to start, when the aroused local political and legal actions stop it, everyone and our environment will wish that mining had never started. There is an old fable about “Pandora’s box” that applies to reopening this mine here, and we urge you decisionmakers not to start down a path that has only a “dead end” and undeserved misery and division for our community.

For example, I focus below (eg, my #3.E) on one illustration of that general failing of the DEIR, such as the fact that the disputed DEIR groundwater depletion analysis mistakenly only focuses on 30 or so competing wells on East Bennett Drive, when the obvious and bigger threats are to the hundreds of wells that compete underground for the same water in the area above or around the 2585-acre underground mine being dewatered 24/7/365 to dispose of that precious water for 80-years somewhere else downriver. See my #'s 3.E and N. More importantly for this example of the many opportunity costs discussions throughout this Objection, all of us thousands who do not currently have wells and who are ignored by the DEIR but living on the surface above or around the 2585-acre underground mine also have competing groundwater rights. We would also begin to drill wells and compete for that same groundwater that when NID is unable to satisfy our needs (whether from climate change chronic drought shortages or governmental reallocation of our water elsewhere). The opportunity cost is that the mine may (incorrectly) claim that it was depleting our shared water supply first, so that we cannot exercise our groundwater rights, leaving us harmed and our already drought and climate changed forests and plants short of the water they need. Obviously, that kind of miner argument is not only legally incorrect, flawed, and worse, but it ignores the political reality that all of us suffering voters would tolerate such abuse where a no net benefit mine denies us (ie, the “opportunity cost”) the right to save ourselves and our environment for the profit of generally foreign shareholders. Stated another way, the future will be hundreds of new wells from the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine competing for their own groundwater, just like people all over the central valley and elsewhere have already been doing when the surface supply is insufficient. Therefore, besides the inevitable legal and political turmoil from such disputes, the conflict for governmental decisionmakers is: what are the real environmental consequences of those wells and others defeating the disputed groundwater assumptions and erroneous mine claims in the DEIR? Note that at least us locals will use the local water locally, rather than dumping it into the Wolf Creek for some other destination. See my #'s 4, 5, and 3.N.

As you read through this Objection, please note that the DEIR insists that every inconvenient truth the DEIR chooses to ignore, understate, or otherwise deficiently address is called or treated as “speculative,” such as, for example, (i) climate change effects like chronic dryness and drought, and (ii) everything that happens after 2040 or in the last 60-years of its 80-years of 24/7/365 blasting, mining, dewatering and disposition of our precious groundwater downriver somewhere, and other abuses of our environment. See my # 3.A, B, D, F, and M and 5. Instead, the DEIR relies exclusively on the past data and assumes (without proof and contrary to climate science) that the future must be the same as that nonpredictive past, such as, for example, that the rainfall it assumes will be recharging our groundwater for 80-years, despite the massive mine dewatering depletion of our local groundwater, will continue to be what it was in the past between 1967 and 2017 (see my #3.M rebuttal). Reality, as accepted by most responsible scientists, governments, and businesses, is that climate change will impact us to



create a “new normal,” where the easier DEIR past does not predict the more dangerous future. So, how is it that, while every responsible scientist, business, and government official is planning based on climate change, the DEIR ignores such “inconvenient truths” as “speculative?”

Most businesses I know would be afraid not to correctly address such climate change and related realities, because they would be afraid that their projections would make their securities and other public filings false and misleading and inspire litigation. Note that the SEC has just proposed mandatory climate change disclosure rules on March 21, 2022, to supersede existing voluntary rules. 17 CFR 210,229,232, and 249, RIN 3235-AM87. Soon, we will be all be reading (as I already do here in my # 2) SEC filings to catch what is missing in environmental impact statements and other disclosures, since most reporting companies like this are more afraid of errors, omissions, and noncompliance in SEC filings than in environmental filings like this DEIR. Do government decisionmakers here wish to go on the record approving this disputed and defective DEIR, and thereby denying climate change and continuing drought, in effect joining the DEIR in the illusion that the next 80-years of rainfall here will be the same as the average between 1967 and 2017? See my # 3.M. For current climate change data ignored by the DEIR, see, eg, “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaption And Vulnerability.” Working Group II Contributing to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and scores of current studies and reports cited therein, as briefly summarized in “Climate Risk Disclosure Becoming the New Standard For Business,” Forbes 3/22/22.

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B. My Credentials And Experience Qualify Me As An Authority On Some of These Issues As A Result of 50 Years of National And Cross-Border Bankruptcy And Insurance Insolvency Work Involving Hundreds of Bankrupt, Failing, Or Abandoned Mines And Their Failed Or Liquidated Insurers.

I am a California licensed, bankruptcy lawyer who, until I retired here in 2015, practiced the following relevant specialties, working nationally as a leading partner of a leading national and international law firm working nationally out of the San Francisco office: big case US business bankruptcy and cross-border insolvency cases, as well as insurance insolvency resolutions. Those specialties often combined to give me substantial experience and expertise in dealing with hundreds of mines that failed, filed bankruptcy and/or cross-border insolvency cases. (For example, there is a common mining industry situation for disappointing local victims and communities when a foreign based mining company files a foreign insolvency proceeding and a related US Chapter 15 and/or 11 case.) In some situations, the mines were otherwise abandoned and liquidated (as, for example, when the owner flees to a foreign venue, files a US Chapter 7 for the “shell” US operating company miner, and the appointed Chapter 7 trustee abandons the mine, leaving it to the EPA and other governmental authorities to clean up the worthless mess). In certain situations, my mining experiences involved my insurance insolvency expertise, as, for example, when I worked for years as lead counsel liquidating (during the savings and loan crisis era) the major California insurer which had issued the surety bonds for much of the mining industry risks and closing reclamations. In the mid-1990’s I also represented major business creditors of mining and other environmentally dangerous insured policyholders in the asbestos and environmental crisis restructuring of Lloyds of London (Equitas). Such work



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and other experiences resulted in my selection to the global bankruptcy “clubs” of leading players, the American College of Bankruptcy and its international counterpart, the International Insolvency Institute, as well as the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers (as to my distressed company financing expertise). In those group interactions I often learned the unwritten stories and lessons from and about many relevant cases from the best players working them and judges resolving them. Such things led to my serving for a time as the Chair of the American Bar Association/Business Law Section Task Force on Insurance Insolvency, where we developed a new generation of insurance insolvency model laws to improve creditor and policyholder recoveries, again enabling me to learn more “behind the scenes” about failing mines and their owners.

I have applied that experience here. I have read the DEIR, and I am familiar with the entire mine area, including the 2585-acre underground mine about which the disputed DEIR shares too little risk data and planning. This Objection reflects my opinions based on my such experiences and qualifications, which include having read hundreds of such unrealistic or optimistic plans and reports for mines that failed when their reality was exposed. There are many serious errors, omissions, and deficiencies in this disputed DEIR, as my Objection and others demonstrate. The DEIR is about some “alternative reality,” while the hundreds of local objections, such as those voiced at the March 24, 2022, County hearing reflect the applicable realities.

While I am not a scientist, I know from such long experience that a mine like this does not belong here. That would be true even if this were what the DEIR incorrectly calls a rural or semi-rural area, but certainly not where I and thousands of others live above or around the 2585-acre mine, which is actually a normal, quality suburban community. For example, opposition here will increase as people begin to understand the DEIR’s plan, for example, using hexavalent chromium cement paste to shore up the new mining, and depleting our groundwater 24/7/365 for 80-years during what climate change is causing to be a “new normal” of perpetual dryness and drought. The confusion created by this objectionable DEIR relates in significant part to the fact that the core of this CEQA “project” is the 2585-acre underground mine largely ignored by the DEIR, not just the small Brunswick Industrial Site or its East Bennett Drive site for 30 or so replaced wells (or the Centennial site the DEIR incorrectly claims as a separate “project.”) Because residents like me will be battling to save our homes, environment, and quality of life above and around that 2585-acre underground mine, which is never adequately analyzed by the DEIR, we locals are an unaddressed problem for the mine advocates that cannot be evaded. The stresses of the coming continuous conflicts, disputes, and competition must be addressed now by government DEIR decisionmakers, because the problems cannot be solved by the unaffordable (see my # 2), nonresponsive, and inadequate mitigations proposed in the DEIR. Because the DEIR refuses to recognize such real problems as CEQA requires (see my # 14), the DEIR cannot hope to mitigate them as the law requires.

What is predictable from my experience is that, when properly informed, the thousands of local community residents and voters living like me above or around the 2585-acre underground mine at issue, will resist this mining until it stops, exercising our many appropriate legal and political remedies and means of competition. See my #'s 3.N and 4.

Why so organize and resist? Because even if the DEIR were correct, compliant, and sufficient



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(which it is not) and even if the miner were capable of timely and safely accomplishing the DEIR goals (which I doubt, see my # 2), the mine still adds no net value to our community (see my # 4), creates burdens, risks, problems, and stigmas that disrupt our lives, harm our property and environment, depress our real estate values, and add other burdens, risks, and problems ignored by the DEIR that perpetually would disrupt the quality of our lives. That conflict by thousands of us locals protecting our homes, environment, and the quality of our lives and community cannot be mitigated by this disputed DEIR. Since we have surface property competition, legal, and political rights to resist that cannot be impaired by an approval of the DEIR or the mine, this mining will be stopped sooner or later. What my such experience with other mines has shown is that the longer it takes to stop a mine, the worse the impacts will be on all concerned when it finally stops. One of many key missing and deficiently analyzed factors in the DEIR is: what happens when the DEIR insistence on 24/7/365 mining for 80 years is overcome? See the DEIR admission at 6-14 that a normal 12-hour day makes the project unfeasible and my counters in my # 13 and elsewhere.

Also, while it may be considered an indirect impact by the DEIR proponents who ignore, understate, or otherwise fail satisfactorily to address such matters, opponents like me have reasonable cause for special concern about such mine operations trashing our real estate values above and around the mine. These facts creating such real estate value depression are not often revealed in the DEIR as required (see my #'s 4 and 14) and are never adequately explained, even in the more obscure places where I found some admitted in the DEIR (see 4.3-103--104.) However, the existence of lethal threats and risks (eg, hexavalent chromium discussed in my #'s 3.C, 3.G and H, and 7) also explains why our locals' resistance can be expected to be so resolute and persistent. The good news here for local resistance is that in my experience such mining interests like Rise in these circumstances simply do not have the capacity in a long term political, law reform, and legal competition to prevail over the impacted locals, once they are informed, aroused, and organized. See my # 3.M.

Successful resistance in other past situations (unrelated to Rise or this mine) generally followed a predictable pattern, where the local victims begin insisting on fixing the errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the disputed draft environmental impact reports in a continuing process of challenges, which at each stage cause reforms making the mining process less risky, harmful, and problematic, often with the side effect that such mine operating plans become slower and more expensive for good causes. If those reforms are not sufficient and such mine continues, then local political and law reform efforts often accelerate to enact new self-defense laws and regulations and to elect stricter official enforcers committed to protecting the community from the threatened mine risks, burdens, and noncompliance. See my # 3.N. Those efforts are often accompanied as well as by such local victims' other legal challenges, such as both the usual nuisance, inverse condemnation, and other tort and equity claims, as well as (where the circumstances are feasible) a traditional set of surface owner nuisance, trespass, and quiet title claims (eg, groundwater rights battles), claims to prevent subsidence by loss of subjacent and lateral support, and various declaratory relief and equitable claims by impacted surface owners working to confirm their competing legal and equitable rights against excessive underground mining burdens, risks, and harms (eg, the right to drill more wells for using the surface owners' own groundwater being wasted and removed by such underground mining) and requiring more sufficient mitigation by the miner. Usually, if not before then, by that stage



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of such other historical battles and competition often either the miner attempts some bankruptcy (eg, in bigger and well-funded conflicts often involving cross-border bankruptcies to help mine insiders shield their exported profits) and other related maneuvers to escape justice, or else they sooner or later abandon the mine, either (i) if they cannot find a buyer, even using the special sale free and clear of liens, claims and, encumbrances provisions in 11 USC #365(f) or in Bankruptcy Code Chapter 15 accommodating foreign insolvency law maneuvers, or (ii) if the locals use their creditor counter rights effectively (in coordination with community oriented governmental officials) to block such sales to keep dangerous history from repeating itself. See my #'s 3.N, 8, 14, and 15 below.

Mine advocates may attempt to argue that such comparisons sound aggressive or hyperbolic, such as our dispute with the DEIR regarding our fear of the mine's groundwater depletion (without sufficient local recharge or balancing) harming our already climate change stressed forest and plants above and around the 2585-acre underground mine (see my #'s 3.D, 3.F, and 5). Where this disputed DEIR and mine will likely confront an early challenge in my experience is from the more lethal, scandalous stigma example from hexavalent chromium (remember the movie, *Erin Brockovich*?) that would certainly also trash our local real estate values and community reputation, even scaring away tourists. See, eg, my #'s 3.C, 3.G and H, 7, and 8. As I demonstrate below from the DEIR's own words (although in obscure places where they would be less likely noticed), this 2585-acre underground mine plans to shore up its 24/7/365 digging, dewatering, and blasting areas for 80 years with toxic HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM (CR+6) in its cement paste. Since everyone (apparently except the DEIR proponents) likely knows how a certain utility paid a giant litigation settlement to turn its alleged victims, turning Hinkley, CA, into a ghost town with huge cemeteries from CR+6 poisoning of its groundwater from settling ponds, as illustrated in the famous reality-based movie *Erin Brockovich*. Whatever you may think about the science at issue here, that Cr+6 danger is going scare away people who reasonably fear this mine will turn our community into another Hinkley.

Why? Many will be more trusting of scores of scary mass of EPA data on its toxic substances' website, plus the European Union announced ban on hexavalent chromium, than on anything this miner or its public relations/lobbyists can possibly say in the disputed DEIR, promotional materials, or other excuses. Even if that toxic risk were somehow purportedly contained, which would first require that risk to be revealed and fairly addressed in a CEQA compliant DEIR (since this risk is not presently disclosed), imagine being a home seller trying to explain this to a prospective buyer (or, if you're a brave buyer, explaining to your lender, or its appraiser) when your house is above or around the 2585-acre underground mine supposedly held up by Cr+6. Note, this dangerous CR+6 is not yet in the mine, as far as we know, so this miner will be fully accountable for its addition to the mine. But any governmental authority approving this DEIR or mine would also be responsible as the whole (now alerted) community watches, and, since I and others prove there is no net benefit to the mine (see my # 4), especially in our community. The decision to reject the DEIR and mine should be easy.



C. My Credentials And Experience Qualify Me To Contest Some of the Issues As A Result of 50 Years of National And Cross-Border Bankruptcy Experience And Insurance Insolvency That Includes Dealing with Hundreds of Bankrupt, Failing, Or Abandoned Mines And Their Failed Or Liquidated Insurers.

I am a California licensed, bankruptcy lawyer who, until I retired here in 2015 practiced the following relevant specialties working nationally out of the San Francisco office as a partner of a leading national and international law firm: big case business bankruptcy, cross-border insolvency cases, and insurance insolvency. Those specialties often combined to give me substantial experience and expertise in dealing with hundreds of mines that failed, filed bankruptcy and/or cross-border insolvency cases (for example, when a foreign based mining company files a foreign insolvency proceeds and a related US Chapter 15 and/or 11 case), or were otherwise abandoned and liquidated (as, for example, when the owner flees to a foreign venue, files a US Chapter 7 for the “shell” US operating company miner, and the appointed Chapter 7 trustee abandons the mine, leaving it to the EPA and other governmental authorities to clean up the worthless mess). In certain situations, this connects with my insurance insolvency expertise, for example, when I worked for years as lead counsel liquidating (during the savings and loan crisis era) the major AAA rated California insurer who issued the surety bonds for much of the mining industry. During that same era of financial stress for many even imagined to be dominant insurers, for example, I also represented major non-mining business creditors of mining and other environmentally dangerous insureds in the restructuring of Lloyds of London (Equitas). Such work and experiences resulted in my selection to the global bankruptcy “clubs” of leading players, the American College of Bankruptcy and its international counterpart, the International Insolvency Institute, as well as the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers (as to my distressed company financing expertise), where I often learned the unwritten stories and lessons from and about many relevant cases from the best players working them. Such things led to my serving for a time as the Chair of the American Bar Association/Business Law Section’s Task Force on Insurance Insolvency, where we developed a new generation of insurance insolvency model laws to improve creditor and policyholder recoveries.

I have read the whole DEIR, and I am familiar with the entire relevant area. This Objection reflects my opinions based on my such experiences, which include reading many such unrealistic or optimistic reports on failed mines that departed from reality. There are many serious errors, omissions, and deficiencies in this DEIR, as my Objection and others demonstrate. While I am not a scientist I know from such long experience that a mine like this does not belong in even in what the DEIR incorrect calls a rural or semi-rural area, but certainly not where I live above or around the 2585-acre mine, which is actually a normal, quality suburban community, especially using hexavalent chromium and depleting our groundwater in what climate change is causing to be a “new normal” of perpetual dryness and drought. **The confusion created by this objectionable DEIR relates in significant part to the fact that the core of this CEQA “project” is the 2585-acre underground mine largely ignored by the DEIR, not just the small Brunswick Industrial Site or its East Bennett Drive site for 30 or so replaced wells (or the Centennial site the DEIR incorrectly treats as a separate CEQA “project”).**

Because we will be battling to save our homes and quality of life above and around that

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underground mine, which is never adequately analyzed by the DEIR, we are a problem for the DEIR mine that cannot be evaded. The stresses of the coming continuous conflicts, disputes, and competition must be addressed by government decisionmakers, because they cannot be solved by the paltry and inadequate mitigations in the disputed DEIR. Because the DEIR refuses to recognize such problems, it cannot hope to mitigate them as the law requires.

What is predictable from my experience is that, when properly informed, the thousands of local community residents and voters living like me above and around the 2585-acre underground mine at issue, will resist this mining until it stops, exercising appropriate legal and political remedies. Why? Because even if the disputed DEIR were correct and sufficient (which it is not) and the miner were capable of timely and safely accomplishing the DEIR goals (which I doubt as explained in my # 2), the mine still adds no net value to our community (see my # 4), creates stigmas that depress our real estate values, and adds burdens, risks, and problems that perpetually would disrupt the quality of our lives until we organize and stop it. That conflict by thousands of us locals protecting our homes and environment and the quality of our lives cannot be mitigated or, since we have legal and political rights that cannot be impaired by an approval of the DEIR or the mine, this mining will stop sooner or later. What my such experience with other mines has shown is that the longer it takes to stop a mine, the worse the impacts on all concerned when it is finally stopped. Therefore, a key missing and deficiently analyzed factor for more discussion in the DEIR is: what happens when the insistence on 24/7/365 mining for 80 years is overcome? See, eg, the DEIR's own admissions at 6-14 and 4.3-103–104 and my responses below.

Also, while it may be considered an "indirect" impact by the DEIR proponents who ignore, understate, or otherwise fail satisfactorily to address such matters, opponents like me have reasonable cause for concern about such mine operations trashing our real estate values above and around the mine. These facts creating such real estate value depression are not often revealed in DEIR analysis as required and are never adequately explained in the more obscure places where I found some mentioned in the DEIR. However, their existence explains why our locals' resistance can be expected to be so resolute and persistent, since the only solution for us is to defeat the DEIR and stop the mine reopening. In my experience where the mining interests simply do not have the capacity to overwhelm their aroused local victims, the resisted mine is first slowed and its operations made more expensive for good causes and legal compliance that should have been addressed earlier by an adequate DEIR and sufficient mitigation. At that stage of the battles either the miner usually attempts some bankruptcy related maneuvers to escape justice, or else they abandon the mine, either (i) if they cannot find a buyer, even using the special sale free and clear of liens, claims and, encumbrances provisions in 11 USC #365(f) or in Bankruptcy Code Chapter 15 accommodating foreign insolvency law maneuvers, or (ii) if the locals use their creditor defensive rights (in coordination with community oriented governmental officials) to block the sale. See my discussion of industry tactics below.

D. What Is the CEQA "Project" At Issue, Since The DEIR Largely Ignores Most Impacts From The 2585-Acre Underground Mine That Will Rally Some of the Largest And Most Intense Local Opposition?



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It should be revealing to governmental decisionmakers that the DEIR generally ignores and neglects our local and other concerns and treats the CEQA "project" as if it were just the Brunswick Industrial Site and 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road, and (or, if the DEIR were incorrectly permitted to split it off) the Centennial Industrial Site. See, eg, my #'s 3.E, L, and M. I mention those thousands of us with such surface, groundwater, and other rights above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, because we (including me and others on Banner Mountain) are among the larger opposition forces. We not only have the same legal and political concerns as any county voter distant from the mine, but we locals also have direct competing legal rights and standing against the mine as "surface owners" that are not addressed in the DEIR as required. See, eg, my #'s 3.F and N. The reality is that many of the most serious impacts are on those of us living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. See, eg, my #'s 3.A, B, C, D, L, and N, and 4. As our local legal and political dispute processes and resource competitions persist until the 24/7/365 mining stops (hopefully long before the DEIR's disputed 80-year proposed endgame), I suspect that many other errors, omission, and problems will be exposed by such disputes, competitions, and conflicts mentioned in this and other objections. See, eg, my #15 illustrating hard questions evaded by the disputed DEIR, as well as my rebuttal in # 14 about omitted CEQA disclosures.

That local resident competition by voters like me is best illustrated by the fact that those of us "surface owners" living above or around the 2585-acre underground mine have our competing groundwater rights. See, eg, #'s 3.F and 5. When (contrary to the incorrect DEIR) climate change dryness and drought (and consequent future reallocations and shortages of NID water) lower our local water table and impact the health of our forests and plants and our access to sufficient water for human and other needs, we locals will sink hundreds of competing new wells for our groundwater, and, if necessary, will change or clarify the laws to accommodate our wells. See my # 3.N. Since it is our ground water too, the related errors and omissions in the DEIR about groundwater recharge will now become much more serious if, instead of 30 East Bennett Road dry wells competing with massive 24/7/365 mine dewatering for 80 years, the mine must compete, if it can, with even the hundreds of new wells used by the thousands of us living on Banner Mountain alone. The DEIR proponents may try to argue that and other such competitions between us surface owners and users and the disputed DEIR 2585-acre underground mine are somehow "speculative" (the disputed DEIR's favorite answer for attempting to evade CEQA by ignoring inconvenient realities). See my #'s 14 and 15. In my experience that DEIR maneuver must fail, as shown in the public records that such groundwater competition has been happening everywhere (eg, the Central Valley, Bakersfield, etc.) where there is insufficient surface water. Competition between surface owners and the DEIR mine is far less "speculative" or "remote" than the DEIR's assumption of no resistance. We are confronting a long-term water shortage from climate change ignored by the DEIR, and sooner or later even these DEIR will be compelled to admit that it will be massively depleting our local groundwater and sending it downriver somewhere else in Wolf Creek. Few of us locals will tolerate being dependent on "recharge" and "balancing" illusions in the disputed DEIR based on the indefinite continuance for 80 plus years of the no longer predictive average rainfall between 1967 and 12017. See my # 3.D, E, F, M, and 5 below.

This is a persistent flaw in the DEIR, where it ASSUMES that somehow the past predicts the future here for a mine closed since 1956. See my # 3.M. Not only does climate



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change create a “new normal, but the disputed DEIR abandons any effort to assess the impact of 24/7/365 mining beyond the first 20 years of its 80-year mining harms (stopping analysis at 2040). See my # 3.M. To the contrary of the DEIR’s false operating premise that “what we don’t know won’t hurt us,” which no informed local will accept, we expect to counter that “we are better off being safe than sorry.” So, the question for government decisionmakers is whether to make a better-informed decision by requiring the disputed DEIR and miner to fairly address this and other Objections as required (see my # 14), or whether to allow this undesirable mine the undeserved benefit of the doubt it seeks on every disputed issue, despite the mine adding no net benefit to our community. See my #'s 3.E and N, 4, and 8. While there may be modest employment of mine workers from somewhere, they are hugely outnumbered by the thousands of us resolute resistance locals living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine who are committed to the defense of our homes and ways of life from the burdens, risks, threats, and harms addressed in this and other objections. While the mine may pay some taxes and spend some money before exporting its profits to Canada or other distant places (see my #'s 2 and 4 below), the burdens, risks, and problems suffered locally will far exceed any such benefit for a net deficit. See my # 4. The costs and consequences of using 50 to 100 heavy trucks 24/7/365 for 80 years on our busiest, key roads will by themselves overwhelm any possible benefit.

Under the reality circumstances explained in this and other objections and ignored, understated, or misstated in the disputed DEIR, my experience is that this mine could not long endure under the circumstances the kind of legal and political resistance and competition it will encounter. See, eg, my # 3.N, 2, and 8. **Therefore, the government should at a minimum insist in detail now on the disputed DEIR being reformed to comply with CEQA and disclose better and comprehensively the consequences of stopping and then stopping the mine. See my #'s 3.N, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15. Remember that, in considering the alternatives (DEIR vs my #'s 13 and 2), the economics of this mine are so fragile that the DEIR admits (at 6-14) it is not viable operating on a normal 12-hour day. See my # 13. Normal realities, court rulings, and political/law reform changes can obstruct what conditions the disputed DEIR insists must be available. See my #'s 2, 3.N, and 13. Then what? See my #'s 3.N, 4, and 13.**

E. Request For The Lead CEQA Agency To Reconsider Its Position Resisting Economic Feasibility Counters To The DEIR Both At the Public Comment Hearing 3/24/2022 And Apparently In Its Upcoming Economic Study.

At the public hearing on March 24, 2022, the County began by incorrectly excluding all consideration of evidence and argument regarding the financial condition and character of the DEIR miner and the financial feasibility of accomplishing key safety and mitigation results assumed in the disputed DEIR, contrary to this and other objections. Since the County had not yet heard any arguments about why that position is incorrect under these particular facts and circumstances, I ask the lead CEQA Agency to reconsider for reasons stated in this section and section 14, as well as in the more technical brief that I expect to prepare before the end of the comment deadline. That is especially important to rebut where the DEIR itself makes financial feasibility statements that this Objections counters with admissions by the DEIR or



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by Rise in its SEC 10K and 10Q filings about this mine (which is its only significant asset). See my # 2. Perhaps the County's such ruling was influenced by thinking that objectors might have a more efficient forum for such excluded objections in connection with the County's coming so-called economic study. But I later learned that study also may be too narrow, focused on other things, and may also mistakenly exclude those considerations. Therefore, I urge the County to expand that economic study as well for these and even more of such objections by me and others. See my # 14.

I am aware of the kinds of **factually distinguishable** court decisions where such challenges failed **under different circumstances than these**, and I invite the County to consider my counter authorities in a supplemental legal argument filing soon in support of my position. Please note here, however, that even Rise's own favorite cases do not allow "bad faith" DEIR claims, such as which are illusory or speculation or bogus assumptions. That is what appears to exist here, since my # 2 proves that Rise currently cannot afford to perform the DEIR and mitigations, even as they proposed them, as distinct from what more will ultimately be required by government or courts or local law reforms if the mine proceeds. That fact, largely based on Rise's own SEC filing admissions (see my # 2), makes the DEIR "illusory" and suggests a lack of "CEQA good faith." That is especially true given all the DEIR's other "strategic" errors, omissions, and deficiencies exposed in this Objection without any good excuse, such as the DEIR occasionally mentioning the use of hexavalent chromium in the mine shoring cement paste in obscure places without any mention of it or its dangers in the DEIR's "Hazards And Hazardous Materials." See also my # 3.E and M, where I illustrate other examples of obscuring data, insufficient data, strategic omissions, and other inappropriate tactics prohibited by CEQA cases like *Banning Ranch Conservancy v. City of Newport Beach* (2017), 2 Cal.5th 918, 940-41 ("Banning"), and *Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rancho Cordova* (2007), 40 Cal.4th 412, 442 ("Vineyards"), each insisting on "a good faith reasoned analysis," rather than scattered or buried data, and unexplained data in exhibits. See my # 14.

In any event, under the applicable facts and circumstances in this case and a correct interpretation of CEQA and its Guidelines and relevant (as distinct from distinguishable or other lower court decisions to be corrected by the California Supreme Court), I urge that everything in this Objection be considered. I will explain that position in more detail in a supplemental brief to be submitted before the deadline. (The DEIR contained their disputed legal interpretations of various CEQA requirements, and so it's only fair and appropriate for the CEQA lead agency to consider my counters.) In the meantime, I believe that the disputed DEIR is irreconcilable with the following example California decisions (and other relevant cases, statutes, and Guidelines) cited therein, among others to be explained in my supplemental brief. *E.g.*, *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018), 6 Cal.5th 502; *Concerned Citizens of Costa Mesa, Inc v. 32nd Dist. Ag. Ass'n* (1986), 42 Cal.3d 929; *POET. LLC v State Air Resources Bd.* (2013), 218 Cal.App. 4th 681; *Gray v. County of Madera* (2008), 167 Cal. App. 4th 1099.

Please remember, even if the lead CEQA Agency were to disagree with me on the technical CEQA merits of such legal disputes, there is one additional reason no agency or court should ever resist full consideration of this and other objections: legal "impeachment" rebuttal (ie, the use of evidence to contradict false or misleading claims) and especially by the use some of the DEIR's and Rise's own words to rebut others. What my Objection does, and other objections could do, is expose with such evidence DEIR's many internal omissions,



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inconsistencies, and contradictions to prevent the DEIR from prevailing inappropriately by exposing contrary or inconsistent statements either (i) within the DEIR, or (ii) in the current Rise SEC Form 10K or 10Q (which, as I show in my # 2, discusses many of the same mining related issues as the DEIR, but in different, inconsistent, or even contradictory ways. The California Supreme Court's most important lesson about CEQA is the need for both clarity and truth; ie, reality. Objectors like me are entitled to challenge such a DEIR that "crosses those lines." Especially at times like this in our divided world's larger conflicts, where constant barrages of false news/propaganda seek to create "alternative realities" (eg, Russia's distortions and worse about Ukraine), it is important to remember that the rule of law itself depends on ruling by one, clear and truthful reality. The disputed DEIR often can be shown to fail that test, and it needs to be redone to clarify the actual realities versus this DEIR's objectionable mine. To do that requires corrections and edits to the DEIR consistent with this and similar objections.

Furthermore, the County should also allow appropriate consideration of accepted matters to which courts take "judicial notice" as matters of fundamental logic or reality, to prevent obviously false or misleading claims from being accepted by denying contrary such proof. For example, if Rise were to say, "Don't worry about any environmental health or safety rules, because I'll just pay any victims to make them whole" (an exaggerated version of the disputed DEIR claim to cover anyone whose well dries up, which my #2 proves is equally illusory or speculative), that implies that Rise had the financial ability to accomplish that false claim. Why? Because such miners are not allowed to just invent nonrealities contrary easily proven facts in the real reality, especially by admission from the person asking a court or government official to join in that fantasy to officially (but incorrectly) pronounce it to become real. When the rule of law applies (and as CEQA must apply here, as I explain in my # 14), no naked "emperor" is allowed to insist that he's wearing a fancy suit, because we allow people to say the clear truth that "this emperor has no clothes." This is what my Objection and other objections seek to do regarding this DEIR: expose the comprehensive reality. For example, the Rise admissions I cite in my #2 should be allowed to rebut that illusory DEIR assurance that somehow, without even knowing the huge number of affected old and new wells over even a shorter period than 80 years, the miner will supply the needed replacement water (at DEIR 4.8-66). Recall that at the March 24 hearing and in follow-up written comments, even NID wanted more protections than the DEIR offered.

Please remember that the DEIR itself put its financial feasibility into issue for rebuttal by claiming (at DEIR page 6-14) that limiting mining to a 12-hour day made the project economically infeasible. Since DEIR uses that claim to defeat better "Alternatives" and mitigation, the law requires consideration of such rebuttals in my Objection and others. That admission by the DEIR itself at page 6-14, by manipulating the data on "Alternatives" thereby legally "opened the door" for all my economic feasibility arguments, and it illustrates the DEIR's inconsistency. The DEIR cannot have it both ways, as when the DEIR wants to plead poverty (like that does), but then it also wants to make implied or express promises of being able to afford whatever mitigation may become necessary (eg, providing water to all dry well owners). We must be able to expose that nonreality one way or the other. See, eg, my #'s 2, 13, and 14. Yet, when the DEIR discusses (eg, 4.8-66) replacing wells the dry up (besides the 30 along East Bennett Road), Rise's current financial condition and questionable future prospects discussed in



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my #2 prove (including by Rise admissions in its current SEC 10K and 10Q filings) that it does not currently have the financial capacity to accomplish such mitigation, especially as the climate change the DEIR ignores forces many of us to drill competing wells to reach our own groundwater as NID supplies are reduced. See, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, M, N, 4, 5, 8, 13, and 14. Indeed, that is what the DEIR itself admits it cannot accomplish (at 6-14), if it's limited to a 12-hour workday, as objectors will still demand. A CEQA compliant DEIR (see my # 14) would have to disclose such realities, and when (as here) the DEIR fails to do so objectors must be allowed to expose them.

Furthermore, another DEIR "opening of the door" to my less CEQA-traditional rebuttals is the DEIR's "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" at 4.3-103-04, incorrectly purporting an attempt to show "good faith," but allowing us to prove the opposite if we are allowed to do so. My point on this also includes this related DEIR admission: that some of what the DEIR and apparently the County consider to be outside some disputed CEQA boundary is needed for essential clarity. This means one of two, alternative, admitted things, either the disputed DEIR's CEQA "boundary" is wrong, or essential clarity of purpose and what they incorrectly consider "good faith" requires going beyond the CEQA constraints, as explained in my # 14. Either way, if the DEIR can include what they call "Non-CEQA Related Analysis," then we objectors must be able to respond and counter in kind.

This cannot be a one-sided process where the DEIR can make any nonfeasible, false, or misleading claims they wish, while objectors are not permitted to rebut and expose those claims. See my # 14 and the supplemental brief. The reality is that in many cases the DEIR fails to comply with applicable law, because its purported safety and mitigation assumptions and so-called facts, goals, and contentions addressed in this Objection and others are not only incorrect, deficient, and otherwise noncompliant with CEQA, but also are illusory. See my # 2. The CEQA lead agency must allow us to prove those wrongs by accepting our substantial evidence to the contrary, including fatal admissions by the DEIR and the miner, including as to economically infeasibility. As I prove in my #2 above, Rise and its accountant admit that there are "going concern" financial issues that make its performance at best too speculative for the DEIR's unqualified claims and at least as to some things admittedly infeasible. When a miner's accountant warns its investors to beware that its mining plans may to be feasible for lack of sufficient funds, how can any responsible government not at least test at least the more obvious DEIR illusions by allowing objections like this? See # 2 and 14.

- F. The DEIR Does Not Address Serious Questions About Rise's Financial Condition Appearing Even From Its Own SEC 10K and 10Q Filings (See My # 2), And My Related Experience Is That There Are Dangers In Relying On Infeasible Promises From Miners Whose Ability To Perform Or Comply Is Uncertain (Or In This Disputed DEIR, Too Often Just Unsubstantiated Assumptions), Instead of Requiring Meaningful Assurance of Performance And Capabilities To Perform. Also, Some Comments On Foreign Dynamics And Possible Miner Tactics.



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The DEIR advocates implicitly assume (incorrectly) that the miner's financial condition is irrelevant to the CEQA environmental analysis, but Rise has admitted in its SEC Form 10K and 10Q weak financial circumstances that I address at #'s 2 and 14 in this Objection. Basic economics are critical, because nothing the disputed DEIR promises or assumes for timely CEQA or environmental compliance and mitigation is real, feasible, or credible, if (as appears to be the case) Rise cannot afford to satisfy such DEIR and legal compliance requirements. Moreover, governmental decisionmakers should not have to speculate about how (or if) anything merely assumed in the DEIR actually will happen. (When read closely, many of what DEIR wants to appear as somehow logical deductions, are really just flawed assumptions.) And, if what us local voters and parties-in-interest fear and expect to confirm in other proceedings where such financial infeasibility can be exposed, then everyone will be worse off for now allowing this mine threat to continue. Our environmental protections are only meaningful if they are timely accomplished. Empty and nonfeasible promises or false assumptions of things that will never be accomplished would leave us exposed to mine horrors that CEQA was supposed to prevent. To quote that old fable, this wannabe DEIR "emperor has no clothes" and he's ugly.

I cite my background above in # 1.B, because it qualifies me to offer informed opinions on various matters relevant here. For example, government decisionmakers need to do extensive due diligence on this miner, its parent corporation (Rise Gold Corp), and its "insiders" (a broad bankruptcy term that includes officers, directors, controlling shareholders, control groups, and others in sophisticated leverage positions of practical control). See my #2. I suggest that you begin by considering at least the public record about the financial condition and financial performance capabilities of Rise Gold Corp. from its current filed SEC Form 10K and 10Q annual and quarterly reports on its website. I quote illustrations with disturbing information in my # 2 below, including Rise's own management discussing its accountant's "going concern" warning in its financial statements. That alone should raise questions about how this company wishing to be a miner with this one and only speculative mine with uncertain prospects, insufficient and limited reported working capital and credit resources at present could timely perform and accomplish what is contemplated by the disputed DEIR, not to mention affording many other mitigations and changes that should be required or be triggered in response to this Objection and others. I give additional examples in my #'s 2, 3.N, 13, 14, and 15, which combined cause me to consider the risk of lending or financing this mine, even as insufficiently contemplated in the DEIR, to be highly speculative or worse. That suggests that, besides evaluating this miner's ability to perform and comply, government decisionmakers should also investigate whether this may be a "flip" situation, where some successor or new controlling party "behind the curtain" will become the real miner in this situation. See, eg, my #'s 2, 14, and 15.

I complain repeatedly in this Objection about the many times the disputed DEIR declines to "speculate" about the future, in effect demanding blind and undeserved trust to its unsubstantiated assumptions or opinions. See, eg, my #'s 3.E and M and 14. For example, consider the DEIR's excuse for only providing limited and insufficient information on key issues, and declining to discuss the mine water risks beyond the first 20 years of its 80 year of threatened operation (or after 2040), despite the scientific realities predicting that progressive climate change and global warning droughts will make the future cumulatively



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and progressively worse here. See my # 3.E and M. There is far more reason to expect that the last 60 or 65 years of its 80 years (or after 2040), for which the disputed DEIR makes no meaningful CEQA comments, to be much worse than such first 20 years (or until 2040) that are inadequately addressed in the DEIR and for that first 20 years (and until 2040) to be much worse than the prior history (eg, average rain between 1967 and 2017) on which the disputed DEIR incorrectly attempts to rely. See my # 3.M. My experience is that what matters is not what is promised by some miner (note that all the owners of the more than 40,000 abandoned California mines on the EPA list made such promises), but rather what is proven with evidence to be feasible and credible to be performed and accomplished. The key question for you decisionmakers is what you can reliably expect the miner to accomplish timely. See, eg, my #'s 2, 3.E and M, and 15. Since this DEIR miner admits currently to have deficient funding compared to its plans (see my # 2), it is at best unreliable speculation to rely on the DEIR. Hopefully, our government will share the cynical expectations/fears of the thousands of locals like me living above or around the 2585-acre underground mine, who are facing all the burdens, risks, and problems described in this Objection and others from someone whose performance and mitigation is so uncertain. See my #'s 2, 4 and 14. Remember that there is only downside for us locals from this no net benefit mine (eg, my # 4), making such risks on the DEIR worse than foolish.

Rise Gold Corp and its subsidiary are both Nevada corporations, a common strategic liability defense practice historically in the mining and other industries. However, the controlling parent company is headquartered (and where the Rise Grass Valley subsidiary appears to have its key office) in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the senior officers and most directors in control of the enterprises are based in Vancouver. I refer to "Rise" collectively because the Grass Valley mine subsidiary appears controlled by its Canadian parent operating their primary common asset: this mine closed and flooded since 1956. See my # 2. While they may have complex legal and tax strategies for two such companies operating one mine and related equipment as their only major record significant asset, I will treat them in this Objection (as I expect CERCLA and adversaries will do) as one enterprise.

I also refer to Rise as a "foreign" enterprise because its senior management is controlled from Canada, and many of its shareholders appear to be non-US persons, although there appear to be some US private equity or hedge funds involved from places distant from Grass Valley. As a cross-border insolvency lawyer, the issue for me is have they arranged the capacity for a Canadian CCAA and/or Nevada insolvency proceeding, if they were later to choose that defense. Thus, Rise is "foreign" in many senses of the word that combine for the functional point that they are not a typical, "local" Grass Valley business, in the sense that most or all the profits Rise distributes to shareholders will be enjoyed by many non-US persons and distant US persons and cannot be expected to benefit the local economy of our community. See my #'s 2 and 4.

As a general matter before considering this DEIR miner (who may be an exception but has made no case in the DEIR for being an exception), my experience suggest caution. Should any miner (especially such a "foreign" miner in a financial condition similar to what Rise admits in my # 2) ever need protection from creditors, or exhaust its working capital and credit, or wish to arrange a distress sale of the mine, or seek to block creditors from enforcing claims against insiders, the common, historical mining industry practice in that situation (if it had sufficient



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funds for such tactics) would be to file a CCAA insolvency case in Canada, likely with a related US Chapter 15 case and perhaps a related US bankruptcy case in Nevada (although they would prefer the Southern District of New York, if they wish to gamble on a venue fight). These traditional mining industry arrangements and related tactics have been successful in many prior mining distress situations in frustrating and disappointing local US mining creditors and their mine's communities. If one were to backtrack down the trail of abandoned mines on the EPA list, including the more than 40,000 in California, one would find that to be a common pattern. However, if there is no buyer or sufficient financing for the mine, the historical miner practice may have simply been to elect the cheapest escape route by filing a US Chapter 7 liquidation, in which the court appointed trustee usually exercised his or her right to abandon the assets, leaving a no asset shell, whose bankruptcy can frustrate pursuit of insider claims, which are the often unmotivated trustee's exclusive right to pursue, although such trustee could perhaps sell the Chapter 7 estate claims cheap to someone friendly to the defendants. My point here is that many miners in such other historical cases have successfully used these and other tactics to achieve a result in which the shareholders and insider defendants (especially foreign persons) end up keeping their profits, and the local victims and communities recover much less and are almost always disappointed and frustrated. Local governmental authorities, who must then deal with the mess when the abandoned mining stops, are also harmed and burdened. These tragic, history lessons are one reason why savvy governmental authorities are very careful about with whom they deal in such risky mining situations, and insist on extensive due diligence, particularly as to character, track record, and financial responsibility. See my #'s 2, 3.N, 14, and 15.

G. Disclaimer Of Personal Experience With Rise, But Rather with Experience As To The Mining Industry From Hundreds of Other Failed Mines That Lead Me to Suggest More Hard Questions (see, eg, my #'s 2, 3.N, 14, and 15) And Due Diligence Before Tolerating This Disputed And Insufficient DEIR Or Approving This Mine Reopening.

As explained in the preceding subsection, there are more than 40,000 abandoned mines on the EPA list in California alone for common reasons, one of which is that their miner ran out of money, another is that they completed or disappointed in their local economic exploitation and retreated to a foreign location with their mining profits (often leaving a mess without promised reclamation or restoration), and another is that they were frustrated by local political and legal enforcement and resistance or water competition by local victims and then retreated, using a common pattern of technical legal bankruptcy and other maneuvers to protect the responsible insiders and disappoint the local creditors and mine neighbors. See the preceding subsection and my #'s 1.D, 3.N, 4, 14, and 15.

In any case, as to the future performance capabilities of this DEIR miner, government decisionmakers are not required to speculate on whether, when, or to what extent this miner could raise the necessary cash and working capital to even accomplish timely the insufficient things that are contemplated in the disputed DEIR. The burden of proof and persuasion on such financial and other feasibility are on this DEIR for mining plan performance and CEQA compliance. However, the rest of us local residents who are threatened by this DEIR plan are



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entitled to ask government decisionmakers to ask this DEIR miner, how and when is this miner going to raise sufficient working capital, and is this really just an effort to set up the mine for a “flip” to an undisclosed successor to replace them or to another controlling person behind the curtain? See, eg, my #'s 2, 4, 14, and 15. Who does this DEIR mining matters, because in my experience there are many historical horror stories in this mining industry about devastated local communities. Surprisingly for someone whose DEIR omits essential disclosures apparently to reduce controversy (see, eg, my # 3.E), this disputed DEIR revealed its planned use of hexavalent chromium, although in obscure places, creating water pollution risk that makes people wonder if this will become “another Hinkley” (featured in the *Erin Brockovich* movie), as discussed in my #'s 3.C, G, and H, and 7.

I add this disclaimer that I do not address my generalizations about the mining industry and other historical situations as personal challenges to Rise, since I only know what is on the public record about the DEIR and Rise team (and only some of that). Perhaps Rise is different from the other miners with whom I and others have had unsatisfactory prior experiences. However, there are many errors, omissions, and deficiencies in this DEIR as addressed in this and other objections, whatever else may or may not be in controversy by association with an industry with a history of objectionable or worse players leaving over 40,000 abandoned mines in California on the EPA list. In any case, when addressing a particular unknown company or person in any such risky situation, like reopening a mine closed and flooded since 1956 with limited reported funds and information (eg, my # 2), it is prudent for government to ask questions, especially in doing due diligence about anyone in an industry that history has shown often to conflict with local communities for what the residents consider to be good cause. While the mining industry has many “players” who should never be allowed to operate here, considering their record, a reason to ask questions about the risk of a Rise “flip” to some other miner or some change in control to someone “behind the curtain,” I do not know Rise Gold Corp or its only subsidiary or their insiders personally. Therefore, it is possible that they are somehow an exception to the often-problematic standards of the mining industry, although that does not excuse the flaws in this DEIR or the questions about their financial circumstances and other issues in this Objection. Hint: if a miner tells us that it is doing something by the “industry standard,” insist, instead, that it be done in accordance with the higher standard of applicable law. In my experience the loose concept of “industry standards” were cited and misused by many of those more than 40,000 abandoned California mines.

H. Preview of Coming Attractions in This Objection And the Hard Questions (See, eg, My #'s 15 and 3.E) Ignored in the Disputed DEIR That Cannot Properly Be So Evaded Or Deficiently Addressed.

The organizing principle of this Objection begins with this discussion of the players and some general concerns (like those illustrations summarized in this opening section) that should be in the readers' minds as they consider the more detailed and specific objections that follow. For example, as government decisionmakers read the DEIR and my Objection, please consider at least three important common errors, omissions, and deficiencies that I demonstrate below in the flawed or worse DEIR mine pitch. First, whenever the DEIR addresses a controversial



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issue (eg, like its incorrect and unsubstantiated assumptions about the groundwater recharge rate or “balancing” versus realities described in my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M, and 5), the DEIR incorrectly assumes that one can judge the next 80 years of 24/7/365 mining based on the past (or, as to inapplicable NID data, for what happens after 2040 from what happened earlier). See my # 3.M. Such DEIR assumptions ignore the “new normal” of climate change causing unprecedented, chronic dryness, drought, and other environmental problems (eg, the DEIR projects groundwater recharge based on the average annual rain between 1967 and 2017, which is not predictive of the future at issue, especially since the dewatering from our shared groundwater is being disposed of downriver somewhere else by the miner). See, eg, my # 3.D, E, F, and 5.

Second, the DEIR claims (and we dispute) that any analysis of its mining beyond the next 20 years (or 2040) is “speculation,” so that they incorrectly claim CEQA allows them to avoid discussion of any burdens, risks, or problems in the last 60 years of its mining (or after 2040) until they close the mine. See my # 3.M and 14 and my supplemental brief. How can any responsible government gamble on that kind of “leap of faith” or “wishful thinking” for an undesirable mine without any net benefit to the community (see, eg, my # 4) managed in this kind of situation with such admitted financial challenges (see, eg, my # 2), especially as every quality scientist assures us that the next 80 years will become progressively worse for our climate, our weather, and our quality of life. See, eg, my # 1 and 3.M.

Third, even apart from mine advocates’ meritless demands for DEIR approval, despite such errors, omissions, and deficiencies and without sufficient reliable data, time and again my Objection reveals that the disputed DEIR assumes, without sufficient proof or even valid logic, that the past is predictive of the future. But see my #'s 3.M and 14. Despite my such documented rebuttals and others, the disputed DEIR insists both that the last 60 years after the next 20 years (of 80) (or after 2040) must be the same as those first 20 (or before 2040), and also that nothing has changed between either (i) the closing and flooding of the mine in 1956 and now, or (ii) now and what happens underground as they mine in new and expanded places and deeper without knowing what substances and problems they will encounter. See, eg, my #'s 3.E and M. For example, maybe the arsenic, asbestos, and other hazardous chemicals that were insufficiently addressed in the DEIR will get even worse in the new mining, or maybe they’ll encounter and unearth new and worse toxins. See my #'s 6 and 7. The point is that the disputed DEIR speculation allocates that risk of their unknowns onto us neighbors above and around this undesirable, no net benefit, 2585-acre underground mine, instead of correctly assigning those risks to the mine owner whose profits will not stay in our community. See, eg, my #'s 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 14.

What follows such discussions is a detailed analysis in my #'s 3 – 13 of my top 50 plus specific errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the DEIR. My typical approach is to quote or cite such an objectionable DEIR provision, and then expose corresponding illustrative errors, omission, and deficiencies, often by reference to my more detailed analysis in a following section of this Objection addressing a particular threat topic, like groundwater depletion, hexavalent chromium, or other hazardous materials, etc. In many cases I use the DEIR’s own inconsistent or conflicting words against the DEIR, since the DEIR reads like it was written by different people whose coordination was imperfect and some were less connected to reality than others.



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What follows that demonstration of DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies is a summary list in my # 15 of hard questions evaded or inadequately addressed in the disputed DEIR, as a practical means of an illustrative summary that may be useful to the decisionmakers. If such hard questions (and others in my #15 for follow up) are not addressed in this process, and if the DEIR and mine are allowed to proceed to the next challenge stage, triggering more resistance in other forums and in the political realm, these questions will ultimately be asked and answered in the resistance processes to come. That creates an "I told you situation" that is best to avoid, not just for the sake of harmony in our community and lives, but also because the longer this doomed mine approval process continues before it stops the mine, the worse off we all will be. And that is the final question that DEIR decisionmakers must ask: what happens if the mining starts and then stops, whether from the resolute local opposition, or from the simple, inability of the mine to endure overlooked burdens and consequences of inconvenient reality and truth, from orders of a court, or from resistance, law reform and other political changes (see, eg, my # 3.N), or otherwise.

In assessing such perpetual legal and political conflicts that approval of the disputed DEIR or mine would unleash, I ask the decisionmakers to consider the practical realities and the effects of local competition from us locals against the mine, such as over our owned groundwater. See my # 3.N. This was a highly speculative effort by a small, risky, and financially challenged Canadian based miner with just this one mine. See my # 2. When adequately informed of the realities, the whole of the impacted local community can be expected to join what is already a substantial resistance, as demonstrated at the March 24 County hearing. See, eg, my #'s 3.N and 8. No public relations games by this DEIR mine could possibly overcome the concerns of those thousands of us living on the surface above or around this 2585-acre underground mine, when they discover the burdens, risks, and harms already now identified in objections like this one, threatening our homes, our environment, our forests, our suburban (not rural) community, and the way of life we have long enjoyed. When *Sunset Magazine* named Nevada City one of the best retirement places in California just before I retired in 2015 and moved up here, no one imagined such threats from a mine closed in 1956. Therefore, the decisionmakers should consider the common pattern and consequences of such local residents and voters enforcing their legal and political rights and competing for shared resources until the mine stops. Our numbers of such local residents and other objectors at dwarfs those few imagined new jobs for workers from somewhere. See, eg, my #'s 4 and 8.

The long analysis that follows demonstrates some of the many reasons why we decline to suffer this mine underneath us, and it is not practical to even list objections here, much less explain them, which is why I incorporate other objections below. These concerns are about more than just the traditional CEQA environmental issues, such as about hexavalent chromium, depletion of our groundwater by the mine dewatering without the illusory recharge and balancing theory of average rainfall between 1967 and 2017, and other issues addressed here and by many objectors. I also urge your special attention to these disputes where my special expertise becomes relevant. That experience inspires me to suggest that you should study closely not just the disputed DEIR, but also the current SEC 10K and 10Q on the Rise Gold Corp. website (see, eg, my # 2), since assurances in the DEIR about CEQA and legal compliance, safety, and mitigation are meaningless, if the miner lacks sufficient working capital and resources to perform timely even what it assumes in the disputed DEIR, much less the additions



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for which us locals will be advocating, as described in my # 3.N. In all my decades of bankruptcy, cross-border insolvency, and insurance insolvency cases, I can count on two hands the number of times when victim creditors and communities have achieved recoveries they considered adequate, even from companies with much stronger balance sheets than this miner. Cross-border mining cases are usually especially disappointing. The time to save our community from such grief is now, not later when resistance ultimately stops the mine, and we must then confront the residue.

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I. Incorporation By Reference of Other Objections And Comments.

Except for only a few less relevant or compatible comments that violated the civility or personal character challenge rules of the Commission, as to which I express no opinion, I was impressed by almost all the hundred plus comments presented at the March 24, 2022, Planning Commission hearing. I incorporate those such appropriate DEIR opposition comments at the hearing, as well as their speakers' relevant follow-up written filings further expressing and expanding on such oppositions, particularly these comments and filings I specifically incorporate of: the Community Environmental Advocates Foundation (aka the CEA Foundation) and its constituent group allies opposing the mine; Minewatch Nevada County and its coalition members, including the Sierra Cub, Wolf Creek Community Alliance, San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association, the South Yuba River Citizens League, and others; and Friends of Banner Mountain. When the transcript is available and I have access to the other written objections on the record of what is filed by the April 4, 2022, deadline, I will be more specific about what else I incorporate for the record. But apart from the occasional personal attacks on our adversaries, as distinct from the attacks on the DEIR and the Rise public data (eg, its SEC filings and public records addressed in my #2), government decisionmakers should assume until then that all of us affected locals share common interests and concerns in opposition. Our differences are more about our respective individual knowledge, experiences, and qualifications, rather than about our shared opposition to the disputed DEIR, which impacts, hurts, and risks us all in many common ways, although we each may only know presently some of those different ways. As our resistance gets better organized by what we read and hear from each other, we can be more specific about our such incorporations by reference and can arrange better delegations and allocations of commentaries among our respective specialties.

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2. Rise Gold Corp./Rise Grass Valley Inc. Capability of Performance Questions Raising DEIR Feasibility And Credibility Doubts.

A. General Reported Financial Condition Concerns And Issues Make the DEIR Assumptions And Projected Accomplishments Speculative At Best.

Because this disputed DEIR mining operation admits to being economically marginal (at 6-14), and even the desired gold revenue is admitted to being speculative, as discussed below, the questionable financial condition and capabilities of the miner, Rise, become even more



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important. Absent sufficient assurances of timely funding or credit to perform what is planned or represented, the disputed DEIR is just wishful thinking or worse (or something to flip to who knows who). These economic issues of concern regarding the mine and the mine owner are generally ignored in the disputed DEIR, although relevant as I explain in my # 14. When occasionally something relevant to economics is mentioned in the DEIR (eg, at 6-14 or 4.3-103-104), it is not addressed much or sufficiently. These dynamics cause the disputed DEIR to be fatally flawed and deficient by never discussing the fundamental environmental and other problems and harms that would result from starting and the being unable financially or otherwise to continue mining operations and mitigations as planned, especially while us thousands of resolute and motivated neighbors above and around the 2585-acre underground mine are continuously exercising our legal and political rights to compete and resist the DEIR and mining. However bad that situation may become, any risk/benefit standard would conclude that the DEIR and mine should never have been approved in the first place, especially considering this is a no net benefit mine operation (see my #'s 4 and 14).

Even if the DEIR were correct, compliant, and sufficient, which I and others dispute, government decisionmakers must decide if it is reasonable to rely on Rise's financial capability timey to perform and accomplish all the many essential things promised or assumed to occur in accordance with the disputed DEIR. A non-feasible DEIR is wishful thinking or worse that does not comply with CEQA and other applicable law. See my # 14. Nothing in this DEIR record reflects any rational basis for assuming DEIR feasibility or credibility, as the DEIR does without any substantial evidence at all, and despite all the contrary admission I address below and elsewhere. A review of the Rise website posted financial statements filed with its current SEC Forms 10K and 10Q suggests that potential victims of the mine have reasonable questions about the financial credibility of the DEIR's expected mitigations and protections, especially since there is no sufficient discussion about what happens if this DEIR miner has insufficient cash, credit, and resources to timely accomplish what is needed to avoid or mitigate the problems we fear and address in this and other objections. As a bankruptcy lawyer with nearly a half century of experience with failed mines (see my # 1), the lack of timely and sufficient working capital, cash flow, and credit are the most common problem of mine failures. There are more than 40,000 failed and abandoned mines in California alone on the EPA website, for similar reasons. I also suggest financial credibility and performance capability investigations by government decisionmakers about the disputed DEIR and Rise, because, for example, the most recent SEC Form 10Q report dated 10/31/21 on the Rise Gold Corp. website states the following "going concern" admissions first at F-5 and then at F-20:

The Company is in the early stages of exploration and, as is common with any exploration company, it raises financing for its acquisition activities. The accompanying condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, which presumes that the Company will continue operations for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize assets and discharge liabilities in the normal course of business. The Company has incurred a loss of \$212,300 for the three-month period ended October 31, 2021, and has accumulated a deficit of \$19,756,777. The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent on the



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Company's ability to maintain continued support from its shareholders and creditors and to raise additional capital and implement its business plan. There is no assurance that the Company will be able to obtain adequate financing in the future or that such financing will be on terms advantageous to the Company. However, the Company has been able to obtain such financings in the past. The consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments that might be necessary if the Company is unable to continue as a going concern. On October 31, 2021, the Company had working capital of \$474,447 (vs July 31, 2021 - \$956,524), including cash of \$376,179. As such, these material uncertainties cast a substantial doubt regarding the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Furthermore, the novel coronavirus outbreak ("COVID-19") was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in 2020. The situation is dynamic and the ultimate duration and magnitude of the impact on the economy and the Company's business are not known at this time. These impacts could include an impact on the Company's ability to obtain debt and equity financing to fund ongoing exploration activities as well as its ability to explore and conduct business. These consolidated financial statements do not give effect to adjustments that would be necessary to the carrying values and classification of assets and liabilities should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern. (At F-5)

The Company expects to operate at a loss for at least the next 12 months. It has no agreements for additional financing and cannot provide any assurance that additional funding will be available to finance its operations on acceptable terms to enable it to carry out its business plan. There are no assurances that the Company will be able to complete further sales of its common stock or any other form of additional financing. However, the Company has been able to obtain such financings in the past. If the Company is unable to achieve the financing necessary to continue its plan of operations, then it will not be able to carry out any exploration work on the Idaho-Maryland Property or the other properties in which it owns an interest and its business may fail. As such, these material uncertainties cast a substantial doubt regarding the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. (At F-20)

Similar statements were made in the Rise Form 10K SEC annual filing for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2021, also posted on the website, as stated by the Vancouver, Canada, Davidson & Company LLP accountants, including the following at page 49:

The Company has incurred a loss of \$1,603,878 for the year ended July 31, 2021, and has accumulated a deficit of \$19,544,477. The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent on the Company's ability to maintain continued support from its shareholders and creditors and to raise additional capital and implement its business plan. There is no assurance that the Company will be able to obtain adequate



financing in the future or that such financing will be on terms advantageous to the Company. However, management believes that the Company has sufficient working capital to meet its projected minimum financial obligations for the next fiscal year. The consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments that might be necessary if the Company is unable to continue as a going concern. ***On July 31, 2021, the Company had working capital of \$956,524 (2020—working capital of \$3,267,744.)

Also, note that the Rise 10K at p. 6 states: “As of the date of these consolidated financial statements [7/31/21], the Company has not established any proven or probable reserves on its mineral properties and has incurred only acquisition and exploration costs.” (Emphasis added) That lack of any gold value data prevents lending or investing except on a highly speculative basis. That credit and investment risk becomes even more clear in other statements, such as:

No estimates of mineral resources have been prepared for the I-M Mine Property. We are not treating historical mineral resource estimated as a current mineral resource estimate. In addition, there are no mineral reserves estimates for the I-M Mine Project. (10K at 34, emphasis added)

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What that means is that, until the mine is dewatered and prepared for operation, so that the ancient, pre-1956 closure data can be updated, the creditworthiness of Rise for raising money appears limited to speculators. That makes the credibility of the DEIR’s wishful thinking about sufficient money magically appearing to accomplish its disputed DEIR goals seem even more of a fantasy risk. Even speculators are used to betting against some data about proven or probable reserves.

These financial “going concern” issues relate, among other things, to the fact that the reopening of the mine in accordance with the DEIR will require a huge amount of working capital and capital investment which Rise does not presently report and as to which they report no financial commitments. Indeed, the entire economics of this DEIR project and the mine are mysterious and speculative. Any such financing will be complicated by the existing Rise \$1,000,000 loan secured by the mine real estate as reported in some detail in that annual 10K, with less but some updated data in that most current 10Q filing. Among the consequences of that financial uncertainty (at best, and presumed disability) to accomplish timely the DEIR goals and mitigation promises and assumptions, even as to what little is admitted by the DEIR to be necessary for the commencement of operations, many months after beginning work (eg, months of dewatering and then pre-start work) and follow up new mine work would be necessary before any gold revenue could be received, even if they were able to find sufficient quantities of gold to cover the costs. Those circumstances raise many questions that are not addressed in the DEIR, such as: Are we suffering all this just as an option for Rise to market this situation to someone else? Ie, is this just a “flipping” or fronting situation to or for one of Rise’s significant shareholders or other Big Mining allies or someone else “behind the curtain”? Why should anyone approve a DEIR that the applicant demonstrates no current ability to afford to perform? What harms are done if the work commences and stops for lack



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of funds at different points in time? What happens to our environment and community if, perceiving their inability to comply and perform, the DEIR miner or its successors were to file Chapter 11 cases in Nevada and/or Canadian “CCAA” insolvency cases with related Nevada or New York Chapter 15 cases to stall for time, while they seek a buyer to use such cases in ways that are likely to provoke and disappoint us neighbors and our community? See also my # 15, addressing many hard questions that the disputed DEIR fails to address satisfactorily or often at all.

Besides these obvious cash flow and working capital deficiencies, the 10K and 10Q financial statements and commentaries raise other concerns. For example, the 10/31/21 “Plan of Operations” states at F17: “Our plan of operations for the next 12 months is to continue the Use Permit process in Nevada County, California, to re-open the Idaho-Maryland gold mine at the I-M Mine Property.” However, there is no identified source of funding for that accomplishment. For the quarter period ending 10/31/21 the 10Q reports a net loss of \$212,300 (compared to a 2020 such net loss of \$1,025,358), while the 10K reports an annual net loss in 2021 of \$1,603,878 (following a net loss in 2020 of \$5,471,535) at page 38. Again, there is no explanation of how that DEIR project is possible given limited funds and resources. Note the only significant Rise assets are the mine, already subject to a secured loan of \$1,000,000 discussed in the 10K at 58-59. According to that 10K and the 10Q (at F-7-8) Rise purchased the Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine property in 2017 for \$1,950,000 plus stock warrants, plus another contiguous 82 acres for \$1,300,000. While Rise states in the 10Q at F-8 that as of 10/31/21 it has incurred cumulative exploration expenditures of \$7,224,186, that investment has not created the kind of cash value assets against which even asset-based lenders would extend credit, especially in a second lien position (if that were even permitted by the existing first lien lender) or in a refinancing of the existing debt with additional credit. See 10K at 45 listing total book value of assets at \$5,881,260 (\$4,149,053 for the mine and \$575,781 for equipment). In my experience this means that this additional funding likely will have to come from some new controlling party, whether as a “last in money” controlling partner, an investor acquiring control by diluting the existing equity, a profit-sharing miner tenant, a “loan to own” lender, or some other change in control transaction. (The theory of Rise raising sufficient equity for what seems to require massive funding needs seems unlikely, because, even if there were enough speculators willing to invest, the dilutive effect of that size of new investment would seem to wipe out the existing investors and incite them to consider the usual legal recourse for such shareholders, which would further complicate Rise’s financial situation.) Don’t DEIR governmental decisionmakers wish to know with whom you are really going to be dealing? See my # 14.

Any serious analyst of the disputed DEIR should also read the Rise Form 10K filing, because it actually contains more useful mining related disclosures on some important mining topics than does the DEIR. See my # 3 - 13. That reality supports the concerns of many of us that the disputed DEIR may have chosen not to address such inconvenient truths that would reflect badly about the disputed story presented in the DEIR. For example, while the Form 10K is still an inadequate discussion of the facts of concern to those living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, the 10K discloses and admits much more



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than the seriously deficient DEIR. See, eg, my # 3.E. Why? Apparently, this DEIR miner is apparently more concerned with (what it considers to be) adequate disclosure to the SEC and shareholders than to the governmental decision makers reading the less informative DEIR.

I (like others) ask the governmental decisionmakers to consider what us locals and our community will suffer, if the many predicted problems occur, including some that even the DEIR admits, but somehow nevertheless assumes will be mitigated or solved by the large, necessary amounts of money Rise financials report that it does not now have and (considering the accountant's going concern warning) may never have. We, of course, also worry about the additional problems, risks, and issues identified in this Objection and others (but often omitted or deficiently described in the disputed DEIR) that would require substantial new funding from uncertain sources. Where is that money coming from in time? Yes, Rise perhaps might be able raise money from high-risk speculator type investors in the US or Canada or even some high-risk taking, asset-based lender taking a huge "equity kicker." Yes, Rise might perhaps be able, **eventually** to turn recovered gold into operating cash flow, assuming it had sufficient funding to bridge itself to that distant stage when it could begin to recover gold (and assuming there was sufficient gold there to be extracted), although the closed and flooded DEIR mine production first requires both substantial dewatering and start up time and expenditures and many other expensive activities long prior to any possible gold production and revenue, if they are even able to find commercial amounts of gold in time. No such initial operating reserve cash funds or financing commitments appear on those financial statements. So, where is any proof that any of the DEIR plan is feasible? To the contrary, Rise's own accountant questions its "going concern" capability, recognizing that the whole DEIR is speculative at best. See my # 14. Considering the horrible consequences to our community for a botched mine reopening (eg, see my #'s 3 - 15) and then closing for lack of funding or on account of other reality problems or local resistance or otherwise, it seems irresponsible for government to trust in the DEIR's wishful thinking as to anything in this disputed DEIR being feasible or plausible, even if it were not so full of errors, omission, and deficiencies as are listed in this and other objections.

What all that likely means is that Rise may need a "money partner" and "change in control transaction" to fund what is contemplated in the disputed DEIR, as well as what more work objectors like me expect the mine to need for funding compliance, performance, and dealing with what more we expect would be required by law or government, but which risk the DEIR fails to address adequately or at all. See my #'s 3.N. and 14. Government decisionmakers here should ask: is this applicant just taking this risky investment in hope of acquiring mining rights that it cannot itself exploit to "flip" the mine to some more viable, but possibly more dangerous or unsuitable company? (Incidentally, that is a not uncommon tactic for earning a return from the real mining company that may emerge from somewhere to do what this applicant cannot financially accomplish by itself as a managing partner, operating tenant for profit sharing, loan to own lender, or etc.) If that is the case, it should matter as much to our governments as it does to us locals who that "real miner" will be. Some miners out in this global industry might be interested in such a "flip" to them of this opportunity, but many are the sort of companies who would be unlikely to have been successful in trying to win direct approval themselves, even though they have ample funding, if our government



↑ decisionmakers did character or track record checks. We all should want to know the suitability, character, financial capabilities, environmental orientation, and track record of whomever wants to mine 24/7/365 beneath our suburban neighborhood for the next 80 years. So, ask yourself, given the Rise financials, who is the "real miner" to be here?

In particular, one historical tactic used by this industry for government scrutiny generally is when a mine owner leases the mine to another even more unsuitable and less safe operator-tenant for a share of the profits and other compensation, and then the tenant does bad things and the landlord claims under older, disputed case law (as to which there are important exceptions and factual distinctions) that the landlord miner is not liable for the (often then bankrupt) tenant's wrongs, as in cases like *Butte Copper & Zinc Co. v. Poaque*, 164 F.2d 201 (9th Cir. 1947). See my #'s 3.N, 14, and 15, where I predict legislation or initiatives that could improve our surface owner and user defenses against such abuses, if any such things were ever attempted here. (Again, I have no idea what this DEIR miner intends to do, but any responsible government mistakenly allowing such 24/7/365 mining for 80-years underneath us needs to protect us surface owners and users above and around the 2585-acre mine from any such possible risks.)

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WHEN THE DISPUTED DEIR ADDRESSES ALTERNATIVES TO THE MINING OPERATING PLAN AT ITS # 6 (my # 13), IT ADMITS THE FOLLOWING (AT 6-14) IN A DISCUSSION ABOUT ITS ALLEGED INABILITY TO REDUCE ITS 24/7/365 OPERATING PLAN TO A NORMAL 12 HOUR DAY: "CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS WOULD INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY AND LIKELY MAKE THE PROJECT ECONOMICALLY INFEASIBLE." That proves how fragile the operating margins of this mine are expected to be. See, eg, my #'s 4 and 14. The foregoing financial data about Rise show no capacity to handle even essential, mine reopening and initial startup expenses and normal operating costs, much less what happens if (as our local resistance expects) the mine operations sooner cease to operate 24/7/365 for 80 plus years. One way or another Rise cannot expect to prevail in perpetual disputes over groundwater, hexavalent chromium, and other issues in courts and political forums over its operations with the thousands of people living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine (like me) who daily would feel the adverse consequences predicted in our objections and not resolved by the disputed DEIR.

Our losses of real estate values from mine harms and stigma, as well as the other burdens, risks, and problems objected to herein and elsewhere, are not forgivable or tolerable by us surface neighbors. And nowhere does the disputed DEIR deal with the cost and operating effects of such perpetual legal and political conflicts and competitions, even though they should be obvious, because we neighbors have our own legal and political rights to compete against the mine to protect our homes, our groundwater, our environment, our forest and plants, and our quiet enjoyment of our community without such mining. See, eg, my #'s 3.N, 3.D, 3.F, 4, 7, and 14, explaining how our local surface owners expect eventually to compete with hundreds of our own new wells to preserve our property, forest, and human water needs in the coming climate/dryness/drought stressed environment without allowing dewatering water waste by the mine sending our groundwater somewhere else



downriver in Wolf Creek in reliance on a disputed DEIR “recharge” or “balancing” fantasy that the nonpredictive, past average rain between 1967 and 2017 predicts our rain in the next 80-years. See, eg, my # 3. D, F, and M and 5.

B. Rise, A Functionally Canadian Operation, Can Be Expected To Export Any Mining Profits to “Foreign” Investors, Adding No Net Benefit To Us Locals Or Our Community (See My #’s 2 and 4).

For functional and strategic purposes, this is a Vancouver, Canada, enterprise, incorporated in Nevada, but with a Vancouver headquarters where its officers and most of its directors are located. There is no reason to imagine that any of the profits exported to Canada or elsewhere will have any local benefit here. Therefore, as addressed in my # 4, the calculation of any alleged “net benefit” from the DEIR mine must depend on comparing the many harms, risks, and dispute costs to come against only what the mine operation spends locally, including on a small number of local employees (compared to the thousands of resolute and continuous opposition locals, like me, living above and around the surface of the 2585-acre underground mine.) When I describe herein those taking the profits as “foreign investors” (see below), that is what I reference as outsiders, even if some US parties somewhere else in the US acquire some stock and profits. The point is that the profits cannot be fairly counted as a local benefit to our economy here. For example, the 10K financials at 75-77 discuss shareholders, and many are Canadians or other non-US investors. There are some US listed investors like EMA GARP Fund LLP of Wellesley, Mass., but there is no stated or otherwise apparent reason to imagine significant profits returning to our community, if there ever are any profits. That is why I believe my shorthand reference to exporting mine profits to “foreign investor” or Rise as a “foreign” enterprise is appropriate for the risk/benefit analysis. As explained in my # 4, that means there is little but downside here from this mine, and any meaningful upside would benefit outsiders who do not suffer from the things to which us locals object.

C. Our Government Decisionmakers Should Do Advance Due Diligence on Both the Initial And Any Ultimate Persons in Control Of the Mine.

Under the circumstances described above and the risk of a “change in control transaction” to someone even less desirable and suitable for our local comfort, the credibility and track record of the relevant miner players are essential to any responsible evaluation of the disputed DEIR. See my # 14. Stated another way, any approval of the DEIR or mine is premature at best until Rise either (1) demonstrates publicly its capacity to afford to perform and comply with applicable laws and accomplish even the insufficient promises and safety/environmental goals in the DEIR (ie, overcomes its disturbing admissions in its current and past 10K and 10Q filings and what it admits about infeasibility in DEIR 6-14), and (2) reveals who is going to fund and control the mining and such attempted mitigations, compliance, and performance, once the errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the disputed DEIR are addressed with more requirements consistent with applicable laws both now and in the future, when us aroused local voters organize for that enhanced protection of our community. See my #’s 3.N and 14.

Ind 254-5



Ind 254-5

That should also be true as to the answers to my hard questions not answered by the DEIR, such as those I ask at my # 15 and elsewhere throughout this Objection.

Although I know and suggest nothing about the merits of such matters or Rise or its people beyond the record data mentioned in this Objection, I note that the Rise Form 10K at pages 69-70 describes certain "Involvement in Certain Legal Proceedings" as to an officer and Banks Island Gold Ltd. involving a 2016 bankruptcy matter, and charges of environmental violations in Canadian mining. Track records are especially important to investigate with mining companies, since historically it's an "aggressive" industry, which by its nature is often about removing value from a local community and leaving a worthless (or worse) mine behind. See my # 4, describing no net benefit from this mine to our local community. If there is any doubt about the importance of responsible mining versus unsatisfactory, historical industry practices, I also suggest that the due diligence include communications with the communities around the more than 40,000 abandoned California mines on the EPA list, such as asking those communities whether, if they had it to do over again, they would resist the mine with everything they have. The answer should surprise no one. Many mines leave neighbors disappointed or worse. See my # 1, where I describe my experiences dealing with liquidating or restructuring insurance or surety companies who regretted issuing insurance or surety bonds to miners.

Ind 254-6

3. Some Key DEIR Admissions And Telling Errors, Omissions, And Worse To Lay The Foundation For Specific Objections And Continuing Concerns Beyond the Disputed DEIR.

A. Some Key DEIR Admissions, Omissions, And Deficiencies That Fail Either To Comply with CEQA Or To Analyze the Burdens, Risks, And Problems That Concern Us Locals Living On The Surface Above And Around the 2585-Acre Underground Mine, Generally Deficiently Addressed by the DEIR As If That Underground Threat Were Incidental, Rather the Core of the Legal And Political Disputes To Come

I. Introductory Statements That Contrast What Is Admitted In the Disputed DEIR In Comparison To What Is Omitted, Misdescribed, Or Worse.

There is grossly insufficient correct and credible DEIR information regarding the 2585-acre underground part of the mine and its operation and effects, as if somehow the DEIR could ignore that part of this CEQA mining "project" beyond the surface owned boundary of the disputed DEIR's so-called "project" at the Brunswick Industrial Site and 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road or at the Centennial Industrial Site (which is claimed to be separate in the DEIR, but is not.) What DEIR information does exist about that 2585-acre underground mine is scattered in pieces throughout the thousands of pages of the DEIR and cross-referenced materials in ways that are not only unhelpful, but often seem grossly deficient, incomplete, misleading, and contrary to CEQA. See my # 14 and my supplemental brief. That



Ind 254-6

is especially true for thousands of us who own or use the surface either above or around that 2585-acre underground mine or live in either the larger “impact zone” or the much larger ‘stigma zone’ where our groundwater, air quality, and other environmental concerns are at risk as well as our real estate values from that one CEQA project, especially the 2585-acre underground area beneath or near us. Indeed, a casual DEIR reader would incorrectly assume that the DEIR was merely mining below owned surface property, rather than 2585-acres underground beneath or near some unsuspecting homeowner. See the underground mining description in the current Rise 10K discussed in my # 2, which provides better, but still insufficient, data than the DEIR. Is that why the DEIR incorrectly describes us locals as if we were somehow expendable “rural” homeowners, as distinguished from what the law and normal people would consider our normal our suburban housing we own above and around that 2585-acre underground mine taking shared groundwater in which we also have ownership? (As far as I am concerned, no mine victim is expendable wherever they live, and the DEIR trying disproportionately to harm some for the benefit of the many without constitutionally required compensation has been prohibited by the California Supreme Court, as I explain in my # 4.A.)

II. Some Key Illustrations of Mining Disputes, Water Depletion And Quality, Toxic Substances (eg, Hexavalent Chromium, Asbestos, Arsenic, Etc), Air Quality, And Related Issues, Including Financial Feasibility.

Consider the following illustrations of fact (largely from DEIR # 4.8, with selected supplements) that are admitted in various places in the disputed DEIR regarding the 2585-acre underground mine, beginning with water supply, toxic hazards, air quality, and related issues:

(a). Some Basic Mine Data And Illustrative, Related DEIR Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies, Including Failure Adequately To Disclose the Surface Locations Above the 2585-Acre Underground Mine.

Ind 254-7

The underground mine ‘mineral rights boundary’ is described as “approximately 2585 acres [emphasis added] and generally contains properties surrounding the Brunswick and Centennial Industrial Sites, with the majority of additional land area located north ... and east ... includ[ing] most of the Nevada County Airport and surrounding Air Park, as well as property along both sides of Brunswick Road, Greenhorn Road, and Idaho Maryland Road.” DEIR at 2-1 and in various uninformative DEIR maps that do not allow us thousands of local residents and voters above and around that mine to know what underground mining and groundwater depletion is occurring below or near us. (While a better description than the DEIR is discussed below in my # 2 from the Rise SEC Form 10K, that is still insufficient.) Rise and the DEIR have apparently made no effort to warn such local residents of what is mining planned beneath them, and the DEIR ignores many of the related risks, problems, and disputes the DEIR would be triggering there. In other words, the disputed DEIR contemplates largely deficiently analyzed or explained blasting, tunneling, digging, removing rock, dewatering, and other mining activities directly underneath or near and below thousands of local residents’ (and



Ind 254-7

voters') homes and businesses, all of whom as surface owners have competing legal and political rights that the DEIR generally ignores. For example, us surface residents' rights include protection from subsidence by a right to subjacent and lateral support, as well as to competing access to use our own groundwater in competition with the DEIR miner, who would be dewatering beneath them 24/7/365 for 80 years and possibly drying our surface land without any adequate CEQA or environmental discussion. See, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M and 5. (The DEIR's disputed assumptions are insufficient, as discussed in my #'s 3.M and F.) It does not take an expert to notice how many trees in our local forests are already dying and creating fire hazards as our soil dries out from climate change. The DEIR groundwater depletion (without the DEIR's incorrectly assumed "recharge" or "balancing") that is disputed below and elsewhere in this and other objections increases such threats to our homes and environments both from fires and fire smoke. See my # 11.

Ind 254-8

Why does the DEIR not address these risks in any meaningful way? Indeed, why does the DEIR not address the many similar and other risks and harms to those of us in the bigger area around that 2585-acres of underground mining and even those locals in the bigger "stigma zone" around that our impact area (measured, for example, by the decline in our real estate values, either when we tell our buyers about the real mining problems and risks so close beneath or near to them, or when a buyer finds the appraiser for the mortgage lender reacting badly to that reality and stigma)? Stated another way, what informed resident or user of the surface above or around the 2585-acre underground mine will trust their human or property's fates to this disputed DEIR or its advocates, especially considering the admitted, problematic financial condition of Rise described in my # 2, which my # 14 proves is relevant, among other things, because no disputed DEIR promises, assumptions or mitigations have any credence or compliance with CEQA or other applicable laws, if the miner lacks the funding to accomplish them timely. Illusory words do not satisfy CEQA. See my # 14.

What makes such strategic omissions by the disputed DEIR so frustrating to us locals at risk to such 2585-acre underground mining beneath and around us is that, while still insufficient, the Rise Form 10K for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2021, provides more useful operational data about the mine than does the DEIR. For example, the 10K at 18-21 discusses "Mineral Rights" with data not revealed in the disputed and insufficient DEIR discussions of the underground mine. For instance, below and elsewhere I criticize the DEIR for providing little or no meaningful information about surface owner and user rights above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. We locals do not even how to know what surface land is affected, because there is no sufficient surface location detail in the DEIR, and DEIR areal maps are useless for the kind of data us competing surface owners and users need to find our properties versus that 2585-acre mine. For example, the only incidental DEIR description I saw of the area where surface owners and users have *DEIR mining* below them is a dotted line on an aerial photo at Figure 3-2 where trees hide all landmarks, which is utterly unhelpful and uninformative for those of us at risk. The other location maps are even less helpful or useful to those at risk, as is Table 3-2.

Among the many such problems is that the disputed DEIR addresses the "project" as if were just the 175.64 acre Brunswick Industrial Site plus 30 well properties along East Bennett Road (incorrectly treating the Centennial site as a separate project), rather than the legally mandated and more practically relevant 2585-acres of underground mine where Rise admits



Ind 254-8

that it does not own (and cannot use) the surface and the first 200 feet down. See my # 2. Thus, DEIR Table 3-2 is incorrect and misleading, as it does not address the vast number of normal residential homes (including many of us above the DEIR mine on Banner Mountain) above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. We need to know (and can't yet tell) if disputed DEIR mining is under our surface land, or whether we are adjacent to and above the underground mining in either the "impact zone" or the "stigma zone," where, for example, our legal rights may be more about our shared groundwater rights and the miner's obligations of subjacent and lateral support. See my # 4. (Of course, if the metaphor of the old musical play and Clint Eastwood movie, *Paint Your Wagon*, about Nevada City mining, becomes prophecy, and our whole area collapses into the mine hole for lack of subjacent and lateral support, even those in the stigma zone may end up having both subjacent and lateral support claims.)

(b) Legal Underground Mining Details Omitted In The Disputed DEIR, But Admitted In The Rise SEC Form 10K.

Ind 254-9

However, while missing from the DEIR, we learn in Rise Gold Corp's SEC 10K at 18-19, for example, that: "The I-M Mine Property consists of mineral rights on 10 parcels, including 55 sub parcels, totaling 2800 acres ... of full or partial interest, as detailed in Table 2 and displayed in Figure 4." [While still insufficient for matching the surface streets and legal descriptions to the underground mine, those SEC 10K maps are better than anything in the disputed DEIR. Incidentally, notice how that quote said, "full or partial interest...", a topic for intense follow up investigations. Is the DEIR omitted discussion of sharing mining rights?] The miner's 10K also describes the deed language and terms and exclusions of the mineral rights that limit Rise mining rights and offer surface owners protections ignored in the DEIR. **For example, the 10K at 19 defined the location of those mineral rights to include "all rights to minerals within, on, and under the land located in portions of Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, and 36 in Township 16 North-Range 8 East MDM, Sections 19, 29, 30, and 31 in Township 16 North-Range 9 East MDM, and Section 6 in Township 15 North-Range 9 East MDM and all other mineral rights associated with the Idaho-Maryland Mine."** See Figure 4, the Form 10K map that is more useful than the incomprehensibly vague maps in the DEIR. While everyone living in or around those surface land "Sections" will now have most cause for alarm, that data will also scare everyone in the adjacent sections (like me in my "Section 20" home), who may suffer from some direct and indirect harms, risks, and stigmas (eg, groundwater and real estate value losses). However, all of us locals share some direct impact from risks to our groundwater losses, air pollution, hexavalent chromium and other mine toxins, and various other impacts and stigmas. See, eg, my #'s 3 - 14.

Those DEIR mineral rights only begin (as separated from our surface rights) at 200 feet, significantly complicating the DEIR mine's exposures in coming legal and political disputes and groundwater and other competitions, for example, over our surface owner subjacent and lateral support and other surface rights. (For instance, "subsidence" from lack of subjacent and lateral support may include our such 200 feet of "surface.") As so stated in the miner's SEC 10K at page 19: "Mineral rights are severed from surface rights at a depth of 200 ft (61m) below the surface, with all mineral rights being contiguous below 200 ft (61m) of surface." What that means is that there are 200 feet of surface protection rights entitled not



Ind 254-9

to be entered, disturbed, or exploited without the surface owners' consent. (Note, when dewatering the mine drops the water level, that may drop the 200 feet surface, because they're lowering the surface by "subsidence," breaking surface infrastructure and improvements and other harms as already commonly seen everywhere in the Central Valley, Bakersfield, etc, where desperate groundwater pumping is doing exactly such subsidence harms.) Why did the disputed DEIR not address the predictable complications, obstacles, and risks associated with us objecting surface owners above and around their underground mine, such as when we exercise our own legal property and groundwater rights down 200 feet for many purposes and even deeper as to everything besides "minerals?" (Our groundwater is not a "mineral" subject to Rise's mineral deed.)

For example, what happens when the mine dewatering lowers our water table and surface in that first 200 feet to harm our already climate stressed, surface forests and other plants, or when the mining drains existing and future wells there and breaks our surface infrastructure and improvements as the surface "subsides" and changes? What happens when local land near but outside the 2585-acre underground mining boundary begin to sink collective wells even deeper than the mining? (Because of expense, there may be several collective and deeper new wells.) That competition raises some interesting legal and political questions about the scope of nuisance, trespass, conversion, and other torts, and well, as to the extent government becomes involved, inverse condemnation. See my # 4. And again, there will now always be the hexavalent chromium/Erin Brockovich movie disputes this DEIR project cannot ever defeat or escape. See my #'s 3.C, G, and H and 7.

Ind 254-10

In any event, for the purposes of the DEIR, these issues include many of the kinds of practical environmental issues, such as the threat to lowering our water table to harming our private, surface forests and plants by depleting our groundwater (since most of us regard the disputed DEIR "recharge" and "balancing" claims as a sad fantasy or worse and, the DEIR's disputed "happy talk" about sending our local groundwater downriver somewhere else in the Wolf Creek to NID is a strategic distraction, because that does nothing to help us locals losing that groundwater in which we own rights). That groundwater depletion also creates massive new fire and fire smoke threats, adding more wildfire smoke ignored in the DEIR mine's air pollution analysis. See, eg, my #'s 3.D, F, and M, 5, 10, and 11. Again, if the mine DEIR has answers for such obvious questions, issues, and concerns, why does the DEIR not address them appropriately, as required by CEQA and other applicable rules? See my # 14. Whatever excuse the DEIR advocates may attempt, such omissions do not seem to be from ignorance or oversight, and, as discussed in my # 2, the DEIR miner shows no financial capacity to compensate its victims (or even to perform its DEIR promises), because the miner admitted some of this in their current 10K filing with the SEC, the lack of any gold value data that would support lending or investing except on a highly speculative basis, such as:

As of the date of these consolidated financial statements [7/31/21], the Company has not established any prove or probable reserves on its mineral properties and has incurred only acquisition and exploration costs. (10K at 6)



No estimates of mineral resources have been prepared for the I-M Mine Property. We are not treating historical mineral resource estimated as a current mineral resource estimate. In addition, there are no mineral reserves estimates for the I-M Mine Project. (10K at 34)

When the DEIR addresses alternative to the mining operating plan at DEIR # 6, it admits the following (at 6-14) in a discussion about why reducing its 24/7/365 operating plan to a normal 12-hour day is not feasible: "Capital and operating costs would increase substantially and likely make the project economically infeasible." That proves how fragile the operating margins of this mine are expected to be, and the financial data about Rise exposed at # 2 herein shows no capacity of this miner to handle even essential, mine reopening startup expenses and normal operating costs, much less mitigations and what happens if the mine operations cease to operate 24/7/365 for 80 plus years, as the surface owners dispute and compete perpetually over groundwater and other issues in courts and political forums.

Ind 254-10

There is no alternative but resistance for the thousands of us people living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, who would daily feel the consequences and impacts of what's happening below or near us. The loss of real estate values from mine stigma, as well as the other burdens, risks, and problems objected to in this and other objections, are not acceptable or forgivable by us surface neighbors. Also, nowhere does the disputed DEIR deal with the cost and operating effects of such perpetual legal and political conflicts with us surface owners and neighbors, even though we should be obvious, because, as discussed in my #'s 3.N and 8, we surface neighbors have our own competing legal and political rights against the mine to protect our homes, our groundwater, our forest and plants, our environment, and our quiet enjoyment of our community without such mining.

Also, note that the Rise SEC Form 10K at p. 6 states: "As of the date of these consolidated financial statements [7/31/21], the Company has not established any prove or probable reserves on its mineral properties and has incurred only acquisition and exploration costs." That lack of any gold value data prevents lending or investing except on a highly speculative basis. That credit and investment risk becomes clearer in other statements, such as those above. What all that means is that, until the mine is dewatered and prepared for DEIR operation, so that at least the ancient pre-1956 closure data can be updated, the creditworthiness of Rise for raising money is limited to speculators. That makes the credibility of the DEIR's wishful thinking about sufficient money magically appearing in time seems even more of a fantasy. Even mining speculators are used to betting against some data about proven or probable reserves, and it appears what this DEIR miner may discover next in its new, expanded, and deeper areas of the 2585-acre mine is an even greater mystery.

Ind 254-11

B. Some Illustrations of Specific Such DEIR Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies In That Context.



Ind 254-11

In a distant place inside the massive (but often useless) DEIR (at 4.8-17), the DEIR admits that: The Idaho-Maryland Mine encompasses a system of underground tunnels, many raises, numerous winzes, four inclined shafts, and two vertical shafts” for an “estimated equivalent of 72.8 miles ... of underground tunnel ... assuming typical drift dimensions of 7.5 feet x 8.5 feet.” See also more data in DEIR at 4.7-2. However, the point of the new mining is to expand and create more and deeper underground depletions of rock (and groundwater) by blasting and removal 24/7/365 for 80 years with more continuous dewatering along those new tunnels and digs. Where does the DEIR discuss the details of that new mining or the funding feasibility and consequences of that future work and promised mitigation? Describing the past before the 1956 closure and flooding is not only incorrect and misleading as to the risks of future problems from drought, climate change, etc, but also, we know DEIR described mining activities are themselves intended to change many burdens, risks, and exposures underground in ways that are not adequately explained or addressed in the DEIR. See, eg, my #'s 3.E, F, and M. To a casual reader, the DEIR would reveal no clear idea how much more would be at risk of burdens, harms, and problems in the future, especially because the DEIR incorrectly assumes our groundwater “recharge” and “balancing” from dewatering based on the old mine and historical data that is already irrelevant and nonpredictive and soon will become even more so. See, eg, my #'s 3. D, E, M and 5.

Note that the DEIR predicts (at 3-19) in 24/7/365 mining there would be “approximately 500 tons per day (182,500 tons per year) of barren rock” removal below “500 feet of the ground surface.” Alert: The Rise Form 10K filing with the SEC at page 6 states: The Use Permit application proposes underground mining to recommence at an average throughput of 1000 tons per day.” Also, in stating the “Project Objectives” at DEIR page 6-2, it states the goal to be to: “Construct a commercially viable, financeable, major underground gold mine operation that will produce 1000 tons per day (365,000 tons per year) of gold mineralization.” Which number 500 or 1000 is correct? (At the March 24 hearing the DEIR advocate said 1000 tons a day.) What are the consequences of one of those numbers being a material misrepresentation, either to the SEC and investors or to our government officials considering the DEIR? The effects of that mining and dewatering cannot be satisfactorily deduced from history as the DEIR attempts to do (see my # 3.M), including as illustrated in what follows below:

Ind 254-12

(i) Such a DEIR focus on narrow admitted financial margins for operations (see at 6-14) may explain the DEIR resistance to not only to reducing such 24/7/354 operations (where a normal 12-hour day is considered economically infeasible at 6-13. See my #'s 2 and 13), but where the DEIR even resists reducing 24-hour truck service in a disputed section at 6-14, where it states the need for: “an average of 50 trucks per day ... 3 trucks per hour ... with a maximum of 100 trucks a day” every day.” As discussed in many objections and included in the “no net benefit” from the mine analysis in my # 4, such heavy trucking will prematurely degrade the roads and infrastructure not made for such abuse. Where does the DEIR satisfactorily address the direct and indirect cost of constant road and infrastructure repair, or how key major local roads will frequently be repeatedly dysfunctional during repairs (eg, single lane only) for extended periods? Not where one would expect in DEIR 4.12. See my #'s 8 and 9.

Ind 254-13

(ii) Besides the disputed DEIR ignoring the reality that we can no longer judge the future from the past (see, eg, my # 3.M), the DEIR makes an even wilder, disputed, and



↑ unproven assumption/guess that mining problems of concern here become less the deeper one mines. Nowhere is that unsubstantiated DEIR assumption proven, and us locals should not have to rely only on such DEIR faulty, so-called logic applied to such admittedly unknown conditions for new, expanded, and deeper mining of unexplored and unanalyzed parts of the 2585-acre underground mine closed and flooded since 1956. Consider this disputed DEIR assurance (at 4.8-51) on which us locals are asked to risk our surface homes and future (for a no net benefit mine from which Rise would export profits, as discussed in my # 4):

“The proposed mining areas would primarily be at equivalent or deeper depths than the existing underground mine workings, while the potential future expansion areas all involve mining at greater depths, typically more than 1,000 feet below the surface and deeper. At those greater depths, the hydraulic conductivity is several orders of magnitude lower than it is at the depths of the domestic supply wells, due primarily to the lack of open fractures because of the large pressures exerted by the overlying rock mass (ie, the lithostatic pressure). Given that the new mining activity would occur at equivalent or greater depths than the proposed [sic?] mining, there is little or no potential for the proposed mining and mining in the future expansion areas to affect the quality of the groundwater in the domestic supply wells that are completed at much shallower depths.”

Ind 254-13

This is subject to many disputes I discuss at my #'s 3.D and F, 5, and 6. I note here, however, that there is no supporting discussion of the effect of such deep mining on the actual conditions that may be uncovered at those depths (eg, bigger fractures from blasting, underground rivers, or aquifers?). More importantly, because of drought and climate change, us locals and our governments or other organizations will have to start competing with the mine for groundwater at ever depths during the 80 plus years of this mining. See my #'s 3.D, F, and N, 5, and 6. Also, recall that the mine has been closed and flooded since 1956, and without access or reliable and sufficient records, how can the DEIR even guess about the stating state of the mine? and

(iii) Note that the DEIR admits (at 4.7-2) that: “The mine has been inactive since closure in 1956 and was inactive for several periods during the 1866 to 1956 production period. *** ...the project sites appear on several lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.” DEIR at 4.3-56 states: “Ore production through tunneling and long-hole blasting is anticipated to produce 1,000 tons per day (365,000 tons per year) of ore ...” with the 24/7/365 operations discussed elsewhere. See also the beginning of this long paragraph, regarding the 1000 vs 500-ton confusion. As discussed in my # 3.M, there are many flaws in the DEIR trying to predict the either the current or future conditions and issues based on such pre-1956 underground mining data, much less when (as now) the DEIR is seeking approval to mine new, expanded, and deeper areas into the unknown parts of the 2585-acres. What is safe and tolerable for us surface owners and users above the 2585-acre mine with that 24/7/365 blasting and mining beneath us is not a subject that the DEIR ever sufficiently addressed. See my #'s 4 and 14. That is not just noncompliance with CEQA (see my # 14), but it's also another provocation and failure to address the reasonable concerns of thousands of us

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Ind 254-13

surface owners (see my # 3.N). We don't even yet know yet, who is living where above and around those 2585 acres of mine, because (as discussed above) the obscure aerial photos with dotted boundary lines on treetops do not identify meaningful surface landmarks, and no one has been given proper notice as a surface owner or user.

C. Admitted (But Obscured) Use of Hazardous Chromium Without Warning Or Analysis. (See more detailed discussion in later subsections G and H below).

Speaking of stigma complications that make our local problems and real estate value losses even worse, the disputed DEIR admits in its dewatering discussion (at 4.8-42 to 51, especially at 46-49) that it intends to use "underground paste backfill" (ie, material glued with "cemented-paste backfill") that is (incorrectly) described as "environmentally benign" BUT WHICH IS "HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM" OR "Cr+6." See my discussion of more details and my DEIR rebuttals in the subsection below on hazardous substances. See my #'s 3.G and H and 7. Also, notice that the scattered DEIR discussions of such mining plans often do not even mention, much less analyze, the hexavalent chromium threats or even mention the name, "hexavalent chromium," as if the DEIR parts were written by different mine advocates, ie, one who felt obligated by CEQA to confess the Cr+6 name without any hint of the toxic issues and notorious toxic data and history, and others who chose not to mention either that CR+6 name or the scandals. See, eg, DEIR at 4.3-58 entitled, "Earthwork and Material Handling," ignores this issue; DEIR at 4.3-61 entitled "Health Risk Assessment," ignores their hexavalent chromium threat entirely and contains an insufficient discussion of the asbestos risks, as well as for the following (at 4.3-62): "Blasting and crushing would also result in emissions of heavy metal. TAC's including arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, and vanadium." But the DEIR relies upon the results of a study of what was found in the old, closed mine in 2020, not what will be now added in the new, expanded, and deeper area mining and not the hexavalent chromium now to be added as mine shoring cement pursuant to the DEIR. Again, in DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.11-7 at 4.11-36-37 they discuss water uses in "cemented paste backfills," including by admitting: "Water is needed to transport and bind the cemented paste backfill underground. ... Backfilling would consume approximately 20,000 gpd assuming a 15 percent water content by mass and 500 tons per pay of backfill placed," but nowhere in that #4.11 discussing hexavalent chromium ingredient or threat at all. (Incidentally, as noted elsewhere above, sometimes the DEIR seems to talk about this as 1000 tons per day, instead of 500.)

Ind 254-14

Some of the dangerous materials and chemicals admitted existing in the mine are summarized in the DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a) at 4.8-52: "The NOI [to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board under the Limited Threat Discharge permit] shall include evaluation of potential constituents of concern, including ammonia, arsenic, hexavalent chromium, iron, manganese, pH, total suspended solids, TDS, and cis-1,2-DCE..." Also, eg, DEIR at 4.8-53+ (and where addressed in my #'s 3.C, G, H, and 7), the DEIR explains how Rise expects to use hexavalent chromium in its CPS plans to (in effect) glue or cement material in the mine as a continuous part of shoring up the old mine and its new, deeper, and expanded mining processes 24/7/365 for 80-years, if they can get away with that over resolute local resistance.

Ind 254-15



For those who never saw the movie "Erin Brockovich" read Wikipedia's (or other) accounts "Hinkley groundwater contamination," about how a utility allegedly misused that chemical by also dumping wastewater in spreading ponds in Hinkley, California, (now a toxic ghost town) and ultimately had to settle a class action with the local victims for \$333 Million (back when that was serious money). The disputed DEIR alerts no one to this threat, apparently attempting without revealing the health issues to minimize any future concern by describing the exposures. Even a minimum Google search of "hexavalent chromium" will reveal even more serious health hazards than the movie. Indeed, the European Union is banning the chemical starting in 2024. See my #'s 3.G and H and 7. Even if government decisionmakers were mistakenly to accommodate Rise in ignoring all the science on the relevant EPA website, that mistake could never survive challenge by us locals and by any more serious, scientific analysis. In any event, the already "significant" stigmas from this mine will now become much worse for our local real estate values (and tourism), when people start talking about the mine area as the "next Hinkley."

Putting aside for the moment that toxic Cr+6 Hinkley problem and stigma, that whole dewatering mess is compounded by the DEIR again incorrectly assuming that the past reliably reveals the future. See my # 3.M. For example, the DEIR admits (at 4.8-51) that:

"The water ... from the underground workings is anticipated to have similar quality to the water that currently discharges from the existing drains. ... Therefore, the condition after mining is completed would be like existing, or baseline, conditions, such that seeps ... would not represent a potentially significant impact under CEQA [where it just addresses the iron and manganese issues and tries ineffectively to further diminish the appearance of risk by describing how the new mining is going to be deeper]. *** Although the projects proposed water management and treatment, and adherence to permit requirements, would avoid significant impacts to water quality, **the impact is considered significant for the purposes of this analysis and mitigation, specifying requirements for regulatory compliance, is identified as necessary to reduce the impact to less than significant.**" [But only by ignoring the hexavalent chromium.]

The DEIR cannot assume that the future will duplicate the past, even if there were compliance and a proper end to mining as the DEIR assumes (but many locals are skeptical for various reasons, including in my case what is discussed in my # 1 from my bankruptcy/cross border bankruptcy, insurance insolvency and other professional experience as to why there are more than 40,000 abandoned and dangerous mines in California according to the EPA website). Besides the new normal of drought and climate change I discuss, only a fool or worse would assume that you can add Cr+6 and other things to the mining process and blast, dig, tunnel, remove rock, and mine 24/7/365 for 80 plus years and change nothing, especially when there is no adequate analysis of that unknown, new mining conditions underground. Indeed, who else but a wishful thinking miner or worse would imagine that the safety regulations and standards will still be as lax for the next 80 years as they are now? While there is little said about why anyone should rely on the DEIR to clean up the site as promised at the end of the mining process under the circumstances, the DEIR plan will clearly be leaving a flooded mine

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full of hexavalent chromium and other unanalyzed, hazardous substances unleashed by that new, expanded and deeper mining, some of which (like CR+6) are not now reported to exist there, and others of which may be more dangerous and in larger qualities than before.

- D. An Introduction To DEIR Admitted Water Data, While Also Concealing Massive Unaddressed Issues, Errors, And Omissions And Failing To Reveal The Underlying Assumptions And Artificial Limitations on Which the DEIR Bases Many Flawed Conclusion, Contentions, And Assumptions We Dispute.

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Among the most serious DEIR deficiencies is the failure not only to identify and address the real water issues, but, contrary to CEQA as explained in my # 14, to scatter the often-conflicting water and related data in hard to reconcile ways in many different sections of the DEIR without reconciling links and often without common usage of terms or data for clarity. Any serious reader comes away from reading one DEIR water discussion by saying "yes, but what about what you said back there?" Compare the location of various water related admissions that I quote and dispute in this Objection (eg, my #'s 3, A, B, D, E, F, and M, 5, 6, and 13). Government decisionmakers must begin to understand that, whether it is intentional or not, the mine advocates could not have made any understanding of the DEIR water issues any more difficult if they tried to do so as a tactic. See my # 14 and court precedents discussed there like, *Banning, Vineyards, and Concerned Citizens*. See also the related DEIR confusion over many places where toxic hexavalent chromium needed to be disclosed and addressed but was rarely named and never identified as a risk, in my #'s 3.C, G, H, and 7.

Just consider this critical example, by studying pages 4.11-35 to 52 in the DEIR's "Public Services And Utilities" # 4.11 (where, in discussing NID water supply issues, they approach some realities more realistically, although deficiently), we discover more revelations than in the frustrating and intensely disputed 83 page discussion in "Hydrology And Water Quality" # 4.8 (where there again is no apparent attempt to reconcile that mine data with that NID discussion or even with other conflicting and disputed water discussions in many other DEIR sections mentioning water issues. See my # 14.) Among the interesting credibility challenges against the DEIR in this process is the following [slightly annotated by me in brackets to expose the DEIR's apparent "bait and switch" game] quote at 4.11-39 to 43 from a subsection of that "Public Services And Utilities" section called "Projected Water Supplies," where the DEIR admits some of my Objections in conflict with its other DEIR claims and goals where one would expect to read them. (Who knows what the DEIR's reconciled position may be, because they never sufficiently reconcile their admissions to their disputed claims we cite with any clarity about their purported factual basis, because most of the disputed DEIR positions seem to be sufficiently unsubstantiated except by underlying DEIR assumptions for its disputed projections either don't exist or are apparently buried in some unspecified places in the separate, lengthy reference materials the DEIR selected and lists by general and uninformative reference in supported support its disputed DEIR conclusions or assumptions. See my # 14 and court precedents discussed there, like, *Banning, Vineyards, and Concerned Citizens*.)



By way of illustration, the DEIR approach too often is the equivalent of my saying (as I do) that hexavalent chromium is an intolerable threat to our community with a general reference to the EPA website and to the thousands of negative studies and reports available in a simple Google search. However, I am not the one with the burden of complying with CEQA; the DEIR proponents are. Consider the following water related data:

Projected Water Supplies. Table 4.11-5 provides a summary of the District's projected supply entitlements [through 2040]. [The relevance for this Objection in the following quotes lies in the unaddressed conflicts among NID's analysis of surface water supplies, since NID does not use groundwater, as discussed elsewhere. The DEIR's intensely disputed and, frankly, absurd, groundwater "recharge" and "balancing" assumptions ignore climate change and credible science in order elsewhere in the DEIR to predict the future from the average rainfall between 1967 and 2017, instead of the "new normal" used by responsible scientists, governments, and businesses to predict a chronically drier and drought harmed future.]

Water Code section 10910(c)(4) requires that a WSA [Water Supply Assessment, on which the DEIR mistakenly relies in cites throughout its disputed DEIR text regarding water and, therefore, misapplies the NID's different standards than CEQA and other relevant laws to this mine's imagined and disputed ability to recharge the ground water the mine depletes and sends somewhere else downriver.] include a discussion with regard to "whether total projected water supplies, determined to be available by the city or county for the project, in addition to existing and planned water demand associated with the proposed project...." Accordingly, the WSA addresses these three hydrological conditions through the year 2040 ... in Table 4.11-6. [The DEIR then purports to "summarize" "projected availability" from the District's existing and planned future supplies THAT DO NOT INCLUDE GROUNDWATER OR ACCURATELY ADDRESS THE MINE'S LOCAL GROUNDWATER DEPLETION AND RECHARGE, but instead focus on] ... the District's projected water demands in normal, single dry and multiple dry years throughout buildout. [As elsewhere, this compares "apples to oranges" since it is focused on the NID general service area demands from NID's surface water sources to rain recharging the massive groundwater depletion in one local area above and around the 2585-acre underground mine from 24/7/365 dewatering for 80 years, not the 20 years NID uses for different purposes.] As shown, demand within NID's service area is expected to exceed the District's supplies from 2025 to 2040 during Single Dry Years and in the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year period from 2025 to 2040. [This is confusing since this DEIR paragraph at 4.11-39 begins with a "20-year projection" and shifts to the 15-year period "from 2025 to 2040." Throughout this Objection I make reference to the DEIR's lethal flaw of limiting its perspective to this 2040 or 20-year cut off, as if somehow the DEIR were entitled either to ignore the last 60 or 65 years of its 80-year mining binge or, worse, perhaps incorrectly and without any evidence to assume that the whole 80 year period matches the first disputed 15 or 20 year flawed and misleading projections (or that what follows 2040 will be the same as what preceded 2040). For convenience and simplicity, I often just say "20 years" to

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↑ avoid addressing this complexity and confusion every time. Since 20 years is better for the DEIR's disputed theory than 15 years, the DEIR advocates should not complain (but somehow, I expect they will anyway.)

Factors contributing to inconsistency in NID's water supplies include legal limitations due to water rights and contracts limiting the quantity of water available to the District, environmental constraints, and reductions in availability due to climatic factors. The surface water supply to NID is subject to reductions during single and multiple dry years (seasonal and climatic shortages). ... [These same kind of limitations apply with equal and often greater force to the existing and future competition for groundwater above and around the 2585-acre underground mine by locals like me, as demonstrated elsewhere in this and other Objections (see my #'s 3.E, F and M and 5), but the DEIR inconsistently ignores any discussion of our groundwater rights' disputes and mine limits, except for a distracting and disputed discussion of the 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road. Since the DEIR recognizes some of these factors here (with even a rare mention of "climate"), why not address these matters where readers would expect them? The answer to that may be that the mine advocates recognize that, once informed adequately of the DEIR's real water burdens, risks, and harms, DEIR or mine approval would trigger competition and legal and political disputes with us locals over groundwater (and, during expected shortages, NID surface water) as to which we have at least equal, if not superior, rights.]

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Water Supply Sufficiency. Pursuant to Water Code section 10910(c)(4) and based on the technical analyses describe in the WSA prepared for the proposed project, the total projected water supplies determined to be available for the proposed project during Normal water years during a 15-year projection would meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project. (emphasis added) [Again, this incorrect general conclusion appears to be a "bait and switch" as above, since that WSA etc analysis is focused on NID general supplies from surface water; and not on the disputed recharge or "balancing" imagined in the DEIR to our local groundwater from mine depletion from dewatering 24/7/365 for 80 years during a time when the old "normal" of the DEIR (eg, average rainfall between 1967 and 2017) no longer exists in the "new normal" of climate change, unprecedented dryness and drought, and greater competition from us locals accessing their own groundwater rights with new or deeper wells from above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. While we also dispute the sufficiency of NID supplies to the mine for no net benefit to the community (eg, my # 4), as described elsewhere here, the above discussion and others in this Objection demonstrate the errors, omissions, and deficiencies in this DEIR.] ...

Therefore, [with the DEIR incorrectly referring to NID's "projected 2040 water demands" as to the 30 East Bennett Drive property connections, as if that were the only DEIR 2585-acre underground project impact, a claim contrary to many parts of the DEIR I address] NID would be able to serve the proposed project in addition to existing and



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planned developments with some reliance on demand reductions in dry years by 2025. [This erroneous and unsupportable conclusion is contrary to the DEIR itself, although it seems to admit that even the portion of the water use admitted here is admitted requiring "some reliance of demand reductions in dry years by 2025," which means that applying better information with a more scientific, fair, and appropriate analysis would reveal bigger shortages.]

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[Besides what DEIR calls a Normal Year, Table 4.11-5 admits at 4.11-40:] "Potential Surplus (Deficit)" [for] "Single Dry Years" [of progressively increasing deficits from 2025 to 2040 in acre feet/year] [for] "Single Dry Years" [ranging from] [negative] 85,629"/"48%" "Percent Shortfall of Demand" to "-98,814"/"52%" "Percent Shortfall of Demand", [as well as more deficient years for Multiple Dry Years]. ... [DEIR quote continuing at 4.11-42] Water demand within NID's service area is expected to exceed the District's supplies by more than 45 percent from 2025 to 2040 in Single Dry Years and by less than 10 percent from 2025 to 2040 during the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year period. [That ignores many realities of increased DEIR water use, because, instead of 30 wells along East Bennett Road, the reality will be hundreds of our locals' competing wells just in the areas above and around the 2585-acre mine as we locals combat climate change and drought as well as the mine's groundwater depletion, as I explain elsewhere. See, eg, my # 3.E, F, and M and 5. If the DEIR advocates or NID imagine that they can stop that our competition with our new or deeper wells, a common response to chronic drought which has occurred already all over the state where water supplies are already insufficient, then they do not appreciate the political and legal ferocity of such locals defending their homes, their forests and environment, and their community way of life from the no net benefit mine's massive depletion and disposal downstream and other waste of our shared groundwater. See my # 3.N discussing how us thousands of local voters can reform the laws and change officials to accomplish our worthy defenses, even independent of other legal remedies. The indisputable reality is that few, if any, of us thousands of affected locals will be willing to sacrifice anything for the benefit of this undesirable mine. See my # 4.] However, this project is not expected to exacerbate NID's water supply shortages during dry years and the project will supply water into the South Fork Wolf Creek and into the NID conveyance system, at volumes exceeding the project water demand for potable water from NID. [Even if that were true, which we dispute, it means little to those of us living above and around the 2585-acre mine who are losing our groundwater to that mine dewatering waste for someone else downstream. Moreover, on the merits, why would NID allow its system to be polluted by mine water from Wolf Creek that, even if correctly treated without human error or storms (which treatment quality many would decline to trust to this DEIR for 24/7/365 quality for 80 years, when it comes to their families' health and the use and value of their homes), no one wants even to accept even the level of hexavalent chromium and other mine water toxins that some industry influenced bureaucrat standards official may consider tolerable.]



*** This project would be subject to any applicable water demand cutbacks during droughts, like other NID potable water customers who are served by NID. [However, the DEIR mine project can then be also expected to increase NID customer demand in years when their wells have deficient supplies, and none of that predictable defensive conduct is addressed in the DEIR or by NID, perhaps in the case of NID, because the managers do not expect the coming policy changes from us local voters to assure that they do not suffer from water wasters like this mine. See my # 3.N. The future will increasingly become what some politely call "competitive," but what (more accurately) is about us thousands of local voting residents insisting on our legal and political rights to our priority share of surface and ground water over less beneficial uses, especially no net benefit uses like the mine. See my #'s 3.N and 4.]

*** (DEIR quote at 4.11-43) Thus, a less-than-significant impact would occur. [That incorrect and disputed DEIR conclusion does not follow from the analysis that is rebutted above and elsewhere in this Objection and others. Please note, however, that the rest of the DEIR states that the economics of the mine (like the miner itself admits in its SEC Form 10K and 10Q) are so fragile that anything less than continuous 24/7/365 operations for 80 years creates significant operational and environmental problems. See, eg, my #'s 2 and 13. Such admitted water problems are inconsistent with those disputed claims, as addressed in my rebuttal to the DEIR's "Alternative's Analysis" discussion (at #6) I address near the end of this Objection at my # 13.]

Part of the reason for the error, omission, deficiencies, and worse address in the prior long quoted and annotated paragraphs relates to compounded mistakes and worse in the disputed DEIR's preceding discussion (DEIR 4.11-7 at 4.11-35 to 38) entitled, "Project Water Demand," which distinguishes (unlike most of the DEIR) between "Potable Water Demand" and "Non-Potable Water Demand." That roughly correlates to surface water from NID versus groundwater. Those disputed DEIR discussions are summarized at Table 4.11-3 (at 4.11-38) stating "Total Groundwater Consumption for Non-Potable Water Use" of "84,000 gallons per day"/94.1 acre-feet per year" and "Total Water Use" of "107,600 gallons per day"/"120.5 acre-feet per year." However, scattered in discussions in DEIR 4.11-35 and 36 are also various other NID water uses at the mine project, such as: (i) "5700 gallons per day" for Brunswick Industrial site building uses, (ii) "17,900 gpd" for replacing groundwater from 30 wells on East Bennett Road, and (iii) "42,000 gpd" for dust suppression and compaction for five years at the Centennial Industrial Site (which is not really a separate CEQA project, as the disputed DEIR incorrectly claims). Instead of a comprehensive total use, the DEIR has scattered that water usage data by types of use, apparently hoping that critics cannot add [5700, plus 17,900, plus 42,000 equals 65,600 gallons per day]. Thus, the disputed DEIR states debatable aggregated service area numbers on that same page in Table 4.11-4, entitled, "Projected NID Service Total Water Demands with Project (ac-ft/yr)" of "Total Water Demand," progressing increasingly from 161,678 in 2020, to between 174,763 to 217,951 in 2040. But also note other mine water uses mentioned below in the next subsection, such as "Water Vapor in Ventilators" (40,000 gpd), "Cemented Paste Backfill" (with toxic hexavalent chromium, 20,000 gpd), "Gold Concentrate & Engineered Fill" (24,000 gpd) [another 84,000 gpd for those three], plus the 1,224,000 gpd or 850 gpm for dewatering the mine. [By comparison, and as a reality check on

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the resolute political and meritorious legal defense activities that this no net benefit mine related water competition and waste will inspire from us locals competing for our share of NID and ground water above and around the 2585-acre mine, consider this example. The most strict and painful governmental drought water restriction I have suffered since I moved to California in 1972 was a 50-gallons a person a day limit, and that happened in part because some of my local East Bay MUD water was reallocated to much drier Marin County. As political policy people, consider now how you would propose to deal with such a 50 gallon a day limit on human use, while this no benefit mine still uses some large part of its admitted 84,000 gallons per day use of our shared groundwater (plus more not included in that count), claiming an excuse that the DEIR miner cannot dewater the mine adequately to stop flooding, unless it takes more than its share of water from competing and higher local human priority uses. The same question applies as to the mines attempt to excuse excessive use of limited NID water during shortages in competition with local human uses. Because us voters and local property owners with competing rights will not tolerate suffering for this mine, that leaves you decisionmakers confronting the legal and political questions that the DEIR seemed afraid to address in a comprehensive and sufficient manner: what happens when the mine no longer has, or is allowed to use, the water it says that it needs for such mining operations?]

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- E. "Hiding the Ball" in the DEIR Is Not Compliance with CEQA And Other Applicable Law, And That Practice, Especially As To Water and Hexavalent Chromium Issues, Destroys Any Hope of Credibility For the DEIR Or Mine With Us Thousand At Risk of Water Impacts Living Above Or Around the 2585-Acre Underground Mine That the DEIR Tries To Obscure By Distracting Attempts To Limit The CEQA "Project" And The Related Water Issues
 - I. Introductory Comments To Expose Some Consistent Flaws In the DEIR Analysis To Clarify My Disputes With the DEIR, Especially Where the DEIR's Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies Create "Apples vs Oranges" Disputes.

The DEIR pretends that it can comply with CEQA by treating this as if the only "project" were the Brunswick/Centennial Sites and 30 wells along East Bennett Road, when us thousands of local residents and voters like me who are living above or around the 2585-acre underground mine insist on knowing all about the risks, burdens, and harms to us from that mining underneath us. But see my # 14 and my supplemental CEQA brief. I do not know the DEIR authors' intentions (ie, I don't yet accuse them of intending to mislead the readers, although that is the result of the disputed DEIR.) As with hexavalent chromium and various other risks and issues (see my # 3.E), the DEIR could not have made the water problems more obscure and difficult to understand if that were their goal to minimize the problems and risks or confuse or distract the DEIR readers. Such DEIR inconsistencies and contradictions, even by themselves, violate CEQA's requirements for clarity and consistency. See my # 14. (If I were a law professor teaching an advanced environmental and land use class, I would give this DEIR a "D" grade or worse.)



In any event, if the following discussion of the many water-related DEIR deficiencies, errors, omissions, and understated risks seems disjointed, it's because that is how the disputed data is presented in the DEIR. In many cases I follow (and quote from) the DEIR's disjointed discussions come from different DEIR sections, because trying to present a coherent, integrated discussion from their gerrymandered scattered and incomplete commentaries would be both difficult (or impossible for an outsider like me), and I fear any attempt at clarity would be attacked as an incorrect translation. See my # 14 on the CEQA need for clarity and reality, missing in this DEIR. Therefore, I use the DEIR system and quotes with cites below to illustrate my points that are more conceptually addressed in my #'s 3.F and G, 5, and 6 in the context of my and other local concerns about water, especially for those of thousands of us living above or around the 2585-acres of the underground mine.

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Please remember as you government decisionmakers read, among the DEIR fatal flaws is the reality is that our much larger local community above and around the 2585-acre underground mine is at risk for water shortages and related problems that are not properly disclosed, addressed, or even covered by the other limited discussions in the DEIR, as illustrated both here and in my #'s 3.F and G, 5 and 6. See my # 14. **Among the many techniques about which a reader should be wary is that the DEIR often first states some disputed, unsubstantiated, or only partly relevant allegation, and then states a consequential (and disputed) "assumption" or "conclusion" as if somehow that impossibly "justified" such an erroneous and disputed "assumption" or "conclusion" into purported fact. (Decisionmaker officials should have a "key word" highlighted copy that includes a bolding of the words "assumption" and "conclusion" (and variants) for a revealing look at this DEIR problem.)**

These objectionable DEIR techniques and other errors, omissions, and deficiencies are especially common in places where the DEIR ignores the likely long-term impacts of climate change, such as much drier weather and much more chronic drought, and where the DEIR incorrectly assumes that the nonpredictive past somehow predicts the "new normal" future. See my #'s 3.M and 5. Indeed, my other # 15 asks **many hard questions dodged or unseen by the DEIR**, many relating to water issues, such as this one: **How can you government officials responsibly approve such 24/7/365 mining with such water risks and problems we identify (eg, here and in my #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, and M and 5) for 80 years, when the DEIR only presents often inapplicable NID surface water data for 15 or 20 years (or until 2040), leaving us locals above and around the 2585-acre underground mine at extreme risk for longer term with increasing drought and other problems ignored and understated in the DEIR, even for that shorter period? Does the DEIR expect us to just surrender in ignorance to our fates for the last 60 or 65 years of the 80 years (or after 2040) of 24/7/365 mining, or without any credible science, rational bases, or evidence in the disputed DEIR? (Whatever the DEIR thinks, CEQA requires better as shown in my # 14.) Are we supposed to assume those last 65 or 60 years (or after 2040) will somehow be the same as the first 15 or 20 (or before 2040), despite all the credible science, facts, and experiences insist that our climate will continuously be getting drier and more drought harmed every year?**

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Also, consider the related question, that the DEIR ducks entirely, because nowhere did I find any mention of the indisputable and crucial fact that there are thousands of us living on and using the surface above that 2585-acre underground mine or around that mine, all with our own rights to compete for our groundwater by individually or collectively drilling our own



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↑ new wells when NID supplies become insufficient: How does the DEIR justify ignoring that data and risk about greater competition for our such water with the mine in the future? Does the DEIR dare to admit that they intend to oppose more wells by us residents and voters, so they can continue taking our groundwater for the mine, if that is their reason for the DEIR omitting such obvious realities? See my # 3.N. (By the way, if any government, in effect, allocates our groundwater to this mine with no net benefit to anyone (see my #4) by obstructing more or deeper local resident wells in the new climate change droughts, that will trigger not only extraordinary political conflicts we should all try to avoid (see my # 3.N), but also create causes of action for inverse condemnation, nuisance, and other claims (see my # 4).

According to DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.11-7 at 4.11-36 and Table 4.11-3 regarding "Non-potable Water Demand," "only 10 percent" or **84,000 gpd** [notice these numbers do not match others in the DEIR] of such groundwater from continuous dewatering the mine will be used for mine operations characterized as "Underground Mining Service Water" (eg, for "dust suppression" [asbestos?] in the mine and reused so not counted somehow), "Water Vapor In Ventilation" (eg, added to air circulation in the mine: 40,000 gpd), "Cemented Paste Backfill" (water, with **hexavalent chromium only discussed elsewhere as I complain herein**), is used to "transport and bind the cemented paste backfill underground" mixed with "500 tons per day of backfill": 20,000 gpd), "Gold Concentrate and Engineered Fill" (24,000 gpd), and "Dust Control and Compaction" (controlling "fugitive dust with 42,000 gpd "during temporary fill placement"). This does not include the 2585-acre mine dewatering about which we have even greater concerns. DEIR at 4.11-37 states (note inconsistencies with other DEIR comments elsewhere): "Once the initial dewatering is completed [a massive water disposition down river discussed elsewhere, perhaps to avoid scary repetition], approximately 1,224 million gpd (850 gpm) are estimated to be pumped [continuously as discussed elsewhere] to the surface and treated at the on-site WTP on an on-going basis to maintain the dewatered mine."

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This is separate from what is described there at 4.11-35-36 + 38 as "Potable Water Demand" from NID listed (and then summarized in Table 4.11-3 as 5700 gpd for Brunswick and 17,900 for East Bennett Residential (31 residences, although sometimes also described as 30 in the DEIR) uses, and add with other water demands in Table 4.11-4, as I also consider data showing the coming NID aggregate water shortage problems discussed later that the mine makes uses worse). But the Tables do not seem to count the Centennial site NID water uses admitted at 4.11-36 of "approximately 42,000 gpd" of water "for dust suppression and compaction over the five-year period of engineered fill placement. Compacting 8 hours a day and 5 days per week requires water service of up to 125 gallons per minute (gpm). ... Approximately 42,0000 gpd may be required for dust suppression and compaction over the six-year period of engineered fill placement." (Consider what happens to asbestos in the dust when it's not watered, but the DEIR cannot create its own potential crisis and then expect us to sacrifice to stop it, when the legally and politically appropriate response is to reject the DEIR.)

Also consider this critical example, by studying pages 4.11-35 to 52 in the DEIR's "Public Services And Utilities" # 4.11 (where, in discussing NID water supply issues, they approach some realities more realistically, although deficiently), we discover more revelations than in the frustrating and intensely disputed 83 page discussion in "Hydrology And Water Quality" # 4.8 (where there again is no apparent attempt to reconcile that mine



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data with that NID discussion or even with other conflicting and disputed water discussions in many other DEIR sections mentioning water issues.) Among the interesting credibility challenges against the DEIR in this process is the foregoing and some following [slightly annotated by me in brackets to expose the DEIR's apparent "bait and switch" game] quotes at 4.11-39 to 43 from a subsection of that "Public Services And Utilities" section called "Projected Water Supplies," where the DEIR admits some of my Objections in conflict with its other DEIR claims and goals.

II. General Overview of the Disputed DEIR's Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies Regarding Water Demands, Supply, Depletion, "Recharge," "Balancing." And Related Concerns.

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The unaddressed DEIR issue this raises, as discussed throughout this Objection, is the competition for insufficient supplies of both NID and local groundwater that will continually pit us competing local residents and desirable users versus suffering for this undesirable mine with no net benefit to our community (see my #4), depleting our shared, precious surface and underground water at a time of coming chronic dryness and droughts from climate change that is largely ignored by the DEIR, certainly after the first 15 or 20 years (or after 2040) of their proposed 80 years of water waste for the profit of foreign mine investors. Again, how at this time of diminishing water supplies can government approve a mine with no net benefit to our community (see my #4) for which the disputed DEIR claims they cannot project water shortages or proposed mitigation beyond 2040, when the DEIR is asking for permits etc for 80 years (and using mostly inapplicable NID surface water data before then and irrelevant and misleading average rain data between 1967 and 2017)?

While the disputed DEIR states different things in different places, the most detailed forward-looking comments are in #4.11 at 4.11-37 et seq, citing to Table 4.11-4 containing what purports to be "NID's projected annual future water demand through 2040," including the "additional project-related demand of approximately 26.4 ac-ft/yr for Brunswick Industrial Site and East Bennett Road potable water line customers." [Government decision makers should not accept any such grossly over-simplified and cherrypicked DEIR summary from NID reports that contain much more complexity and cautions and need adaptations for differences between NID surface water and our groundwater issues.] However, this all ignores the direct or indirect addition of NID customers, when and if as feared by most locals above and around the 2585-acre underground mine (often ignored in this DEIR commentary) lose their well water because of the mine, and they call upon the mine to honor its mitigation obligation to replace their wells' water supplies (or, if not, under the victims' common view of the applicable law compensate them for buying their own replacement water or drilling deeper wells, either way adding to the water shortage.) Based on NID comments at the March 24 hearing and written follow-up, NID appears to understand part of the DEIR problems.

Among the many disputed statements in the DEIR that defy logic and science from the perspective of local impact is this at 4.11-37: "Notwithstanding the potable demand of 26.4 acre-feet per year associated with the project, the proposed project would be a net contributor of water to the NID water system [BUT DOWNRIVER SOMEWHERE ELSE] as a result of the



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project's ongoing discharge of treated mine dewatering water to South Fork Wolf Creek (850 gpm or about 1371 ac-ft/yr) ..." Besides the hexavalent chromium threat from mine water that is ignored in the DEIR (See my #'s 3.C, G and H and 7), that is one of the provocative, "bait and switch" comments that obscures the key threats and issues that the DEIR evades. What that DEIR quote admits is that (as us locals complain about and will resist) the mine (i) would drain our local ground water in the 2585-acre underground mine area and adjacent areas (owned by surface owners like me with a right to compete for that groundwater we own during the coming droughts and NID shortages), and (ii) would relocate our water somewhere else downriver. That imposition of a unique and particular loss on one victimized part of the community is the equivalent of what the leading California Supreme Court said created liability for claims of the victims downwind of the sewer plant imposed on them, as discussed at my #4. If local victims are to be made to suffer even for the common good (which this is not and cannot be here for this mine as a private, rather than public project), then we must be compensated, especially when the project is private for no net benefit to anyone except the foreign shareholders receiving the profits. See my #4. Also, there appears to be no way for the DEIR miner to afford funding any such obligations based upon its admitted financial condition described in my #2.

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The disputed DEIR at 4.11-39 addresses "Projected Water Supplies" with reference to the Table 4.11-5 discussed Water Code section 109109(c)(4)'s 20-year projection requirement, as if that somehow excused them for any CEQA discussion of the foreseeable drought and water shortage horrors to come in the rest of the DEIR 80 years of mining. See my # 14. That DEIR omission adds gravity to the disputed contentions in the DEIR during that first 15 or 20 years (or until 2040) that are discussed throughout this Objection and in others. Without trying to summarize all of those many disputes here, they include the reality that, during at least some of the next 80-years of climate change dryness and drought, those many thousands of local residents (like me) in the area above and around the 2585-acre underground mine will compete with the mine, and if necessary with NID, for our respective shares of our groundwater when NID supplies are no longer satisfactory, a time that will certainly occur sooner on account of the mining operations and the massive dewatering that send our groundwater off somewhere else down the Wolf Creek. While the disputed DEIR makes an insufficient and disputed attempt to discuss other NID water shortage variables, because the DEIR ignores climate change and drought realities that should be obvious to everyone, they must also consider the reality of government intervention, such as reallocating our water to even more drought harmed places. NID may doubt that for lack of a water transfer vehicle, but I saw reallocation happen with giant pipes when my East Bay MUD drought water transferred to Marin County in a massive pipe over the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

The climate change/drought realities are going to harm many other places worse than here, and when that gets sufficiently severe, our NID water may be reallocated to more desperate places, and our limited supplies will be much more restricted than now. (For example, in a prior drought cycle, I remember when I was living in the San Francisco Bay Area and my East Bay MUD water supply was cut to 50 gallons per person a day, so that our water could be shifted to Marin County, where their intentional policy of not addressing their water needs so as to create an excuse against more residential development created a water crisis from which government insisted our water had to save them.) **The legal and political point that**



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the DEIR is missing entirely is that there will be 80 years of competition over insufficient supplies of water, and few of us locals can imagine any rational reason for any resident to suffer for, or defer to, water use for this undesirable mine that adds no net benefit to any of us. See my # 4 and 3.N. By the way, notice that the disputed DEIR in that cited subsection does not address the admitted NID water supply deficiencies even in the next 20 years as admitted in Table 4.11-6, discussed herein, and which DEIR understates the problem and ignores various realities.

The disputed DEIR at 4.11-7 at 4.11-39-43 and Tables 4.11-5 and 6, purports to address "Water Supply Sufficiency" also cited to that Water Code section [not to CEQA or other applicable law and not for these kinds of disputes with a mine DEIR for the next 80 years] and is subject to the flaws and worse mentioned above. This discussion rebuts many errors and omissions in the DEIR on this insufficiently discussed topic before it incorrectly concluded at the end at 4.11-43: "Based on the above [which is disputed, unsubstantiated, and insufficient and ignores climate change realities by looking to unrevealing history], sufficient water supplies would be available to serve the proposed project, as well as existing and reasonably foreseeable development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Thus, a less-than-significant impact would occur." This absurd conclusion is contradicted by the DEIR's own admission at 4.11-39: "Therefore, NID would be able to serve the proposed project in addition to existing and future developments with some reliance on demand reductions in dry years by 2025." See the DEIR's disputed description of NID's position at 4.11-8 et seq. (although correctly noting at 4.11-9 that "NID does not utilize groundwater as an existing or planned source of water due to limited groundwater availability," inspiring one of the many hard questions the DEIR dodges or ignores (see my # 15), which is: if there were as much available groundwater as the DEIR claims (and we dispute), why is that water source ignored by NID? Stated another way, why shouldn't we trust NID's admitted decision not to tap such "limited groundwater availability," instead of the DEIR? First, the disputed DEIR ignores the "new normal" of climate change's chronic drier weather and drought and greater competition from surface owners and users like me above and around the 2585-acre mine. Second, by refusing even to address the impact of 24/7/365 operations for the rest of the 80 years, the mine expects its surface owners above and around the mine and others to suffer an unknown fate of highly probable water shortages that government cannot responsibly permit to begin now. (Remember, as discussed throughout this Objection, such surface owners have our own individual legal rights as to our groundwater that the mine proposes to deplete, and so interfering with those thousands of surface owners' or users' rights can have legal and political consequences.) Third, Table 4.11-6 admits NID deficits for a single and multiple dry years, but that (and worse) may be all we can expect in the "new normal" future. The only DEIR "proof" is to the now nonpredictive past that ignores our new normal of climate change.

Looking back in history to average rainfall between 1967 and 2017 (see below and DEIR at 4.8-2) to predict that next 20 or 80 years is worse than misleading; it's irresponsible. See my # 14. Again, government decisionmakers, please note the different ways disputed DEIR water data is scattered, stated and, omitted (often inconsistently and confusingly) in various separate and unexpected places, as well as what many of us consider DEIR's many errors, omissions, and deficiencies. See my # 14. Also, again at 4.11-2 we have the dangerous "bait and switch" to which we objected earlier, plus again ignoring the **hexavalent chromium threat**,



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chronic drought and dryness for climate change, government reallocation to more desperate places, etc., where DEIR states: "However, this project is not expected to exacerbate NID's water supply shortages during dry years and the project will supply water into South Fork Wolf Creek, and the NID water conveyance system, at volumes exceeding the project water demand for potable water from NID." Again, such disputed and unrealistic DEIR dewatering "solution" would strip surface owners and users above and around the 2585-acre underground mine of their personally owned groundwater for transfer downriver somewhere else in the Wolf Creek. The consequences of that transfer on our local community are ignored by the DEIR by not by us locals. See, eg, my #'s 3.D and F, 5, and 14.

The disputed DEIR claims that it does not have to "speculate" about the future when it's about threats, problems, and risks of concern to us locals, but, when faced with admitted and other obvious problems like those we raise, the DEIR often assumes away the problems, risks, and burdens with its own speculations and assumptions. See my # 14. For example, at DEIR 4.11-42-43, the disputed DEIR speculates about NID planning in its "Plan For Water," about what will be left for NID's junior water rights, and about NID using DEIR treated mine water somewhere else in the NID system and ignoring the many problems, like hexavalent chromium and other toxic substances, that NID customers will find intolerable. The illusion is exposed in the DEIR "Conclusion" at 4.11- 51, where it incorrectly states: "Water supply exceeds existing and projected future demand, including the addition of the Idaho-Maryland project DURING NORMAL YEARS. Therefore, sufficient water supply is available to service existing and future reasonably foreseeable development DURING NORMAL YEARS." (Emphasis added) First, the second sentence does not follow in science or fact from the first sentence, even if one were to look realistically only at the next 15 or 20 years (or until 2040), as distinguished from what is reasonably foreseeable for the next 80 years of climate change impacts on the DEIR mine operations. Second, what they call a "normal year" is incorrectly based on history (see where the DEIR looks at the average rain from 1967 to 2017 and ignores the "new normal" of climate change and chronic dryness and drought.) Third, the dry and drought years are the "new normal," and there are admitted water shortages that will be worse than admitted by the DEIR (or estimated by NID), so that there will also be greater competition for groundwater and NID water not just with desirable newcomers who we would like to welcome to our community, but also with the thousands of us existing residents and voters living on the surface above and around the 2585-acres of the underground mine who have their own competing legal rights to such groundwater. See my #'s 4 and 14.

The disputed DEIR quotes and positions addressed in the previous paragraphs, especially at 4.11-42-43 and 51, have the same flaws as the disputed DEIR "Conclusion" admissions at 4.11-51 as follows, (but they seem inconsistent with them as well): "Water demand within NID's service area is expected to exceed the District's supplies by more than 45 percent from 2025 to 2040 in Single Dry Years and by less than 10 percent from 2025 to 2040 during the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year period." Reality will likely be much worse, but even that will create problems more than what the DEIR addresses, especially if one excludes the speculation and errors and adds what the DEIR omits adequately to address. For example, there is no satisfactory and sufficient basis for the DEIR's sheer speculation to conclude what so ignores such hard contrary issues at DEIR 4.11-51 that: "This supply deficit can be addressed through NID's previously discussed Water Shortage



- Ind 254-24 ↑ Contingency Plan, and as previously mentioned, the proposed project would be a net contributor of water the NID system” (which, as noted throughout this Objection, does nothing for those thousands of us living and using above and around the 2585-acre underground mine whose own groundwater would be exported downriver somewhere else with whatever hexavalent chromium, other toxins, and other problems it may contain).
- Ind 254-25 According to disputed DEIR at 3-15 et seq., there are water treatment complication problems, and those seem to be insufficiently addressed, especially since there are historical, dangerous examples of what happened elsewhere when extraordinary storms (the “new normal” of climate change) overwhelm the capacity of the mine water treatment facilities, or it just suffers from human error or negligence, which human history shows has overwhelmed even much more safety conscious and competent facilities than this DEIR mine proposes. I have yet to meet an informed local willing to trust their home, family’s fate, and environment to this DEIR plan, even if the miner could somehow afford it (see my # 2). Consider, as a minor threat example (before we get to Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, etc) what happened so often with the City of Santa Rosa’s repeated water treatment failures (before they eventually upgraded the facility), while delaying upgrades for years that they almost killed the Russian River. Why does anyone think the DEIR 30-acre foot clay lined settling pond and other facilities here will be sufficient? Remember also all the toxins (eg, arsenic and ammonia admitted at DEIR 3-17) and objectionable other concerns (eg, iron and manganese at DEIR 3-17) in such water. What about the hexavalent chromium from the cement paste on the mine shoring being dewatered and passed into the settling ponds? A more satisfactory DEIR would have explained the Hinkley, California story about how their hexavalent chromium from such ponds has left it a ghost town with large graveyards and a huge liability claim settlement by those most consider responsible. It’s all on Google, Wikipedia, and the EPA website. See, eg, my #'s 3.C, G, and H and 7.
- Ind 254-26 In another “bait and switch” problem with the disputed DEIR, mine efforts to reduce its air pollution, especially of dangerous materials, has adverse effects on our other local environmental concerns. For example, the disputed DEIR admits (at 4.3-49) that they “assumed that about 11 million gallons [of water] would be required [ie, wasted] for construction dust suppression.” (Thinks asbestos cover up.) Even worse, the DEIR states on that same page in discussion of the mine’s “Surface Fugitive Dust Controls”: “To account for dust control measures ... the assumption was made that that active work sites would be watered at least two times daily, resulting in an approximately 55 percent reduction of particulate matter.” However, when chronic climate change drought and water controls limit NID and other water use, as is ignored in the DEIR, but nevertheless is inevitable as an inconvenient truth, that means either our precious water will be wasted for such mine “dust control” or our particulate air pollution (again think asbestos) will be 55% worse than projected from the mine, leaving the obvious solution to that dilemma of simply shutting the mine that never should have been reopened in the first place.
- Ind 254-27 ↓ III. Misleading DEIR Mining Data That Incorrectly Assumes the Past Predicts the Future Without Sufficient DEIR Proof And Massive Omissions Relating To the “New Normal” Created by Chronic Drought And Dryness From Climate Change.



Ind 254-27

According to the DEIR (that incorrectly focuses on groundwater as if the only issue was the small number of wells (30 or 31) by the surface site at the East Bennett Road area), there are two relevant “watershed areas”: the Upper Wolf Creek Watershed and the South Fork Wolf Creek Watershed. DEIR at 4.8-2. **Among the worst deficiencies in the disputed DEIR is its lack of any adequate discussion of the detailed underground and groundwater conditions in and around the 2585-acre underground mine now and in the DEIR new mining future. While the DEIR ignores those issues, the thousands of people (like me) living above or around that 2585-acre underground mine share (or, when adequately informed, will share) the doubts and concerns addressed in this Objection and others. Even if those objections are mistakenly ignored, the disputed DEIR must still be rejected for not revealing the consequences when (as discussed above) those thousands of local residents and voters react to future NID climate change drought rationing and drought shortages by exercising and expanding our rights to compete with more and deeper wells for our own groundwater supplies from both the same underground fractured rock sources as the mine, plus from NID. While the DEIR depends on assumptions from obsolete history about an average water fall of 52.81 inches from 1967-2017 (admitting a minimum of only 18.48 in 1977), no responsible person I know is willing to bet their home and future that the next 80 years will be as wet as that irrelevant, pre-climate change history. See the discussion above and in my #'s 3.E and 5 about how the DEIR presents a flawed analysis with somewhat inapplicable NID data only until 2040, forcing everyone else to guess how much worse things will get for the balance of the 80 years of proposed DEIR mining.**

Climate change for us means much more chronic dryness and drought. For example, what is our real groundwater recharge rate at realistic future levels of rainfall/snowpack in the “new normal” future? What if that 1977 low point of 18.48 inches is the new average? CEQA requires science and facts, and the DEIR cannot just assume the average from 1967-2017 has any relevance to predicting our drier, climate changed future. That means the disputed DEIR is worse than wrong about its water supply “assumptions” (as well as misunderstanding why the DEIR cannot just cherry-pick the NID surface water data for this different application and groundwater context.) In our future 80 years there will be increasingly less “recharge” and “balancing” of the groundwater and less availability from NID, especially compared to what is wasted in the mine dewatering or even in surface NID uses at the mine, as discussed herein. Contrary to the disputed DEIR, the mine will seriously deplete both NID and underground water that our community needs for better and more important competing uses in times of progressive climate change increased drought and dryness that the DEIR fails to address satisfactorily, if at all.

For example, the disputed DEIR Figure 4.8-8, entitled, “Simulated Drawdown of Groundwater Levels Under Current Conditions,” and related commentary are regarded by many of us opponents as misleading, because what the DEIR cites as “current conditions” are irrelevant and nonpredictive of the “new normal” future of such dryness, drought, and climate change. See my #'s 3.M and 14. That water shortage is also certain to change for the worse, because of the effects of the blasting, digging, tunneling, dewatering, and mining work itself, changing the underground conditions in those 2585-acres in ways that the DEIR does not attempt to predict as it mines into unknown conditions in new, expanded, and deeper areas. (Note the DEIR also fails to predict the starting condition of the mine after being



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flooded and closed since 1956 with at best imperfect records.) What legitimate reasons would Rise have for asking for 80 years of 24/7/365 dewatering without seriously and properly addressing (especially after the misapplied NID data that cuts off at 2040) the future concerns of the locals (with whom the DEIR provokes perpetual water disputes)? Current climate science proves that such past is no guide at all to our future on these continuous water disputes. That is especially true when there are so many examples of groundwater depletion horrors already in the Central Valley, Bakersfield, and elsewhere, where those residents turned to new and deeper well to supplement inadequate surface supplies. See my # 3.M.

Ind 254-28

The DEIR also admits (at 4.3-59) that "Potable water use at the Brunswick Industrial site was estimated to be approximately 1.4 million gallons per year," not counting the 3952 gallons of potable water used daily for the septic system, plus an estimated 2.8 million gallons per year of the 26 (or 30 or 31) East Bennett Road area residences shifting from well water to NID. Again, the disputed DEIR water usage discussion only addresses the small number of wells around the Bennett surface site owned by Rise. More importantly, mine efforts to reduce its air pollution, especially of dangerous materials, has adverse effects on our other environmental concerns about water. For example, the DEIR admits (at 4.3-49 and ignores any such data where it should be located in # 4.8) that they "assumed that about 11 million gallons [of water] would be required [ie, wasted] for construction dust suppression." (Why can't the DEIR ever call the dust asbestos?) Even worse, the DEIR states on that same page in discussion of the mine's "Surface Fugitive Dust Controls": "To account for dust control measures ... the assumption was made that that active work sites would be watered at least two times daily, resulting in an approximately 55 percent reduction of particulate matter." However, when chronic climate change drought and water controls limit NID and other water use, as is ignored in DEIR but is obvious and inevitable as an inconvenient truth, that means either (i) precious water will be wasted for such mine "dust control," or (ii) our local particulate air pollution (and asbestos) will be 55% worse than projected from the mine. The obvious solution to such dilemmas is simply shutting the mine that never should have been reopened in the first place.

All that water waste from fugitive dust watering above was not disclosed where it should have been in the DEIR's "Hydrology And Water Quality" chapter water discussion at 4.8 that was already deficient (see my #'s 5 and 3.D, E, and F), but, by separately burying these water details instead in the air pollution section at 4.3, the DEIR creates confusion and conflict and makes the water use numbers unclear. See my # 14. How are these DEIR 4.3 water use numbers in the air discussion to compare those in DEIR 4.8 water section? Once again, the disputed DEIR seems to prefer data confusion to the clarity and reasoned factual debate required by CEQA. See my # 14 and my supplemental CEQA brief. For example, we still don't know how this water use relates to the depletion concerns we suffer not just from our groundwater, but also from our competing rights to NID water during shortages, as our community would blunder further into shortages on account of climate change droughts and dryer weather that the DEIR ignored and insufficiently addressed. Id.

Ind 254-29

As my Objection describes above and elsewhere, the even bigger water problems will relate to the increasing competition to be expected with those thousands of us living above and around the 2585-acres underground mine who are entitled to our owned shares of the



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↑
same groundwater source. For example, what happens when NID supplies in the coming chronic droughts are cut back (whether because NID doesn't have sufficient water or because its water has been reallocated elsewhere by government), and we all begin drilling our competing wells to survive for the next 80 years or until the mine stops wasting our water by dewatering and sending it downriver somewhere else? See my #'s 3.N and 14. Who will be the loser in that legal, political, and practical competition between us thousands of local residents trying to save ourselves, our trees and environment, and our community way of life, etc. versus the mine dewatering waste or twice daily watering dangerous mine dust for the profit of foreign investors? Our community and its residents cannot afford to lose in that perpetual competition, and, if that happens, it will be the fault of the government who was supposed to protect us from such calamities. Just saying "I told you so" to mine advocates and approval officials is an insufficient ending, and that mining should be not just legally incorrect, but politically impossible to sustain the way I count votes for any future local elections. **So, if it's inevitable that this mining will stop, sooner or later, sooner is better for everyone. In any event, CEQA and reason require responsible government to insist that the DEIR detail what happens next, when the mine stops after it were allowed to reopen. See my # 14 versus DEIR 4.3-103-104.**

To address the scale of the water depletion problems to come, Rise admits (DEIR at 4.8-42) that to clear the mine of water will require pumping for 160 days to remove 385 million gallons of water. Once so cleared, the dewatering process is stated (DEIR at 4.8) to pump away for treatment and downriver disposal in the Wolf Creek the amounts discussed above. While the DEIR makes a disputed attempt without sufficient evidence to claim there will be a "balance" between what is added from new seepage and what is continuously removed, that and other related claims are questioned or disputed above and elsewhere in this Objection (eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M, 4, 5, and 14). **Many like me worry with good causes explained (eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M and 5) about the risks that this 24/7/365 dewatering for 80 years is not only depleting the groundwater and drying out the surface owned or used by thousands of us local residents and public services above and around that larger 2585-acre underground mining boundary, but also in the surrounding areas. Nothing in the disputed DEIR adequately describes how far these adverse, water wasting consequences will spread over that long period. Also note near the end of this section my discussion about the DEIR's failure adequately to address what happens when the mining stops, including my rebuttals of the DEIR's "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" (at its 4.3-103-104).**

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IV. **The DEIR's Distraction And Evasion of the Real Concerns With Groundwater Depletion And Its Consequences For Us Thousands Living Above And Around the 2585-Acre Underground Mine, Especially Because the DEIR Fails To Address The Underground Realities Of That Mine Closed And Flooded Since 1956 And Now Being Subjected To New, Expanded, And Deeper Mining Without Adequate DEIR Analysis.**

The disputed DEIR (4.8-2 at 4.8-54) states that: "The project site [unclear as usual if they mean only the Brunswick site or the real 2585-acre mine, since the DEIR usually tries to



Ind 254-30

limit its discussion the smaller site, presumably to dodge the harder questions (see my #'s 14 and 15) and the concerns of the thousands of objecting surface owners and users above and around the underground mine] is not located within a groundwater basin that has been identified by DWR, and the nearest groundwater basin is located more than 15 miles to the west. ... Thus, the project could not impede sustainable groundwater management within a groundwater basin, because no such basin exists in the project vicinity. ... Groundwater is present within fractured bedrock throughout the region ... As a result [of deeper mining into unknown and unanalyzed conditions, which the DEIR contends, and many of us dispute as unproven, to be a good thing] dewatering of deeper tunnels and drifts would have less impact on groundwater levels in the fractured bedrock than would dewatering of shallower mine workings." As discussed elsewhere in this Objection (eg, at my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M and 5) and others, this (like the bogus attempt to limit this groundwater problem to the East Bennett Area 30 wells) seems to play disputed word games, and the DEIR data is often nonresponsive to the real issues and is especially unclear about what surface areas are impacted above and around 2585-acres underground mine. See my # 14. For example, Figure 4.8-11, like the rest of the DEIR, is useless to us locals trying to place our surface properties' locations in reference to that underground mining. The real DEIR question is NOT that more general question about "groundwater basins" versus water in "fractured bedrock" or "fractured bedrock aquifer." That is just filler and a distraction.

Instead of such DEIR distractions and evasions, what every local who is OR WILL BE depending on underground water for ourselves and our forests and environment (already drying out and becoming a fire and fire smoke hazard) demands to know in the future 80-year crisis of chronic drought and climate change is this: **Will the new and expanded (even deeper) 24/7/365 mining and dewatering of the 2585-acres, plus the mine's planned uses of NID water, for the next 80 plus years adversely affect the sufficiency of water for our competing local surface uses in the area and especially on the surface for owners and users and homes in the forests above and around the mine and in the larger "impact zone" (eg, for groundwater depletion and subsidence) or "stigma zone" around that (ie, where we suffer real estate value losses because of the mining)?** See, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M, 4, 5, and 8. Note, for example all the massive groundwater depleting and NID misuses described in this section and others that the DEIR even admits, such as, for example (at 4.3-59) that its potable water use at the Brunswick site will be "1.4 million gallons per year," with more surface "dust suppression" watering also explained above.

Ind 254-31

Also, considering the massive amount of local groundwater so used on mining sites or that will be pumped up and sent downstream somewhere else in the Wolf Creek, how can we be reassured of adequate "recharge" or "balancing" of our depleted groundwater supply, looking forward to that 80-year future (and not back to the no longer relevant past rain and snow fall before climate change and chronic drought began)? See, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M and 5. As demonstrated even so far in this section and such others, with more errors, omissions, and problems revealed elsewhere in these and other objections, approval of the DEIR and mine would be intolerable to those who live and vote here just on account of our water competition, conflicts, and disputes alone, even without regard to our many other, also sufficient, concerns. Among the many reasons, I focus on the groundwater issues so vigorously here, is that us locals above and around the 2585-acre underground mine have personal legal



Ind 254-31

rights to groundwater that are more substantial, powerful, and legally defensible than other interests that are threatened in these CEQA disputes with the DEIR. See my # 14. That means that this may not just be the normal CEQA legal process with parallel chronic voting and other disputes until the mine stops. See my # 3.N. Nothing in the mine approval process can defeat our competing groundwater rights (assuming effective enforcement us locals will expect from our elected officials in the future), unless (which seems legally, economically, and politically impossible), some government exercised eminent domain rights and subjected itself to inverse condemnation claims. See, eg, my #4.

Moreover, since that extreme DEIR mining will radically change the unknown and unanalyzed underground conditions in the 2585-acre mine below us in undisclosed ways that the DEIR never correctly or sufficiently addressed, how can we know how much worse that mining will make our future water shortages and other environmental problems for the next 80 plus years? See, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M, 4, 5, and 14. Such questions that the DEIR evades (or fails to address at all) lead to many other questions not addressed in the DEIR but noted in this and other such sections and other locals' objections, such as, what are adverse effects of such prolonged dewatering (which means moving water out of our local community groundwater supply somewhere else downriver) on such legal rights of the surface owners above the 2585-acres and adjacent neighbors (like me), such as when such removed water ceases to help provide the "subjacent support" and "lateral support" needed to avoid the "subsidence" that has proven so damaging to other places in our Central Valley, Bakersfield, and elsewhere where the ground surface dropped as much as six feet on account of groundwater pumping and removal? See my #'s 4 and 14.

V. DEIR Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies In Addressing Imagined
"Recharge" And "Balancing" of Our Depleted Groundwater Owned By
Thousands Of Us Above And Around the 2585-Acre Underground Mine

Ind 254-32

This Objection and others explain why the DEIR's dodging or evading such critical groundwater questions is unacceptable, and why no DEIR can be legally approved without addressing them. See my # 14. In other words, a disputed and inappropriate DEIR strategy of attempting to limit these groundwater concerns to 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road is an inappropriate distraction. See, eg, my discussion at #3.D, E, M, and N, 4, 5, and 8, of how everyone above or around the 2585-acre underground mine area (who can afford to do so), sooner or later, will be forced to drill deep wells and compete with the wasteful mine dewatering, no later in that future than when NID limits our NID water access, either because of shortages caused by drought or by government reallocations to even drier places. Also, note that the high cost and other issues of NID connections will cause many landowners to build with new wells. Distracting and tangent DEIR debates about "groundwater basins" cannot be allowed to deprive our community of essential water needed here in the next 80 years (not disposed of downstream somewhere else by dewatering a mine) on account of chronic drought and climate change never seriously addressed by the DEIR, as the proponents cling to their 1967-2017 average rainfall and other nonpredictive historical data they incorrectly claims enable them to pretend the past water situation will continue to recharge the depleted groundwater. Ask anyone in the Central Valley, Bakersfield, or elsewhere about



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↑ their recent experience with such bogus “recharge” assurances, as their local infrastructure breaks from subsidence caused by the surface dropping from over pumping of groundwater, but stand back, because they (like all water victims) may “explode” at the failure of their governments to stop water wasters like this mine (there not just pumping for agriculture, but sometimes for oil, gas, and fracking).

The DEIR (at 4.8-58) also states: “The predicted drawdowns shown in Figure 4.8-11 are those that would occur in addition to the existing drawdowns due to groundwater inflow to the mine under existing conditions, as previously discussed and shown in Figure 4.8-8. As shown in the figure the drawdowns of the water table are generally within the mineral rights boundary. This is due to the low-K rocks where the deep mining would occur.” First, note that there is no satisfactory scientific or even informed discussion about what incorrect assumptions underlie those DEIR figures, and there is no CEQA compliance by DEIR (see my # 14) telling us where to hunt through their disputed pile of disputable exhibits for unspecified data. Eg, *Concerned Citizens of Costa Mesa, Inc v. 32nd Dist. Ag. Ass’n* (1986), 42 Cal.3d 929. See also my # 3.M, and 14, where I illustrate other examples of obscuring data, insufficient data, strategic omissions, and other inappropriate tactics prohibited by CEQA cases like *Banning Ranch Conservancy v. City of Newport Beach* (2017), 2 Cal.5th 918, 940-41 (“Banning”) and *Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rancho Cordova* (2007), 40 Cal.4th 412, 442 (“Vineyards”), each insisting on “a good faith reasoned analysis,” rather than scattered or buried data, and unexplained data in exhibits. See also my # 14. Here neighbors (like me) cannot even figure out from the DEIR where we are on located by identifiable surface landmarks (eg, roads) above the 2585-acres in relation to that DEIR data. (Is that just a mistake, or is that a strategic intention in the DEIR? That is a question of good faith in CEQA challenges explained in my # 14.)

Second, there are predictable surface versus underground owner disputes against the DEIR mining removing and wasting all that groundwater (and its subjacent and lateral support) underneath us such surface owners and users both under the 2585-acres and anywhere else in the area where the mine would suck away and deplete our underground water into those 2585-acre pumps. (While there are hundreds of such existing wells, and many of us locals may not yet be tapping into that groundwater in which we have rights and claims [note: groundwater is not “minerals” to be mined], that day is coming on account of climate change and drought, not just here, but also (as is already occurring) in other, even more needy places where the government may reallocate NID water and force us to compete harder with the mine. See my #'s 3.D, F, M, and N, 4, 5, 8, and 14.)

Third, the disputed DEIR assumed “recharge” and “balance” without satisfactory proof, by reference to the past (eg, the average rain/snow between 1967 and 2017) that ignores both the coming chronic droughts, drier conditions, and climate change, as well as the impacts on water supplies by the proposed and still unevaluated new, deeper, and expanded mining activities into unknown conditions. See my #'s 3.D, F, and M and 5. Why would the DEIR fail to address such obvious matters? One answer is that they have no feasible mitigation to propose against these inconvenient truths. Apparently, they prefer omissions to confronting these realities. But as CEQA noncompliant and wrong as it is for the DEIR to assume the average rainfall between now and 1967-2017 will apply between now and 2040 (by misplaced and disputed use of NID data out of context), it is worse for the DEIR to

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continue without any comparative other data to assume that does not change during the rest of the 80 years. See my #'s 3.M, 4, and 14.

As just noted about dodging the real "recharge" and "balancing" issues, the disputed DEIR (at 4.8-58) states: "Importantly, Itasca's groundwater modeling accounts for continual inflow into the underground mine workings (ie, maintenance dewatering) as well as recharge into the fractured bedrock system, such that the groundwater drawdown levels shown in Figure 4.8-11 generally reflect a new state of equilibrium after the initial dewatering of the mine. Further, the modeling shows that the new equilibrium is little affected by changes in the amount of the recharge." See my discussion of CEQA court cases above and in my # 14, rejecting such DEIR attempts to incorporate in such a disputed manner a small part of a separate "Itasca study," such as *Concerned Citizens of Costa Mesa, Banning, and Vineyards*. First, note this study and comment is focused on the East Bennett Road 30 well issue, which is a small part of, and different from, our concerns and locations regarding the larger 2585-acre plus impact and stigma areas often (as here) ignored in the DEIR. Second, as noted above and discussed throughout this Objection (eg, my # 3M and 5), this disputed and incorrect DEIR analysis is based on history that is now largely irrelevant and misleading in view of drought, climate change, and new, deeper, and expanded mining. Third, from the perspective of neighboring victims losing their own groundwater to this wasteful mining process, the "fractured bedrock system" may often be even more dangerous and harmful than depletion of a bigger groundwater basin, since there is no reason demonstrated in the DEIR for us to expect "recharge rates" in the coming dry and drought future from climate change to continue to match the Rise 2585-acre underground mine depletion rates. See my # 3.M.

The smaller and more complex the groundwater source area of the "fractured bedrock system" being emptied beneath us objectors, the worse such impacts on us may be. There is no satisfactory or sufficient DEIR study or discussion of these issues between those of us on the surface above or around the 2585-acre and the dangerous conditions that may now exist in that long closed (1956) and flooded mine and whatever mining they are doing into the unexplored rest of that underground area 24/7/365 for the next 80 years. While our local surface area above and around the 2585-acre mine is much bigger than the small East Bennett Road area addressed in the DEIR, it is small enough that such DEIR imagined recharge cannot reasonably be expected from other areas, thus concentrating our local risks and (when they understand the impacts, risks, and burdens) rousing the almost unanimous thousands of residents whose home use and value and personal fate is at risk to this undesirable mine based on this disputed DEIR. See my #'s 3.N, 4, and 8, comparing the risks, impacts, and harms to our local community to whatever disputed and much lesser benefits may be claimed from this exploitive mine. However, as explained elsewhere (eg, my #'s 3.N and 8), the mine directly and immediately harms, impacts, and risks many more existing residents above and around that 2585-acre mine than the small number of jobs added, and the economic losses from mine harms, risks, and real estate value losses in the impact and stigma zones greatly exceed any imagined economic benefits from this no net benefit mine. See my #'s 4 and 3.N.

As one example of the lethal mistake the DEIR makes in exclusively relying on the past to predict the future (see my # 3.M), consider what the DEIR says (at 4.8-62) about "Potential Future Exploration And Mining" based on its "Itaska Report model" also disputed above,

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which provides largely irrelevant and misleading “simulations of [predicting that] the rate of groundwater inflow into the mine generally stabilize over the last 10 to 15 years of the 65 year model analysis.” But see my # 3.M, and 14 counters, where I dispute this kind of use of obscuring data, insufficient data, strategic omissions, and other inappropriate tactics prohibited by CEQA cases like *Banning Ranch Conservancy v. City of Newport Beach* (2017), 2 Cal.5th 918, 940-41 and *Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rancho Cordova* (2007), 40 Cal.4th 412, 442, each insisting on “a good faith reasoned analysis,” rather than referencing scattered or buried data, and unexplained data in exhibits. How can such a model for a different situation based on the pre-climate change past be reliable or even useful in predicting future risks of groundwater depletion and recharge, when the DEIR ignores not only the unknown consequences of its new, expanded, and deeper 2585-acre underground mining, plus climate change caused drought and drier weather that does not recharge or balance as in the past?

Why is this Itaska study misleading? [Also note, as explained in my # 14 citing cases like *Concerned Citizens, Vineyards, and Banning*, us objectors are not required to analyze and object to the details of all the hundreds or thousands of pages of all such studies which are disputed, but often because they are just outdated and wrong, but also because they are often inapplicable or irrelevant (eg, relating to difference places, situations, or issues) and full of unanswered questions, unrepeated limitations and qualifications, and other reasons why it should be ignored in this context.] Consider that this dispute study is the basis for the DEIR incorrectly to conclude at (4.8-65 in “Groundwater Recharge”): “Thus, the project would not result in any appreciable new areas of compacted soils or impermeable surfaces that could substantially restrict or otherwise interfere with groundwater recharge.” This seem to be another classic “bait and switch,” and it’s inconsistent with other DEIR data. Whether or not that disputed statement is true (which I doubt), it is not a substitute for the obvious factors preventing recharge and balancing that the DEIR chooses to ignore. See my # 14. This DEIR cherry picking of snippets of inapplicable or wrong data from such incorporated studies not detailed in the DEIR is not CEQA compliant, as such cases like *Concerned Citizens, Banning, and Vineyard* and my # 14 explain.

One of the other DEIR problems with this kind of incorrect propaganda (ie, selecting some happy sounding things to say, while ignoring the more relevant science, issues, and “new normal” data after climate change that the DEIR ignores) is that in such a long report they leave hints of inconsistencies. (Again, this is another example of the flawed DEIR pretense that this mine CEQA analysis needs only to address that small Brunswick site owned by Rise and the 30 wells along East Bennett Drive and sometimes the so-called separate Centennial project.) For example, in the discussion of the “Baseflow in South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek” the DEIR states (at 4.8-65) that: “Numerical modeling also indicates that dewatering could lower groundwater levels sufficiently to reduce the base flow in the South Fork Wolf Creek by as much as 0.1 cfs.” The DEIR says not to worry about that, because the mine dewatering will end up moving our local groundwater downriver in the Wolf Creek for distant NID destinations that are irrelevant to our local recharge and groundwater needs. For the moment the issue is not the river flow, but this admission that, even ignoring the future effects of mining, drought, and climate change, Rise will be lowering the groundwater levels. That seems inconsistent with the DEIR’s own analysis, which tries elsewhere to duck the



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central concern of many of us neighbors, that the surface relevant water level will be lowered in the future by such mining as the ground dries out and the water table drops, thus harming our surface improvements, forests, and environment, depriving us of our own water rights as surface owners and users or as neighbors sharing the same underground water sources (whatever you call them) and potentially killing our already climate stressed forests and creating more fire hazards over the next 80-years.

VI. DEIR Water Depletion Mitigation Ideas Ignore DEIR Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies And Fail Even Under Their Own Disputed Terms

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Even while ducking all the hard questions (see my # 15) and concerns of the surface owners and users above and around the 2585-acre underground mine and in the adjacent impact or stigma zones (like me), the disputed DEIR "Conclusion" and admission (at 4.8-66) is still: "WITHOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM AND WELL MITIGATION PLAN, THE PROJECT COULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES." (Capitalization added). This understated conclusion is inconsistent with most of the DEIR commentary that precedes or follows it, as if they were written by different people having different opinions. Some might mistakenly celebrate even such a mild, if understated true conclusion among the many false and misleading DEIR statements disputed by me and others in our objections. However, this limited acknowledgment of an inconvenient truth serves as a distraction and "bait and switch," because it related only to the 30 wells along East Bennett Road, rather than the key areas above and around the 2585-acre underground mine that keeps being ignored by the DEIR, even though it is the major source of irreconcilable disputes for many of us objectors. Worse, the disputed DEIR then used the earlier disputed data leading to that conclusion to purport to justify a disputed and wholly deficient mitigation. No responsible government could accept such irrelevant groundwater mitigation monitors along East Bennett Road (or over the small surface areas owned by Rise) as any kind of adequate monitoring, much less mitigation, of the massive dewatering depletion of the shared groundwater owned by us above and around the 2585-acre mine. The unmitigated well threat is not going to be evaluated by those misplaced monitors. What is inevitable, if the mining is permitted, will be hundreds of existing and future wells going dry above and around that 2585-acre underground mine, as well as property owners wanting to drill new wells to use for their surface properties only to discover how much deeper they must drill to compete with the mine and how messed up their wells may be with the mine hazards, especially with the hexavalent chromium cement holding up that underground mine and, if *Hinkley/Erin Brockovich* is an example, adding new toxins to our shared water supply. See, eg, my #'s 3.C, G, and H and 7 (as to the Cr+6 issue) and to 3.F and M and 5.

The key, however, is that this CEQA analysis cannot be limited to the East Bennett Road 30 well properties, but is a general problem to be addressed for the entire area above and around the 2585-acre underground mine with hundreds more wells now and more to come. See my # 14. The mine is not just hurting existing wells, but all our groundwater rights in the area, including the rights of us surface owners and users and neighbors in the impact



and stigma zones to compete with new wells to develop their land or when the climate change and drought future that the DEIR ignores prevents (ie, government reallocation of scarce supplies to needier areas) or disables (eg, insufficient supplies) NID from supplying us with sufficient water for ourselves, our properties and trees, and our environments. See, eg, my #'s 3, D, M, and N, 5, and 8. Incidentally, those who are more focused on the small number of mining jobs than on the vastly greater number of us locals harmed by the mine above and around that 2585-acre underground area or in the larger groundwater impact zone or real estate value lost-stigma zone beyond that, should consider this reality about the disputed mine: More construction jobs will be lost by inability to develop those surface properties in such areas because of the impairment of real estate values from the mine. See my #4. And this cannot be good for tourism.

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THAT DEIR ADMISSION IN THAT EARLIER CONCLUSION OF "SIGNIFICANT IMPACT" TO GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES AND OTHERS (ALTHOUGH UNDERSTATED AND NOT FOCUSED ON THE BIGGER ISSUES AND PROBLEMS) LED TO THE DEIR CONCLUSION (AT 4.8-66) AND MITIGATION MEASURES (EG, 4.8-2(A)) FOR QUARTERLY GROUNDWATER MONITORING UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE NEVADA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, BUT IN THE WRONG AND INSUFFICIENT PLACES. (The biggest issue is not 30 wells along East Bennett Road, but obviously the thousands of people with groundwater rights above and around the 2585-acre underground mine where no monitoring is proposed.) First, with no offense to underfunded and understaffed regulators to whom many of our impacted community will be unwilling to delegate their fates in their effort to match such evasive efforts of the mine forces, us affected neighbors directly at risk each need personal access to all information to match our standing to deal with such disputes, risks, and problems as a matter of self-defense, since these risks and problems are much more serious, general, widespread, and in need of more attention than the DEIR admits and more than Rise's chosen Itasca Denver Inc planner has investigated or addressed. Also, this is our surface owned groundwater, not exclusive mine water. (The Rise mineral deed revealed in its SEC Form 10K [not in the DEIR] was not of water rights, but just for minerals below 200 feet, as discussed in my #2.) FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IS THE DEIR PROPOSED (FRANKLY TOOTHLESS AND NID DISPUTED) CURE FOR MONITOR IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS (which monitors are in the wrong places to identify the bigger problems)? MERELY THAT RISE PROVIDE REPLACEMENT WATER TO EXISTING WELL OWNERS WHO LOSE MORE THAN 10% CAPACITY IN THEIR WATER COLUMN WHILE THEY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM IN A LEGALLY DEFICIENT MANNER THAT WILL SATISFY NO VICTIMS (NOR NID). First, AS SHOWN ABOVE IN MY #2 ANALYSIS OF RISE'S QUESTIONABLE FINANCIAL CONDITION, THIS MITIGATION "ASSURANCE" IS NOT RELIABLE, BECAUSE THE RISE SEC FILED 10K AND 10Q ADMIT RISE COULD NOT AFFORD WHAT THAT WILL COST IN THE FUTURE FOR OUR THOUSANDS OF AFFECTED SURFACE OWNERS AND USERS. REMEMBER, this is not just about a few existing wells along East Bennett Road, although that is the DEIR's disputed and incorrect contention. See the ultimate DEIR Conclusion at 4.8-83, stating: "[W]hile groundwater would be drawdown due to ongoing dewatering of the mine during the operational life of the project [ie, 24/7/365 for 80 plus years], the project includes installation of a new potable water line along East Bennett Road to supply potable water that would offset potential impacts to domestic wells from mine dewatering." What about the rest of us wanting to compete for our same groundwater in the



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future drought and climate change crises to come above the 2585 acre mine and in adjacent impacted areas? Or when property owners want to develop their land and cannot achieve or afford the NID connection, to the dismay of our local builders who could use that work? This is about a threat to every surface owner and user above and around the 2585 acre mine and others whose water level is impaired or whose trees die and must be removed as fire hazards, not to mention the loss of real estate values and other harms and stigmas. Even if Rise were to be willing and able to make and afford an unsecured promise to compensate all such victims, enforcing that promise would be expensive, time consuming, and, if history is a guide, will have a disappointing result for all such victims. See My #'s 2, 3.N, and 8.

Further illustrating how the DEIR fails to predict the future, because it ignores both its own future mining effects and the irrefutable coming chronic droughts and drier weather and other climate change effects (see above and my # 3.M), the disputed DEIR, in effect, asks for future 24/7/365 mining "its way" for another 80-years based upon existing, outdated standards based on the irrelevant, insufficient, and misleading past data with insufficient mitigation that ignores the future climate change reality, as shown in disputed DEIR Mitigation Measures addressed above and 4.8-6 and 4.8-7. Basically, 4.8-7 argues that, if the mine exhausts your groundwater, just use NID as mitigation (at 4.8-51-82). That ignores, among the huge connection cost (hint: even deep wells are cheaper) and many other things, the 80-year future when government will (for example, as East Bay MUD earlier did), insist that its customers had to live on 50 Gallons a day (in order to shift water to more desperate Marin County) limit from our NID water, so our local water can be transferred to drier and more desperate places. The DEIR also ignores our competing surface owner rights to groundwater owned beneath us for which we are entitled to compete against the 2585-acre mine uses. Ignoring the future and all those other concerns, the disputed DEIR incorrectly concludes (at 4.8-82): "While a small groundwater use would not be expected to combine with the project's groundwater effects because the increase would be small (due to the small size of the cumulative projects within the outlying areas) and the nature of the fractured bedrock aquifer system (eg. localized water-bearing fractures rather than one interconnected aquifer basin." Governments, please take note: this incorrectly says, in effect, don't worry because Rise does not expect any more growth in our area that would use competing water. Besides being wrong and again ignoring the future and the rights of us surface owners to use our own groundwater beneath us, the disputed DEIR is again ignoring the thousands of us already living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. In effect, the DEIR is asking for its wasteful water use to crowd out both our local surface owner rights to access our own groundwater they are pumping and sending away downriver, plus competing future local surface growth, since everyone needs water. See my #'s 3.N and 4. Beware, those who worry about local jobs, and governments, but who should be more concerned about inverse condemnation claims from landowners who cannot build, because they cannot access their own groundwater being taken by the mine. In effect, the disputed DEIR suggests stalling competing growth and competing water uses for existing local residents and users and existing local landowners, so that the DEIR mine can continuously dewater and send our groundwater downriver elsewhere 24/7/365 for 80 years (presumably to export mining profits to foreign investors as discussed in my # 2) without any net benefit to us locals and our community. See my # 4.



F. One Illustrative Dispute Over Groundwater Depletion by the Mining.

Before passing on to other topics, I will illustrate some of the many flaws in one of the few places where its DEIR advocate actually attempted (but failed) to address the future risks and harms that concern us. At DEIR 4.8-62, it states (with my comment annotations in brackets):

It is also noted that public concerns have been expressed regarding a scenario in which mining operations encounter a fractured bedrock aquifer and drain out the water, thus, impacting groundwater supply wells. Fractures of geologic discontinuities decrease with depth due to the weight of overlying geologic materials. The mining would occur in the deeper geologic units where the fractures, if present, are closed or have smaller apertures, which would not transmit significant quantities of water. The scenarios addressed in the Itasca modeling cover a wide range of probable situations that may be encountered and the potential impacts to groundwater levels. [We are entitled to disclosure in the DEIR itself, and CEQA does not require us to read the relate reference library of technical studies we suspect are cherrypicked by the DEIR for their disputed but friendly treatment of the mine risks and problems. See my # 14. In this case there is a dangerous inconsistency, where the DEIR admits massive groundwater pumping, use and disposition depleting our groundwater (without the absurdly assured, but illusory recharge) by reliance on average rain between 1967 and 2017 that ignores the "new normal" of climate change dryness and drought. Nevertheless, the disputed DEIR here tries to assume away the problems, insisting, in effect, don't worry, because somehow the water will stay in the deep bedrock; two inconsistent positions that both ignore the realities in this and other objections opposing the 24/7/365 dewatering for 80 years, without any proof in the actual conditions of the 2585-acre mine now and as it may change during the new mining, deeper and more expansively. The DEIR may want to gamble against the risk of groundwater depletion not being recharged through all that fractured bedrock, while the surface dries out from unprecedented climate change drought and dryness, but none of us living above or around that mining will consent to that risk or such impact to our homes, our forests and environment, and our community way of life, especially as that stigma depreciates the value of our properties.]

In other areas around the perimeter of the mine workings, the projected maximum drawdown in private wells is less than two feet. In all cases, based on the information available through the well completion reports, the maximum potential additional drawdown in the perimeter areas is less than 10 percent of the available water column in individual wells. The maximum drawdown is also substantially less than the normal seasonal fluctuation in the groundwater levels of 10 feet to 30 feet or more. [This is bad enough for objection, although it is again another illustration of the DEIR bait and switch, because they are talking about the 30 well area along East Bennett Road by the small Brunswick site, but not our area above and around the 2585-acre underground mine where the unrevealed and unstudied situation has been hidden by

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flood since 1956 and is now proposed to change by new, deeper, and expanded mining 24/7/365 for 80 years. Where is the DEIR data and science that make that risk reasonable for us?]

Thus, in the perimeter areas and including a safety factor of 100 percent in calculations the project would not have any significant impact on groundwater supplies. [citing the disputed study by EMKO Environmental Inc., in effect asking government, affected locals, and our community to risk everything on that disputed historical study and some selected sample of existing well data that ignores the coming new, deeper, and expanded mining into unknown conditions of the 2585-acre underground mine. No thanks. More importantly, because of the DEIR's general focus on avoiding opinions of the many objector properties located above or around the 2585-acre underground mine the DEIR generally ignores, as well as the broader impact and stigma zones owning or drawing from groundwater from the same source, that 100 percent calculation seems to be a 100% of a much smaller area around the Brunswick site, not the area where most of us objectors live and own the surface above the groundwater being depleted.]

Before this becomes a battle of experts and, if the DEIR or mine is approved over our continuous local objections, in the rounds of competition and litigation and political disputes to follow (see my #'s 3.N, 4, 8, and 14, infra), consider the following additional example reasons why that DEIR commentary is worse than unreliable and nonresponsive:

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- i. The disputed DEIR commentary focuses (again) on the past (eg, rainfall average between 1967 and 2017), as if that pre-climate change weather were relevant, when it's not applicable to the "new normal" in the future on account not only on chronic drought and climate change dryness, but also on the impacts of the new mining itself changing things radically by 24/7/365 blasting, digging, tunneling, and other mining work for 80 plus years. Nothing in the DEIR reveals the geologic conditions at the greater depths or the new or expanded areas for mining. Therefore, the DEIR seems to rely on the risky assumption that the new normal will be comparable to the irrelevant old data altered by climate change. That dangerous risk should not be placed on us innocent neighbors and our community, but the DEIR burden of proof and persuasion must remain on this undesirable, no net benefit mine. See my #'s 4 and 14.
- ii. This is not just about 30 wells going dry on East Bennett Road, but also about drying out the land above and around the separate and environmentally and legally distinct 2585-acre mine and creating dangers to our forests and other environmental factors, thereby adding to our already increasing fire and fire smoke risks and trashing our property values. Moreover, as discussed elsewhere, chronic dryness and drought will inspire us locals to drill hundreds more and deeper wells to compete with the mine whenever NID water supplies are limited, whether by



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- shortages or governmental reallocations not imagined in the DEIR. Also, considering NID cost and connection issues, many landowners need wells to develop their properties. (Eventually, I also expect the many local people using NID "ditch water" will eventually have to switch to wells. And, as explained elsewhere, NID mitigation may not be possible when NID exhausts its own supply by drought and climate change or by government order to reallocate our NID water to more desperate places.)
- III. The limited (and self-selected) DEIR 30 well sample from a noncomparable area of East Bennett Road to ours above and around the 2585-acre underground mine is both too small and too biased by the irrelevant past to be a guide (even with mitigation monitors) as to what to expect in the future, especially since the snowpacks are expected to diminish, and the competition for surface water will become increasingly more intense. Chronic drought and drier climate will be a progressively greater problem, especially when everyone with competing water rights wants to drill wells to save themselves from the scarce water future that water wasters like this mine wish to ignore by looking only to the now irrelevant and misleading past to predict our future, not only as to drought, dryness, and climate change, but even as to the effects of the new, deeper, and expanded mining; and
 - IV. The local impact areas include thousands of people living on Banner Mountain and other areas above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. Nowhere does the DEIR satisfactorily address the impacts and risks of dewatering and dumping the water downriver on those adjacent higher elevation places, some of which (eg, the Airport area) are admitted by the DEIR to be on the surface above the mine workings.

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G. The DEIR's Disputed Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies Also Include Water Quality, Especially Relating to Hexavalent Chromium (Remember *Erin Brockovich*?).

In various places (eg, addressed at my # 3.C, G, and H and 7 [as to the Cr+6 issue] and to 3.F and M and 5) the disputed DEIR talks about water quality issues in provocative ways with unjustified errors, omissions, and risks, especially relating to the ignored topic of **hexavalent chromium's toxic threats** addressed in various places in this Objection and others, since the toxic threat science is as compelling as the *Erin Brockovich* movie. (See the massive EPA website related data and why the European Union announced a Cr+6 ban starting in 2024.) Even if somehow our government delays the inevitable ban in the US (the irresponsible pattern of industry political resistance delaying regulatory reforms as seen earlier with asbestos, cigarettes, opioids, etc), the toxic stigma from this repetition of the *Erin Brockovich* horror movie will further harm our people, property, environment, and real estate values. **Some of the dangerous materials and chemicals admitted existing in the mine are summarized in the DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.8-1(a) at 4.8-52: "The NOI [to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality**



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Control Board under the Limited Threat Discharge permit] shall include evaluation of potential constituents of concern, including ammonia, arsenic, HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM, iron, manganese, pH, total suspended solids, TDS, and cis-1.2-DCE..." (capitalized and emphasis added.) Also, eg, DEIR at 4.8-53+ (and where addressed in my #'s 3.C, G, H, and 7), the DEIR explains how Rise expects to use hexavalent chromium in its CPS plans to (in effect) glue or cement material in the mine as a continuous part of shoring up the old mine and its new, deeper, and expanded mining processes 24/7/365 for 80-years, if they can get away with that over resolute local resistance.

As addressed elsewhere in this Objection (eg, My # 3.C, G, and H, and 7), the risks are not only about incorrect, insufficient, or misleading data and assumptions by the DEIR and its advocates (eg, things like underestimating the dangers of hexavalent chromium that the EU is finally banning and, famously to bring that stigma to our community, what the groundwater polluter allegedly used previously to kill the town the town of Hinkley, CA in the *Erin Brockovich* movie and resulting in a huge class action settlement). Key risks also include that the DEIR's new, expanded, and deeper mining 24/7/365 for 80 years may create worse or new exposures from that unanalyzed underground 2585-acre area that threaten our surface property, environment, health, and safety, but the DEIR offers no information on that topic at all, or even about the current starting point of this mine when it is dewatered for the first time since 1956. More importantly, permits for 80 plus years of mining using current (and many consider lax) toxic tolerance standards based on existing science or what part of science is motivating for bureaucrats subject to politics, lobbying and worse) will likely be not permitted in the future for good cause. For example, the EU has announced a future ban on hexavalent chromium in 2024, and sooner or later it will be banned here too, just like asbestos, cigarettes, etc. And, in any event (see my # 3.C, G, and H, and 7), do our governments really want the stigma of being called the "next Hinkley" and further depressing our real estate values and scaring away tourists and desirable residents (a term intended to exclude this mine and other harmful businesses)?

H. Some Technical Comments About Hexavalent Chromium, Since The Disputed DEIR Fails To Even Discuss the Existence of Controversy, Much Less The Ugly Realities And Toxic Risks And Stigmas To Thousands of Neighbors (Like Me) Who Fear Us Becoming Another "Hinkley" As Mourned By The *Erin Brockovich* Movie.

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The prior and later mentions the disputed DEIR's admitted plan for extensive use of hexavalent chromium [Cr+6] in its new mining in the 2585-acres underground mine beneath thousands of us, without any discussion of that obvious, toxic controversy that everyone knows from the *Erin Brockovich* horror/reality movie. The DEIR stated, but did not identify or explain satisfactorily, the risks, impacts, and harms from some areas underneath us to our surface owned and used by us residents and voters, who (like me) object to the mine and the disputed DEIR. Indeed, there is no mention of toxic hexavalent chromium in the section 4.7 of the DEIR entitled, "Hazards And Hazardous Materials." That omission should be lethal to the DEIR, whether they were hoping no one would notice this fact buried in another section 4.8 of their lengthy DEIR, or because they imagine trying to argue this is just an airborne killer that can



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somehow be contained underground (incidentally, one of the many doomed arguments the asbestos industry tried to use to evade accountability, and everyone knows how that comparable situation ended in decades of misery and economic losses for everyone involved.) Our government decisionmakers need to consider the following realities, beginning with what little is revealed in the DEIR, then addressing the science (see the EPA website studies and reports and the EU ban and much more on Google or Wikipedia), and then addressing the stigma problems that make us neighboring real estate owners and surface users suffer even worse depression of values and marketability than we already face from mining burdens, risks, and impacts, even if this gold mine were perfect in every way (which it is not and no local or any rational real estate purchaser would trust such a DEIR on that issue).

The DEIR admits (at 4.8-51) that:

“The water ... from the underground workings is anticipated to have similar quality to the water that currently discharges from the existing drains. ... Therefore, the condition after mining is completed would be like existing, or baseline, conditions, such that seeps ... would not represent a potentially significant impact under CEQA [where the DEIR just addresses the iron and manganese issues and tries to further diminish the appearance of risk by describing how the new mining is going to be deeper. In other words, the DEIR claims that none of us need to be concerned about hexavalent chromium, despite all the EPA studies, science, EU ban, *Erin Brockovich* stigmas, etc].”

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Among the many differences between the water in the now flooded mine closed in 1956 versus the new, expanded, and deeper DEIR mine to come (besides the effects of their mining in other places than before and of climate change etc) is that the entire new mine work for the next 80 plus years will involve extensive, admitted use of hexavalent chromium cement paste in shoring. That makes the previously quoted DEIR statement both wrong and a reason to challenge the credibility of the entire disputed DEIR, assuming, as many will, that this was a knowing omission in the DEIR to duck a controversy that CEQA requires them to address. See my # 14. Specifically, the DEIR admits in its dewatering discussion (at 4.8-42 to 51, especially at 46-49) that miners intend to use “underground paste backfill” (ie, material glued with “CEMENTED-PASTE BACKFILL”) THAT IS (INCORRECTLY) DESCRIBED AS “ENVIRONMENTALLY BENIGN” BUT WHICH IS ‘HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM’ OR “Cr+6.” (emphasis added)

If one “Googles” “hexavalent chromium” or reads the negative studies and reports on the EPA website, he or she is overwhelmed with links that expose the serious health and safety threats, especially if one were to then follow the science links, such as the studies of the leading experts, such as Wendy Wagner (University of Texas at the Austin School of Law, a specialist in and critic of EPA chemical regulation) or Steve Gold (Rutgers University environmental law professor). But since this Objection is addressed to government decisionmakers who may wish to know what the usually late and insufficient toxic regulators have to say (consider asbestos and cigarettes, both of which were eliminated by mass tort litigation jury awards causing bankruptcies of users based on science long before regulators acted), consider the mass of data that is readily available on the EPA website. (I share the



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attitude of another relevant expert Kyla Bennett, who is often quoted for complaining, that too often among industry influenced regulators such “chemicals are assumed to be innocent until they’re proven guilty.” In my experience such regulators delay their final rulings way too long for the victims and good public policy.) In my case that attitude comes not from scientific expertise, but from my 50 years of bankruptcy, cross-border insolvency, and insurance insolvency experience in many of the mining, asbestos, and other environmental and mass tort failures of that period. See my #1. Regulatory inaction aside, and besides a mountain of critical studies and reports, I cannot imagine any prudent businessperson using hexavalent chromium like this DEIR, especially now that the European Union is banning it effective 2024. Using that notorious substance seems foolish and uneconomic considering the incurable stigma, even if CR+6 were legal and the DEIR advocates hired some partisan science person ready to support them against the mass of contrary evidence and experts, and even if they were technically correct [which I and others would dispute, as was the case with asbestos, cigarettes, opioids, and other hazardous substances, which those industries defended for a long time, despite mass tort and bankruptcy hits, before the long obvious truths finally overwhelmed the lobbyists and political money.]

A basic EPA website search shows 29,369 studies and reports when you type in “hexavalent chromium.” To save time, start with the EPA “TRI Program” by focusing on the “toxic release inventory” which begins: “hexavalent chromium compounds are human carcinogens, classified as weight-of-evidence Group A ... under the EPA Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment (EPA 1986a) ... all the hexavalent chromium compounds are assigned a “High” hazard rating for the proposed RQ adjustment.” See also EPA’s report “Evaluation of the Potential Carcinogenicity of Chromium And Hexavalent Chromium Compounds” on its website since issued 5/24/2002.

Even if the DEIR incorrectly argued that (despite everyone knowing the water pollution killer in Hinkley) this CR+6 threat was somehow not about water, but instead about air, so they could somehow incorrectly imagine hiding it “safely” underground, like their explosives for 24/7/365 blasting for 80 plus years (an argument many of us not only dispute, but also ridicule, since history and experience proves human error inevitable over 80 years), the DEIR is obligated (eg, by CEQA and other applicable law and basic principles of civil and tort law) to reveal the controversy and present their alleged excuses for cross-examination. But assume for the sake of argument that the DEIR advocates were somehow correct and that oversight regulators and the government decision-makers mistakenly accepted those mining excuses, few others at risk will ever do so, especially those of us who have been taught by experience or wiser people that “it’s better to be safe than sorry” about such things. (Remember, the mass tort litigation results drove the asbestos, cigarette, opioids, and many other toxic industry defendants into bankruptcy long before their dangerous products were outlawed here.) However, what makes this situation especially compelling for rejection of the mine and its DEIR is that there will always be a stigma here because we already have a compelling and comparable case study that involves ground water pollution by hexavalent chromium. For those who never saw the movie “Erin Brockovich,” see the movie or read Wikipedia’s (or other) accounts “Hinkley groundwater contamination,” about how a notorious utility used that chemical, and then dumped the wastewater in spreading ponds in



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Hinkley, California, (now a toxic ghost town), and ultimately had to settle a class action with the local victims for \$333 Million (back when that was serious money).

Government decision-makers here should consider this fact in deciding the fate of this disputed DEIR and mine, whether on this issue or about my even greater concern about water supplies or many other risks and problems addressed in this and other objections. It is not in the interest of our community needlessly to suffer for this undesirable and worse mine with no net benefit to our community (see my # 4) what would certainly follow such approval of such burdens, harms, risks, and threats to our homes, environment, and community above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. We locals have legal and political rights that are not eliminated by any such mine or DEIR approvals, **including our rights as surface owners above and around the 2585-acre underground mine.** See my #'s 3.N and 4. Thousands of locals at risk will be defending our homes and peace of mind against real problems, and (even if somehow decisionmakers were incorrectly to imagine the DEIR is sufficient and correct, despite my # 14 and other objections) an irrefutable stigma problem would still continue for our community that would trash our real estate values, meaning less new construction and money in the local economy and a negative reputation for tourists. See my # 4, demonstrating why there can be no net local or other benefit from this mine, even if it were feasible and affordable (see my # 2).

I. **A Brief Plea For Responsible Government, And For Environmental Security And Peace for Our Community.**

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There is already too much civil division and discord in our lives for this DEIR mine to be allowed to cause more. That is especially true when, as here, the mine provides **no net benefit** to us locals and our community (see my # 4) and wants to impose risks, harms, and burdens on us locals on the surface with 24/7/365 mining under and around our suburban (not "rural" as they allege by only discussing the area around the small Brunswick site) community for 80 plus years in order to export profits to the mine's foreign investors. The negatives for thousands of us locals far outweigh the few jobs for some mine workers from somewhere, and those of harmed and at risk are far more numerous (and likely would become single issue local voters.) At the end, whatever else happens, we locals and our community would end up (best case) with a mine mess stigma (and likely much worse) and ultimately another abandoned mine with not just the existing risks, but with then a mine that is bigger, deeper, and full of hexavalent chromium, while our precious water supply and other things may be damaged and/or depleted forever. The downside risks and burdens for us locals are too bad to ignore or accept, and under applicable law we should not have to do so. See my # 14.

As demonstrated throughout this Objection, the disputed DEIR avoids dealing satisfactorily with even current science about the future, insisting by its disputed interpretation of CEQA that all government and the mine's potential victims need to know about the future can be deduced by the DEIR's chosen advocates studying the no longer predictive past. See my # 14. That makes the DEIR noncompliant with applicable law (see, eg, my #'s 4 and 14) and fatally deficient and flawed for its essential purposes. The proper questions that government should be asking (see my # 15) include these: Why impose under these circumstances all these many harms, burdens, and risks on our local residents and community, with materially adverse



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opportunity costs and obstacles for competing and more beneficial land uses (eg, depleted water supplies, exhaustion of the cumulative margins for air and water quality, etc), for a mine that helps fewer workers (from somewhere?) than the thousands of voting locals at risk and harmed by the mining? Where is the proof of any net benefit to our local community, since all the controversy, conflict, and disputes would appear to be for the sole benefit (with exported profits) for Rise's foreign investors? See my #'s 3.N, 4, 8, and 15. One related public policy corollary of that question is: why should our community give away to such a DEIR mine with no net benefit to our local community (my # 4) the margins we need locally for better uses of our precious water supplies and quality, air quality, and standards for toxic and hazardous substances? In the future regulatory standards will become stricter, but existing resource exploiters and wasters (like this mine seeks to become) will crowd out better future uses for which no such margins remain available. Why would any responsible government tolerate that, especially when us local voters will never do so, since the only way to stop the threats that would harm us, our properties (and their value), our environment, and our community way of life, is to resist the mine until it stops?

J. Illustrative Air Quality Concerns That the DEIR Ignores Or Underestimates.

Ind 254-39

As to air quality concerns insufficiently addressed in DEIR 4.3, even it admits (at 4.3-70 and see also 4.3-73): "Therefore, prior to mitigation, the project would result in potentially significant levels of ROG, NOx, and PM10 emissions and could conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Ozone Attainment Plan pursuant to Criterion 1." Also see the underestimated asbestos problem inadequately addressed at 4.3-80 and 82-84. [This is another topic on which I defer primarily to my incorporated objections of others with greater expertise on our common air quality impacts, harms, and risks.] What this disputed DEIR does not address in such quotes is that, when the air quality is overwhelmed by any insufficiently addressed factors, such as chronic wildfire smoke or droughts preventing the watering of "fugitive dust," which can last for long periods and come from many different places over great distances, what happens? See, K. Alexander, "California wildfire smoke may rise to practically unendurable levels in next decades," San Francisco Chronicle March 29, 2022, discussing a Princeton/NOAA study that predicts from climate change that particulate pollution from wildfires will increase by more than 50% by 2050 and triple that by the end of the century.

All these DEIR deficiencies, risks, and impacts raise more questions than they even attempt to answer. See also my # 15. Will the mine shut down, or will we suffer worse air while the mine continues to pollute 24/7/365 for 80 plus years as if it were the only polluter in the area? Having created such air problem in such environmentally stressed times, will the mine claim exemption from rules applicable to the rest of us on the theory that such self-created risks are too dangerous to stop the mining mitigations? Also, consider the effects of new, expanded, and deeper mining in new places may create new or greater than "assumed" from the past threats, none of which risks are addressed in the DEIR (ie, they are, here again as elsewhere throughout the DEIR, "assumed" away based on a largely irrelevant and nonrevealing past and lax regulatory standards that inevitably will become stricter in the



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future). What have they withheld that CEQA and credibility require to be disclosed in the DEIR? See my # 14.

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Mitigation of air quality problems addressed in disputed DEIR 4.3-6 at 4.3-91 + also admit some poorly described impacts that require mitigation. How will we be able to judge compliance locally with understated or ignored problems inadequately mitigated even in accordance with the deficient DEIR, not to mention compliance with applicable law and reality? See my #'s 10 and 14. Note how many at the March 24, 2022, DEIR hearing reminded the decisionmakers about how poorly Nevada County already ranks in air quality, and since our "F" grade cannot get any lower, they'll need to invent a new low grade for us after the mining starts. Speaking of the DEIR's absurd distractions from the real problems, what does the mine's "carbon offsets" elsewhere (see 4.3-96 plus) have do with making our local air quality and climate change problems less severe here locally where it matters to our health? (Long term promises like that cannot excuse current abuses of our environment.) See Table 4.3-23 and the inadequate Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG), admitting that (at 4.3-94): "However, project construction would have the potential to generate GHG emissions that could have a significant impact on the environment or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation ... and the projects incremental contribution of GHG emissions would be cumulatively considerable." As explained by the California Supreme Court case about the sewer plant's benefit to those at a safe distance by harming those downwind, allowing those downwind locals disproportionately harmed to have inverse condemnation and nuisance claims (and other decisions) addressed in my # 4, there are legal and political consequences independent of CEQA and mining permits for harming locals for the benefit of others at a safe distance.

Ind 254-41

Also, the disputed DEIR "Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan" is disputed, insufficient, and based upon past data that may change radically with new, expanded, and deeper mining and especially because it ignores the reality of what happens in the new normal chronic droughts and dry weather from the climate change. For example, the disputed DEIR totally ignores what happens when the mine cannot wet the toxic dust, as discussed in my water objections above. The answer is that locals may use that occasion for courts or government to force the mining to stop, whether by court injunctions, government actions, tighter regulations, or other legal remedies (see my #'s 3.N and 14). Also, the deficient DEIR mitigation plan ignores the predictable consequences of human error, and ordinary, sloppy behavior (which is hard for outsiders to monitor, although some will try and all will be ready to denounce when it is discovered) in handling such asbestos and other toxins, like the hexavalent chromium threats they keep ignoring in the CEQA noncompliant DEIR. Asbestos litigators are always looking for more defendants, and they often sue for less releases than are imagined by the DEIR here. Many such plaintiff lawyers will already be focused on the mine, because of the hexavalent chromium threat once the mining starts. (Note, that is not my kind of law practice, but those aggressive lawyers did manage to stop many bad industries, like asbestos, cigarettes, opioids, etc, long before the politically over-lobbied regulators were willing to act, so many of us won't mind what they do to this DEIR mine.) So, what does that all do to the mine's feasibility, which seem to drive all their profit driven planning for foreign investors? See my # 2. The DEIR's answer is its admitted mess described in its 4.3-103-04, but I believe that is an understatement of the adverse consequences, which is why the mine should never reopen.



Ind 254-42

As noted in DEIR 4.3-2 at 4.3-79, the disputed DEIR calculations (again based upon an erroneous “assumption” that the mine’s emergency generators would only operate up to 100 hours per year) focus on misleading past data, not current reality. Besides underestimating climate change and the “new normal” of forest fire and weather shut offs, the DEIR fails to accurately describe PG&E’s Public Safety Public Shut Off (PSPS) program to keep its often old and dangerous equipment from starting more fires with legally forbidden trees and vegetation PG&E will need at least a decade to clear, as admitted by PG&E in the official records discussed below, some of which are on the PG&E website. Based upon the “new normal” (eg, begin considering the real experience with the fires and with blackouts for weather, equipment problems and constant replacement work, and PSPS since 2019), that 100 hours assumption is both absurd and in conflict with all the relevant data readily available from on the following public records (ignored by the DEIR and the Rise SEC Form 10K explained in my #2): (i) in multiple CPUC hearings, orders, investigations, and reports on its website (all more recent and relevant than the largely superseded and heavily amended and supplemented old PG&E PSPS report to the CPUC cited in DEIR footnote 45 at 4.11-35), (ii) in PG&E’s criminal probation proceedings before Judge Alsup in US v. PG&E Co., Case No. CR 14-0175 WHA pending in the Northern District of California, which often has the most useful data, (iii) in the docket of the PG&E Chapter 11 Case No. 19-30088 DM Pending in the Northern District of California Bankruptcy Court (San Francisco), and (iv) even on the PG&E website. As a bankruptcy lawyer intensely involved for affected clients regarding these issues in those three proceedings against PG&E and a local with my own natural gas generator apparently on the same local Brunswick PG&E electric facility distribution hub as the DEIR mine, I make an offer of proof that a more reasonable estimate of total generator use during the next decade alone on account of all such various PG&E issues will likely average at least 5 times the DEIR annual “assumption” about generator use from PG&E electricity cut off causes alone. Since our air quality is already a problem, it should matter that these backup generators (and more, they would need backups for these insufficient backups) will increase the problem. More importantly, that large of a DEIR mistaken “assumption” about generator use illustrates why the DEIR lacks credibility generally.

People (like me) who can afford generators have all invested in expensive systems (as recommended by PG&E itself) in anticipation of chronic and repeated blackouts from extreme weather events, fires, PG&E’s PSPS program, PG&E’s enhanced system improvement, repair and maintenance work, and even out of PSPS program emergency shutdowns, all planned and now beginning at a historically unprecedented pace, thanks to greater regulatory pressure and especially to Judge Alsup’s probation condition orders. Moreover, because of such record and the admitted age and poor condition of much of the PG&E system here that needs to be replaced and upgraded, because of PG&E’s need to catch up from decades of neglect of prohibited trees and vegetation next to its wires (estimated by PG&E to take a decade), as well as because of PG&E’s recent plan to underground 10,000 miles of power and distribution lines, there will be massive and frequent disruptions in our local electric supply for years. All that means, for example, more generator use and that, as air quality issues become stricter, there will also be competition over who gets to run defensive generators in a zero-sum game. Will us locals be asked to cut back on our



↑ generators so the mine can keep their generators at normal use to prevent mine problems they knowingly caused?

If applicable governments approve the disputed DEIR and attempt to interfere with our competing, self-defense resistance, that will provoke us opposition voters into more vigorous political and legal actions (see my # 3.N), especially as to the most provocative, implied DEIR idea that us local voters should suffer such chronic blackouts in our community by not using our generators, while the mine generators operate instead of ours. Consider how many of the thousands of us work from home and need our generators to remain functional. How can responsible government possibly allow this DEIR mine to create a new problem with no net benefit to our community (my # 4), and then claim priority for their generators to mitigate the problems they knowingly created over these objections? I cannot imagine any neighbors would consent to or tolerate losing any generator competition to the mine. Divisive things like that would create the political and law reform competition I discuss at my # 3.N, and as a good citizen I hope we never have to test the complex jurisdictional issues over who gets to deal with the law reforms to effectively mitigate and stop the mine harms.

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Consider, for example, that the DEIR admits (at DEIR 6-14) that the mine is economically infeasible if it is cut back to a normal 12 hours a day for mining (instead of 24), which would be one of our new legislative priorities. When the DEIR advocates try to stop that kind of local law, they will then encounter local resistance insisting on at least priority of generation use for human needs over mine profits, just as we will be requiring priority for our human uses over mine uses of scarce water. Allowing the DEIR mining 24/7/365 is bad enough when our local electricity is working, but as soon as us resident voters are told the mine's air pollution and other environmental abuses get generator priority 24/7/365 for the air quality that inhibits us, the mine's end is near. Again, there is no one here who can be expected to tolerate suffering anything for this no net benefit mine we must continue to resist until it stops harming us. See, eg., my #'s 3.M and N and 4. Sooner or later this mining will stop for all the reasons it never should have started. I make this a formal offer of proof to any official decisionmaker interested in more data from the public record exposing more about these DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies.

- K. Because the DEIR Fails To Comply With CEQA in Many Ways (see, eg, my # 14), The Strange DEIR "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" (#4.3-103+) Is A Revealing Admission About Some of What the DEIR Should Have Disclosed About What Happens When The Mine Starts And Then Stops, Whether From Lack of Funding Or Gold, From Our Local Legal Or Political Resistance And Law Reforms, Or Otherwise.

Ind 254-43

There are revealing admissions in the DEIR at 4.3-103-104, entitled "Non-CEQA Related Analysis," another unhelpful title for another topic again better positioned elsewhere, adding to its many ways the disputed DEIR obstructs anyone seeking clarity from its scattered disaggregated data of concern to potential local victims. See my #'s 3.E and 14. Nevertheless, "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" is an important admission about how vulnerable the mine is if it loses electric power, including from PG&E's "PSPS." See my analysis of the



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↑ electrical issues in the air-quality/generator dispute in my previous subsection 3.J (a topic on which I have extensive experience and knowledge. Decisionmakers should note that it doesn't matter what or why the electricity stops, because the main adverse effects on the mine are the same, whether the current stops for failure to pay the electric bill, for PSPS, PG&E system upgrades or repairs, or other actions or inactions by PG&E, from storm blackouts, or from other causes. The DEIR mitigation is generators, which are critical to the mine's functionality to avoid mine flooding and other consequences, and which add to the air quality and other issues addressed by this Objection. See, eg, 3.J and 10. I focus on this here at the end because this is the only place where the disputed DEIR even attempts (and fails) to discuss in any detail what happens when its mining stops after it starts. What that DEIR discussion reveals is some of what the fragile economics of Rise discussed in my # 2 above and elsewhere are environmentally critical, because if the mine somehow finds enough funding to start (since its financials at my # 2 do not now report sufficient funds to accomplish even the beginning DEIR work), the mine will likely find funding even more difficult to raise to cover the admitted losses caused by any such a stoppage. See, eg, my # 2 and 3.N.

While stopping the mine is our continuous defensive goal, and we cannot imagine any adverse consequences of stopping the mine to be worse than its continuing operation, CEQA still requires the DEIR to disclose those consequences of stopping; an irony since the DEIR's only attempt to do so is labeled a "Non-CEQA Related Analysis." See my # 14. Consider what the disputed DEIR admits (at 4.3-103-04) about all the things that happen when the mining stops for lack of electricity. Those same problems will also occur for anything else that stops the mining, whether its lack of sufficient groundwater, court injunctions (eg, stopping the use of hexavalent chromium or groundwater waste), lack of operating funds by Rise (see my # 2, which is already a currently existing problem), incompatible legal requirements (like a mere 12 hour day work limit we locals advocate, which the DEIR admits at 6-14 can stop the mine operations), and other events, including its own human errors (eg, water treatment wrongs, the explosives, etc.) or surprises they encounter in their blasting, tunneling, or other mining work into old or new, expanded and deeper areas of the 2585-acre underground mine (eg, what if they unleash more toxins than their water treatment plan can correct and the dewatering stops?), etc.

For example, as to the data errors that I mentioned in 3.J that illustrate a pattern of disclosure credibility problems, those disputed DEIR statements about PG&E's PSPS ignoring many other electricity blackouts and generator use problems, are insufficient, inaccurate, and outdated. See my # 3.J. For instance, the DEIR admits in that part 103-104 many health, safety, mitigation failure, economic problems, and other hazards that will occur, if the mine dewatering is even briefly impaired by any blackouts. Since the DEIR is itself creating problems and risks that will require extensive use of its generators in competition with our many other generators in and continually being added to the local area, the disputed DEIR cannot claim priority generation rights in that competition with us locals for knowingly creating its own crisis needs, and those legal and political disputes will be extreme, since most of the community above and around the mine will never willingly sacrifice anything for the benefit of this no net benefit mine and its foreign profit takers. See my #'s 3.N and 4. People here cannot imagine failing to resist shutting off our generators and suffering without electricity needed for our homes (where many work), while the nearby mine generators

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pollute our air while they also drain away our groundwater through their hexavalent chromium mine walls, etc.

Ind 254-44

See my discussion in my # 3.J above of the DEIR's dangerously deficient "Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan," which, for examples, depends on water that may not be available 24/7/365 for 80 years. Likewise, the DEIR's odor analysis at 4.3-85 plus is also based on unrevealing history unrelated to the new, expanded, and deeper mining, which may unearth bigger new threats, because the DEIR has no idea what they will encounter in their blind pursuit of gold. The same discredited "assumptions" that somehow the past must reveal the future, which ignore the new mining activities in unstudied parts of the underground mine flooded since 1956, as well as such climate and other changes. The DEIR/Rise business plan seems to be based on a variant of the old predator theory that "it's better to ask for forgiveness, than for permission." The DEIR version of that theory seems to be that their path to mining is easiest to achieve if they ask for permission by a DEIR that contains errors, omissions, and deficiencies, and then ask for forgiveness when the much worse realities are exposed on the theory that stopping the mine would be too harmful to everyone, such as by the adverse stopping consequences the DEIR admits at 4.3-103-04 in a section quaintly and inaccurately labelled "Non-CEQA Related Analysis." My point here is that there will be no forgiveness to reward or allow this miner to have another chance to harm us. See, eg, my #'s 3.N, 4, and 14.

Mitigation of air quality problems addressed in DEIR 4.3-6 at 4.3-91 plus (discussed in my # 3.J) also admits some poorly described problems that require mitigation. How will we be able to judge compliance with understated or ignored problems inadequately mitigated even in accordance with the DEIR, not to mention compliance with applicable law and reality. What does the mine's "carbon offsets" elsewhere (see 4.3-96 plus) have do with making our local air quality and climate change problems less severe here where it matters? See Table 4.3-23 and the inadequate Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG), admitting that (at 4.3-94): "However, project construction would have the potential to generate GHG emissions that could have a significant impact on the environment or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation ... and the projects incremental contribution of GHG emissions would be cumulatively considerable." But see my #'s 3.M and N and 4.

Ind 254-45

In summary, I note the DEIR footnote 48 at 4.3-104, which may be the DEIR's attempted excuse for its massive omission and consistent refusal to deal with the "new normal" future and climate changes, as well as to resist any discussion beyond assuming the past will reveal the future, even though that is absurd in time of climate change, chronic drought and drier weather, water shortages, air quality deterioration, increasing regulatory standards and other changes. See, eg, my #'s 3.E, M, 4, and 14. For example, consider the fact that the disputed DEIR too often incorrectly assumes and pretends that the 2585-acre underground mine conditions into new, expanded, and deeper areas are the same as when the mine closed in 1956. That presumed, disputed, and refuted DEIR excuse is their meritless claim that, for purposes of CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR 15145, that the DEIR can ignore "a particular impact [that] is too speculative for evaluation." But see my # 14 and my coming legal rebuttal supplement. That disputed "speculation" excuse applies to none of the criticisms and concerns raised in this Objection and other key objections. To accept that absurd DEIR logic would mean that, for a 24/7/365 – 80 plus year project in an unknown



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condition since it closed and flooded since 1956 can reopen to expand blindly into new and deeper areas of the 2585-acre underground mine without anyone being able to complain because such complaints are “speculative”. No. What is speculative is the DEIR mining into such unknown conditions and assuming that whatever conditions existed before 1956 can be relied upon as to whatever else they do in that 2585-acre mine for the next 80 years. No responsible government can give such a miner a “blank check” to indulge itself like that beneath us in our suburban community, especially since Rise does not have the funding or unencumbered assets to pay for the harm it causes. See my #'s 2 and 14 and my coming legal rebuttal supplement.

The DEIR cannot do whatever it wants, just because that distant future is too “speculative.” See my # 3.M and 14. Nonsense. And, in any event, what is “speculative” is what the DEIR chose to evade and not investigate or address, but which is addressed by science and observable facts the DEIR just finds inconvenient or worse to their goal. See CEQA and my # 14 and supplemental briefing. But here’s the thing that matters most in all these debates in this Objection and others: the burden of proof and persuasion must be on the disputed DEIR, and it cannot say they wish to proceed and ignore obvious risks and problems because they wish incorrectly to consider them “too speculative.” This situation is worse a criminal defendant demanding some special relief, while taking the Fifth Amendment and refusing to address a mountain of damning evidence and suspicious circumstances as “too speculative.” Why? Because such a criminal defendant has a right not to speak, but no mine has a right under these circumstances to reopen like this after being closed since 1956, especially without adequate disclosure (see, eg, my #'s 3.E and 14) and convincing everyone who matters that all the obvious risks and problems are not just solvable but will be solved (something this DEIR cannot do, even if it tried. See my # 2). What is “too speculative” here are the disputed assumptions, arguments, and so-called facts on which the disputed DEIR purports to justify the mine reopening.

- L. Consider The What The DEIR Is Not Disclosing (eg, my # 3.E and M and 14) And The Questions That The DEIR Is Not Answering, Because Those Of Us Impacted Or At Risk Will Assume the Nondisclosures And Answers Require Continuous Resistance To the Mine (See my #'s 3.N, 4, and 14).

Ind 254-46

Considering such admitted DEIR facts quoted in this long rebuttal alone, my many stated questions about DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies must be answered before any such DEIR could be worthy of consideration. See, eg, my # 3.E and M and 14, as well as my # 15, asking more hard questions evaded or ignored in the DEIR. Such questions are especially serious because the DEIR never sufficiently addressed the consequences of its future 24/7/365 mining for 80 years, except by reference to the irrelevant and misleading past data that cannot accurately predict our relevant future. See my # 3.M. No one tells us in the disputed DEIR what will be unleashed by its new and expanded and deeper mining in the 2585 underground mine beneath or near thousands of us locals, since the DEIR just assumes (incorrectly placing the risk of the unknown on that massive underground mine’s neighbors) the same future situation as in the past BEFORE 1956 when the mine last operated, although no one even knows the true



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starting condition of the mine closed and flooded in 1956 or what will be unleashed by the new, expanded, and deeper mining under the new normal of our changing climate the DEIR ignores. See my # 3.M. Responsible governments also must consider what happens in the future when industry lobbyists lose their applicable influence sufficiently for impaired safety regulations finally to catch up with science and reality. See my #'s 3.N and 14. What happens then, when mine advocates cannot dodge such risks and problems they created with the toxic and hazardous substances (eg, arsenic, asbestos, and hexavalent chromium, for example). See my #'s 3.K, L and N, 4 and 14, as well as for toxics #'s 3.C, E, G, H, J, M, and N, 4, 6, 7, and 10.

Even if one were willing to overlook the impacts and risks identified by the best science that prevails outside of the industry influences, there remain the human risk factors when dealing with such dangerous substances and supposed mitigations. What happens if negligence or economic poverty cause neglect at the mine fails to maintain the promised safety and mitigation protections for us locals? Considering the admitted realities in my # 2, how can we rely on this DEIR for consistent compliance for such 24/7/365 operations for 80-years? For example, as discussed above, consider the problems of the mine continuously using hexavalent chromium for its underground paste backfill (think concrete like mining shoring with that toxic substance, as all those millions of gallons of underground mine water are pumped up and, after DEIR deficiently described treatment (if it happens as promised) flows away in the Wolf Creek somewhere downriver. Think also about all that mine again flooded water sitting for eternity against that massive underground structure made of toxic hexavalent chromium in our community. (And again, watch the *Erin Brockovich* movie, read my #'s 3.C, G, H, and 7, and consider what you would tell a buyer of your house above this 2585-acre underground mine.) Why doesn't the DEIR adequately address those issues now before the dispute processes change and such evasions become much more challenging for the mine? See my #'s 3.E, J, L, and M. For us locals, this is like someone constructing a building with asbestos in the days before it was finally banned, but when everyone could already see that ban coming because of the massive obvious health problems and related litigation that had already begun to bankrupt many in the industry (without satisfying most of the victims). That is the kind of history that should concern responsible government and require strict compliance with applicable law (see my # 14 and my supplemental CEQA brief) to avoid the continuous legal and political conflicts and practical property surface versus underground miner competitions that are inevitable until the mining stops (see my #'s 3.N and 4).

M. Among the Biggest DEIR Disputes Is About Timing of Facts When Making This Decision About An 80 Year Plus Future Impact, Risk, And Burden, When We Know That The Past Is A Faulty And Largely Irrelevant Guide To Predicting The "New Normal," Which the Disputed DEIR Fails To Do So Either (i) By Its Almost Exclusive Focus On That Unhelpful Past Data, Or (ii) Its Limitation To (At Most) Occasional And Deficient Looks At The Fantasy The DEIR Imagines In The Next 20 years (Or Until 2040).

The DEIR Cannot Assume (As It Does) That Such Earlier Conditions Will Apply Equally To 2040 Or To The Next Unanalyzed 60 Years Of 24/7/365 Mining Of The 2585-Acre Underground Mine



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Below And Near Thousands Of Us Suburban Residents. The DEIR advocates have refused to engage in any meaningful effort to predict rationally with credible evidence the extent of future burdens, harms, and risks. Instead, with one limited and incorrect use of NID data until 2040, the DEIR's exclusive focus is on backward looking data, such a long-term, historical averages (eg, average rain between 1967—2017) that science and most people who are not mining advocates generally regard as irrelevant, misleading, and worse in the new normal of climate change and with respect to mining data. See the other incorporated objections with more specific data from more credible sources (my # 1). The question is not the history (eg, average rainfall between 1967 and 2017) before climate change; it is about the "new normal" that is here now and getting progressively more damaging from extraordinary and unprecedented dryness, drought, fire, fire smoke, storms, etc. Few responsible, credible, and science-based analysts now believe, for example, that we can waste precious potable groundwater or surface water here on no net benefit to the community mining. See my # 4. The question for the responsible government decisionmakers (and, if the decisionmakers get it wrong like the DEIR, the courts and/or our political voting power, as described in my # 3.N) is this: if it was your home, community, and environment at risk, would you decide today, based on all the credible facts, science, and information available today, to approve this project? Also, if you had to sell your property above or around the 2585-acre underground mine, what could you tell your buyer about all this?

Those thousands of us directly affected locals (who far outnumber the small number of new job mine workers from who knows where) decline to consent to being burdened, harmed, and at risk of many other adverse impacts by this 24/7/365 mining for 80 years for all the reasons stated in this and other objections. Why? Among other things, we object, because it is wrong and worse to assume, as the disputed DEIR seems to insist our government decisionmakers do, that such future "new normal" periods will be the same as what the DEIR says about the water, air, toxins, and even mining data from the past, before the mine closed in 1956 (DEIR at 4.7-2) and flooded with water to obscure any changes over that time.

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Consider the key groundwater "recharge" or "balancing" examples from my #'s 3.A, B, E, and M and 5, where the DEIR falsely assumes that the mine can "dewater," draining vast amounts of our shared groundwater 24/7/365 for 80 years based on another erroneous assumption that our future rainfall will match the average between 1967—2017. See my water rebuttal details at my #'s 3.D, E, F, and 5. For example, **consider the following water related disputed DEIR data [and some of my bracketed counters] that not only incorrectly and confusing jumbles the NID data with groundwater data and the NID's Water Code provisions for its surface water with the mine's CEQA groundwater requirement, but even worse assumes the old past determines our future by ignoring the new normal of climate change for the DEIR mine's groundwater depletion (with some emphasis added in some quotes by capitals):**

Projected Water Supplies. Table 4.11-5 provides a summary of the District's projected supply entitlements [through 2040]. [The relevance for this Objection in the following quotes lies in the unaddressed conflicts among NID's analysis of surface water supplies, since NID does not use groundwater, as discussed elsewhere. The DEIR's intensely disputed and, frankly, absurd, groundwater "recharge" and "balancing"



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↑ assumptions ignore climate change and credible science in order elsewhere in the DEIR to predict the future from the average rainfall between 1967 and 2017, instead of the “new normal” used by responsible scientists, governments, and businesses to predict a chronically drier and drought harmed future.]

Water Code section 10910(c)(4) requires that a WSA [Water Supply Assessment, on which the DEIR mistakenly relies in cites throughout its disputed DEIR text regarding water and, therefore, misapplies the NID’s different surface water supply standards, rather than CEQA and other relevant laws to this mine’s imagined and disputed ability to recharge our local ground water the 2585-acre mine depletes and sends somewhere else downriver.] include a discussion with regard to “whether total projected water supplies, determined to be available by the city or county for the project, in addition to existing and planned water demand associated with the proposed project....” Accordingly, the WSA addresses these three hydrological conditions through the year 2040 ... in Table 4.11-6. [The DEIR then purports to “summarize” “projected availability” from the District’s existing and planned future supplies THAT DO NOT INCLUDE GROUNDWATER OR ACCURATELY ADDRESS THE MINE’S LOCAL GROUNDWATER DEPLETION AND RECHARGE, but instead focus on] ... the District’s projected water demands in normal, single dry and multiple dry years throughout buildout. As elsewhere, this compares “apples to oranges” since it is focused on the NID general service area demands from NID’s surface water sources to rain recharging the massive groundwater depletion in one local area above and around the 2585-acre underground mine from 24/7/365 dewatering for 80 years, not the 20 years (or until 2040) NID uses for different purposes.] As shown, demand within NID’s service area is expected to exceed the District’s supplies from 2025 to 2040 during Single Dry Years and in the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year period from 2025 to 2040. [This is confusing since this DEIR paragraph at 4.11-39 begins with a “20-year projection” and shifts to the 15-year period “from 2025 to 2040.” Throughout this Objection I make reference to the DEIR’s lethal flaw of limiting its perspective to this 2040 or 20-year cut off, as if somehow the DEIR were entitled either to ignore the last 60 or 65 years of its 80-year mining binge or, worse, perhaps incorrectly and without any evidence to assume that the whole 80 year period matches the first disputed 15 or 20 year flawed and misleading projections (or that what follows 2040 will be the same as what preceded 2040). For convenience and simplicity, I often just say “20 years” to avoid addressing this complexity and confusion every time. Since 20 years is better for the DEIR’s disputed theory than 15 years, the DEIR advocates should not complain (but somehow, I expect they will anyway.)

Factors contributing to inconsistency in NID’s water supplies include legal limitations due to water rights and contracts limiting the quantity of water available to the District, environmental constraints, and reductions in availability due to climatic factors. The surface water supply to NID is subject to reductions during single and multiple dry years (seasonal and climatic shortages). ... [These same kind of limitations apply with equal and often greater force to the existing and future competition for groundwater above

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and around the 2585-acre underground mine by locals like me, as demonstrated elsewhere in this and other Objections (see my #'s 3.E, F and M and 5), but the DEIR inconsistently ignores any discussion of our groundwater rights' disputes and mine limits, except for a distracting and disputed discussion of the 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road. Since the DEIR recognizes some of these factors here (with even a rare mention of "climate"), why not address these matters where readers would expect them? The answer to that may be that the mine advocates recognize that, once informed adequately of the DEIR's real water burdens, risks, and harms, DEIR or mine approval would trigger competition and legal and political disputes with us locals over groundwater (and, during expected shortages, NID surface water) as to which we have at least equal, if not superior, rights.]

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Water Supply Sufficiency. Pursuant to Water Code section 10910(c)(4) and based on the technical analyses describe in the WSA prepared for the proposed project, the total projected water supplies determined to be available for the proposed project during Normal water years during a **15-year projection** would meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project. (emphasis added) **[Again, this incorrect general conclusion appears to be a "bait and switch" as above, since that WSA etc analysis is focused on NID general supplies from surface water; and not on the disputed recharge or "balancing" imagined in the DEIR to our local groundwater from mine depletion from dewatering 24/7/365 for 80 years during a time when the old "normal" of the DEIR (eg, average rainfall between 1967 and 2017) no longer exists in the "new normal" of climate change, unprecedented dryness and drought, and greater competition from us locals accessing their own groundwater rights with new or deeper wells from above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. While we also dispute the sufficiency of NID supplies to the mine for no net benefit to the community (eg, my # 4), as described elsewhere here, the above discussion and others in this Objection demonstrate the errors, omissions, and deficiencies in this DEIR.] ...** Therefore, [with the DEIR incorrectly referring to NID's "projected 2040 water demands" as to the 30 East Bennett Drive property connections, as if that were the only DEIR 2585-acre underground project impact, a claim contrary to many parts of the DEIR I address] NID would be able to serve the proposed project in addition to existing and planned developments with some reliance on demand reductions in dry years by 2025. **[This erroneous and unsupported conclusion is contrary to the DEIR itself, although it seems to admit that even the portion of the water use admitted here is admitted requiring "some reliance of demand reductions in dry years by 2025," which means that applying better information with a more scientific, fair, and appropriate analysis would reveal bigger shortages.]**

[Besides what DEIR calls a Normal Year, Table 4.11-5 actually admits at 4.11-40:] "Potential Surplus (Deficit)" [for] "Single Dry Years" [of progressively increasing deficits from 2025 to 2040 in acre feet/year] [for] "Single Dry Years" [ranging from]



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[negative] 85,629"/"48%" "Percent Shortfall of Demand" to "-98,814"/"52%" "Percent Shortfall of Demand", [as well as more deficient years for Multiple Dry Years]. ... [DEIR quote continuing at 4.11-42] Water demand within NID's service area is expected to exceed the District's supplies by more than 45 percent from 2025 to 2040 in Single Dry Years and by less than 10 percent from 2025 to 2040 during the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year period. [That ignores many realities of increased DEIR water use, because, instead of 30 wells along East Bennett Road, the reality will be hundreds of our locals' competing wells just in the areas above and around the 2585-acre mine as we locals combat climate change and drought as well as the mine's groundwater depletion, as I explain elsewhere. See, eg, my # 3.E, F, and M and 5. If the DEIR advocates or NID imagine that they can stop that our competition with our new or deeper wells, a common response to chronic drought which has occurred already all over the state where water supplies are already insufficient, then they do not appreciate the political and legal ferocity of such locals defending their homes, their forests and environment, and their community way of life from the no net benefit mine's massive depletion and disposal downstream and other waste of our shared groundwater. See my # 3.N discussing how us thousands of local voters can reform the laws and change officials to accomplish our worthy defenses, even independent of other legal remedies. The indisputable reality is that few, if any, of us thousands of affected locals will be willing to sacrifice anything for the benefit of this undesirable mine. See my # 4.] However, this project is not expected to exacerbate NID's water supply shortages during dry years and the project will supply water into the South Fork Wolf Creek and into the NID conveyance system, at volumes exceeding the project water demand for potable water from NID. [Even if that were true, which we dispute, it means little to those of us living above and around the 2585-acre mine who are losing our groundwater to that mine dewatering waste for someone else downstream. Moreover, on the merits, why would NID allow its system to be polluted by mine water from Wolf Creek that, even if correctly treated without human error or storms (which treatment quality many would decline to trust to this DEIR for 24/7/365 quality for 80 years, when it comes to their families' health and the use and value of their homes), no one wants even to accept even the level of hexavalent chromium and other mine water toxins that some industry influenced bureaucrat standards official may consider tolerable.]

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*** This project would be subject to any applicable water demand cutbacks during droughts, like other NID potable water customers who are served by NID. [However, the DEIR mine project can then be also expected to increase NID customer demand in years when their wells have deficient supplies, and none of that predictable defensive conduct is addressed in the DEIR or by NID, perhaps in the case of NID, because the managers do not expect the coming policy changes from us local voters to assure that they do not suffer from water wasters like this mine. See my # 3.N. The future will increasingly become what some politely call "competitive," but what (more accurately) is about us thousands of local voting residents insisting on our legal and



political rights to our priority share of surface and ground water over less beneficial uses, especially no net benefit uses like the mine. See my #'s 3.N and 4.]
*** (DEIR quote at 4.11-43) Thus, a less-than-significant impact would occur. [That incorrect and disputed DEIR conclusion does not follow from the analysis that is rebutted above and elsewhere in this Objection and others.]

What is the net to remember from that analysis, which I admit is confusing because it's matching the DEIR's "bait and switch" and "apples vs oranges" tactics confusion? The lesson here is that the disputed DEIR wants us incorrectly to join them in the illusion that we can safely assume the past average wet years from 1967 to 2017 will be repeated from now through 2040 (or sometimes they say the next 20 years), despite the DEIR ignoring our climate change drier and drought future. Worse, the DEIR then next assumes that same rainfall "recharge" of our groundwater will continue for the rest of the 80 years of mining with no proof or analysis or legal excuse at all; just apparently a disputed and meritless theory that the future after 2040 is too "speculative" to consider, so, therefore, they are somehow allowed to act as if they were a public water district following the Water Code reporting rules for timing, instead of what the mine is: a no net benefit private, exploitive, speculator business operating for the benefit of largely foreign investors. The DEIR cannot transfer to us locals the risk of any such unknowns, whether about groundwater, surface water, toxins, air quality, or any other factors that make this mine a risk menace, especially since we have our own competing contrary surface ownership rights above and around the mine to protect in competition with whatever the mine does with any shared resources like water or air, not to mention the right to prevent tortious harms to our health by water or air pollution.

Also consider the illusion is exposed in the DEIR "Conclusion" at 4.11- 51, where it incorrectly states: "Water supply exceeds existing and projected future demand, including the addition of the Idaho-Maryland project, during normal years. Therefore, sufficient water supply is available to service existing and future reasonably foreseeable development during normal years." First, the second sentence does not follow in science or fact from the first sentence, even if one were to look realistically only at the next 15 or 20 years (or until 2040), as distinguished from what is reasonably foreseeable for the next 80 years of DEIR mine operations. Second, what they call a "normal year" is incorrectly based on history (see where the DEIR looks at the average rain from 1967 to 2017 and ignores the "new normal" of climate change and chronic dryness and drought.) Third, the dry and drought years are the "new normal," and there are admitted water shortages that will be worse than admitted by the DEIR, as sort of admitted in the next paragraph where the DEIR partly contradicts itself, although the DEIR still ignores the fact that there will also be competition for groundwater (eg, from new and deeper wells) and for NID water, not just with desirable newcomers who we would like to welcome to our community instead of this no net benefit mine (see my # 4), but also the thousands of us existing residents and voters living on the surface above and around the 2585-acres of the underground mine who have their own competing legal rights to such groundwater and NID water. The DEIR ignores the reality of future water shortages and competition, but reality will expose that obvious error. Then what? See my Objections

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versus the DEIR's only admitted but insufficient statement of what happens when the mining stops at its 4.3-103-04.

The disputed DEIR quotes and positions addressed in the previous paragraphs, especially at 4.11-42-43 and 51, have the same flaws as the disputed DEIR "Conclusion" admissions at 4.11-51 as follows, (but they seem inconsistent with them as well): "Water demand within NID's service area is expected to exceed the District's supplies by more than 45 percent from 2025 to 2040 in Single Dry Years and by less than 10 percent from 2025 to 2040 during the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year period." Reality will likely be much worse, but even that admitted shortage will create problems more than what the DEIR addresses, especially if one excludes the speculation and errors and adds what the DEIR omits adequately to address. For example, there is no satisfactory and sufficient basis for the DEIR's sheer speculation to conclude what so ignores that hard contrary issues at DEIR 4.11-51 that: "This supply deficit can be addressed through NID's previously discussed Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and as previously mentioned, the proposed project would be a net contributor of water the NID system" (which, as noted, does nothing for those thousands of us living and using above and around the 2585-acre underground mine whose water would be exported down river somewhere else with whatever hexavalent chromium, other toxins, and other problems it may contain). See, eg, my # 3.N when the mine starts to compete with us locals during water shortage, and we counter compete in a context where no one has any interest in sharing with this no benefit mine that remains a threat to everything we love about our community and everything we have invested in our homes the mine is devaluing.

Science and rational, informed people would make the reasonable and rational decisions today, based upon the much worse "new normal" reality that has begun and will only get worse over that 80-year period. Our future in this relevant local area is going to be painfully drier or worse weather, with frequent and chronic droughts from climate change, together with all manner of horrible side-effects like wildfire smoke that will cumulatively exhaust the outdated safety standards on which the DEIR insists we rely for the next 80 plus years. See My #'s 3.D, E, F, and 5, discussing adverse DEIR admissions and incorrect or misleading discussions and revealing omissions by the DEIR on these water and timing issues. Worse, as I address in my # 14 and my supplemental brief, the disputed DEIR fails to comply with CEQA and other applicable law by generally only looking backward to a nonpredictive past, and at most when the DEIR occasionally feels compelled to do so looking only at the next 20-years (or until 2040) of the 80 years they ask to mine, deplete our groundwater, and otherwise impact, risk, and distress our environment 24/7/365 to the detriment of our community, our devalued homes, and our health and welfare.

Incidentally, while its slightly tangent please notice where I elsewhere call the DEIR out for incorrectly considering the depletion of our local groundwater "balanced" because the mine supposedly treats our groundwater and sends it on down the Wolf Creek somewhere else in NID territory. That is worse than absurd. Wherever else that relocated groundwater of ours goes from our surface home groundwater source does nothing to recharge or balance our groundwater. Taking our groundwater (remember we locals on the surface above and around the 2585 acre mine have our own groundwater property rights we could use to drill wells to use that groundwater before it goes to the mine for removal somewhere else, as discussed in my # 3.N and elsewhere) to another NID destination is irrelevant to the harm caused to us here

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locally. This is the same kind of disproportionate wrong that the California Supreme Court called a nuisance and inverse condemnation in my # 4 discussion, except in that sewer plant case those downwind locals driven from their homes by smells were sacrificing for the common good of a public benefit project, whereas this private mining gamble has no net benefit to anyone in our community, even those at a safe distance away from the mine. See my #'s 4, 8 and 3.N.

N. Political Dynamics, Law Reforms To Protect the Community, And Consequences From Starting The Mining Before We Stop It And More Risks, Impacts, And Harms Occur, Even Some Admitted By The DEIR, Although, As Usual, In An Obscure Place at 4.3-103-04 Called The "Non-CEQA Related Analysis."

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This opposition to the mine is not a normal political dispute over ideology, political partisans, or other divisions that sadly disrupt our lives these days. This is about saving our property values, our water, forests, and environment, our health and safety, and our community way of life from a serious menace that has not even attempted in this disputed DEIR to engage us in a rational and appropriate discussion of our vast differences about the burdens, risks, and harms of the mine impacting us locals on the surface above and around the 2585-acre mine too often ignored in the disputed DEIR. (For example, a casual reader of the DEIR would think the only dry well issue is 30 wells along East Bennett Road, instead of the hundreds of other impacted wells now [and more coming] on the ignored surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine depleting our groundwater.) That means we locals will have to organize and exercise not only our legal, but also our political rights to defend us from this menace and any copycat mining this mine may inspire, if the aggressive, exploitive "entrepreneurs" see that this County is willing to be exploited by such no net benefit mines. See my # 4. In the brief minutes allowed at the March 24, 2022, DEIR hearing more than 100 locals complained of such things, and I expect many will follow up with written objections, most of which seemed meritorious and all of which reflected the high, personal level about their reasons of concerns inspiring the many oppositions I expect and describe here. When I receive that transcript and those other objections, I request permission to supplement this Objection.

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This is not the forum to explain what all that means for the future or to debate the many defensive reforms and legal and political counters and other competitions that are desirable, except for one clarifying alert to our governmental decisionmakers. The mine advocates seek to distract us with a legal debate and disputes over CEQA technicalities (in which we will engage as discussed in my #'s 4 and 14 and my supplemental CEQA brief), but another defensive front involves law reform. The DEIR is so fragile that it admits at 6-14 (as I quote above) that the mine would likely not be economically feasible if it only operated continuously 12 hours a day, instead of insisting on the special and undeserved 24/7/365 operations for 80-years that our governments generally do not even allow our existing desirable businesses to operate. That means government cannot and should not allow the mining to start, since it will soon stop for many reasons, even just reality and lack of funding as described in my #2, but including because of local or state law reforms, such as stopping



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mining at 12 hours a day in such suburban areas. I say that not as a threat, but as a means of reducing the adverse consequences for us locals of starting and stopping this mine (see the previous subsection on that topic and even what parts the DEIR admits at 6-14.)

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FOR THE RECORD, NOTHING IN THIS OBJECTION SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A THREAT THAT I OR ANYONE ELSE WILL SUE RISE OR ANYONE ELSE, SINCE IT IS PREMATURE TO MAKE THAT KIND OF COMPLEX DECISION AND ANY SUCH PREMATURE LEGAL ACTION WOULD NOT BE "RIPE" YET AS A JUSTICIABLE CAUSE OF ACTION. A DISCUSSION REACTING TO SOMEONE'S THREATENED FUTURE CONDUCT BY IDENTIFYING OBJECTIONS AVAILABLE FUTURE REACTION OPTIONS IS NOT A THREAT TO EXERCISE THOSE OPTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THIS IS ONLY A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT THAT MUST GO THROUGH A COMPLEX PROCESS BEFORE THE MINING STARTS, AND MANY IMPROVEMENTS AND REFORMS ARE POSSIBLE THAT MAY REDUCE THE NEED FOR SUCH LOCAL SELF-DEFENSE FROM SUCH FORESEEABLE DEIR/MINING BURDENS, RISKS, AND HARMS. THE REASONS FOR THIS OBJECTION COUNTER DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE REACTIONS AND DISPUTE REMEDIES INCLUDE TO EXPLAIN WHY, IF IT PROCEEDS, THE DEIR NEEDS TO BE REDONE TO CORRECT ERRORS, OMISSIONS, AND OTHER DEFICIENCIES. The reasons for the urgent or strong commentary about local reactions now is that history of such conflicts shows what could follow involving legal, political, and competitive self-defense possibilities that have commonly occurred in such situations, which discussions reflects a desire to assure that the DEIR advocates and decisionmakers (i) take our local concerns seriously, (ii) improve the next version of the DEIR, if any, and (iii) address more comprehensively and appropriately the local issues and concerns in this and other objections, including all those appropriate concerns voiced at the March 24, 2022, County hearing. What we want is peace and the status quo. What this Objection also does, as lawyers do, is to correct the DEIR on some of its many disputed express and implied legal assertions and illustrate the need for technical reforms in the DEIR and mining by reporting about the litigation, political, and competitive options from other such unrelated mining and environmental approval disputes with some similar circumstances. In other words, the goal of this Objection is to reduce in advance the issues in dispute here for our common good, rather than just to combat problems in appropriate ways after the mining begins and the burdens, risks, and harms become actual instead of theoretical.

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Consider, for example, that continuous 12 vs 24-hour operational dispute that the DEIR mine says (at 6-14) it cannot economically survive. See my #2, which exposes the real problem is not the 12 hours as much as the weak financial condition of Rise admitted in its current SEC Forms 10K and 10Q and shown by its own accountant's "going concern" qualifications on its (at best) unimpressive financial statements. The same political and policy reasons we do not allow other businesses to operate 24/7/365 apply with even more force and reasons to this no net benefit mine. See my # 4. If the existing laws and court injunctions do not save us local from those burdens, risks, and harms from such 24/7/365 operations for 80-years, then we (directly or through right-thinking elected officials) may limit all such undesirable, large scale mining close to such significant inhabited communities to the same hours we restrict desirable businesses. Consider that many disruptive activities are limited in operations for the protection of locals; eg, road repairs are done at night to avoid traffic problems during the day. Consider that the stresses on our environment from mining can be



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↑ moderated by reducing hours of operations; eg, groundwater recharge can happen better from 12 hours than 24 hours of depletion. There are scores of such law reforms possible, and I expect that they will become very popular with us locals. So also, might be laws requiring sufficient, high rated liability insurance coverage, surety bonds, and other protections for mine victims, especially for reclamation at the end of the mining. [As a bankruptcy and insurance insolvency lawyer who once liquidated the nation's leading insurance/surety company issuing mining and other surety bonds, I doubt that a company with the financial condition and circumstances I describe in my #2 and Rise admits in its 10K and 10Q could obtain sufficient reputable coverage, if any at all, at any economically rational price. That should give government decisionmakers pause, because by approving the DEIR they would be assigning to this resisting community risks that any sophisticated and qualified insurer would reject on the merits. Note: with insurance/surety exposures on needs quality California admitted insurers because there are many offshore insurance frauds selling bogus policies through surplus lines brokers. (For just one of many examples, unless it's changed since then, consider my State Bar pro bono project years ago, when most of the local LA businesses were defrauded by a no asset Turks & Caicos insurance company, which was unregulated and had purchased its insurance license for a nominal fee and was unable to pay any fire and other policyholder claims after the Rodney King riots.)

Consider who wants to vote against defensive initiatives imposing safer practices and operating rules on undesirable mines like this seeking the right to blast, dig, dewater, and otherwise create noise, vibrations, toxic safety hazards, water depletion and waste, and other disturbances, risks, and harms all day and night beneath or near thousands of people already living above or around that underground mining. The surface residents and voters should not have to limit their response to what rights they may win in court in such competition with the underground miners, since the law allows voters to improve the laws regulate such activities in scores of additional ways, either directly or through reform minded officials they elect.

While the mine (like others before it) may attempt to argue that somehow such new regulations and laws reducing its profits are "eminent domain" "takings" or otherwise barred by its constitutional rights, that meritless theory has long been rejected by the US Supreme Court and others, both on that legal and because us surface owners also have our own competing property rights that merit protection from the competing underground rights. Consider the leading such Supreme Court decision of *Keystone Bituminous Coal Ass'n v. DeBenedictis*, 480 U.S. 470 (1987), where the Court upheld against a coal miner challenge the Bituminous Subsidence And Land Preservation Act (the Subsidence Act as it's called in Pennsylvania and many places where it has been replicated), where mining was limited to prevent "subsidence" (the loss of surface lateral and subjacent support and loss of groundwater or depletion of surface water, which are legal rights we surface residents already have here, but it helps to have more laws to detail specific applications and thereby avoiding the need for expensive defense litigation). That Supreme Court decision defined the "subsidence" concerns (also equally at issue for this DEIR project, especially because of the massive and objectionable groundwater depletion and [even what's so far revealed of] the DEIR's new, deeper, and expanded DEIR blasting, tunneling, rock removal, and other mining activities) as follows (at 474-5):

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Coal mine subsidence is the lowering of the strata overlying a coal mine, including the land surface, caused by extraction of underground coal. This lowering of the strata can have devastating effects. It often causes substantial damage to foundations, walls, and other structural members, and the integrity of houses and buildings. Subsidence frequently causes sinkholes or troughs in land which make the land difficult or impossible to develop. Its effect on farming has been well documented—many subsided areas cannot be plowed or properly prepared. **Subsidence can also cause the loss of groundwater and surface ponds.** In short, it presents the type of environmental concern that has been the focus of so much federal, state, and local regulation in recent decades. (Emphasis added). [That conclusion about groundwater has a fn 2 which states:]

Fn2. “Whenever [subsidence effects] extend, damage can occur to buildings, roads, pipelines, cables, streams, water impoundments, wells, and aquifers. Buildings can be cracked or tilted; roads can be lowered or cracked, **streams, water impoundments, and aquifers can all be drained into the underground excavations.** Oil and gas wells can be severed, causing contents to migrate into underground mines into aquifers, and even into residential basements. Sewage lines, gas lines, and water lines can all be severed, as can telephone and electric cables. ... (emphasis added).

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While that subsidence law generally required 50% of the coal to remain for support in strategic places, it did many other things to protect the surface and limit the mining, explaining that the government was entitled to so act “to protect the public interest in health, the environment, and the fiscal integrity of the area,” such as by “exercising its police powers to abate activity akin to a public nuisance,” although the court made clear that the police power was broader than nuisances. (At 488) Of special note, the Court (at 493-94) noted that this challenge was to the enactment of the law before it was enforced, and that meant that it was premature to complain about how the law might be abused, when the facts of that surface and underground mining competition of rights were not yet established. Citing its own precedent in *Hodel v. Virginia Surface Mining & Reclamation Ass’n Inc*, 452 U.S. 264 (1981), the Court explained:

“[The] court ignored this Court’s oft-repeated admonition that the constitutionality of statutes ought not be decided except in an actual factual setting that makes such a decision necessary. [citations omitted] Adherence to this rule is particularly important in cases raising allegations of an unconstitutional taking of private property. *** (at 497); [W]here an owner possesses a full ‘bundle’ of property rights, the destruction of one ‘strand’ is not a taking because the aggregate must be viewed in its entirety. [The Court then followed that discussion how valid zoning laws always affect without any “taking” property uses with things like setbacks, lot size vs building size, etc.]

While the “taking” legal issues could be debated by lawyers at length, this is not the place for that, and, unlike in that Supreme Court case where surface owner had signed waivers in favor of the underground mining, the reverse is clear here, as demonstrated by my discussion



of the deed limitations and absence of surface waivers, as admitted by Rise in its SEC Form 10K. I do note, however, that the California Courts have upheld such surface owner protection laws against underground mineral rights or other uses, such as in California Civil Code section 848(a)(2), upholding such surface owner protections challenged by oil and gas miners. *Vaquero Energy, Inc. v. County of Kern* (2019), 42 Cal. App. 5th 312 (including among protections some delegations of power to surface owners, depending on Tiers classified by the extent of current mining domination vs competing uses dominating the area and many other interesting ideas, involving notice requires, 120-day delays of mining etc.). The point here is that there are many things our local government can and should do by enhanced legislation (or, if need be, by initiatives) independent of any CEQA or other screening or permitting as to this mine, to further protect us residents and voters above and around the 2585-acre underground mine from the kinds of concerns expressed in this and other objections. While the mine could attempt to challenge such new protections for our community, they then expose themselves to a whole different type of litigation than the usual CEQA fights. In those kinds of disputes, the surface owners have many practical and legal advantages, while the miners are exposed to having to defend what seems to me to be indefensible mining positions under the circumstances and to answer all the hard questions (eg, my #'s 14 and 15) and expose all the data missing from or evaded in the DEIR. As my # 14 explains, many of us have a different interpretation of CEQA and other laws to apply in this situation.

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As noted in the financial discussion in the prior section 2 of this Objection, a question arises for such legislation and initiatives about controlling who is actually doing the mining versus to whom the mining permissions are granted. For example, if Rise were granted the mining opportunities it seeks in the DEIR, and, then still lacking the funding to mine itself, leased the mine to an unsuitable miner tenant for a share of the profits and other compensation, we could suffer more unhappy surprises from the new miner tenant. Indeed, one tactic used by this others in this mining industry for reducing government scrutiny and regulation generally is when a mine owner so leases the mine to another even more unsuitable and safe operator-tenant for a share of the profits and other compensation, and then the tenant does the bad things we worry about, and then the landlord claims (under older and under these distinguishing circumstances disputed case law, as to which there are important exceptions) that the landlord miner is not liable for the often then bankrupt tenant's wrongs, as in cases like *Butte Copper & Zinc Co. v. Poaque*, 164 F.2d 201 (9th Cir. 1947). See my # 4 and 14. Legislation or initiatives that could improve our surface owner and user defenses against such abuses, if any such things were attempted here. (Again, I have no idea what this particular miner intends to do, but responsible government mistakenly allowing such 24/7/365 mining needs to ask the appropriate questions and protect us surface owners and users above and around the 2585-acre mine from any such possible risks.)

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4. **There Is No Net Benefit To Justify Approving This Mine Or It's DEIR, Especially When One Gives Appropriate Weight To The Objections Of The Burdened And Harmed Locals At Risk Of Worse.**



A. A General Discussion of Some of the Many Negatives Decreasing Any Imagined Benefits From the Mine, Applying Some Legal And Political Self-Defense Rights And Counters Expected From Those Of Us At Risk Living Above Or Around the 2585-Acre Underground Mine.

There can be no net local benefit from this mine to Nevada County, even if the DEIR were correct, which it is not. As Rise admits in its SEC form 10K and 10Q and as explained in my # 2, it is speculative to even imagine what part of the DEIR plan Rise even has funding sufficient to accomplish that it considers benefits. That “no net benefit” analysis is especially true if one focuses on the thousands of us who live on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, who are generally ignored by the DEIR, in its erroneous pitch to consider this CEQA “project” generally as if it were only the small Brunswick Industrial Site and 30 or so well properties along the East Bennett Road (and, although the DEIR incorrectly describes it as a separate CEQA project, the Centennial Industrial Site). That is all one CEQ project that cannot be separated with CEQA discussions limited to just one part. As this Objection demonstrates, the greatest weight must be given to us locals above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, who could suffer many of the greatest negative impacts. Any DEIR decisionmakers who may like distant mines that are too far away to cause them personal burdens or risks, should especially consider the contrary leading precedent against uncompensated disproportionate impacts: *Varjabedian v. Madera* (1977), 20 Cal.3d 285 (relying on the Fifth Amendment holding in *Richards v. Washington Terminal Co.* (1914), 233 U.S. 546, and noting that our California Constitution offers us even broader protection than the US Constitution), involving for our discussion purposes here both successful nuisance and inverse condemnation claims (among other claims) of local homeowners against the City of Madera’s approved sewer treatment plant. **That court upheld the jury’s damages award that was not just for the stink nuisance harms suffered by the downwind locals, but also for the loss of real estate value measured (at 291) by “the difference between the present fair market value of the property as the same would have been without the construction of the sewage treatment plant... and the present fair market value after said plant was constructed and put into operation.”** The court rejected all the usual defense arguments that a mine owner might be expected to attempt. **As the Court stated (at 298): “If a plaintiff can establish that his property has suffered a ‘direct and peculiar and substantial burden as a result of the recurring odors produced by a sewage facility -- that he has, as in *Richards*, been singled out to suffer the detrimental environmental effects of the enterprise—then the policy favoring the distribution of the resulting loss of market value is strong ... and the likelihood that compensation will impede necessary public construction is slight. ... and a burden unfairly and unconstitutionally imposed on the individual landowner.”** See my #'s 3, 8, and 14.

Some our local concerns should also be of broad concern to others in the County who may imagine they are too distant to be harmed by this mine. For example, the groundwater dumped into the Wolf Creek from the mine’s wasteful dewatering goes somewhere else downstream, where those citizens should share our worry about hexavalent chromium (see my #'s 3.C, G, and H, and 7). While the depletion of our groundwater in ways that add to our mine related miseries (see my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M, and 5) may seem local under the disputed DEIR analysis of our fractured rock aquifer system, the drying out of our surface and its forests by

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such wasteful local groundwater mine depletion and mine NID uses (without the illusory “recharge” incorrectly assumed in the DEIR) harms everyone in this “new normal,” zero sum game of climate change and chronic drought and dryness impacts. Because there is not enough water for everyone in the future, we’re all in competition for an insufficient supply. See my # 3.N. Also, because the consequent fires and smoke and other air quality threats are not locally contained, even those with sufficient water will end up sharing those adverse consequences of this mining. See m #'s 3.J and 10. Those and other problems addressed in this Objection and others need to be placed on the negative side of the balance sheet to compare against the minor alleged benefits of the mine debated at the end of this section.

I cannot imagine us locals (once adequately informed of the realities and the errors, omissions, and deficiencies of the disputed DEIR) accepting the mine, especially when presently less informed people discover “the hard way” the burdens, risks, and problems which the DEIR was required to disclose and failed to do so satisfactorily. See my #'s 14 and 15. Thus, we hope the County and others (with whom we do not wish conflict) do not choose the wrong side of this foreign mine operator against their existing citizens and voters resisting until all appropriate practical, legal and political options have been exhausted to defend their homes, our water, safety, and other environmental factors, and our community. See my # 3.N. It should be easy for our governments to avoid conflicts with their voting citizens on this mine because this mine is unlike most other such conflicts in the case law. Often the challenged CEQA projects involved **public improvement** projects needed by the broader community that hurt smaller impacted groups of citizens, like roads, sewer plants, or other public improvements. Here, this private exploitive mine has no such material net public benefit. From its readily available information quoted or explained in my #2, Rise seems to be just a private, mostly foreign, speculative business seeking to impose itself on our local community for the profit of mostly foreign investors with little comparative net benefit to anyone in Nevada County, beside some mine workers from unknown places, whose small numbers are dwarfed by the thousands of us voting and tax paying neighbors and others living in the community impact and stigma zones, like mine above and around the 2585-acre mine. Be clear, this is not just citizens worried about local burdens, harms, and risks that someone can resolve by some DEIR policy debate. There is little doubt that our real estate values (like local tax revenue and tourism) will suffer, even from the stigma of the mine, because, even if we somehow were all wrong about all the mine related problems (which we’re not), no one wants to pay these kinds of real estate prices to acquire such burdens, risks, and harms. See the transcript (when available) of the March 22, 2022, County hearing and those objectors’ follow up written comments. Clearly, no government blessing of the DEIR or mine approval will convince anyone at risk in such impact zones above or around the 2585-acre mine (or any buyer or mortgage lender/appraiser) to accept such risks for no benefit to their community. So, sadly, approval of the DEIR and mine would divide our County in one additional way, and I hope that is not our fate. For our county, our state, and our country to succeed and prosper, we need to be able to come together again, despite our differences. However, to do that we need wise, effective, and responsible government that must be responsive to its citizens, or us voters will improve our representation and our applicable laws. See mt # 3.N. Approval of the DEIR and mine would just drive us further apart, and for what? Certainly not for the trivial and often illusory benefits promised by the mine DEIR



that the miner apparently cannot afford (see my #2) and that are also discounted at the end of this discussion section.

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I mention the *Varjabedian v. Madera* nuisance claim, not just because such claims (if and when presented) would further affect the economics of the mine and other issues, if and when any victims were to collect the nuisance evidence and consider the time to be right for accountability. **My primary reason for focusing on this *Varjabedian* case is the court's discussion of why disproportionate harm suffered by some locals cannot be justified by the benefits to others more distant who can escape that harm.** Those cases (and many others) may create problems for the County in situations like this one, if it were to impose a nuisance (among other things) on such particular victims, like the downwind *Varjabedian* homeowners, as a "taking" under the Fifth Amendment and under the California Constitution, potentially creating claims against both the private nuisance maker and the approving governmental authority. See, eg, *Uniwill v. City of Los Angeles* (2004), 124 Cal. App. 4th 537 (a private party, here a private utility, and an approving governmental authority can be jointly liable in inverse condemnation for depriving a victim of property rights). As that *Varjabedian* Court stated (at 298): "If a plaintiff can establish that his property has suffered a 'direct and peculiar and substantial burden' as a result of the recurring odors produced by a sewage facility -- that he has, as in *Richards*, been singled out to suffer the detrimental environmental effects of the enterprise—then the policy favoring the distribution of the resulting loss of market value is strong ... and the likelihood that compensation will impede necessary public construction is slight. ... and a burden unfairly and unconstitutionally imposed on the individual landowner." This policy to avoid disproportionate local harms should be especially powerful here, where the mine is not a public improvement for the common good, but rather a private exploitive business of no net benefit to the public.

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More importantly, we are not just talking about intangible issues like smells (although noise, traffic, air quality margins, and other intangibles may also arise in disputes, especially since this no net benefit mine is to be granted 24/7/365 operating approval that few of our more beneficial local businesses enjoy as far as I know, without any justification in the disputed DEIR for such continuous operation except the arbitrary profit margin desired by Rise and its foreign owners) or on account of Rise's admittedly weak financial condition discussed in my # 2. Here the conflict includes our groundwater depletion and hexavalent chromium pollution of commonly owned groundwater, as well as potential interference with the legal property rights of surface owners above and around the 2585 acre mine (eg, for subjacent and lateral support, etc.) With our water table dropping in the climate change future of dryness and drought, the last thing we need to risk trees dying and becoming bigger fire hazards is that 24/7/365 dewatering for 80 plus years and admitted 1.4 million gallons a year NID depletion uses at the mine, plus more addressed in my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M and 5. Stated another way, all of us locals impacted by the mine are being asked to sacrifice some of our water, health, property rights and value and other things mentioned and all grossly understated in the DEIR, but for what? So far, the only credible answer seems to be for a speculative and dangerous private project to export profits to private investors across the border enjoying their exploitation of us locals, while we suffer those disclosed problems, plus far greater undisclosed burdens, risks, and harms only revealed as cited errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the disputed DEIR.



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In considering the scope and nature of any mine approval and its terms and conditions, the government decisionmakers should consider both the nuisance and inverse condemnation court decisions as flip sides of the same coin. (Note: As explained in US Supreme Court cases in my # 14 and elsewhere, when a government creates or approves a nuisance by a public project [like that sewer plant] it is exposing itself to inverse condemnation liability. When a private company does anything that would be such an inverse condemnation if done by a government, then the private company should have equivalent nuisance liability with similar consequences and considerations. That is why I discuss both public and private nuisance and inverse condemnation cases together, for illustration of the common principle they both have that no one can use their property to damage or harm other properties in actionable ways without consequences.) The damages and "taking" (eg, eminent domain or inverse condemnation) consequences in "taking"/inverse condemnation cases can be similar when a nuisance is imposed on local victims. For example, consider *County of San Diego v. Bressi* (1986), 184 Cal. App.3d 112, where an aviation easement was imposed on homes at the end of a runway with approval authorized for hugely abusive (although unlikely) uses (such as not only jumbo jets, but also "any other contrivance yet to be invented for flight in space.") See also *Coachella Valley Water District v. Western Allied Properties, Inc* (1987), 190 Cal.App. 3d 969 (where the court ordered a retrial where the trial court mistakenly limited the "before condition" valuation damage expert's evidence about the value before impacts of the flood control alternatives if they varied from the government's desired plan, holding the jury was entitled to consider the value of the plaintiff victim's property without being limited to the defendant's idea of solutions or consequences of doing things the defendant's way.) The *Bressi* court rejected the defense that the government should only have to pay for the less burdensome current uses (ie, only small private planes versus jumbo jets and rocket ships in the permits), holding that "just compensation" to the homeowner is measured (like nuisance damages) based on what the owner has lost, rather than by what the taker has gained. And stated (at 123) that: The jury ... must "once and for all fix the damages, present and prospective, that will accrue reasonably from the construction of the improvement and in this connection **(the jury) must consider the most injurious use of the property reasonably possible. ...In determining the most injurious use of the property reasonably possible, the jury must consider the entire range of uses permitted under the resolution of necessity.**" (ie, in that case making a small airport into a hub for first jumbo jets and then spaceships.) (Emphasis added) Thus, if a dangerous or risky mine were allowed such great powers for massive abuse 24/7/365 for 80 years, any liability would be calculated on that worst case basis. That means current nuisances, trespasses, and other torts that have modest current impact can become a huge liability because that current harm can be multiplied for 80 years' impacts.

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Therefore, to the extent that us locals suffer damages, the county is better off with the narrowest approval imaginable, not the worst (or something vague that the DEIR could exploit with loopholes for which there is then maximum possible exposure with the 80-year multiple.) The government authorities should also consider making any approval not include hexavalent chromium, not allowing 24/7/365 operations (eg, versus the normal 12 hours) for 80 plus years (but at most the limited period for which they have reliable data, which could never exceed 2040 as the outside date for which the disputed DEIR offers even deficient data on limited topics, especially not extending any period allowed based on some assurance of achieving some



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arbitrary profit margin), not allowing such unlimited depletion of our groundwater based on a disputed and preposterous recharge fantasy ignoring climate change dryness and drought, and not allowing other burdens, risks, and harms to us locals and our property rights. That means any approval which is granted (and I urge that none be granted) must be conditioned on such credible protections for the locals from all such burdens, risks, and harms, especially where the disputed DEIR lacks reliable data and just assume the future will be the same as the past. Otherwise, someone may have to pay us not just for current suffering, but also for the risk for future, "worst case" suffering for 24/7/365 for 80-years, as noted above, even if the mine has no funds or ability to operate that long.

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Besides such damages for nuisance and other claims, victim locals in such disputes can also entitled to recover (eg, restitution) costs of mitigating the victims' damages for any nuisance and inverse condemnation. Eg, *Ahlers v. County of L.A.* (1965), 62 Cal.2d 250 (when road construction causes landslides, the threatened property owners are entitled, among other things, to recover the cost of minimizing their damages in good faith, as by installing 25 shear pin caissons to try and hold back the landslide); *Sheffet v. County of L.A.* (1970), 3 Cal. App.3d 720,741-42 (water diversion damages from subdivision and road entitle victim to mitigate his or her damages in good faith and recover the cost of protecting his or her property). While it is premature to address the mitigations cost recoveries from many defensive strategies local victims could elect to protect their properties from the many burdens, risks, and harms that anyone may suffer from a mine like this, one hypothetical example could be that the locals individually or collectively sink their own competing wells into their owned groundwater beneath their properties above and around the underground mine, hoping to save their surface share) of groundwater otherwise lost by plans to dewater, treat, and flush such groundwater downriver in some disputed but depleting amounts. See my #'s 3.D, E, F, M, and 5.

As discussed elsewhere, one likely such hypothetical scenario where such defensive victim mitigation of damages could occur is where (i) there is a local water shortage from the chronic droughts and dryness from the climate change that the disputed mining plan and environmental impact report entirely ignores without any satisfactory discussion (see also, for comparison, my # 3.M, explaining how the DEIR erroneously predicts the future to be the same as the nonpredictive past), and (ii) the local water company has insufficient water for such locals, because it is short, whether by its own shortage problems or because of government reallocations to more desperate places. In such cases, such locals could compete for their own groundwater in accordance with applicable law, as is their right (and as new construction on neighboring land would do), even when they are surface owners above the underground mine that is wasting precious groundwater on less important dewatering and other mining uses. Nothing in the DEIR addresses such potential competition or any of those risks, problems, and conflicts during the next 80 years, dismissing such ideas as "too speculative," but what is even more "speculative" and unsubstantiated is the disputed DEIR just assuming (without any satisfactory evidence) that there will be no local resistance from such surface owners to the depletion of their ground water 24/7/365 for 80 years without the already resisting locals exercising their defensive rights, including to compete for their own groundwater before it's all gone. It would be inappropriate for the governmental authorities addressing the mine approvals to do anything to prejudice our groundwater or NID competition or other rights by any disputed DEIR or mine approvals, especially because we locals contemplate law reforms



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going in the opposite direction of prioritizing our human uses over such private mining exploitation. See my # 3.N.

Other issues may also arise in such nuisance and inverse condemnation etc cases, some of which are analogous to the risk of "subsidence" from this mine for those above and around it entitled to subjacent and lateral support, groundwater, and other rights. E.g., *Smith v. County of L.A.* (1986), 214 Cal. App. 3d 266 (county road repairs created landslide conditions destroying homes triggering nuisance, inverse condemnation, and other claims, including both damages for diminution in the value of real property, but also damages for annoyance, inconvenience, and discomfort, as well as mental distress as a part of the loss of enjoyment.) See also my # 14 or my supplemental brief, citing the Supreme Court and California cases allowing voters to protect surface owners from underground mining abuses. **For example, consider again the leading such Supreme Court decision of *Keystone Bituminous Coal Ass'n v. DeBenedictis*, 480 U.S. 470 (1987), where the Court upheld against a coal miner challenge the Bituminous Subsidence And Land Preservation Act (the Subsidence Act as it's called in Pennsylvania and many places where it has been replicated), where mining was limited to prevent "subsidence" (the loss of surface lateral and subjacent support and loss of groundwater or depletion of surface water, which are legal rights we surface residents already have here, but it helps to have more laws to detail specific applications and thereby avoiding the need for expensive defense litigation). That Supreme Court decision defined the "subsidence" concerns (also equally at issue for this DEIR project, especially because of the massive and objectionable groundwater depletion and [even what's so far revealed of] the DEIR's new, deeper, and expanded DEIR blasting, tunneling, rock removal, and other mining activities) as follows (at 474-5):**

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Coal mine subsidence is the lowering of the strata overlying a coal mine, including the land surface, caused by extraction of underground coal. This lowering of the strata can have devastating effects. It often causes substantial damage to foundations, walls, and other structural members, and the integrity of houses and buildings. Subsidence frequently causes sinkholes or troughs in land which make the land difficult or impossible to develop. Its effect on farming has been well documented—many subsided areas cannot be plowed or properly prepared. **Subsidence can also cause the loss of groundwater and surface ponds.** In short, it presents the type of environmental concern that has been the focus of so much federal, state, and local regulation in recent decades. (Emphasis added). [That conclusion about groundwater has a fn 2 which states:]

Fn2. "Whenever [subsidence effects] extend, damage can occur to buildings, roads, pipelines, cables, streams, water impoundments, wells, and aquifers. Buildings can be cracked or tilted; roads can be lowered or cracked, **streams, water impoundments, and aquifers can all be drained into the underground excavations.** Oil and gas wells can be severed, causing contents to migrate into underground mines into aquifers, and even into residential basements. Sewage lines, gas lines, and water lines can all be severed, as can telephone and electric cables. ... (emphasis added).



While that subsidence law generally required 50% of the coal to remain for support in strategic places, it did many other things to protect the surface and limit the mining, explaining that the government was entitled to so act “to protect the public interest in health, the environment, and the fiscal integrity of the area,” such as by “exercising its police powers to abate activity akin to a public nuisance,” although the court made clear that the police power was broader than nuisances. (At 488) Of special note, the Court (at 493-94) noted that this challenge was to the enactment of the law before it was enforced, and that meant that it was premature to complain about how the law might be abused, when the facts of that surface and underground mining competition of rights were not yet established. Citing its own precedent in *Hodel v. Virginia Surface Mining & Reclamation Ass’n Inc*, 452 U.S. 264 (1981), the Court explained:

“[The] court ignored this Court’s oft-repeated admonition that the constitutionality of statutes ought not be decided except in an actual factual setting that makes such a decision necessary. [citations omitted] Adherence to this rule is particularly important in cases raising allegations of an unconstitutional taking of private property. *** (at 497): [W]here an owner possesses a full ‘bundle’ of property rights, the destruction of one ‘strand’ is not a taking because the aggregate must be viewed in its entirety. [The Court then followed that discussion how valid zoning laws always affect without any “taking” property uses with things like setbacks, lot size vs building size, etc.]

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Please note that there is nothing in the disputed DEIR to explain why we surface residents above or around the mine need not worry about our legal right to mining contrary to our legal rights to “subjacent and lateral support and protection” from “subsidence” from either defective repair of the old 2585 mine that has been closed and flooded since 1956 and would now be blasted, tunneled, rock removed, and otherwise mined 24/7/365 for 80 years. How can we judge our risks when there are no clear standards and timely and effective monitors to protect us? History shows most often it takes a crisis damage event to trigger effective inspections, and at that point the damage is done, and all that would be left would be to pursue legal remedies against the miner, typically with an insufficient financial condition (see my #2) based and managed in a foreign place (eg, here Canada) whose only reported real asset is the mine everyone wants to close that just revealed such a problem. Remember the old Broadway musical that they made into a Clint Eastwood movie called “Paint Your Wagon” about Nevada City gold mining? It ends with the whole town collapsing into the miners’ underground diggings. I hope that is not prophecy, but it illustrates one more topic in the disputed DEIR where there is no reliable or sufficient information. As to why that matters, besides our peace of mind and safety, consider question: what is your real estate broker going to tell a buyer about when you try to sell your house above or around the 2585 acre underground mine here? I do not think the answer will be, “don’t worry, the DEIR reassures us all.”

Contrary to the disputed DEIR and other propaganda from the mine, even their own admissions cited in this Objection and others are sufficient to defeat the DEIR (see, eg, my #'s 2, 13, and 14). For example, consider that **this Objection and other challenge the disputed DEIR protective or safety assurances or mitigations, and, even apart from the merits, none are sufficient, credible, or feasible, when and if Rise cannot afford them, as shown by Rise’s admissions (and its own accountant’s “going concern qualification” to its audited financials)**

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in Rise's SEC Forms current 10K and 10Q filings. See, eg, my #2 and 13. That means us locals are even more likely to suffer even worse from the menace of a noncompliant and worse 2585-acre mine underground mine underneath them, blasting, mining, dewatering our groundwater, exposing us to hexavalent chromium toxic cement shoring, and otherwise burdening, risking, and harming us and our environment. What this Objection also demonstrates to those distant from the objectionable mine burdens, risks, and harms of concern to us locals, is why government decisionmakers should factor into their analysis continuing local resistance may expand if and as needed with appropriate self-defense legal and political counters and other competition if government were mistakenly to approve the disputed DEIR and the mine. See my # 3.N. We cannot afford to suffer the mine to continue imposing such burdens, risks, and harms to our real estate values, our homes, our water, air, safety, and environment, and even our community way of life. When distant decisionmakers consider that reality, then CEQA asks (and the DEIR has no sufficient answer, although its partial answer in its "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" at 4.3-103—104 is bad enough): what happens if the mine starts and then, as seems inevitable, stops well short of its 80-year run? That answer is that we would all be worse off than if the mine had never started, but less in misery than if the mining continued. Since the manufacturing/business site Alternative avoids all this conflict, I urge the decisionmakers to disregard the meritless dismissal of that normal business site DEIR Alternative at DEIR # 6 rejected by the mine advocates for no satisfactory reason. (The DEIR preferred fallback Alternative in #6 [the idea of just dropping the Centennial Industrial Site] won't work, because in reality it's not a separate project, but an integrated part of the one mine project, and cutting it out would mean a total rewrite of the whole DEIR to conform to that reality and comply with CEQA. More importantly, that DEIR preferred Alternative does not resolve any of my Objections, since most are focused on the 2585-acre underground mining, although I am not excusing the Centennial asbestos, pollution, noise, traffic, and other objections which are also sufficient to reject the DEIR. See my #14 and my supplemental brief.)

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B. Some Other Ways To Illustrate And Calculate Examples Of The Many Risks, Burdens, And Detriments That Reduce Any Alleged Mine Benefits

Please consult the many places in this Objection where I list and explain major concerns like using hexavalent chromium to shore up the mine, the burdens, risks, and harms depressing local real estate valuations as confirming proof of other mining impacts like subsidence and safety, water supply and quality problems and our local defensive water competition issues in the worsening climate change dryness and drought, air quality problems, excessive traffic, noise, and vibration problems, surface owner/user competition and legal and political conflicts with the underground mining, future vs past DEIR analysis errors, and scores of other locals' objections, unknowns not disclosed. Even limited to three minutes each at the hearing, it took all day on March 24, 2022, for more than 100 objectors to identify their scores of common and unique concerns. (I expect many will follow up with many more written objections, most of which seemed meritorious.) There are also many other burdens, problems, and risks the community could suffer, including those identified by other local objectors and some even admitted (but understated or incorrectly dismissed as trivial) by the disputed DEIR like constant big truck traffic (ie, 50 to 100 a day) harm to roads and other



↑ stresses on local infrastructure from the kind of 24/7/365 for 80 plus years of intense operations of a type government generally does not tolerate by even more beneficial local businesses.

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Please also study the admitted financial reasons why even the deficient DEIR protections and mitigations do not appear credible or feasible, because the Rise SEC 10K and 10Q filings show a current inability of this miner to accomplish even what is insufficient things are assumed or planned in the disputed DEIR. See my # 2. In any event, whenever the mining stops for any reason, whether at 80 years, or if overwhelmed or underfunded, or just retreating when the mine is exhausted, or otherwise, as noted above, the disputed DEIR does not adequately address what happens when and if the mine stops without completing the assumed final remediation and cleanup. See DEIR's only and deficient such discussion at 4.3-103-04, which I analyze elsewhere. There are sad reasons why major such "bad ending" problems exist in the more than 40,000 California abandoned mines on the EPA website, and no "net benefit" can be calculated in favor of a mine as to which there is no credible assurance of funding everything promised or assumed "from start to finish" even in the deficient DEIR, much less what more would be required by the time the usual legal and political disputes are completed. State another way, it is less speculative for us to assume such a bad ending for such a disputed DEIR mine, than it is for the DEIR to speculate that somehow it can find the money needed to accomplish even what the DEIR planned, much less the other things that will be required if the mine continuous its continuously disputed process.

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The "opportunity costs" of such a profit exporting, exploitive mining business (such as what CEQA and the disputed DEIR call "cumulative impacts") include crowding out more desirable local businesses and residential opportunities to improve our community. That opportunity cost adds to the other risks, burdens, and harms on our exploited existing community, our existing resisting residents, and discouraging new additions and tourists. For example, because there will be progressively stricter regulatory standards limiting what community air pollution or water pollution or depletion, or other environmental stresses are tolerated here (see also my # 3.N), this "no net benefit" DEIR mine will prevent many new businesses or residents from coming to add even their small parts to our cumulative, community environmental tolerance limits. **Incidentally, those who are more focused on the small number of mining jobs than on the vastly greater number of us locals harmed by the mine above and around that 2585-acre underground area or the larger groundwater impact zone or real estate value lost-stigma zone beyond that, should consider this reality about the disputed DEIR mine: More construction jobs will be lost by inability to develop those residential and commercial properties in such areas, because of the impairment of real estate values from the mine and the reasons why such stigmas exist on the merits.**

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↓ As another community-mine conflict issue, consider what happens when government tells our people that they can no longer use their wood stoves or burn their leaves and fire defense cuttings, because the DEIR mine has exhausted the margin of that local bad air tolerance capacity? Stated another way, because there will be many increasingly strict limits on the aggregate or cumulative impositions on our local environment, there should be some way of allocating that limited environmental tolerance capacity favoring/prioritizing local residents and the new additions we need for new human additions, tourists, and better businesses (and



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subordinating such no net benefit mining as the first thing to be shut down.) See my # 3.N. Otherwise, this no net benefit mine could crowd out the rest of those more desirable uses for its own uses, and our whole community will suffer for it, until, as discussed in my # 3.N, the courts or our local law reform political efforts correct the situation with wiser such priorities and limit the mine's burdens, risks, and harms.

These DEIR mine problems could become an even greater threat if this mine is allowed to set such a negative precedent for such negative uses in our community. If this DEIR were approved our area would become a magnet for every other undesirable, polluter/exploiter looking for some target opportunity. Then the argument of more mines and other undesirable businesses will become that this is no longer an idyllic community, but rather just another expendable industrial area to be exploited. Want a case study to prove that? Look at what happened down in the Bay Area to Richmond after Chevron and Benicia after Valero. Stated more harshly, once one such exploitive and environmentally harmful and risky business is allowed, others will come knocking and arguing, not that they are desirable, but rather that the area has changed for the worse, and, since they are not as bad as this DEIR mine, they can jump our new "low bar" for approval.

C. Why Imagined Mine Benefits Are Less Than Alleged In the Disputed DEIR Or Illusory.

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While the DEIR mine might provide some small number of mining jobs for people from who knows where, if it finds the funds somewhere to actually reopen and operate (see my #2), the cost per additional worker is massive compared to what those jobs cost our community, as discussed above. Remember that those number of workers (and all the other locals imagined receiving alleged benefits from the mine) are trivial compared to the massive number of existing local residents and voters in this suburban (not rural as the DEIR claims) community, all whose real estate values have already suffered, not to mention the other coming burdens, risks, and harms described in this and other objections. In making that cost/benefit comparison one needs to recall that the disputed DEIR generally treats this "project" as if it's just the small Brunswick and (despite their meritless effort to separate it) the Centennial) sites, plus 30 well properties along East Bennett Road, instead of the reality, which is that PLUS the whole 2585-acre underground mine, above which thousands of us residents and voters live on the surface above and around that underground mining and in the broader groundwater impact zones or even broader still real estate stigma zones all around them, who will suffer daily and continuously resist for 24/7/365 for 80 plus years or until the mining stops again (as has since the mine closed in 1956.)

For the county officials making decisions from a safe distance and who might be tempted to address this as an abstract policy question or mistakenly give the disputed DEIR the undeserved benefit of some doubt, please consider this and other objections, especially what I said in my prior sections above and my analogy to what the California Supreme Court said in its *Varjabedian v. Madera* decision about the local sewer plant's disproportional harms to the locals downwind. Even if this mining project were for the public benefit (like a sewer plant), which it is not, and were not just for the private benefit of its foreign owners' profits (see my # 2), there are legal (as well as political) limits on what majority of the safe and distant imagined



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beneficiaries of a local project can impose on the harmed local's unlucky to live nearby. As here, where the problems could affect us such locals 24/7/365 for 80 plus years, these continuous harms, burdens, and risks are not the kind of theoretical or ideological impositions that can be or will be forgiven or forgotten, since mining approval means those detriments described above, such as losing value in our homes, environmental quality, and the quiet enjoyment of our properties and community.

Conflicts, like those chronic and enduring legal and political disputes and competitions that would be unleashed by any disputed DEIR and mine approval, are not just divisive, but they are also distracting and expensive for our local and county governments and the rest of us (and bad for tourism and real estate values; who wants to be described as the "next Hinkley" to suffer from hexavalent chromium in our water?) This is not the time for that kind of endless battling to be triggered by approving a DEIR mine with no net benefits and all these demonstrated, and even some admitted, adverse consequences and insufficient or illusory mitigations. Because until the mine threat stops us local victims of the mine must be expected continuously and indefinitely to exercise our competing legal and political rights to resist the DEIR mine risks and harms and to protect our property, environment, and community way of life above and around the 2585-acre mine (and in the groundwater depletion impact and other stigma areas around that, where real estate values will also be depressed), approval of the DEIR mine by government starts intense legal and political conflicts and competitions at a time when our community and country need no more conflicts and division. See my # 3.N.

One of many problems any approving government will have is that once our real estate values are depressed, our environment and quality of life is harmed and at risk of worse, and our groundwater and NID water is being wasted on this mine during the perpetual climate change dryness and drought, how do our governments manage such intractable continuing conflicts thereafter? Getting caught in such legal and political crossfires and competitions is going to be bad for government, as well as the rest of us. No one should want our government budgets diverted to the legal costs associated with the endless legal and political conflicts and competitions this DEIR would trigger and continue. Once approved the DEIR mine has been given rights by our government, the miner can be expected to defend them, although not as vigorously as us locals defend our homes, environment, and community (see my # 3.N). Such competitions and conflicts will force governments to take sides, which then becomes the single dominate issue in every election until the mining stops. Consider us locals did not come (or stay) here for the mining, nor has anyone else for generations. We can for the quality of life, environment, and community that we love, and now this foreign miner, who will never be part of our community, wants to deprive us locals of what we already have.

At the local level that means more than just massive, "single-issue voting" by thousands of us anti-mine locals, since, for example, I cannot imagine ever voting again for or supporting any mine supporting politician of any party. But, as discussed in section 3.N above, local mine opponents will have a legislative agenda for law reform for regulating the mining and related threats, risks, and problems until the mining stops. Remember, for those of us at risk of these harms, approval of the mine would mean stripping away important things away from us that we now enjoy. That is especially intolerable when there is no corresponding "net benefit" to anyone locally or even in the County to justify us even considering making such any such sacrifice. If this DEIR mining happens, there will be endless "I told you so" situations to haunt



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any pro-mine politicians, some of whom many of us could otherwise favor for other issues, but not as long as the mining exists.

Once the mine has started and while the courts and other forums are deciding what to do about that in the context of various different kinds of legal and political disputes and competitions beyond CEQA that are predictable from time to time, there will be an intense focus will become on monitoring and enforcing compliance with applicable laws and regulations. All of us local objectors will be exercising our public records and other monitoring rights and systematically collecting data and evidence on noncompliance events or conditions and other "I told you so" situations. That is where the interim conflicts with government officials become most likely. It would be unusual (at best) if this mine's operations went as smoothly as imagined in this disputed DEIR. In my experience none of the more 40,000 California abandoned mines on the EPA list probably adequately warned the applicable governments or public in advance of the risks and problems that stopped the mines typically after causing much local misery, often on the despicable theory of predators that it's better to ask forgiveness than permission. Therefore, when there are compliance problems, the key question becomes: does government enforcement accommodate such situations as they would for a beneficial local business, or does government enforcement use its power to progressively enforce such laws and regulations to minimize the burdens, harms, and risks to us locals for DEIR mining that should never have been approved in the first place? That is the choice every politician and every voter must make for the next 80 plus years, while us locals are suffering under 24/7/365 burdens, risks, and harms addressed in this and other objections. If that is too expensive and counterproductive for our local government, then don't approve the DEIR or the mine. In any case, we'll want officials who are interested in money saving collaborations with us locals consistent with our stated concerns to rigorously enforce all applicable laws and permit conditions without any waivers, plea bargains, or other excuses.

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If this sounds too abstract, consider one example. One legal and political battle will be over access to information about the mine's compliance and operations. Us citizens who are at risk of harm will be seeking various ways to monitor the mine and to collect, assess, and defensively use information and evidence, especially when such data contradicts the DEIR or proves the truth of what objectors like me are expressing. What us local voters will want is the election and appointment of officials who will aggressively monitor and enforce compliance and investigate citizen complaints and problems. (Note, as explained elsewhere, putting up monitors along East Bennett Road or the surface borders of the Brunswick or Centennial sites is almost meaningless to the real burdens, risks, and harms that concern those of us living above or around the 2585-acre underground mine, which is where the real monitoring is needed, although, if I were NID, I would be testing all the purportedly treated mine water released downriver into the Wolf Creek for fear not only of human errors, or storms or other conditions that defeat adequate treatment, but because of what toxins may still be in that water which many will no longer want to use, even if, at present, some industry sympathetic regulator imagines that the toxic level is tolerable. (Standards often change too late, based on harms done to prove the errors in existing lax standards, as one may note by study of the hexavalent chromium threat the disputed DEIR wants to inject into this mine cement paste shoring for the 2585-acre underground mine after the Erin Brockovich reality horror movie inspired the



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↑ thousands of studies now posted on the EPA website or available in a simple Google search or explained in the European Union ban coming in 2024.)

5. **Even the Disputed DEIR's Own "Hydrology And Water Quality" Admissions (eg, #4.8, and other scattered DEIR data analyzed by my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M, and D, G, and H, as to the CR+6 Threats) Illustrate the DEIR's Comprehensive Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies Regarding Supply, Depletion, "Drawdown," "Recharge," And Other Water Problems Much More Wide-Spread And Serious Than the 30 East Bennett Road Dry Wells: Some Inconvenient Truths The DEIR Ignores About the Dangerous Future "New Normal" Of Drought And Climate Change Worsened By Underground Blasting, Tunneling, Rock Removal, And Other Mining, And Also By NID Water Waste For 24/7/365 For 80-Years, Etc.**

- A. **An Introductory Overview Illustrating Some of the Many Water Related Objections To the DEIR That Evade the Real Burdens, Risks, And Harms In Our "New Normal" By Pretending the Past Is A Reliable Guide To the Future (See my # 3.M).**

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If this dispute DEIR and mine approval process advances to the next dispute stages, experts will battle over many, complex technical surface and ground water issues. Such disputes often will not involve "apples to apples debates," because the disputed DEIR attempts to limit the debate to its almost exclusive analysis of the past and an artificially small part of the CEQA "project" that largely ignores us living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, while us potential victim neighbors and locals and our community are focused on the "new normal" we face in the future and our competition with the mine for groundwater and NID water as supplies diminish. (I said almost because the disputed DEIR misuses some NID surface water/weather data until 2040, as discussed in my # 3.M, but asserting beyond that the either nothing changes thereafter or CEQA excuses the DEIR from speculating on what would happen as the mine continues to deplete our groundwater thereafter for the rest of the 80-years; in effect, transferring the risk of what they call the unknown to us local residents who have our own rights to that depleted groundwater.) As explained in many places in this Objection, the largely irrelevant, unreliable, and even misleading past on which the disputed DEIR relies (eg, average rainfall between 1967 and 2017 that cannot predict our groundwater recharge rate or "balancing") is no longer a reliable guide to a future that science and our experiences assure us will be different and much worse as we confront and react to chronic and massive drought, wildfires, climate change, and other calamities almost entirely ignored by the DEIR. Hint: any government decisionmakers should have someone highlight all the places where the disputed DEIR conditions critical predictions, assumptions, and conclusions (which we objectors refute) with words like "under existing conditions." The reality is that the future is certain to change in ways that make such qualifications and the entire DEIR useless or worse in assessing the coming burdens, risks, and harms to thousands of us locals and our community impacted by the 2585-acre underground

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mine. Among the many reasons for that are also such changes that will occur from the new, expanded, and deeper 24/7/365 mining itself into unknown (or unrevealed) underground conditions, as well as from drought, climate change, and other future problems almost entirely ignored by the disputed DEIR and its advocates.

As noted in more detail in the next subsection below, the errors, omissions, and deficiencies of the disputed DEIR regarding NID and groundwater are compounded by the fact that they are scattered throughout many sections of the DEIR, frequently providing inconsistent or contrary data, and obscuring inconvenient truths that the DEIR should, but refuses to, address in a comprehensive and integrated discussion of the many disputes and issues. See my # 14 and my supplemental CEQA rebuttal brief. If this section (or my illustrative statement of DEIR facts and contentions for rebuttal in my objections above) seem to contain repetitive data from some other parts of this Objection, I apologize, but I blame the disputed DEIR's scattered approach to which I was compelled to respond in two ways: once in the various places where the DEIR chose to bury important water data in places outside the labeled water discussion in DEIR # 4.8 (where people expect it all to be revealed), and, secondly, here where I can provide some clarity by a more comprehensive or detailed discussion of water issues (or at least some helpful cross-references lacking in the DEIR) that the DEIR chooses to separate and obscure.

What this Objection attempts to do is to remind the applicable governments that, if one were to mistakenly believe the disputed DEIR or its advocates (which many of us affected locals do not believe for reasons explained in our objections), the DEIR incorrectly claims this water supply depletion and waste issue is merely about drying up 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road. Wrong and worse. First, by ignoring the chronic droughts and adverse climate change effects, the disputed DEIR ignores the predictable responses when the rest of us start competing with the mine both (i) for NID water in shortages, and (ii) for our groundwater under our owned surface properties, including those of us owning and using the surface above and around the 2585-acres being mined underneath us. While the mine disposes of precious water as dewatering mine waste to be treated and discarded somewhere else downriver in the Wolf Creek, the rest of us need that water for our own use, as well as our forests, plants, and environment that are already drying out and increasing our fire and fire smoke risks. When NID is no longer able to supply our local needs, locals here will certainly do what everyone else in the State is doing in areas where there is suddenly insufficient water from their water company: they drill competing wells to survive on the groundwater they already own. What is a small number of dry wells today will become a huge number of competing wells for thousands of us in the future, especially if the State or other governments do what happened last time when we had two-hundred-year droughts in a row: limit water deliveries to locals (eg, 50 gallons a person) so that our water can be shipped to even more desperate places, even when they don't deserve it (eg, think desert golf courses and grass yards, subsidized cotton farms, and profitable almond farms), because they caused much of their own shortages by tolerating waste like this mine. (Note: I lived in Orinda at that time when our East Bay MUD water was limited to 50 gallons a person a day, because much of our water was piped to Marin County instead, which had sabotaged by neglect their own water supply to obstruct real estate development, and people began to drill self-defense wells.) While this will be a challenge for any government, this disputed DEIR mine dewatering and "wastewater" disposal somewhere else down Wolf Creek will make our community conflict problems much worse (see my # 3.N), especially when one

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↑ considers the hexavalent chromium threat and other water quality concerns (see my # 3.C, G, and H and 7).

Second, the “existing conditions” and past data (irrelevant or misleading rain average between 1967 and 2017) on which the disputed DEIR relies are certain to change because of the new, expanded, and deeper mining itself. Who knows what lurks in the 2585-acre mine depths unaddressed in the DEIR or assumed without satisfactory analysis of the impacts and risks for us locals? You don't need to be an expert to fear that the proposed 24/7/365 blasting, tunneling, digging, rock removal, processing, and the rest itself will change the “existing conditions” qualifications so common in this DEIR, especially when the whole mine is to be shored up with hexavalent chromium cement. Even more absurdly, this disputed DEIR also begins this mining of that 2585-acre underground mine with no idea of its “existing conditions” since it closed and flooded in 1956. The governments will need to share information from both the insufficient DEIR monitoring and the additional monitoring imposed by locals legal or political defense activities, because it's too late and limited protection for local victims when the future realities become apparent by discovery that our fears were correct when some predictable disaster strikes. That is when government and the courts will have to struggle at a more intense level over the competing rights of us surface locals and our community versus the mine which has no net benefit to us locals or our community that outweighs its burdens, risks, and harms.

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This section demonstrates some basic related flaws in the disputed DEIR with illustrations that expose some of the DEIR's more obvious strategic errors, omissions, and deficiencies. My purpose is to provide some background examples proving the merit of the hard water questions that the applicable governments must ask (See my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M, 14, and 15.), as well as to illustrate how the disputed DEIR continuously misdirects and evades the critical realities without addressing even the obvious questions of concern to the neighbors and local community. This goes far beyond 30 dry wells along East Bennett Road and focuses on the areas above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, such as those addressed in my such cited Objection sections to include our concerns about lowering the water table and harming the forests and environment here that are already suffering from drought, insects, and other climate change problems. Such abuse of our surface by water depletion, drainage away to distant places down Wolf Creek, and waste will worsen the other environmental conditions the disputed DEIR understates, ignores, or deficiently addresses. For example, by drying out the surface by lowering the water table with such water depletion and waste, the DEIR is increasing our fire and fire smoke risks, which in turn makes our air quality and health more at risk. We live in an interactive “environmental system” where harm to one central part like water sufficiency and quality threatens significant adverse effects on the other parts like air quality (eg, fire smoke) or water quality (see my # 3.C, D, E, F, G, H, J, and M, 6, 7, and 10.)

Consider the entire underground area of the 2585-acre mine that is largely neglected by the DEIR (but not by the affected community), where the DEIR's **admitted facts inefficiently** describe 2585-acres of planned underground blasting, drilling, tunneling, rock removal, Cr+6 cement shoring, and other activities 24/7/365 for 80 years (see, eg, my #'s 3, A, B, C, D, E, F G, H, and M, and 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12.) with 72.8 miles of underground tunnels (7.5—8.5 feet wide) so far, without any satisfactory limitations on how such threats could expand and worsen by the new, deeper, and expanded mining into unknown parts of that area. By analogy, imagine a

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bucket with holes (ie, the water drains and pump system) once full of water needed to remain full of our jointly owned groundwater level needed both to sustain surface wells and our home forest and other life and essential environmental conditions on the surface and to even avoid subsidence and maintain the legally required "subjacent support" and "lateral support" (see my # 4 and 14) of those of us living on the surface above the 3585-acre underground mine, all of which is generally ignored and evaded in the disputed DEIR. (When I say forests, I am not referring to what the DEIR incorrectly describes as a rural situation, but rather the fact that, for example, thousands of affected residents of Banner Mountain like me live in homes surrounded by big trees. For example, as is typical for the whole area, in the fenced acre around my suburban house I have 48 trees over 50 feet tall [many heirloom ancient], with more in my other two acres.) See also my discussions of the subsidence and other impacts on surface and near surface infrastructure and improvements, when the subjacent or lateral support is impaired by such drainage, including such legal issues ignored by the disputed DEIR, because, among other things, DEIR ignores the massive problem by attempting to limit the debate to such 30 dry wells along East Bennett Road. What the disputed DEIR proposes to do is to drain water from that local area "bucket" continuously 24/7/365 for 80 years on the unproven and disputed idea that somehow sufficient "recharge" water (eg, imagined average rainfall from 1967 to 2017) will replace all that drained **and wasted** water as fast as it is transferred elsewhere downriver by the Wolf Creek, maintaining the illusion of theoretical "balance" that the disputed DEIR incorrectly attempts to assume (not promise or prove) in DEIR # 4.8 and other places where the DEIR has scattered that data.

Notice that the disputed DEIR attempts to justify this massive depletion, drainage, transfer, and waste by looking back into the DEIR's disputed version of the irrelevant **past** and its selected and disputed historical studies, while ignoring the unprecedented, "new normal" reality of coming **future** drought and climate change problems. The reason that the "bucket" metaphor is apt is that groundwater does not readily or timely rebalance itself (like the ocean does) when there is such drainage, because, as even the DEIR admits, there are unknown underground conditions that generally limit the local area groundwater replenishing itself from distant sources when the local water (the bucket) seeps into the mine to be drained, pumped away, and wasted in the Wolf Creek. That is why the disputed DEIR mentions (but does not helpfully apply) concepts, such as "transmissivity" and "hydraulic conductivity," which complicate and obstruct "balancing" of the underground water levels by drawing from more distant places. The point for now is that the future here (as has already been proven in the Central Valley, Bakersfield, and elsewhere) is not "recharge" or "balance," but chronic depletion 24/7/365 for 80 plus years that creates many environmental problems on our surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, as well as "subsidence" threats to surface infrastructure and improvements deprived of subjacent support.

What the disputed DEIR proposes will create local burdens, problems, and risks that are not considered or satisfactorily addressed in the DEIR, such as what lessons can be learned (and must be applied in any final EIR) from other places in California where groundwater depletion not only worsens the impacts of chronic drought and climate change, but by reducing subjacent and lateral support causes subsidence that drops the surface level by many feet, harming or threatening surface (or near surface) homes, infrastructure, and improvements. While the soil and aquifer conditions are different from here in such Bakersfield and Central Valley areas, the



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↑ scientific principles are the same. See admissions at DEIR #4.8-16, where it notes that “hydraulic conductivity” related to the “permeability of the overall aquifer zone” is usually addressed for “porous media, such as sand and gravel type aquifers”: “but they are also applied to fractured bedrock aquifers when there is a sufficient degree of fracturing and interconnections between fractures.” That means water depletion and subsidence can also occur throughout this fractured rock aquifer area, and, since the DEIR has no adequate study of the actual underground condition that now exist or that its new, expanded, and deeper mining will create, there is nothing in the DEIR to ease our concerns. Think of it this way, if again you put a hole in the bottom side of the bucket (aquifer), that will empty the whole bucket, not just the original 2585-acre mined area water. Everyone depending on that fractured rock aquifer water suffers as the whole area water level drops (absent illusory recharge assumptions from average rain between 1967 and 2017). Considering the depth at which this mining (ie, the 24/7/365 blasting, digging, tunneling, rock removal, pumping, and dewatering process) occurs, the burdens, risks, and harms could be massive over such 80 years, far beyond both the mine owned surface boundaries (which are the only things that the disputed DEIR even purports to address besides the 30 East Bennett Road wells) and above and around the 2585-acre underground mine and even beyond that, since it is unknown what new groundwater problems the old mine repair or the new, expanded, and deeper mining will create.

No one should take seriously as a CEQA compliant “good faith” attempt to analyze these issues a disputed DEIR, whose essential erroneous premise is that the future risks and problems for the next 80 years can be judged from past history like average rain between 1967-2017, since any rational and reasonably well informed person can see that we now face unprecedented underground and NID water risks and problems that make such backward looking analysis irrelevant, materially misleading, and dangerous. For example, if one Googles even casually about groundwater depletion from pumping or about related “subsidence” (or more technically removal of “subjacent support”) one will find many government and scientific reports and studies about these calamities, such as addressed in California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, largely ignored by the disputed DEIR (a complex debate I leave to the other objectors more expert on the science), which may eventually “grow teeth” and greater relevance against such water abuses here long before the 80 years expire. While these problems are currently most obvious where they are devastating the Central Valley, Bakersfield, etc, the disputed DEIR is bringing those problems right here to Grass Valley, and that horror reality show is the history that is more relevant than the climate change ignoring DEIR’s focus on the “good old days” of environmental abuses by the mining industry.

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↓ If the disputed DEIR imagines some reason why this mine area will be different, the burden of proof and persuasion should be on the DEIR to prove that to us locals with clear and convincing evidence. So far, all we have is evasion or ignoring of these key issues without anything convincing at all. For example, because the disputed DEIR seeks to export our groundwater away from us and our aquifer for 80 plus years to places downstream in the Wolf Creek, where does the water come from that the DEIR imagines to replace/recharge what they have taken away from us and (from the perspective of those of us concerned about water as an essential local public resource, and because we surface property owners own that groundwater below our homes) wasted? (ie, where does the replacement/recharge water come from for this imagined “balancing” of our own underground water pumped out of our local area and aquifer



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to some other place where it does us no good here?) As should be irrefutable and as illustrated by the diminished state of the aquifers in other with excessive pumping in the Central Valley, Bakersfield, and elsewhere, there is no balancing; just increasing depletion and subsidence at an increasing deficit as climate change and drought dry out our land. While such other competitive pumping at least is for local human benefits and growing crops etc, as demonstrated in the case of this mine (my # 4), there is no such net benefit here for such DEIR depletion and waste of our precious water for mine profits to export to its foreign investors. Government planners should ask how many important and locally beneficial projects will be rejected in the future 80 years, because of insufficient water on account of this disputed DEIR waste to dewater their mine. See, eg, my #'s 4, 8, and 14.

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The point for now is that there is a large local area (where I live) at huge risk above and around this massive 2585-acre underground mine, and my whole fractured rock aquifer (ie, the whole "bucket") even before the new mining expands and deepens further (see my # 3.A, D, F, and M, discussing DEIR admissions, errors, deficiencies, and omissions), and none of the key concerns of those of us potential victims are satisfactorily addressed in the disputed DEIR or elsewhere (eg, in the Rise mining data in its 10K discussed in my #2.) Worse, since the DEIR has not alerted us neighbors in the impact, risk, and stigma zones of those direct threats to our 200 deep feet surface rights that include groundwater at all depths (eg, nothing in the DEIR adequately identifies where the surface addresses are above the 2585-acre underground mine, which the disputed DEIR incorrectly ignores generally as if it were not part of this "project"). See, eg, my # 4 and 3.N, discussing how surface owners and users above and around the underground mine will suffer from loss of real estate value and marketability, as well as environmental burdens, risks, and problems. Why is that basic surface versus 2585-acre underground mine information not shared in this DEIR process? Is it because the disputed DEIR hopes to obtain its approvals and permits before the mine's local surface neighbors fully appreciate such threats to their individual homes and environment, not just generally to their community?

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The applicable governments should also consider the problem of "subsidence" from the blasting and removal of the underground rock depriving us surface owners and users (eg, utilities, roads, public improvements, etc.) of the essential subjacent support they depend upon and have legal rights to expect and protect. See my above legal discussion and my # 4 and 5, 6, 8, 12, and 14. Such problems will not only harm our community, but also our local taxes that should be spent on better things will be applied to fixing problems created by the disputed DEIR for the benefit of exporting profits to generally foreign investors. See my # 3.N, 2, and 4. While water does not provide the same subjacent support as the rock did, it is clearly better than nothing, which is what seems to be happening here when both the rock and the water are removed from supporting the surface. See my # 3.A. The reason that it is so important to stop this mine before it starts operating is that most of us victims' more effective legal remedies are delayed until we suffer damages and are then triggered by the impact of such harms on us. When such concerning harms and risks occur, all that is left will for us victims will be the typically disappointing litigation recoveries for harms done and court and/or governmental orders to stop mining and causing further harms. Unfortunately, as I have demonstrated from bankruptcy and cross-border insolvency cases (see my #1), the usual result illustrated in a long set of precedents in unrelated prior industry scandals is that the local miner exports its profits



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to the foreign investor beneficiaries and then, when the mine is now longer profitable, it is commonly abandoned or dumped into a bankruptcy (and sometimes cross-border bankruptcy), resulting almost always in disappointing recoveries for the local victims. There are sad reasons why there are more than 40,000 abandoned mines in this State on the EPA list that no one is cleaning up and that continue to be a blight on their local communities. If this disputed DEIR is to be an exception to this horrible tradition, why is the DEIR not making that case that it is the exceptional "good actor" in a scandal prone industry, as opposed to the DEIR dodging the key issues as if it were hoping the locals at risk would not notice until it was too late or hoping our elected representatives would not care enough to protect us locals from such disputed DEIRs and mining burdens, risks, and harms to which our community is now alerting those officials?

B. Admitted DEIR Water Data Conceals Massive Unaddressed Issues, Errors, And Omissions, And the DEIR Fails To Reveal The Underlying Assumptions And Artificial Limitations On Which the DEIR Bases Many Flawed Conclusions, Contentions, And Assumptions We Locals Dispute.

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Among the most serious DEIR deficiencies is the failure not only to identify and address the real groundwater and NID water issues, but to spread out the often-conflicting scattered water and related data in unclear, confusing, and hard to reconcile ways in many different sections of the DEIR without links or cross-references, and often without common usage of terms or data to make understanding easy. See my # 14 and my supplemental CEQA brief citing cases forbidding that kind of DEIR game. Any serious reader comes away from reading one DEIR water discussion by saying not only "yes, but what about" certain errors and omission, but also "how does that match what you said in that other section" somewhere in the 1500 plus page DEIR maze? Compare the location of various water related admissions that I quote and dispute in this Objection, and government decisionmakers will begin to understand that, whether it is intentional or not, the mine advocates could not have made any understanding of the disputed DEIR water issues any more difficult if they tried to do so as a tactic. Just consider this one critical example, by studying pages 4.11-35 to 52 in the DEIR's "Public Services And Utilities" # 4.11 (where, in discussing NID water supply issues they approach some realities more realistically than elsewhere, although deficiently, the DEIR is more revealing than in the frustrating and intensely disputed 83 page discussion in "Hydrology And Water Quality" # 4.8 (where there is no sufficient attempt to reconcile that mine data with that NID discussion or even other conflicting and disputed water discussions scattered in many other DEIR sections.) Among the interesting credibility challenges in this process is the following [slightly annotated to expose the disputed DEIR bait and switch game] quote at 4.11-39 to 43 from a subsection of that "Public Services And Utilities" section called "Projected Water Supplies" wherein the DEIR admits some limits (who knows what exactly, because most of the underlying disputed DEIR assumptions underlying its disputed projections are apparently buried in the lengthy reference materials the DEIR selected to support its disputed DEIR conclusions or assumptions):

Projected Water Supplies. Table 4.11-5 provides a summary of the District's projected supply entitlements [through 2040]. [The relevance for this Objection in the following quotes lies in the unaddressed conflicts between NID's analysis of surface water



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supplies, since NID does not use groundwater, as discussed elsewhere, and the DEIR's intensely disputed and, frankly, absurd, groundwater "recharge" assumptions which ignore climate change and credible science in order elsewhere in the DEIR incorrectly to predict the future from the average rainfall between 1967 and 2017 instead of the "new normal" used by responsible scientists, governments, and businesses to predict a chronically drier and drought harmed future.]

Water Code section 10910(c)(4) requires that a WSA [Water Supply Assessment, on which the DEIR mistakenly relies in cites throughout its disputed texts regarding water, and, therefore, which misapplies the NID's different standards than CEQA and other relevant laws to this mine's imagined and disputed ability to recharge the ground water it depletes and sends somewhere else downriver in Wolf Creek.] include a discussion with regard to "whether total projected water supplies, determined to be available by the city or county for the project, in addition to existing and planned water demand associated with the proposed project...." Accordingly, the WSA addresses these three hydrological conditions through the year 2040 ... in Table 4.11-6. [The disputed DEIR then purports to "summarize" "projected availability" from the District's existing and planned future supplies THAT DO NOT INCLUDE GROUNDWATER OR ACCURATELY ADDRESS THE MINE'S LOCAL GROUNDWATER DEPLETION AND RECHARGE, but instead focus on] ... the District's projected water demands in normal, single dry and multiple dry years throughout buildout. [As elsewhere this DEIR compares "apples to oranges," since it is focused on the NID general service area demands from NID's surface water sources as distinct from rain recharging the massive groundwater depletion in one local area in and around the 2585-acre underground mine from 24/7/365 dewatering for 80 years, not the 20 years/2040 limit NID uses for different purposes under a different law than CEQA applying to water districts.] As shown, demand within NID's service area is expected to exceed the District's supplies from 2025 to 2040 during Single Dry Years and in the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year period from 2025 to 2040. [This is confusing since this DEIR paragraph at 4.11-39 begins with a "20-year projection" and shifts to the 15-year period "from 2025 to 2040." Throughout this Objection I make reference to the lethal DEIR flaw of it limiting its perspective to this 2040 or 20-year cut off, as if somehow it is entitled either to ignore the last 60 or 65 years of its 80-year mining binge and/or, perhaps, to assume that the DEIR can assume the whole 80 year period matches the first disputed 15 or 20 year flawed and misleading projections ending in 2040. For convenience and simplicity, I often just say "20 years" to avoid addressing this complexity and confusion every time it occurs. Since 20 years is better for the DEIR's disputed theory than 15 years, the DEIR advocates should not complain (but somehow, I expect they may anyway.)]

Factors contributing to inconsistency in NID's water supplies include legal limitations due to water rights and contracts limiting the quantity of water available to the District, environmental constraints, and reductions in availability due to climatic factors. The surface water supply to NID is subject to reductions during single and multiple dry years (seasonal and climatic shortages). ... [These same kinds of limitations apply with equal



and often greater force to the existing and future competition for groundwater around the 2585-acre underground mine by locals like me, as demonstrated elsewhere in this and other Objections, but the DEIR inconsistently ignores any discussion of groundwater rights disputes and limits, except for a distracting and disputed discussion of the 30 or so wells along East Bennett Road. Since the DEIR recognizes these factors here (with even a rare mention of the bare word "climate"), why not address the matters where it matters most, as the DEIR or mine approval would trigger competition and legal and political disputes with us locals over groundwater as to which we have at least equal, if not superior, rights.]

Water Supply Sufficiency. Pursuant to Water Code section 10910(c)(4) and based on the technical analyses describe in the WSA prepared for the proposed project, the total projected water supplies determined to be available for the proposed project during Normal water years during a 15-year projection would meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project. (emphasis added) [Again, this incorrect general conclusion appears to be a bait and switch as above, since that WSA etc analysis is focused on NID general supplies from surface water; and not on recharge to our local groundwater from mine depletion from dewatering 24/7/365 for 80 years during a time when the old "normal" of the disputed DEIR no longer exists because of climate change, unprecedented dryness and drought, and greater competition from locals accessing their own groundwater rights from above and around the 2585-acre underground mine. While we also dispute the sufficiency of NID supplies to the mine for no net benefit to the community, as described elsewhere here, the above discussion and others in this Objection demonstrate the errors, omissions, and deficiencies in this DEIR.] ... Therefore, [with the DEIR incorrectly referring to NID's "projected 2040 water demands" as to the 30 East Bennett Drive property connections, as if that were the only project impact, a claim contrary to many parts of the DEIR my Objection addresses] NID would be able to serve the proposed project in addition to existing and planned developments with some reliance on demand reductions in dry years by 2025. [This erroneous conclusion is contrary to the DEIR itself, although it seems to admit that even the portion of the water use admitted here is admitted requiring "some reliance of demand reductions in dry years by 2025," which means that applying better information with a fair and appropriate analysis would create even bigger shortages.]

[Besides what DEIR calls a Normal Year, Table 4.11-5 actually admits at 4.11-40:] "Potential Surplus (Deficit)" [for] "Single Dry Years" [of progressively increasing deficits from 2025 to 2040 in acre feet/year] [for] "Single Dry Years" [ranging from] [negative] 85,629"/"48%" "Percent Shortfall of Demand" to "-98,814"/"52%" "Percent Shortfall of Demand", [as well as more deficient years for Multiple Dry Years]. ... [continuing at 4.11-42] Water demand within NID's service area is expected to exceed the District's supplies by more than 45 percent from 2025 to 2040 in Single Dry Years and by less than 10 percent from 2025 to 2040 during the first and second years of a Multiple Dry Year

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period. [That ignores many realities of expected increased water use, because, instead of 30 wells, the reality will be hundreds of competing wells just in the areas above and around the 2585-acre mine, as locals combat climate change and drought as well as the mine's groundwater depletion, as I explain elsewhere. If the DEIR advocates or NID imagine that they can stop that competition, which has occurred already all over the state and is continuing where water supplies are already tight, then they do not appreciate the political and legal ferocity of such locals defending their homes, their forests and environment, and their community way of life from the no net benefit mine's massive depletion and disposal downstream and other waste of our shared groundwater. See my #'s 3.N and 4. The indisputable reality is that few, if any, of us thousands of affected locals will be willing to sacrifice anything for the benefit of this undesirable mine.] However, this project is not expected to exacerbate NID's water supply shortages during dry years and the project will supply water into the South Fork Wolf Creek and into the NID conveyance system, at volumes exceeding the project water demand for potable water from NID. [Even if that were true, it means little to those of us living above and around the 2585-acre mine, who are losing our groundwater to the mine dewatering waste. Moreover, on the merits, why would NID allow its system to be polluted by mine water that, even if correctly treated (which would delegate trust to this miner for 24/7/365 quality for 80 years, which seems unlikely when it comes to the downstream user's families' health), no one wants even to accept even the level of hexavalent chromium and other mine water toxins that some industry influenced bureaucrat standards official may still consider tolerable, despite the EU ban, a mountain of negative evidence on the EPA website, and the *Erin Brockovich* stigma.]

*** This project would be subject to any applicable water demand cutbacks during droughts, like other NID potable water customers who are served by NID. [However, the mine can then be expected to increase NID customer demand in years when their wells have deficient supplies, and none of that predictable defensive conduct is addressed in the DEIR or by NID, perhaps in the case of NID because the managers do not expect the coming policy changes coming from the local voters to assure that they do not suffer from water wasters like this mine. See my # 3.N. The future will become what some politely call "competitive," but what more accurately is about thousands of local voting residents insisting on their legal and political rights to their priority share of surface and ground water over less beneficial uses, especially no net benefit uses like the mine.]

*** (at 4.11-43) Thus, a less-than-significant impact would occur, [That incorrect and disputed conclusion does not follow from the preceding analysis that is rebutted above and elsewhere in this Objection and others. Please note, however, that the rest of the disputed DEIR states that the economics of the mine (like the miner itself admits in its SEC Form 10K and 10Q) are so fragile that anything less than continuous 24/7/365 operations for 80 years creates significant operational and environmental problems. DEIR at 6-14. Such admitted water problems are inconsistent with those disputed DEIR claims, as addressed in my rebuttal to the DEIR's "Alternative's Analysis" discussion I address near the end of this Objection at my # 13.]



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Part of the reason for the errors, omissions, deficiencies, and worse addressed in the prior paragraphs relate to compounded mistakes and worse in the DEIR's preceding discussion (DEIR 4.11-7 at 4.11-35 to 38) entitled, "Project Water Demand," which distinguishes (unlike most of the DEIR) between "Potable Water Demand" and "Non-Potable Water Demand," which roughly correlates to surface water from NID versus groundwater from the underground mine. Those disputed DEIR discussions are summarized at Table 4.11-3 (at 4.11-38) stating "Total Groundwater Consumption for Non-Potable Water Use" of "84,000 gallons per day"/94.1 acre-feet per year" and "Total Water Use" of "107,600 gallons per day"/120.5 acre-feet per year." However, scattered in discussions on 4.11-35 and 36 are various NID water uses at the mine, such as: (i) "5700 gallons per day" for Brunswick Industrial site building uses, (ii) "17,900 gpd" for replacing groundwater from 30 wells on East Bennett Road, and (iii) "42,000 gpd" for dust suppression and compaction for five years at the Centennial Industrial Site (which is not really a separate CEQA project as the disputed DEIR claims). Instead of a total, the DEIR scattered that data by use, apparently hoping that critics cannot add [5700, plus 17,900, plus 42,000 equals 65,600 gallons per day], the disputed DEIR states aggregated service area numbers on that same page in Table 4.11-4, entitled, "Projected NID Service Total Water Demands with Project (ac-ft/yr)" of "Total Water Demand" progressing increasingly from 161,678 in 2020, to between 174,763 to 217,951 in 2040. [By comparison, and as a reality check on the resolute political and meritorious legal defense activities that this no net benefit mine related water competition and waste will inspire from us locals competing for our share of NID and ground water above and around the 2585-acre mine, the most strict and painful governmental drought water restriction I have suffered since I moved to California was 50 gallons a person a day, and that happened in part because some of my local East Bay MUD water was reallocated to much drier Marin County. As political policy people, consider now how you decisionmakers would propose to deal with such a 50 gallon a day limit on human use, while this no benefit mine still uses some large part of its admitted 84,000 gallons per day use of our shared groundwater, claiming an excuse that it cannot dewater the mine adequately to stop flooding, unless it takes more than its share of water away from competing and higher human priority uses. The same question applies as to the mines attempt to excuse excessive use of NID water. Because us voters and local property owners with competing rights will not tolerate that (see my #'s 3.N and 4), that leaves you decisionmakers confronting the questions that the DEIR seemed afraid to address in a comprehensive and sufficient manner: what happens when the mine is no longer has or is allowed to use the water it says that it needs for such mining operations? See DEIR # 4.3-103-104 and my rebuttals to that inadequate DEIR response.]

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C. Nondisclosures, Errors, And Disputes Regarding Future Risks And Problems From New, Expanded, And Deeper Underground Mining Operations in the 2585-Acre Mine Beneath Our Local Surface Objectors.

The disputed DEIR (eg, at 4.8) speaks to irrelevant data from the past about this long-closed mine and fails to address not only the "new normal" of drought and climate change. However, it also ignores the burdens, risks, and harms to be expected from the renewed mining operations. What is the point of data about the 72 miles of existing tunnels in the 2585-acres of



underground mine (where the surface above and around it is owned and used by us, objecting locals, without satisfactory DEIR analysis), when the DEIR plan is to change everything underground by 24/7/365 blasting, digging, dewatering, removal of rock, and other mining work in new, expanded, and deeper areas for the next 80-years? The DEIR assumes incorrectly that there will be a “balancing” by “recharged” water from above or elsewhere in the relevant local water sources replacing what is wasted by dewatering the mine and disposed of downstream in the Wolf Creek. But how is that possible without addressing the future mining changes, as well as the future drought and climate changes? See my discussions at 3.A, D, E, F, 5 and 6. Ironically, much of disputed DEIR # 4.8 addresses how they can more efficiently dewater the mine, which actually increases the risk of harm to the rest of us co-owners of that shared groundwater, who see our groundwater as an essential resource to be conserved, rather than a burden to be discarded somewhere else downriver as inconvenient to profitable underground mining. Note that all the discussion of groundwater movement is about its passage through rock fractures. When the disputed DEIR mining continually blasts, tunnels, digs away, and removes the deep mine rock, that must affect those rock fractures and resulting water flows, but nothing in the DEIR adequately analyzes that fate because, among other things, the DEIR has not analyzed the 2585-acre underground mine where they are repairing the old mine closed and flooded since 1956 and the new, deeper, and expanded areas for new mining. Consider the following DEIR comment (at 4.8-19), especially in the context of that 24/7/365 blasting, tunneling, digging, rock removal, and other mining activities for 80 years:

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...the shafts act as “wells” that constantly draw groundwater from the surrounding shallow bedrock (ie, above a depth of 500 feet, where the transmissivity is highest). The inflow of water into the shafts should create a local depression in the groundwater table surface around the shafts referred to as a downward cone, or cone of depression. [See DEIR Figure 4.8-7]

What that says to those of us living on or using the surface above or in the surrounding “stigma zone” of the underground mine, is that they will be even more effective than we feared in drying out OUR groundwater and fractured rock aquifers there and creating subsidence risks. Remember that the Rise SEC Form 10K quoted in my # 2, admits that us competing surface owners own the first 200 feet down as part of our “surface” that they cannot enter or use without our consent, which the mine has not requested and is unlikely to obtain.

What is the legitimate use, relevance, or persuasive purpose of disputed DEIR Figure 4.8-8, entitled “Simulated Drawdown of Groundwater Levels Under Current Conditions?” Not only are those “current conditions” irrelevant in the new normal of drought and dryness from climate change impacts in the next 80 years, but the mining itself will radically change those current conditions in unexplained ways and by mining into new, expanded, and deeper places with unknown underground conditions. Nothing in the disputed DEIR satisfactorily addresses those issues and concerns. Therefore, the use of such old data, especially without addressing why it is not likely to be predictive of the future, seems to invite misunderstandings or worse. See my # 3.M.

Besides ignoring the reality that we can no longer judge the climate changed future from the past, the disputed DEIR makes an even wilder disputed and unsubstantiated



“assumption” that mining problems become less or fewer somehow the deeper they mine. (Why doesn’t that new deeper and expanded mining increase the risks, like the old saying about the deeper you dig, the farther you fall?) Nowhere is that unsubstantiated DEIR assumption proven, and us local should not have to rely on nothing better than such faulty, self-serving so-called logic that seems to be just wishful thinking. Consider the disputed DEIR assurance (at 4.8-51) on which us locals are expected to risk our homes and future (for Rise’s exported profits and no net benefits as discussed at my # 4.):

The proposed mining areas would primarily be at equivalent or deeper depths than the existing underground mine workings, while the potential future expansion areas all involve mining at greater depths, typically more than 1,000 feet below the surface and deeper. At those greater depths, the hydraulic conductivity is several orders of magnitude lower than it is at the depths of the domestic supply wells, due primarily to the lack of open fractures because of the large pressures exerted by the overlying rock mass (ie, the lithostatic pressure). Given that the new mining activity would occur at equivalent or greater depths than the proposed [sic?] mining, there is little or no potential for the proposed mining and mining in the future expansion areas to affect the quality of the groundwater in the domestic supply wells that are completed at much shallower depths.

That is subject to many disputes I discuss throughout my Objection. I note here, however, that there is no supporting discussion of the effect of such deep mining on the actual, undescribed conditions that may be uncovered at those depths (eg, bigger fractures from blasting? underground rivers or aquifers increasing dewatering depletion?). More importantly, because of drought and climate change, us locals and our governments or other organizations will have to start competing with the mine for our own owned water at depth during the 80 years. See my #'s 3.N, 4, and 5.

Speaking of stigma complications that make our local problem even worse, the disputed DEIR admits in its dewatering discussion (at 4.8-42 to 51, especially at 46-49) that it intends to use “underground paste backfill” (ie, material glued with “cemented-paste backfill”) that is (incorrectly) described as “environmentally benign” BUT WHICH IS TOXIC, ‘HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM’ OR “Cr+6.” For those who never saw the reality horror movie “*Erin Brockovich*,” read Wikipedia’s (or other) accounts of the “Hinkley groundwater contamination,” about how a utility used that chemical and dumped wastewater in spreading ponds in Hinkley, California, (now a toxic ghost town) and ultimately had to settle a class action with the local victims or their estates for \$333 Million (back when that was serious money). While the disputed DEIR alerts no one to this threat (and rarely mentions Cr+6 by name and then not in the main DEIR hazardous substances chapter 4.7, attempting (without revealing any health risks and issues) to minimize any future concern by describing the exposures as if they were tolerable, a Google search of “hexavalent chromium” will reveal even more serious health hazards than the movie. Indeed, the European Union is banning the chemical starting in 2024. See the EPA website’s toxic discussion for a library of negative reports and studies. Even if one were to join the DEIR in ignoring the science, government should be more serious in its analysis, and, in any event, the already “significant” stigmas from this mine will now become much worse for real estate values and tourists, when people start talking about our area as the “next Hinkley.”

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Putting aside for the moment that toxic Cr+6 Hinkley problem and stigma (see my #'s 3.C, G, H, and 7), that whole dewatering mess is compounded by the disputed DEIR again incorrectly assuming that the past reliably reveals the future (see my # 3.M). For example, the DEIR admits (at 4.8-51) that:

The water ... from the underground workings is anticipated to have similar quality to the water that currently discharges from the existing drains. ... Therefore, the conditions after mining is completed would be like existing, or baseline, conditions, such that seeps ... would not represent a potentially significant impact under CEQA [where it just addresses the iron and manganese issues and tries to further diminish the appearance of risk by describing how the new mining is going to be deeper]. *** Although the projects proposed water management and treatment, and adherence to permit requirements, would avoid significant impacts to water quality, the impact is considered **significant** for the purposes of this analysis and mitigation, specifying requirements for regulatory compliance, is identified as necessary to reduce the impact to less than significant.

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Even if there were compliance and a proper end to mining as disputed DEIR assumes (but many locals are skeptical for various reasons, including in my case what is discussed in my # 2, from my bankruptcy/cross border bankruptcy, insurance insolvency and other professional experience in dealing with hundreds of failed mines as to why there are more than 40,000 abandoned and dangerous mines in California on the EPA list), the DEIR cannot scientifically assume the climate changed future will duplicate the past, as it does for the average rain from 1967 to 2017. Besides the new normal of drought, dryness, and climate change that I discuss, only an irrational person or worse would assume that you can add Cr+6 and other things to the mining process and blast, dig, remove rock (whether 500 or 1000 tons a day), and mine 24/7/365 for 80 plus years without materially change things from their past condition. Indeed, who else but a wishful thinking miner or worse would imagine that the future environmental, toxic, and safety regulations and standards will still be as lax as they are now?

D. Opportunity Costs If the Mine Is Approved And Prevents More Beneficial Community Uses of the Land, Water, And Other Resources, Including Our New Competing Wells And Air Quality Capacity

As discussed in my # 4 and elsewhere herein, there is no net benefit from this mine to the local community that it burdens, risks, and harms in many ways addressed by objectors, including us neighbors most impacted (not to mention those businesses dependent on tourists who may be scared away.) Among the less obvious considerations for the applicable governmental authorities and regulators is the "opportunity cost" of the mine crowding out more beneficial uses in the next 80-years, and the inevitable disputes that will arise and persist as us local citizens resist and challenge mine burdens, risks, harms, and worse to enable better and more desirable uses. See my # 3.N. For example, the disputed DEIR makes much of what it calls the "relatively few domestic water wells" in what it considers the relevant East Bennett

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Road area (DEIR at 4.8-8 et seq and Figure 4.8-4), but that ignores hundreds of other existing wells sharing the same groundwater plus the fact that all of us thousands of surface owners and users above or around the 2585-acre underground mine have our competing rights to drill competing wells for our use to counter the likely future depletion of our own groundwater by such mine dewatering transfers 24/7/365 downriver for 80-years. Indeed, whether we are competing with the mine in the future for water, also consider the right to burden the air within the quality standards etc, by our beneficial community uses competing with those nonbeneficial mine uses. Are we to stop using wood stoves and burning debris from our fire defense work, so that the mine can exhaust the local tolerance standard for such air pollution? How much should the community tolerate from such mine impositions that crowd out such superior or more desirable competing uses for the next 80 years? Stated another way, how can the mine claiming to be in compliance with the Water Elements of the Nevada County General Plan Goal 11.1 etc and Mineral Management Goal 17.1 etc (eg, the related Policies) as they clearly must adapt to the drought and climate change conditions in the future during the next 80 years?

6. "Geology, Soils, And Mineral Resources" at DEIR #4.6 Again Ignores the Critical 2585-Acre Underground Mining Issues Over Which Locals Like Me Will Continue To Object

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Among the most serious and strategic deficiencies in this disputed DEIR are its chronic attempts to pretend this CEQA "project" is about the small surface lands called the Brunswick Industrial Site (and, although the DEIR incorrectly attempts to separate it from what is one CEQA project, the Centennial Industrial Site), ignoring the core environmental impact and threat: the 2585-acre underground mine below or adjacent to the affected homes of thousands of local residents (like me) living on and using that surface, forested, suburban community. See my # 3.A and E, and 14, as well as my supplemental CEQA brief. The disputed DEIR addresses 30 or 31 wells along East Bennett Road as if that were the only project or underground issue, when that is merely the distracting "tip of the threatening iceberg." This reality is demonstrated in DEIR section 4.6, where we learn nothing useful about that 2585-acre underground mine, which is the central focus of most of my and other locals' objections. Since the mine has been closed since 1956 and, because flooding prevents easy study, neither the existing mine nor the new, expanded, and deeper contemplated mining are addressed by satisfactory or CEQA sufficient analysis or commentary. See, eg, my # 3.A and E. As a result, when facing such absence of critical data, the old saying is true that "it is better to be safe than sorry." That absence of critical, credible, and useful data in the disputed DEIR regarding the burdens, risks, and problems threatening us surface owners and users above and around the 2585 acre mine convinces us locals that, to twist a cliché, "what we don't know will hurt us." Moreover, given the admitted financially questionable condition of both the miner and the mine in Rise's current 10K and 10Q (eg, my # 2), the disputed DEIR cannot be approved without understanding far more about that 2585-acre underground mine the DEIR largely fails to evaluate or even disclose.

As explained in that current Rise 10K (and my # 2), the "surface" areas in perpetual competition with the 2585-acre underground mine extend exclusively to the surface owners'



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sole benefit for the first 200 feet and infinitely deeper for groundwater and other nonmineral rights (as is true for the adjacent landowners.) However, despite the obvious opposition of most informed locals, the disputed DEIR not only ignores the underground mining burdens, risks, and harms in this and other objections, but also the consequences on the mining and economics which the DEIR insists at 6-14 must continue constantly 24/7/365 for 80 years or else unexplained problems will arise that make the mine infeasible. See, eg, my #'s 4 and 13. Since our resolute, local legal and political opposition *and competition* will continue indefinitely as long as the mine operates, the disputed DEIR cannot ignore those issues and the local objections, because local legal, political, and competitive self-defense reactions and counters could continue to have their own impacts on the mine. See my # 3.N. Most importantly, when the disputed DEIR purports to describe "Impacts and Mitigation Measures," such as at 4.6-26 et seq., the DEIR utterly fails, because it not only refuses to confront reality (eg, climate change dryness and drought) and us local's many meritorious objections, but also even the basics CEQA concerns about the 2585-acre underground mining itself. See, eg, for example, my #'s 4, 2, 14, 3.A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, and L, such as focusing on depleting the NID and groundwater supplies, hexavalent chromium toxic cement in mine shoring, air quality concerns, financial feasibility questions, and the no net benefit nature of the mine.

The disputed DEIR is also deficient as to the revealing adverse mining effects on our shared/co-owned groundwater (see, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, and F and 5), on the many deficient mitigation measures (at 4.6-47 et seq) that must fail, because the DEIR declines to admit the real burdens, risks, and problems, and on the mine "subsidence" (eg, failure to provide as the law requires subjacent and lateral support for our surface, as addressed at my #4) and "Collapse" risk (eg, discussed at DEIR 4.6-44 to 47, as limited to "near surface mine features," and by me as the 2585 acre mining threat to our local owners and users of the entire surface above and around that mine [aka protection against "subsidence"] down at least to our 200 feet level called the "surface" in the Rise SEC Form 10K described mineral deed (at my # 2), as well as other risks, burdens, and problems. I note that, before its insufficient mitigation proposals that DEIR "Conclusion" admits at 4.6-47: **"Therefore, a significant impact could occur with respect to being located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquification, or collapse, of be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1B of the UBC."** Since the disputed DEIR does not evaluate the current condition of this mine flooded since 1956 or the underground conditions where the DEIR expects new, expanded, and deeper mining work 24/7/365 for 80 years, the DEIR cannot credibly assure any of us on the surface above or around that 2585-acre underground mine of CEQA or other legal compliance.

If the governmental decision-makers have any doubts about the seriousness of the many errors and omissions in the disputed DEIR relating to the 2585-acre underground mine, I suggest that (besides reading my Objection and others, including the written follow-ups to the comments of the more than 100 local objectors at the March 24, 2022, County hearing) you should consider the grossly deficient discussion of the mine impacts whenever they stop mining, whether in 80-years with vaguely promised compliance with applicable laws, or because the mine ceases to be economic, or because the miner ceases to be able to afford to operate. See, eg, my #'s 2 and 13 and my rebuttals to the DEIR 4.3-103-104 deficient response



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on that topic. There are more than 40,000 abandoned mines in California on the EPA list for such reasons. Years ago, I was lead counsel for the liquidator of nation's only then AAA surety/insurance company issuing mine reclamation and closing bonds for thousands of mines here and elsewhere. I see no sign of any insurance or security for the performance of those DEIR mitigation, closing, and reclamation promises. Instead, I see nothing but serious cause for concern about any such capacity to perform those obligations, even if (unlike many such foreign controlled mining subsidiaries) they didn't follow the common practice of retreating across the border with their profits and abandoning the mine, depending on the circumstances either with or without the common US and cross-border bankruptcy strategies designed by many industry miners to disappoint US creditors and governments. See my #2. Since local governments could inherit a local mess here if they approve the DEIR and mine, without surety bonds, insurance, or practical, sufficient recovery options from the foreign investors who took the profits, consider carefully whether CEQA compliance exists (see my #'s 3.E, 4 and 14 and my supplemental CEQA brief), and whether decisionmakers can rely on the DEIR accomplishing what it states, even to the small part of the burdens, risks, problems, and issues they deficiently purport to address. If you wish a case study, consider the hexavalent chromium being used to shore up the new, expanded, and deeper mining (eg, my #'s 3.C, G, and H and 7), the toxic substance that killed the town of Hinkley, California, and many residents, as illustrated in the movie, *Erin Brockovich*. *Despite the European Union ban starting in 2024 and thousands of negative reports and studies on the EPA website against using such Cr+6, this disputed DEIR does not even reveal that such a controversy exists in its Chapter 4.7 entitled, "Hazards And Hazardous Materials." Instead, it is just a passing reference in a deficient discussion of the underground mining plan to use that toxin in the cement paste rock shoring in the new, expanded, and deeper mining being dewatered 24/7/365 for 80 years and after some questionable "treatment" disposed of downriver somewhere else, where I gather it becomes a problem for NID and its downriver customers.*

7. The DEIR "Hazards And Hazardous Materials" Discussion at its # 4.7 And Elsewhere Is Deficient, Omitting Entirely At Least One Serious Hazardous Material (Hexavalent Chromium/Cr+6 of Erin Brockovich Movie Infamy For Turning Hinkley, CA Into a Ghost Town at Great Cost to Local Victims And Property As Explained In My #'s 3.C, G, and H)

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The disputed DEIR presents at # 4.7 what it incorrectly represents to be a CEQA compliant discussion of all the environmental concerns relating to "Hazards And Hazardous Materials," although it defers as to the fire hazard issues to its Chapter 4.13 and deficiently addresses the fire smoke threats there. (This Objection at my # 10 addressed that as part of our air quality concerns (my # 11) with fire smoke problems created by the mine's 24/7/365 depletion of groundwater for 80-years making our forests above and around the 2585 acres of underground mining more vulnerable to fires, adding to our drier future weather, chronic drought, and other climate change problems). **What the DEIR also fails to address at all is the threat of highly toxic hexavalent chromium that the European Union has banned starting in 2024 on account of thousands of negative studies and reports (see the EPA website or even Google the words) and which has been blamed at a utility facility for destroying the lives and**



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property of everyone in Hinkley, California, (now a ghost town made famous by the *Erin Brockovich* reality horror movie), resulting in a massive class action settlement in favor of the local victims and their estates. I already focused earlier in this Objection on this dangerous chemical where the disputed DEIR did mention it in cement paste claimed to be “benign” in a deficient discussion of the underground mining and dewatering, where the DEIR occasionally reveals in passing that Cr+6 will be used throughout the mine in the cement shoring 24/7/365 for 80-years. Therefore, I will not repeat my Cr+6 concerns here, but refer you to my comments a #'s 3.C, G, and H. My reason for this mention here is that the DEIR appears to have chosen to misdirect readers away from the well-known controversies about hexavalent chromium to a few seemingly innocuous references buried in the DEIR’s mining and water discussion, as if Cr+6 was just another construction material and without any warning to readers about these serious controversies. By analogy, this is the equivalent of failing to mention the use of asbestos in a CEQA discussion of a construction project’s hazardous substances during that period when asbestos industry defendants were commonly being forced into bankruptcy by massive (and meritorious) victim litigation victories and negative press and scientific reports, but before the asbestos reality and science was officially banned by the lax regulators (where there always seems to be a lag on account of politics and industry money, as with cigarettes and opioids).

Thus, I refer here to only a few other obvious errors in DEIR #4.7, relying on other objectors to deal with the arsenic and other substantive hazards issues as to such DEIR errors and omission. As noted above in my # 1, I incorporate the oral and written objections from those organizations and qualified experts who have exposed the many other hazards, such as asbestos, arsenic, and other things. First, I note that the disputed DEIR again misplaces the disputed discussion of the mine history and conditions at 4.7-2 et seq, when that information is more important to those reading the water and mining sections, where this context is more needed but omitted. Also, there is no discussion about the changes in the mine from being closed and flooded since 1956 or from what will happen when the new underground mining expands deeper into the unknown areas as to which the DEIR reports no data as to hazards. For all we (or presumably they) know that new, expanded, or deeper mining could be unleashing more dangerous quantities of the asbestos, arsenic, and other toxic substances already identified or even to expose us to new hazardous substances dangers not even mentioned as possible in this disputed DEIR. **Just because the DEIR miner is willing to blindly blast, tunnel, and mine into the unknown in that 2585-acre mine beneath our homes and property does not mean that us locals must tolerate that failure to comply with CEQA and the need for this kind of essential information. See my # 14.**

Second, there is a key error that I have discussed elsewhere in many parts of the Objection, where the DEIR erroneously, and in a seriously misleading way, describes the CEQA “project,” as if it were just the small area of the Brunswick site plus 30 dry wells along East Bennett Road (and should include the Centennial site, which the DEIR incorrectly calls a separate CEQA “project”), rather than the 2585-acres of underground mine beneath us locals, where the bigger problems lurk, often unaddressed in the DEIR or discussed in an unsatisfactory and disputed manner there. See my # 14 and my supplemental CEQA brief. That disputed DEIR discussion of “Project Area Conditions” incorrectly states that the Brunswick and Centennial sites are “surrounded by undeveloped land, industrial, low-density residential



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developments and commercial uses,” which it two sentences later describes as “rural residences.” See my # 8 and 3.N. As stated in this and other objections Banner Mountain is a suburban area (although with huge trees) with thousands of people living in homes whose groundwater will be impacted by the 2585-acre mine whether they have competing wells now or drill them in the future when NID cuts back or climate change in the next 80 years forces us to do so. See #’s 3. M and N and 5.

In any event, I am also in the larger “stigma zone,” where our community properties above and around the 2585-acre underground mine all suffer depressed real estate values due to the DEIR mining threat that would increase if the mine were allowed to reopen. As discussed in my #’s 3.N, 6 and 8, I remind the DEIR government decision makers that there are thousands of us local resident voters to be burdened, harmed and at risk from the DEIR underground mining, far more than the small number of new jobs for mine workers coming here from somewhere. From the standpoint of the local neighbors and our community (which the California Supreme Court considers having special rights in such cases, as discussed at my # 4, discussing the constitutional rights of those downwind of the new sewer plant for compensation on account of their disproportionate suffering), there is “no net benefit” to this project. As explained in my #’s 4, 8 and 14, a related topic which should concern such government decisionmakers is that, when the DEIR is mining in the 2585 acres below surface properties owned or used by neighbors and our community, they are subject to our competing surface legal rights (down at least 200 feet), for example, not just to our shared underground water, but also to subjacent and lateral support and other protections against subsidence. See, eg, my # 4 and 14. Why none of this is revealed in the disputed DEIR is unclear, but it raises certain credibility concerns at a minimum.

Note that, when the disputed DEIR discussed those “Mine Conditions,” it only talks about its “NVS Phase I/II ESA” for the small surface sites and 10-foot-deep trenches; not the 2585-acres of long flooded underground mine that no one has apparently seen since closure in 1956 [DEIR at 4.7-2]. More importantly, not only is the current dangerous condition of the mine not satisfactorily described, but there is no satisfactory attempt to assess the hazards or risks from the new and expanded mining at deeper levels, as addressed in my #’s 4, 8, and 14. How can the disputed DEIR pretend that it is accurate or sufficient or CEQA compliant where it has not satisfactorily addressed the actual new underground mining concerns and risks in the 2585-acre underground mine beneath and near thousands of surface homes and improvements? The DEIR just assumes incorrectly that its cursory investigation of another part of the owned mine site and 30 wells along East Bennett Road is somehow sufficient, and that whatever it thinks it learned from the past before the 1956 closure and flooding will apply to the new mining in the future. Such erroneous and irresponsible assumptions are contrary to CEQA, logic, and prudent public policy. See my #’s 3.E, 4, 14, and my supplemental CEQA brief. See also, CEQA Guidelines section 15064(b) and many supporting court precedents requiring that the evaluation of the impact’s “significance” must be based “to the extent possible on scientific and factual data.” Also see, the California Supreme Court’s in the *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* case discussion in my #14 of the requirements for the sufficiency of an EIR to be judged by what is “reasonably feasible” (at 515) or what CEQA Guidelines #15364 calls “what is reasonably feasible.” From the perspective of any reasonable person, much more was required from the disputed DEIR that is relevant and useful than the insufficient and often irrelevant mass of what was shared in the



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DEIR. (Too often the DEIR just fills pages with either disputed or less useful history about things less relevant to the “new normal” about the new and expanded and deeper mining or chronic drought and climate change in the future that the DEIR either ignores entirely or addresses in an insufficient or unsatisfactory manner. In some ways I learned more about the mine in the Rise current SEC Form 10K report discussed at my # 2 than in this disputed DEIR.

Also, while the DEIR acknowledges (at 4.7-19) that in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G there are special concerns for nearby airports (as we have here of great importance to us locals for its important use in our wild fire defense), the disputed DEIR ignores the underground mining occurring in the 2585-acres under the airport surface area (which is also not owned by Rise) and instead deals (# 4.7-3 at 4.7-36 and #4.7-5 at 4.7-49) with this airport as if the only impacts were from the small Brunswick and Centennial sites along East Bennett Road.

8. Land Use And Population And Housing” DEIR at # 4.9

The entirety of my Objection demonstrates material errors, omissions, and flaws in the disputed DEIR claims in its # 4.6 for the mine to be “compatible” with “existing land uses in the area and [to] identify any incompatibilities ...” While the DEIR deficiently mentions some, but not many, of the pertinent CEQA required things about the 2585-acre underground mine, most readers would not realize from those DEIR descriptions that there are thousands of our suburban residences (like my home) on the surface above or around that 2585-acre underground mine or within the larger adjacent surface “impact zone” (eg, where we locals have competing groundwater rights against the mine) or “stigma zone” (eg, where the nearby mine will depress our property values and threaten other rights.) See, eg, my #'s 2, 3.A and N, 4, 5, and 14. I live on Banner Mountain in the neighborhood just above Idaho-Maryland Road and the Wolf Creek, which is a large suburban area that would be considered a normal suburb, except for the fact that it is full of huge trees that we want to protect from the consequences of mine dewatering beneath us 24/7/365 for the next 80 plus years, without adding mining to such environmental stresses from the new normal drier weather and chronic drought from climate change that the DEIR entirely ignores. See my # 8 and 3.M. My property is two other properties uphill from Idaho Maryland Road and Wolf Creek mentioned often in the DEIR. Just within the fenced acre around my house I have 48 trees taller than 50 feet and some heirlooms, all in need of my groundwater that is at risk to the mine (with more such trees in my lower 2 acres). However, like most of my neighbors with similar trees and situations, I still do not know for sure (and the DEIR does not reveal) whether the DEIR will be trying to mine directly underneath my surface owned property, or whether instead (as seems most likely) I am only in the adjacent impact and stigma areas, where I will be competing with the mine, for example, for underground water with my own future well (as will all us locals who can afford to do so) when the droughts inevitably cause NID to cut back on its water deliveries (whether because NID lacks either lacks sufficient water of its own, or because government reallocates NID water to more desperate places). See my # 3.M and N, and 8

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These thousands of us voting residents above and around the 2585-acre mine cannot be dismissed by the DEIR (as we now incorrectly are) as implicitly expendable “rural residences around the site” (which is a misleading DEIR reference I expect only to the area



↑ just around the small Brunswick and Centennial sites owned by Rise). In any case, such DEIR attempts to diminish our surface owners' rights is materially misleading and fatal to the entire DEIR. See my # 3.A, E and N, 4, and 14. Why? Because by threatening our property values, environment, and way of life for us thousands of local SUBURBAN resident voters, the DEIR could trigger not just perpetual legal and political disputes and resistance to the disputed DEIR mining, but also competition for our shared resources with us locals exercising our own property rights, such as to our shared NID and groundwater. See my #'s 3.N, 4, and 14. Because of the admittedly economically fragile (and I believe infeasible) condition of the DEIR plans (see my #2 and DEIR admissions at 6-14), those perpetual disputes and competition with us locals at risk doom the long-term viability of this DEIR mine, raising one of many questions not addressed by the DEIR: What happens when we stop the mine after it starts? See my #'s 13 and 15 and my many rebuttals (eg, my # 3.K) to DEIR's "Non-CEQA Analysis" at its 4.3-103-04. (Hint: the reality is that it would be best never to reopen the mine than to stop and start, but the sooner it stops the better.) That should be obvious from what should have been disclosed in the DEIR, which, however, never acknowledges the full reality for us living above and around the 2585-acre underground mining, including by usually focusing only on the fewer around the small Brunswick and Centennial sites and 30 wells along East Bennett Road.

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Such DEIR flaws lead to absurdity, since us surface owners and users above and around the 2585 acre underground mine have the greatest conflicts with the DEIR and the mine, as you would expect when this no net benefit mine is threatening to trash our property values, environment, and way of life, while imposing many new burdens, risks, and problems on us, such as draining our ground water for transport downriver somewhere else at a time of chronic climate change dryness and drought, as described in my #'s 3.A,B, D, E, F, and M, 4 and 5. Contrary to DEIR #4.9.4 "Impacts And Mitigation Measures" (including cumulatively as stated at 4.9-27), the disputed DEIR cannot satisfactorily resolve such burdens, risks, and problems about which locals like me complain, when the DEIR wrongly ignores or consistently underestimates our such concerns, as illustrated in this Objection and others. **Despite all these errors, omissions, and deficiencies, somehow the disputed DEIR demands at 4.9-19 an 80-year mining permit for 24/7/365 operations in the alleged interest of ensuring "consistency with all other plans and policies," all without addressing our local concerns or even providing data beyond 20 years (or after 2040). See my # 3.M. The disputed DEIR "Conclusion" at 4.9-24 by errors, omissions, and deficiencies is wholly wrong to allege the following unsubstantiated opinion: "Overall, the proposed project would not cause a significant environmental impact due to conflicts with a land use plan, policy, or regulation ... therefore, this impact is less than significant. "(I will not repeat the words of my initial reaction to reading that worse than nonsense, but that general contempt seems to be the most common reaction to this DEIR effort to promote another "alternative reality.")**

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9. "Noise And Vibration" DEIR at 4.10

Noise and vibration are among the many issues of local concern that the DEIR chooses to ignore regarding the 2585-acre underground mine by pretending that the CEQA "project" is



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mostly just about the Brunswick or Centennial site and 30 wells along East Bennett Road. (The disputed DEIR also purports to treat the Centennial site as if it were a separate CEQA "project," which it is not.) While DEIR #4.10 cites to technical experts (eg, Appendix L and M for noise and blasting), it is not even clear from the DEIR that they asked them the right questions about the 2585-acre underground mine beneath thousands of us surface owners and users, such as are illustrated in my Objection and others. That is why CEQA court interpretations forbid such vague cross reference in a DEIR to such allegedly supporting materials, as I illustrate in my #1 # 14 and detail further in my supplemental CEQA brief. (Remember the old saying that often applies when someone manipulates data by how they ask the wrong question: "garbage in, garbage out.") If those responsible for the disputed DEIR do not ask the right questions, they cannot produce correct and useful answers. If those responsible did ask some of the right questions, but declined to share the full answers, that also must cause the rejection of the DEIR, among other things.

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Based on the noise and blasting reports in Appendix L and M and the absence of clarity on this issue, it appears that the disputed DEIR only attempted to study the small Brunswick and Centennial site areas owned by Rise, but not the key 2585-acre underground mine where thousands of us suburban residents live on the surface above or around that continuous mining noise and blasting. Certainly, the DEIR maps for sensors don't show any sensors where thousands of us live above the 2585-acre underground mine. (For example, the testing and proposed monitoring/"sensitivity receptor" locations, like shown on Figure 4.10-2 and -3, do not include the areas where us mine opponents are living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine.) Since the disputed DEIR admits (see, eg, my #'s 3.A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, L, and M, and 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10) that mining involves 24/7/365 blasting, drilling, rock removal, shoring up with toxic hexavalent chromium cement, and other noisy and vibrational activities under the 2585-acre underground mine above or around which surface thousands of us live, we naturally want to know how much our houses and trees will shake, vibrate, or otherwise react, as well as what noises will be heard by us or our animals. DEIR Appendix L and M describe principles, some of which are alarming, but they do not apply those principles to where we live above and around the 2585-acre mine beneath us.

Consider, for example, the brief discussion of the so-called effects of ground cover, which the disputed DEIR admits at 4.10-24 is a key variable, stating the principle to be: "The degree of sound absorption applied to each noise source at each receptor varies depending on the type of ground cover and distance between the noise sources and receptors. ... Where the ground between the noise and receptor consists primarily of hardscape, the model applied positive offsets to account for reflections of sound from those surfaces." **Applying such principles to the area above the blasting and mining in the 2585-acre mine area directly below or around our living surface where they omitted and ignored "receptors," why should we not expect the fractured hard rock directly between us to carry even what the DEIR 4.10 and Appendix L and M would consider prohibited amounts of noise and vibration into our homes above and around the 2585-acre underground mine? Telling us to relax, because the noise and vibration from the Brunswick site is too far away to hurt us, ignores the fact that the source of our threat is not just at the Brunswick site, but also under our own property!**

Consider, for another example, the disputed DEIR at 4.10-52 to 59, where they discuss blasting at where they put "receptors" at the Brunswick and Centennial sites to consider



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↑ **“nearby residences” TO THOSE LOCATIONS [BUT NOT ABOVE OR AROUND THE 2585 ACRE UNDERGROUND MINE WHERE THE ACTUAL BLASTING AND MINING IS OCCURRING UNDERNEATH US]. THIS CANNOT BE A MERE OVERSIGHT, BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER THE BLASTING EFFECT AT THE MORE DISTANT HOSPITAL AT 4.10-55 AND DOWNTOWN GRASS VALLEY AT 4.10-56. SO, WHY IGNORE THE MOST IMPACTED AREA ABOVE AND AROUND WHERE THE ACTUAL BLASTING OCCURS IN THE 2585-ACRE UNDERGROUND MINE? DO THEY THINK WE WON’T NOTICE UNTIL THEY THINK IT’S TOO LATE? What good are the more distant mitigation “Ground Vibration Monitoring Program” devices that do not report the most relevant blasting and mining noise and vibration at its source below the feet of the thousands of us resident voters living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine? Please note, mistaken approval of this disputed DEIR would not end the resistance to these 24/7/365 threats for 80 years from those of us above and around the 2585-acre mine and delaying legal and environmental justice for us locals will make everything worse for all concerned.**

There is no satisfactory answer offered in the disputed DEIR to those and other questions in this Objection (see, eg, my # 15), which evasions by themselves should be sufficient to reject the flawed and deficient DEIR. If the correct answer were that the hundreds of feet of rock between their mining and our surface were a sufficient insulator, why not tell us that? We can only assume that they would share any good news, even if there were something they could also try to “spin” (as the DEIR often does) as if it were good news. Therefore, we assume there are some inconvenient truths that they do not want to share with us. For example, with that maze of old and new underground tunnels in the 2585-acre DEIR mine beneath where we live on the surface, will all that underground noise and vibration be magnified or echo or otherwise broadcast to the surface? If government decision-makers do not compel complete and truthful answers on this and other burdens, risks, and harms, and they approve this deficient DEIR anyway, they will share the blame for the predictable reactions of thousands of local residents enforcing competition, legal and political rights as described in my # 3.N.

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10. Some Air-Quality Errors And Omission to Consider from DEIR #4.3 And Elsewhere

As a general matter, I defer to other objectors whose work I incorporate on the air quality risks and problem. Nevertheless, I note some illustrative errors and omissions, and I describe the way that this private project with no net benefits to our community (see my # 4) could crowd out other opportunities for our people and more desirable businesses to use the air within the safety tolerance margins. **Consider, for example, that this 24/7/365 mining for 80 years is going to exhaust our pollution tolerance capacity, so that new and beneficial businesses cannot come here to operate. Worse, mine operations will reduce the opportunities for us locals to continue our historical practices, such as to burn our leaves and cuttings to reduce fire risks, and, as the regulations get stricter even prohibit burning wood fires (as is occurring already, for example, in Contra Costa County in the Bay Area, because of the oil and gas production facilities there exhausting the tolerance standards.)** In the future that is ignored by the disputed DEIR, which resolutely looks only to the often-irrelevant past, that is a poor means of predicting our future with climate change, when all of us would be



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↑ competing with this DEIR mine over what we can do without exceeding the aggregate limits of what is tolerable in our decreasing environment. Whatever that tolerance margin is from time to time, this mine will be exhausting too much of whatever is left available for the rest of us locals and for more desirable newcomers, unless we can at least subordinate the mine's pollution rights on the basis that people and desirable businesses should have priority over undesirable, burdensome resource exploiters like the mine that add no net value to our lives and export their profits elsewhere. See, eg, my #'s 3.N and 4.

More importantly, mine efforts to reduce its air pollution, especially of dangerous materials (eg, asbestos), has adverse effects on our other local environmental concerns. For example, the disputed DEIR admits (at 4.3-49) that they "assumed that about 11 million gallons [of water] would be required [ie, wasted] for construction dust suppression." Even worse, the DEIR states on that same page in discussion of the mine's "Surface Fugitive Dust Controls": "To account for dust control measures ... the assumption was made that that active work sites would be watered at least two times daily, resulting in an approximately 55 percent reduction of particulate matter." However, when chronic climate change drought and water controls limit NID and other water use, as is ignored in the DEIR, but nevertheless is inevitable as an inconvenient truth, that means either (i) our precious water will be wasted for such "dust control," or (ii) our particulate air pollution will be 55% worse than projected from the mine, leaving the obvious solution to that dilemma of simply shutting the mine that never should have been reopened in the first place.

Incidentally, this is another "bait and switch," since all that water waste was not disclosed where it should have been in the DEIR water discussion that was already deficient (see my # 3.E). By separately burying those details here, the DEIR creates confusion and conflict, because we don't know how this water use relates to the depletion concerns, we have not just from our groundwater, but also from our competing rights to NID, as we blunder further into shortages on account of climate change droughts and dryer weather that the disputed DEIR ignores.

11. "Wildfire" DEIR at 4.13

As discussed at my #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, K, M, and 5, the depletion of our groundwater below the surface on which thousands of us live above or around the 2585-acre underground mine threatens to amplify the harms to our local forests and plants from the drying and drought from climate change. That mine and dewatering work and water waste could harm our already overstressed forests and plants, adding many other adverse environmental side effects, such as more fire smoke (from drought effects increased by the mine increasing fire risks, as described in my #'s 8 and 10) to further erode our air quality concerns. The DEIR errors and omissions regarding its electrical generator backup discussion and Public Safety Public Shutoffs (PSPS) also need to be addressed, as described at my # 3.J and 10, for example, also harming our air quality with much greater backup generator use than the DEIR imagines and competing with more important uses for our tolerable air than this undesirable mine adding no net benefit (see my # 4). All these and related matters dealing with the 2585-acre underground mining activities are ignored or insufficiently addressed in this disputed DEIR's 4.13 wildfire discussion, including as

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↑ to what such matters add to the cumulative impact errors and omissions at 4.13-28. See my fire smoke discussion in my air quality objections above at #'s 3.J and 10.

12. Errors And Omissions As To the "Statutorily Required Sections" At DEIR # 5

A. Introduction

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This section overlaps with the many errors, omissions, and deficiencies which I have addressed throughout this Objection, as well as responding to additional problems with DEIR #5. Unlike elsewhere in this Objection, where I have organized my comments around logical or other important concerns, rather than the often dysfunctional and strategically obscuring approach the DEIR uses in spreading its data in less subject related areas, for these CEQA Guideline section 15126.2 matters I will comment here on each topic in the order presented the DEIR, rather than in order of importance or of my personal priority impact concerns.

B. "Growth Inducing Impacts" DEIR # 5.2

Ind 254-82

I defer on this topic to other objectors who I are better qualified to address this topic. See my #'s 3.N and 8. However, I note that our problem may be the opposite: that the mine destroys the kind of quality growth opportunities we want for attracting desirable people and businesses by this undesirable mine exhausting our capacity to deal with climate change, margins of tolerance for environmental stress, water shortages, our already grade F air quality, etc. Apart from the trivial number of miners attracted here for mine work, the danger is that the mine attracts more undesirable businesses like the mine in the way of the old saying that "the rotten apple spoils the barrel." That is what happened in the Bay Area to Richmond from Chevron and to Benicia from Valero. We do not want to become known here as a place where exploitive businesses can come to add environmental burdens, problems, and risks, because our government has shown tolerance for such abuses of our local residents. That threat of attracting more such unwanted businesses will be another motivating reason for us voters to hold mine supporters accountable in the future elections. See # 3.N.

C. "Cumulative Impacts" DEIR # 5.3

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There are many cumulative impacts addressed in this Objection (and other objections to which I defer and incorporate, like the CEA Foundation and Friends of Banner Mountain, as discussed in my #1) that the disputed DEIR has understated, ignored, or otherwise stated incorrectly or in an misleading manner, contrary to CEQA Guidelines # 15130 and other applicable law, as illustrated in almost every section of this Objection and addressed with some legal technicalities in my # 14 and my supplemental brief. There are many kinds of impacts, such as, for example, the kind of competition that I demonstrate over groundwater and NID water as climate change, drought, and drier weather (generally ignored by the DEIR) force those of us living above or around the mine or otherwise drawing from the same underground water sources into drilling our own wells for our own shares of our groundwater. See, eg, my



↑ #’s 3.N and 4. Note that we surface residents resisting the mine are trying to save our trees and surface vegetation (and reduce the fire risks and smoke harms of a drought dead forest), which are water uses for the common good of our community. In contrast, the mine dewatering waste of our groundwater would remove it from our community to somewhere else downriver with little or no realistic chance of adequate recharge or balance. See my #’s 3.A, B, D, E, F, M, and 5. Similarly, such fire smoke pollution caused by the mine, added to the mine’s own DEIR understated air pollution, has the effect of exhausting the cumulative margin limits for what can be tolerated, thus creating competition between historical residential uses (eg, burning fire risk dangerous vegetation, and wood fire heating of homes) versus the undesirable mine uses which should be avoided all together from this no net benefit mining. See, eg, my #’s 3.J and N, 4, 10, and 11.

Moreover, as discussed above and in my #’s 3.N, 4, and 8, these undesirable mine uses may prevent future approval of desirable businesses and residences, because the mine abuses (usually worse than revealed in the disputed DEIR as explained in this Objection) exhaust the capacity of our community to tolerate any more environmental burdens. **Stated another way, the mine prevents our community from improving with quality growth by this exploitive mining use that adds no net benefit and exhausts our environmental tolerance capacities.** See, eg, my #’s 3.N, 4, and 8. Note that the disputed DEIR at 5-3 admits that the “incremental” mining impositions can create “cumulatively considerable, and, thus, significant [impacts] when viewed together with environmental changes anticipated from past, present, and probable future projects.”

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Since (as the DEIR admits at 5-3) CEQA requires the lead agency to “define the relevant geographic area of inquiry, I remind you that the DEIR generally misstates that area to be just the small Brunswick site and/or the Centennial site, plus 30 wells along East Bennett Road. See my #’s 3.A, B, E, 4, 8, and 14. That flaw is especially true as to water and land use issues that are incorrectly analyzed in the DEIR’s purported and disputed “Project List” at 5-4 -8 and Tables 5-1 and 5-2. The key area (ignored by the DEIR) is never any less than the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine and is often the whole surrounding broader “impact zone” (where, for example, us surface residents and voters compete with the mine for shared groundwater) and “stigma zone” (eg, where our real estate values are to be depressed by the mining burdens, risks, and problems) or our whole community. See my #’s 4, 8 and 14. See also my # 4, discussing why that local area impact must be given special weight by government decision-makers over the views of others in the county at a safe distance beyond the mine impacts. If the locals suffer disproportionately for the imagined benefit of others at such distance, this will trigger the kinds of disputes and divisive conflicts our county should avoid, because, as with the State Supreme Court’s analysis in the public sewer plant and other cases in my #4, us disproportionately affected locals have special rights. Here that is even more true, because this mine has no net benefit to anyone besides the foreign investors receiving its profits, and we have potential legal and political disputes between the owner of an underground mine with the competing owners of the surface 200 feet above and around the mine and others in the impact or stigma zones. See, eg, my #’s 2, 3.N, 4, and 8. Please note that these residents and voters (like me) are here already contributing to the community with minimum adverse effects on the environment. However, if the disputed DEIR and mine were approved, we would be in perpetual conflict and competition

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against this 24/7/365 mining for 80 years that, in many ways ignored, underestimated, or otherwise unsatisfactorily addressed threatens us locals' property values and uses, our safety and environments, and our quality of life for a project of no net benefit to our community (see my #3.N, 4, and 14). Since there is no way to reconcile us locals to suffering such harms, risks, and burdens, the government decisionmakers need to consider all the cumulative legal and political consequences of approving this deficient and unsatisfactory DEIR and its undesirable mine. See my # 3.N, 4, and 14.

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D. "Energy Conservation" # 5.4

The DEIR comments basically incorporate other DEIR sections, and I, therefore, do the same where I have disputed and objected to those other referenced DEIR commentaries.

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E. "Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes" at # 5.5

While the DEIR admits causing some of these "irreversible environmental changes" at 5-8, although not in a satisfactory manner or to a realistic extent, the DEIR ignores many that are required to be disclosed and addressed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15126.2(c). Anything that threatens to endure 24/7/365 for 80 years in our suburban (not rural) community should be treated as the equivalent of irreversible, especially since once started the mine will have its own continuing adverse consequences after the shutdown. Moreover, since the DEIR stops future predictions and assessments in 15 or 20 years of an 80 plus year project (typically at 2040), there is no legal or other basis for the disputed DEIR or its advocates to contest that its harms are not "irreversible." To try and operate a mine like this is utterly incompatible with our existing and desirable suburban uses. For example, the hexavalent chromium shoring up the underground mine (eg, my #'s 3.C, G, and H and 7) will remain a perpetual threat, our depleted groundwater may never fully recover (ie, recharge and balance as incorrectly imagined in the DEIR) in the "new normal" climate change droughts and dryness (eg, my #'s), and our dried out, surface loss of forest cover (especially with fire risks) from mine dewatering (eg, my #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, L, and M, and 5).

As admitted by the DEIR at 5-6 to be a consideration for such 15126.2(c) change, this "project would involve a large commitment of nonrenewable resources," such a underground water needed by surface owners and users above and around the 2585-acre mine that will be depleted without any satisfactory reason to expect it to be replenished (ie, recharged) in the climate changed "new normal" future of drought and dryness addressed in my # _____, especially as us more and more of us surface users compete for our own underground water by drilling more wells to our own groundwater as NID cuts back, either because it is short of supply or because government reallocates NID supplies elsewhere to more desperate places. See my # 3.N. Killing our already drought stressed local forests with such water depletion is another change that makes our local climate problems worse. As noted, as local victims realize their fate and their own legal rights, many other legal consequences will flow with adverse consequences both admitted (although understated by the DEIR), as well as those ignored or not satisfactorily addressed in the disputed DEIR. See, eg, my #'s 3.N, 4, and 14.



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As admitted by the DEIR at 5-6 to be a consideration for such 15126.2(c) change, this "project would generally commit the future generations to similar uses." The problem here is that, if we locals stop the mine after it starts, whether by our competition (eg, my # 3.N, such as drilling our own wells to our own groundwater being wasted by the mine), by exercise of our legal and political rights (my #3.N), or otherwise, the DEIR advocates and miner will try to argue that the mine cannot be stopped without more adverse consequences, like those it already argues in disputed DEIR at # at 4.3-103-04 as "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" issues. The time to have that debate about the early DEIR mine shut down consequences is now before mining starts, because us locals regard the continued mining operations as worse than any shutdown consequences. In any case, the time for the miner to reveal its position is now in this DEIR. That way the miner will either be forced to admit now before starting the more serious and previously unexplained consequences of mine shut down to the community, or else the DEIR advocates will have legal difficulties trying to raise those undisclosed issues later, when the mine stops or is shut. Depending on what is revealed in that "now or never" demand for disclosure by the DEIR miner, government decisionmakers hopefully can avoid a difficult future choice among competing burdens, harms, and risks by stopping the mine process now.

As admitted by the disputed DEIR at 5-6 to be a consideration for such 15126.2(c) change, this "project involves uses in which irreversible damage could result from any potential environmental accidents associated with the project." Those "accidents" are assumed here to include this miner mistaking the harmful consequences of its conduct unless such responsible people wish to accept the consequences of their admitting to intentionally and knowingly causing harm. For example, the utility officers alleged to be responsible for the water pollution of hexavalent chromium that killed the town of Hinkley, California, as illustrated in the *Erin Brockovich* movie, claimed excuses and mistakes. That is also an example that is applicable here. Similarly, ignoring the realities of climate change and depleting our groundwater with such harm to our surface environment and uses is also such an accident. There will be many "I told you so" situations to come, if this mine and the disputed DEIR are approved, and unless the advocates are willing now to accept the consequences of causing knowing and intentional harms, they should now address those possible "accidents," where they are proven wrong about the risks, issues, and problems they have ignored in the DEIR and otherwise in response to this and other objections.

As admitted by the DEIR at 5-6 to be a consideration for such 15126.2(c) change, the "phasing of the proposed consumption of resources is not justified (eg, the project involves a wasteful use of electricity.)" Among the many resources that are wasted by this no net benefit and undesirable mine are both NID and ground water and clean air margins for tolerance (eg, competing mine air pollution versus the local burning of wood stoves for heat and vegetation for fire suppression). See, eg, my # 4. Remember that as to dewatering the mine, for example as discussed in my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M and 5 water waste discussions, the disputed DEIR contemplates massive depletion of our local water to move it somewhere else downriver, on the disputed and incorrect assumption (based on irrelevant and nonpredictive history about average rain between 1967 and 2017) that the local underground supply will recharge somehow, despite ignoring the "new normal" of climate change, drought and dryness and the consequent competition from those of us locals who will begin drilling wells for our own groundwater rights to save our surface forest and vegetation and to reduce our local fire risk



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(remembering that our exclusive “surface” right above the 2585-acre underground mine is admitted in Rise’s 10K to be 200 feet deep, and our groundwater rights continue below that for those above the mine and exist without limitation for those of us living around the mine.)

F. “Significant And Unavoidable Impacts” at DEIR # 5.6

In that section the disputed DEIR admits that it has summarized “significant and unavoidable impacts of the proposed project.” While those listed are understated or unsatisfactorily stated and, in some cases, could be partly mitigated, there are many others that are ignored, deficiently addressed, or debatable. More importantly, as admitted by the data in Rise’s current SEC 10K and 10Q filings and addressed in my # 2, Rise does not presently have the financial capacity to even open the mine, much accomplish safety actions assumed in the DEIR or to do such mitigations as it proposes. Also, as noted above, many problems are worsened by insistence on 24/7/365 operations for 80-years solely because of Rise’s arbitrary and undisclosed profit goals and revealed financial stresses, which are not satisfactory reasons for refusing to mitigate all these environmental burdens, risks, and harms. See my #’s 2, 4, and 14, addressing the Rise financial issues (eg, see Rise’s 10K, including the high interest rate escalating to 25% on the \$1,000,000 loan secured by the mine and the lack of adequate working capital and cash for the project work and mitigation contemplated in the DEIR inspiring their accountant to issue a “going concern” warning qualification to those financial statements.)

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Besides the problem identified in DEIR #4.1-2 and 4.1-4, degrading the visuals is also likely from the depletion of our local groundwater for wasteful dewatering that will not recharge in the “new normal” of climate change chronic drought and dryness as our local water is disposed of downriver somewhere else. See my #’s 3.A, B, D, E, F, and M and 5. We now live in a beautiful forest. When the already drought stressed trees and other plants die or suffer from the lower water table, nothing will be the same, especially if and when all those dry trees burn in a coming wildfire. When *Sunset Magazine* named Nevada City as one of the best places to retire in 2015 (as I recall), no one contemplated such mining in a suburban area above a 2585-acres underground mine under such circumstances.

Besides the problem identified in DEIR #4.10-1, the noise levels will be higher merely from the extraordinary 24/7/365 operations for 80 years, with all the rock crushing, machinery work, constant big truck loading and transport for 50 to 100 trips a day, and other things this DEIR mentions happening without adequate assurances of noise abatement. This will likely end up being monitored by locals and tested by locals under nuisance laws, as well as becoming a local political issue to create a suitable noise ordinance. Also, this DEIR discussion ignores the consequent noise caused by defensive work above and around the 2585 acre mine, such as everyone drilling wells for their groundwater to protect their surface trees and other plants from harm from mine dewatering depletion, from repairs to local infrastructure harms by differential settlement of the surface improvements by ground water depletion, and other defensive reactions.

Besides the problems admitted in disputed DEIR 4.12-1, 4.12-8, and 4.11-10, traffic is compounded and made worse for the same reasons stated above from unnecessary 24/7/365 operations for 80-years. If financial distress or lust for higher profits were excuses for 24/7/365 operations, many desirable local businesses would be demanding that right. Why favor such an



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exploitive and undesirable mine with no net benefits with such extraordinary leniency on hours of operation that create burdens, risks, and harms to the thousands of local residents and voters living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine? Who wants 50 to 100 big trucks coming and going 24/7/365 for 80 years on our key roads not made for that?

One unaddressed example for partial mitigation is to reduce the 24/7/365 operations for 80 years. (By considering and rejecting a 12-hour day, the DEIR admitted that would make the mine economically infeasible. If that exhausts their feasibility margin, then the mine was never feasible at all, especially for someone in the weak financial condition revealed in the Rise 10K and 10Q.) Since our governments do not allow even most desirable business to operate on that basis, it is incomprehensible to us locals subject to these mining burdens, harms, and risks that government would allow such an extraordinary exception to an undesirable mine with no net benefit (see my #'s 3.N, 4, and 8), when that intensity makes many of our local burdens, risks, and problems admitted in the DEIR or in this or other objections much worse. Another partial mitigation would be to drop the plan to shore up the underground mine with toxic hexavalent chromium cement paste that made Hinkley, CA into a ghost town with oversized graveyards and casualties and into a reality horror movie called *Erin Brockovich*. Other examples abound in this Objection and others.

13. Alternatives Analysis at DEIR # 6

I defer to others as to this debate because there is no acceptable alternative to rejecting the DEIR and keeping this mine closed, preserving the status quo since 1956. However, the less mine operation burdens, risks, and harms like those I have identified, the better. The disputed DEIR analysis in its #6 of alternatives, in its summary (at 6-3 to 7) of what purports to have a less than significant or no impact with or without mitigation is disputed and demonstrated to be wrong by this and other objections. What the disputed DEIR admits being "significant and unavoidable" at 6-7 is also disputed as insufficient and wrong, especially as to any mitigation. The whole idea of operating such an undesirable goal mine in the middle of our **suburban** community (ie, the area above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, if not the Rise owned sites) is absurd on its face, even if that were done by an operator who had the financial capacity to preform, mitigate, and comply with its legal obligations and DEIR mitigation and safety goals. I have seen no proof of such financial capacity by Rise, and its financial credibility is subject to question considering its admissions in Rise's current SEC form 10K and 10 Q filings, as I explain in my # 2. Our community has better uses for our resources. The last thing we need, as our community confronts climate change, political conflicts, and other serious problems, is this kind of protracted legal and political disputes and competition for local resources that are inevitable over such an undesirable, no net benefit mine with the potential to cause us locals to suffer chronic burdens, harms, and risks. See my # 4.

The disputed DEIR dodges many questions about its requested 24/7/365 mining operations for 80-years, often by citing its disputed argument that under CEQA that "an EIR is not required to analyze alternatives when the effect of the alternative 'cannot be reasonably ascertained and whose implementation is remote and speculative.'" First, that exception does not apply to the climate change unprecedented dryness and drought addressed in my Objection

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and others. Note that by the disputed DEIR resisting discussion of foreseeable burdens, risks, and harms at all or beyond the first 20 of its proposed 80 years of operations (typically, with 2040 cutoffs), the disputed DEIR admits that it regards those last 60 years as unknowable and speculative. How can government responsibly approve such mine operations 24/7/365 for 80 years where there are so many serious burdens, risks, and harms admitted in the DEIR and asserted by this and other objections? How so, especially when all the current science (and all our human experience in recent years) proves that climate change will make this area increasingly subject to continually worsening dryness and drought that make the DEIR predictions of the future from its calculation of average rain fall between 1967 and 2017 into an offensive joke? See my #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, and M, and 5.

Second, even as to the first 20 years of mining the disputed DEIR purports to consider, the DEIR's disputed analysis contains errors, omissions, and other misleading data that grossly understate the mine's burdens, risks, and harms. That reality of the disputed DEIR failures and worse for the first 20 years (or 2040) should it harder for any responsible government to blindly give the mine a blank check for whatever happens in the next 60 years plus. No permits should be allowed beyond the willingness or ability of the miner to describe all the CEQA issues correctly and comprehensively for the entire period of mining. If this miner declines to provide any sufficient and correct data beyond 2040, then there needs to be another DEIR at that time before any extension.

Third, those thousands of us who live on the surface above or around the 2585-acre underground mine (with Rise mineral rights only below 200 feet and not even then exclusive as to groundwater and some other things, as admitted in its 10K at my # 2) generally do not believe the disputed DEIR is an accurate and satisfactory description of our burdens, risks, and harms at issue. The DEIR ignores the fact that us thousands of objecting neighbors have our own competing legal and political rights to our groundwater, to subjacent and lateral support under our surface to prevent subsidence, to quiet enjoyment of our property, and other community and environmental benefits that we moved here to enjoy without the disruptions and worse threatened by this mine. See, eg, my #'s 3.F and 5. Indeed, even those in the adjacent stigma zone around those of us impacted neighbors will suffer loss of real estate value, environmental quality, and other benefits to which they have been accustomed. See my # 4. What that means is that those of us above or around this 2585-acre underground mine (including those in the larger stigma zone) have too much to lose by tolerating this DEIR mine. Therefore, besides enforcing our legal and political rights and defenses to persistently resist these DEIR threats, risks, and intrusions, we can also be expected to exercise our competing property rights. For example, as explained in my # 3.N and 4, our resistance likely will include saving our surface forest and plants from the mine's wasteful ground water depletion threat by exercising our competing rights to sink more wells to catch our groundwater before the mine dewatering process sends it away downriver somewhere else. That surface owners versus underground mine competition over our local groundwater will become more intense when our NID water is cut back by shortages or governmental reallocations. See, eg, my # 3.M and 8. That local competition is not "speculative," since that is already the consistent pattern throughout the State wherever there is insufficient surface water for traditional human and plant use. Since none of us locals can be expected willingly to suffer for the benefit of this no net benefit mine (see my # 4), government DEIR or mine approval will likely trigger both disputes and



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environmental resource competition with the mine that will endure and become more intense over the years, as us locals increasingly have more occasions to say, “we told you so.”

As the disputed DEIR admits at 6-2 as a CEQA requirement at Guideline 15126.6(e)(2): “The specific alternative of ‘no project’ shall also be evaluated with its impact. The purpose of describing and analyzing a no project alternative is to allow decision-makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the impacts of not approving the proposed project.” This disputed and insufficient DEIR utterly fails to provide a fair comparison for those purposes, not only to what are errors and omissions in the disputed DEIR, but even as to what portion of reality it admits existing. Since from Rise’s current 10K and 10Q financial reports (see my # 2 and those admitted “going concern” warnings from Rise’s accountant and management and Rise’s lack of any assurances of proven or other reserves of gold), it appears that Rise may not be capable of funding even what the disputed DEIR expects to accomplish as to safety, compliance, operating performance, and mitigation. Also, this DEIR must address what happens if it starts its operations and is unable to continue. In other words, one essential comparison is between the current no mining situation, and any alternative that cannot be accomplished by Rise for lack of sufficient money or otherwise. See my #’s 2, 13, and 14. Since the DEIR ignores most of the issues addressed in this and other objections, the increasing climate change, financial and political stresses, and other mine lender or investor risks will likely make fund raising more challenging for Rise. See my # 2.

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Thus, when the disputed DEIR insists that governmental DEIR and mine decisionmakers should ignore this and other objections as “speculative” or “remote,” we counter that it’s the miner’s ability to perform and comply that is speculative and questionable, as is their ability to finance all that is required even by the insufficient DEIR for CEQA compliance or even feasibility. See my # 14 and my supplemental brief, where I offer to brief any legal questions as to why the DEIR fails to comply with CEQA or its Guidelines in scores of ways demonstrated in this Objection and others. The DEIR must be judged to be even more deficient and noncompliant, when it must be redone to consider all the corrections and altered economics that must occur to correct the disputed DEIR’s errors, omissions, and deficiencies that I identify in this Objection and to deal with the harsher realities the disputed DEIR has ignored. **When the DEIR cites at 6-2 to CEQA Guidelines 15126.6(e)(2) as requiring in this “no project situation” choosing “an environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives,” it chose the wrong one (see my # 13) and must choose another one that is financially feasible without speculation. See my # 2, demonstrating why even from Rise’s own financial 10K and 10Q filings any improvement in those questionable financial prospects would be speculative, as its own accountant admits with its “going concern qualification” and warning in those financial statements.**

Among the disputed DEIR deficiencies, errors, and omissions are many in the “Selection of Alternatives” discussion at 6-8 et seq. For example, all the DEIR mining alternatives should be eliminated by its own stated standards (at 6-8) from Guidelines 16126.6(c), since, among other things:

- (i) There is a failure of the mine under any DEIR proposed approach **feasibly** to “meet most of the basic project objectives” (at 6-2) in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, as noted above and throughout this Objection and others.



- (ii) The DEIR mining alternatives are all as “infeasible” as the main proposal for all the reasons stated in this Objection and others, including on account of Rise’s admittedly uncertain capacity to fund its operations as I explain in my # 2, addressing its current SEC 10K and 10 Q and other factors.
- (iii) There is such an “inability to avoid significant environmental impacts” for all the reasons state in this Objection and others.

Note that such “infeasibility” in (ii) is admitted (at DEIR 6-8) to include among other factors: (A) “site suitability” (eg, the mine is no longer in the more rural area when it closed in 1956, but in a modern suburban area where thousands of residents and voters live on and around the 2585-acre underground mine within a forest that needs the groundwater at risk in this mining); (B) “economic viability” (eg, reopening this long closed mine even in accordance with the unrealistic, insufficient, and otherwise disputed DEIR, much less to deal with the realities the DEIR ignores or understates as shown in this Objection and others, will be very expensive [although the DEIR incorrectly ignores all cost and financing issues]. As shown in my # 2, analyzing, among other things, Rise’s problematic SEC 10K and 10Q revealed financial condition and lack of gold reserve proof, Rise has demonstrated neither any sufficient working capital nor cash nor equity or debt financing, nor timely gold revenue prospects, to pay for accomplishing even the opening or operation of the mine, including (as shown in my # 2) the 10K’s admissions there are no “proven reserves” or other assurances of any economically viable gold production from such operations, even at the lesser DEIR planning level, as distinguished from what more reality and legal compliance would require; (C) “availability of infrastructure” (eg, see the previous feasibility discussion, as well as my objections and others to using hexavalent chromium in cement paste to shore up the new underground mining); (D) “general plan consistency” (eg, see most of my Objection and others); (E) “other plans or regulatory limitations (eg, see most of my Objection and others); and (F) “jurisdictional boundaries” (eg, the disputes between the many owners and users of the surface 200 feet above the 2585-acre underground mine, as well as other adjacent owners whose surface and groundwater rights compete with the mine dewatering waste beneath them).

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Another example of DEIR failed logic and absurd reasoning is the disputed DEIR conclusion at 6-13 to dismiss all noncontroversial, industrial surface use alternatives, because they would be “more intensive” than this extraordinarily controversial, 24/7/365 mining for 80 years. Ask anyone of us objectors living above and around the 2585-acres underground mine if we can imagine any such commercial/industrial use being more objectionable than the DIR mine, and we would all vote for anything being better than this DEIR mine. Also ask our local real estate brokers, if any such commercial uses would harm our real estate values even one tenth of what this DEIR mine will cost us, and they would all agree that nothing could be as bad as this mine. Even if government decisionmakers rejected all the concerns in this and other objections from those in our community opposition (which would change no one’s mind on the merits), this unsubstantiated and absurd contention about that normal commercial use would still be obviously wrong. Nevertheless, please note that when decisionmakers consider the merit of the objections about the 2585-acre underground mine and its “intense” dewatering and other conflicts with us surface owners and users, it should be obvious that the DEIR simply refuses to consider any other reasonable use of the surface area to its own selfish gold profit ambitions that are use least compatible with our suburban

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community than any mining. This may be why the DEIR so often ignores us thousands of surface owners above and around this 2585-acre underground mine, because it is easier (although still wrong) for the DEIR to pretend the mine is less “intense” if it ignores those most provocative burdens, risks, and harms.

The list of disputed DEIR operating variable alternatives (at 6-13 to 15) for individual activities likewise appear just to be excuses for insisting on the preferred DEIR plan that all of us objectors find for good cause shown to be intolerable. To illustrate that reality for disputing the DEIR’s credibility, I note some examples detailed elsewhere in this Objection. THE MOST SERIOUS AND ABSURD OF THESE DISMISSED ALTERNATIVES REVEALS SOME IMPORTANT REASONS FOR DISPUTING AND REJECTING THE DEIR AND ITS PURPORTED REASONING. AT 6-13 THE DISPUTED DEIR DISMISSES OPERATING LIKE OTHER BUSINESSES FOR 12 HOURS INSTEAD OF 24 BECAUSE: “CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS WOULD INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY AND LIKELY MAKE THE PROJECT ECONOMICALLY INFEASIBLE.” THIS ADMITTED VULNERABILITY SHOULD CONFIRM THAT THE WHOLE ECONOMICALLY FRAGILE PROJECT IS NOW INFEASIBLE, AND NO LAW REQUIRES US NEIGHBORS TO TOLERATE 24/7/365 OPERATIONS TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH PROFIT GOALS OF A BUSINESS FOR ITS FOREIGN INVESTORS. IF NORMAL MINING OPERATIONS ARE NOT ECONOMICALLY INFEASIBLE, THAT IS GOOD CAUSE TO DENY THE MINING NOW, ESPECIALLY WITH A FINANCIALLY RISKY MINER LIKE RISE ADMITS BEING IN ITS SEC 10K AND 10Q AS DISCUSSED IN MY # 2. ALSO, IF THE MINE IS THIS VULNERABLE TO ECONOMIC STRESSES, THEN WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ECONOMIC STRESSES NOT ADDRESSED IN THE DISPUTED DEIR, WHICH GENERALLY FAILS TO DISCUSS ANY ECONOMIC VARIABLES OR COSTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE OBJECTIONS MADE (AND TO CONTINUE TO BE MADE) BY US SURFACE OWNERS AND USERS ABOVE AND AROUND THE 2585-ACRE UNDERGROUND MINE. For example, if we succeed in preventing 24/7/365 dewatering of the mine, as some may do directly or by competing with more wells for what is also our groundwater, that by itself by the DEIR’s own admissions could obstruct that objectionable 24/7/365 ambition. Note that, even if the County were to allow such 24/7/365 operation, the legal and political disputes that would continue could involve many options that could prevent such continuous operations, as could direct law reform as discussed in my # 3.N. For example, when our groundwater objections continue to be processed by our political and legal systems, one consequence could likely be reduced dewatering, a potential the disputed DEIR fails to consider, because (like it ignored climate change and drought) the DEIR refused to address sufficiently groundwater burdens, risks, and harms posed by the mine as discussed in my #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, and M and 5.

ANOTHER STRANGE EXAMPLE OF FLAWED DEIR REASONING (AT 6-14) IS CUTTING BACK ON THE AMOUNT OF TRUCKING THAT IS NOT JUST A TRAFFIC PROBLEM FOR OUR COMPETING LOCAL DRIVERS, BUT ALSO THE POUNDING OF THOSE HEAVY TRUCKS FULL OF ROCK AND OTHER MINE LOADS WILL QUICKLY WEAR OUT OUR ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ARE NOT MADE FOR THAT KIND OF ABUSE. RECALL THAT SUCH HEAVY TRUCK RUNS ARE EXPECTED TO INCLUDE “AN AVERAGE OF 50 TRUCKS PER DAY” WITH A MAXIMUM OF A 100 TRUCKS PER DAY.” THE WORST PART IS THAT, WHEN THOSE ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE MUST BE REPAIRED FROM THAT CONSTANT TRUCKING ABUSE, TRAFFIC ON THOSE KEY ROADS WILL BECOME ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME WHILE THEY ARE BEING REPAIRED. THE DEIR FAILS TO ADDRESS SUCH CONCERNS ADEQUATELY. Incidentally the



supposedly “more intense” traditional commercial/industrial uses would be far less intense than that mine trucking just by itself.

At the end of this flawed DEIR discussion of alternatives (at 6-42): the DEIR concludes: “Based on the preceding alternatives analysis, the No Project (No Build) Alternative would be the environmentally superior alternative.” In that case the DEIR insists that “another alternative must be selected to be the environmentally superior alternative.” BASED ON THE BOGUS DEIR DISMISSAL OF ACTUALLY SUPERIOR “INDUSTRIAL,” NON-MINING USES DISCUSSED ABOVE, INSTEAD THE DISPUTED DEIR PROPOSES ALTERNATIVE 2 “ELIMINATION OF THE CENTENNIAL INDUSTRIAL SITE” AS REDUCING “THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PROJECT IMPACTS.” BUT THAT CONCLUSION IS WRONG, BECAUSE THE DEIR IGNORES ALL THE BURDENS, RISKS, AND HARMS WITH THE 2585-ACRE UNDERGROUND MINING AND BRUNSWICK SITE OPERATIONS THAT ARE EVEN MORE SERIOUS AND WOULD CONTINUE WITHOUT REGARD TO THE CENTENNIAL OPERATIONS. IF THE GOVERNMENTAL DECISION MAKERS HOPE TO SOMEHOW ARRANGE A COMPROMISE WITH MINING OPPONENTS, THE DEIR IMPLIED OFFER TO SACRIFICE ITS CENTENNIAL AMBITIONS ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING FOR THE RESOLUTION OF LOCAL RESIDENT OPPOSITION. OUR MOST SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT BURDENS, RISKS, PROBLEMS, AND OUR DEPRESSED REAL ESTATE VALUES ALL PRIMARILY RELATE TO THAT UNDERGROUND MINING OF 2585 ACRES FROM THE BRUNSWICK SITE, AND THE “NO MINING ALTERNATIVE” IS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT PERPETUAL CONFLICT, COMPETITION, AND DISPUTES WITH US LOCALS USING OUR OWN COMPETING LEGAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS THAT CANNOT BE ELIMINATED BY ANY MINING APPROVAL. See my #'s 3.M and 4.

Since the manufacturing/business site Alternative avoids all this conflict, I urge the decisionmakers to disregard the meritless dismissal of that DEIR Alternative at DEIR # 6 by the mine advocates for no satisfactory reason. Too “intense” is absurd in comparison to the “intensity” of this DEIR mining. If any government official doubts that, consider the difference in the “intensity” of the local opposition to each alternative. (The DEIR preferred fallback Alternative idea of dropping the Centennial Industrial Site also won’t work, because in reality it’s not a separate CEQA “project,” but an integrated part of the one mine project and cutting it out would mean a total rewrite of the whole DEIR to conform to that reality and comply with CEQA. See my #14 and my supplemental brief.)

14. Some Additional Legal Issues For Follow-Up Consideration By DEIR Decisionmakers In Addressing Disputes Between The Mine Versus Those Of Us Living Above And Around The 2585-Acre Underground Mine.

A. Some Reasons For the County As Lead CEQA Agency To Reconsider And Accept My Objections As Consistent with CEQA, Even As To The DEIR’s Economic Infeasibility, And A Preview of Some Rebuttals To The DEIR’s CEQA Interpretations To Come In A Supplemental Objection.

As explained in my # 1.D, at the public hearing on March 24, 2022, the County began by excluding all consideration of evidence and argument regarding the financial condition and character of the DEIR miner and the financial feasibility of accomplishing key safety and

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mitigation results assumed in the disputed DEIR, contrary to this and other objections. Since the County had not yet heard any arguments why that position is incorrect under these particular facts and circumstances, I ask the lead CEQA Agency reconsider for reasons stated in this section and in the more technical brief that I expect to prepare before the end of the comment deadline. That is especially important where the DEIR itself makes financial feasibility statements that this Objections rebuts with admissions by the DEIR or Rise in its SEC 10K and 10Q filings about this mine (which is its only significant asset). Perhaps the County's such ruling was influenced by thinking that objectors might have a more efficient forum for such excluded objections in connection with the County's coming so-called economic study. But I later learned that study also may be too narrow, focused on other things, and may also mistakenly exclude those considerations. Therefore, I urge the County to expand that economic study as well for these and even more of such objections by me and others.

I am aware of the kinds of **factually distinguishable** court decisions where such challenges failed **under different circumstances than these**, and I invite the County to consider my counter authorities in a supplemental legal argument filing soon in support of my position. Please note here, however, that even Rise's own favorite cases do not allow bad faith DEIR claims which are illusory or speculation or bogus assumptions. That is what appears to exist here, since my #2 proves that Rise currently cannot afford to perform the DEIR and mitigations, even as they proposed them, as distinct from what more will ultimately be required by government or courts or local law reforms if the mine proceeds. That fact, largely based on Rise's own SEC filing admissions, makes the DEIR "illusory" and suggests a lack of "good faith." That is especially true given all the DEIR's other "strategic" errors, omissions, and deficiencies exposed in this Objection without any good excuse, such as the DEIR occasionally mentioning the use of hexavalent chromium in the mine shoring cement paste without any mention of it or its dangers in the DEIR's "Hazards And Hazardous Materials." See also my # 3.E and M, where I illustrate other examples of obscuring data, insufficient data, strategic omissions, and other inappropriate tactics prohibited by CEQA cases like *Banning Ranch Conservancy v. City of Newport Beach* (2017), 2 Cal.5th 918, 940-41 ("**Banning**") and *Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rancho Cordova* (2007), 40 Cal.4th 412, 442 ("**Vineyards**"), each insisting on "a good faith reasoned analysis," rather than scattered or buried data, and unexplained data in exhibits.

In any event, under the applicable facts and circumstances in this case and a correct interpretation of CEQA and its Guidelines and relevant (as distinct from distinguishable or other lower court decisions to be correct by the California Supreme Court), I urge that everything in this Objection be considered. I will explain that position in more detail in a supplemental brief to be submitted before the deadline. (The DEIR contained their disputed legal interpretations of various CEQA requirements, and so it's only fair and appropriate for the CEQA lead agency to consider my counters.) In the meantime, I believe that the DEIR is irreconcilable with the following example California decisions (and relevant cases, statutes, and Guidelines) cited therein, among others to be explained in my supplemental brief. *E.g.*, *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018), 6 Cal.5th 502; *Concerned Citizens of Costa Mesa, Inc v. 32nd Dist. Ag. Ass'n* (1986), 42 Cal.3d 929; *POET. LLC v State Air Resources Bd.* (2013), 218 Cal.App. 4th 681; *Gray v. County of Madera* (2008), 167 Cal. App. 4th 1099.



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Please remember, even if the lead CEQA Agency were to disagree with me on the technical CEQA merits of such legal disputes, there is one additional reason no agency or court should ever resist full consideration of this and other objections: legal “impeachment” rebuttal (ie, the use of evidence to contradict false or misleading claims) and especially the use some of the DEIR’s and Rise’s own words to rebut others. What my Objection does, and other objections could do, is expose with such evidence DEIR’s many internal contradictions to prevent the DEIR to prevail inappropriately by exposing contrary or inconsistent statements either (i) within the DEIR, or (ii) in the current Rise SEC Form 10K or 10Q (which, as I show in my #2) discusses many of the same mining related issues as the DEIR is different, inconsistent, or even contradictory ways. The California Supreme Court’s most important lesson about CEQA is the need for both clarity and truth. Objectors like me are entitled to challenge a DEIR that “crosses those lines.” Especially at times like this in our divided world’s larger conflicts, where constant barrages of false news/propaganda seek to create “alternative realities” (eg, Russia’s distortions and worse about Ukraine), it is important to remember that the rule of law itself depends on one clear and truthful reality. The DEIR often can be shown to fail that test, and it needs to be redone to clarify the actual reality of this mine. To do that requires corrections and edits to the DEIR consistent with this and similar objections.

Furthermore, the County should also allow appropriate consideration of accepted matters to which courts take “judicial notice” as matters of fundamental logic or reality, to prevent obviously false or misleading claims from being accepted by denying contrary such proof. For example, if Rise were to say, “Don’t worry about any health or safety rules, because I’ll just pay any victims to make them whole” (an exaggerated version of the disputed DEIR claim to cover anyone whose well dries up, which my #2 proves is equally illusory or speculative), that implies that Rise had the ability to accomplish that false claim. Why? Because people are not allowed to just invent nonrealities contrary easily proven facts in the real reality, especially by admission from the person asking a court or government official to join in that fantasy to officially (but incorrectly) pronounce it to become real. When the rule of law applies (and as CEQA must apply here), no naked “emperor” is allowed to insist that he’s wearing a fancy suit, because we allow people to say the clear truth that “the emperor has no clothes.” This is what my Objection and other objections seek to do about this DEIR. For example, the Rise admissions I cite in my #2 should be allowed to rebut that illusory DEIR assurance that somehow, without even knowing the huge number of affected old and new wells over even a shorter period than 80 years, the miner will supply the needed replacement water.

Please remember that the DEIR itself put its financial feasibility into issue for rebuttal by claiming (at DEIR page 6-14) that limiting mining to a 12-hour day made the project economically infeasible. Since DEIR uses that claim to defeat better “Alternatives” and mitigation, the law requires such rebuttals in my Objection and others. That admission by the DEIR itself at page 6-14, by manipulating the data on “Alternatives” thereby legally “opened the door” for all my economic feasibility arguments, and it illustrates the DEIR’s inconsistency. When the DEIR wants to plead poverty like that it does, and when it wants to make implied or express promises of being able to afford whatever mitigation may become necessary (eg, providing water to all dry well owners). The DEIR cannot have it both ways without us being able to expose that nonreality one way or the other. See, eg, my #'s 2 and 13. Yet, when the



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DEIR discusses (eg, 4.8-66) replacing wells the dry up (besides the 30 along East Bennett Road), Rise's current financial condition and questionable future prospects discussed in my #2 prove (including by Rise admissions in its current SEC 10K and 10Q filings) that it does not have the financial capacity to accomplish such mitigation, especially as the climate change the DEIR ignores forces many of us to drill competing wells to reach our own groundwater as NID supplies are reduced. See, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, M, N, 4, 5, 8, and 13. Indeed, that is what the DEIR itself admits it cannot accomplish (at 6-14) if it's limited to a 12-hour workday, as objectors will still demand. A CEQA compliant DEIR would have to disclose such realities, and when (as here) the DEIR fails to do so objectors must be allowed to expose them.

Furthermore, another DEIR "opening of the door" to my less CEQA-traditional rebuttals is the DEIR's "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" at 4.3-103-04, incorrectly purporting an attempt to show "good faith," but allowing us to prove the opposite if we are allowed to do so. My point on this also includes this related DEIR admission: that some of what the DEIR and apparently the County consider to be outside some disputed CEQA boundary is needed for essential clarity. This means one of two alternative admitted things, either the disputed DEIR CEQA boundary is wrong, or essential clarity of purpose and what they incorrectly consider "good faith" requires going beyond the CEQA constraints. Either way, if the DEIR can include what they call "Non-CEQA Related Analysis," then we objectors must be able to respond and counter in kind.

This cannot be a one-sided process where the DEIR can make any nonfeasible, false, or misleading claims they wish and us, while objectors are not permitted to rebut and expose those claims. The reality is that in many cases the DEIR fails to comply with applicable law, because its purported safety and mitigation assumptions and so-called facts, goals, and contentions addressed in this Objection and others are not only incorrect, deficient, and otherwise noncompliant with CEQA, but also are illusory. The CEQA lead agency must allow us to prove those wrongs by accepting our substantial evidence to the contrary, including fatal admissions by the DEIR and the miner, including as to economically infeasibility. As I prove in my #2 above, Rise and its accountant admit that there are "going concern" financial issues that make its performance at best too speculative and at least as to some things admittedly infeasible. When the miner's account warns the investors to beware that the mining may to be feasible for lack of sufficient funds, how can any responsible government not at least test at least the more obvious DEIR illusions?

In any event, I make my offer of proof as to admissions, DEIR contradictions and inconsistencies, and other evidence (and their applications) in my #2 and other places in this Objection for the record in requesting such reconsideration to require consideration of my economic feasibility and other rebuttals and counters. More important, as in my #2 and elsewhere I urge the County to ask if Rise is the real party in interest here, or whether they are acting for the real party with the money "behind the curtain." If, for example, Rise were "fronting" for someone else or planning to "flip the deal," that would also create CEQA objections to this DEIR. Since Rise lacks the funding to accomplish this disputed DEIR plan (see my #2), it is reasonable to ask why or for whom they are investing in this DEIR effort.



B. Supplement To Brief Rebuttals To DEIR Or Miner Incorrect Interpretations of CEQA Or Other Applicable Laws And Open Offer For Further Briefing.

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This Objection contends that the DEIR does not comply with CEQA and for various reasons should not be approved or at least entirely rewritten. To justify errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the DEIR, its proponents attempt to rely, for example, on disputed interpretations of CEQA or its Guidelines, sometimes stated and sometimes implied, and these disputes go beyond the economic feasibility debate discussed in the previous subsection, where some CEQA related issues are argued back against the DEIR's disputed contentions. While my Objections and others demonstrate facts, including by DEIR or Rise admissions, that make those DEIR or Rise legal arguments inapplicable or worse, I also offer to brief any legal issues as to which the government decisionmakers have any doubts. However, rather than add that legal briefing to support the scores of broader disputes with the many errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the DEIR, I will simply make an offer of proof to invite whatever briefing you decisionmakers would consider helpful on the remaining issues. To illustrate how that might work, I have offered a few examples below of such possible disputes.

C. Some Other CEQA Noncompliance By The Disputed DEIR, Including As Merely One Example, the Massive Underestimation of Dry Wells And the Illusory And Impractical DEIR Mitigation To Which Even NID Objects.

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The most substantial and frequent flaw in the DEIR, the consistent making of infeasible and not credible assertions of purported facts, data, or plans, even those beyond the economic infeasibility issues discussed above, seem premised on the disputed legal theory that this DEIR can comply with CEQA and its Guidelines merely by making objectively disputable or unsubstantiated statements that are false, misleading, or otherwise illusory about what will or could be accomplished pursuant to the disputed DEIR. For example, as demonstrated above the DEIR purports to address mitigation of our common protests against dewatering the mine drying up more existing **and future** wells besides the 30 along East Bennett Road. Beyond the economic infeasibility of that illusory DEIR mitigation addressed above, there is also the practical CEQA noncompliance by the DEIR as to the lack of adequacy of such mitigation, even if it could afford to do what would be necessary. As the NID speakers and others explained at the March 24, 2022, hearing (in the insufficient 3 or 5 minutes allowed each objector to identify massive DEIR disputes), a dry well water truck or hugely expensive NID connection is not feasible mitigation. As one realtor speaker explained (and other such experts will complain throughout this process), that DEIR mitigation is going to make the affected property not just depressed in value (as the whole community suffer from mine stigma and other impacts), but unmarketable or, in the case of land, unbuildable. Nowhere does the DEIR address that reality or the impact on the mine and the miner when the consequences of that mine dewatering is litigated. (Remember, as stated earlier, us surface property owners have legal property rights that include groundwater, and any harm to those rights has legal consequences for the miner,



but also for any government allowing a “taking” or “inverse condemnation” of that surface property right.

When what is assumed or represented by the DEIR is illusory, false, or deficient for any reason, not only because most required things in the DEIR are not currently feasible or affordable by Rise, there is a CEQA problem. The DEIR cannot insist that us local victims (or our government who is supposed to protect us) must accept or suffer such an “alternative reality” or illusion. Whatever the reason, there is a valid CEQA or other legal challenge whenever the underlying disputed DEIR assumptions, speculations, or unsubstantiated or preposterous claims or “wishful thinking” are challenged by us objectors. The disputed DEIR saying something does not make it so, and whatever the DEIR says must be subject to challenge and rebuttal by any legally competent evidence, which includes DEIR admissions, contradictions, inconsistencies, illusions, and worse, as well as those of Rise. This Objection has quoted both specific and general errors, omissions, and deficiencies, often by using quotes of the DEIR or Rise documents to prove my rebuttal cases on the merits. There is such a serious and consistent pattern of such documented DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies that it is reasonable for government decisionmakers to be at least skeptical and to insist on more and better data. The California Evidence Code allows that kind of evidence, including of any objectionable “pattern or practice” by the party being challenged. That kind of rebuttal is essential here, because I believe that, for all the reasons stated in this Objection and the others stated at the March 24, 2022, hearing or duly filed, the DEIR has demonstrated that it has and deserves little credibility with most of the informed residents and voters living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine who can be expected to resist the mine with all appropriate legal and political tools we can muster.

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Although it is sufficiently addressed throughout this and other Objections that I will not repeat it here, another feasibility obstacle from us local mine opponents living above and around the 2585-acre mine is that we also have competing property legal rights, for example, to the same groundwater that the DEIR expects to waste in dewatering and dispose of somewhere downriver in the Wolf Creek. Our competition for our own groundwater by more wells in this worsening climate change dryness and drought, which the DEIR entirely ignores in favor of irrelevant and nonpredictive average rainfall assumptions from 1967 to 2017, may defeat the DEIR plan by itself. See, eg, my # 3.D, E, F, and M and 5. Finally, us local voters expect to accomplish some law reforms (see my # 3.N, 4, and 8) that will also prevent the accomplishment of the DEIR plan, such as, for example, by limiting mining operations in such suburban areas to 12 hours a day, which the DEIR admitted (at DEIR 6-14) would be fatal to its mining plan.

D. Examples Of The Disputed DEIR’s Failure To Address the Predictable Future Contradictions To DEIR’s Incorrect, False, Or Misleading Alleged “Facts,” Opinions, And Assumptions On Which The DEIR Plans Purport To Be Justified.

This Objection makes a special point of exposing the objectionable way that the DEIR consistently and incorrectly assumes that it can predict the future results and consequences of its DEIR 2585-acre underground mining project from its selected data from the past. This is not

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just about ignoring climate change problems, such as dryness and drought, as discussed above. This is also about the fact that the disputed DEIR incorrectly assumes that it sufficiently knows the starting condition of this underground mine that's been closed and flooded since 1956 without adequate updated evaluations. Even more disturbing, the DEIR incorrectly assumes that what insufficient and questionable data the DEIR uses about that existing mine will continue to apply to what happens because of the DEIR's new, expanded, and deeper mining into unexplored places in those 2585-acres. See, eg, my # 3.M. Also, as illustrated by the disputed DEIR plan to use toxic, hexavalent chromium in the cement paste to shore up the new mining tunnels etc, the DEIR assumes that relevant environmental regulations will remain as lax in the future as they are now. If our applicable laws and regulations become more consistent with the science that assure successful civil litigation for victims (eg, the Hinkley, CA example from *Erin Brockovich*, or the US following the EU ban on such Cr+6 on account of the mass of horror stories on the EPA website), what happens to the DEIR mining assumptions? The answer is that no one knows from the DEIR, because the DEIR ignored the entire controversy, which (as explained in my #'s 3.C, G, and H, and 7) is like a developer installing asbestos in a new building without explanation, even though the whole asbestos industry was suffering mass tort judgments that had already driven many into bankruptcy, simply because that industry (like the cigarette industry) stalled effective regulation despite the clear science confirming the danger.

E. Miscellaneous Other Legal Considerations For Defeating The DEIR.

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These serious DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies, like others addressed throughout this Objection, may be premised on the disputed citation of the DEIR (at 4.7-32) to California Building Industry Association v. Bay Area Quality Management District (2015), 62 Cal. 4th 369, for the idea that as a successor owner of a mine closed in 1956, Rise can duck liabilities it inherited. (The mining industry also often uses mining leases to operators to attempt to shield the landlord taking a share of the profits from the tenant miner who too often is not financially capable of paying its victims.) However, that case notes (at 377-78) that "when a proposed project risks exacerbating those environmental hazards conditions that already exist, an agency must analyze the potential impact of such hazards on future users. [That] ... compels an evaluation of how the future residents or users could be affected by exacerbated conditions." Here there are many substantial and sometimes total failures of the disputed DEIR to do that, both as to the groundwater depletion and related issues addressed in my #'s 3.D, E, F, and M and 5 (compounded by using hexavalent chromium in that new, expanded, and deeper mining and the climate change drought and other impacts. See my #'s #.C, G, and H.)

My supplemental CEQA brief will address various issues in more detail, so that we can eliminate any purported DEIR excuses for not addressing the full reality of this mining menace. Nevertheless, there are sufficient court cases that I have discussed in this Objection to defeat the disputed DEIR on its merits and for noncompliance with a correct interpretation with CEQA or its Guidelines. The decisionmakers should find my authorities more useful in that factual context than anything to the contrary cited in the DEIR, where the real facts and circumstances are not what is stated in the DEIR, but instead what is stated in this Objection.



15. Some Example Concluding Questions For DEIR Decisionmakers To Ask As Follow-Ups To This And Other Objections.

A. How To Achieve Clarity About This Disputed DEIR That Has The Effect Of Obscuring Important Truths: Some Reasons For Considering Example Questions Like These, As A Means Of Organizing The Mass Of Useful Objections By Many Impacted Locals On Their Respective Unique Concerns About The Many DEIR Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies

As I sat listening at the March 24, 2022, County hearing to the more than 100 local people objecting to this disputed DEIR threatening many of the things they love most about their homes, their environment, and their community, I wondered how one could organize that overwhelming mass of truths from so many different perspectives. I then multiplied what those 100 plus of objectors had to say by more they would have said if they had more than three minutes, as well as what many of their mine opposition organizations will say in written objections, and I became concerned. How could we reveal all the simple truths in a more coherent way under these circumstances in rebutting a DEIR with so many flawed narratives to address that, whether or not so intended, have the effect of making a unified and coherent rebuttal more than challenging? I know that difficulty because in my effort in this objection I found it hard to achieve what in science might be called a "unified field theory" to explain why this DEIR is so dangerous and objectionable. I wish I had the time to develop such a more comprehensive and unified way than by what I have been able to do here in drilling down on my top 50 or so serious complaints on the topics and issues I have some qualifications to address. Perhaps some objector smarter than I can do so to merge all this objection data together into the view of reality we need our government to have against this DEIR. In the meantime, here is my suggestion for such a compilation that I illustrate in two ways: first, we ask the **hard questions** that the DEIR dodges and evades and that under CEQA and the demands of logic and fairness this "alternative reality" DEIR should be required to address, and second, we expose (and file our challenges to) the disputed excuses that DEIR seems to be using to hide from those hard questions.

What follows are some examples of such hard questions dodged or evaded in the disputed DEIR to illustrate my concept. What follows separately in a supplemental brief on some CEQA issues will be an illustration of how DEIR's evasion and omission techniques do not comply with CEQA, as the DEIR expressly and implicitly claims incorrectly that it has done. For example, the DEIR attempts to avoid entirely contrary realities for which it has not even one of its deficient, but positive or reassuring sounding (though erroneous) answers. **For example, somehow the deficient DEIR incorrectly imagines that CEQA can be satisfied by a theoretical discussion of what some feasible mining plan might be by someone theoretically capable of achieving what the disputed DEIR claims in its "alternative reality."** Wrong, as I will try to demonstrate in my supplementary filing and here illustrate in my #'s 2, 4, and 14, it is sheer speculation that this DEIR miner could afford actually to accomplish what is stated so confidently in the disputed DEIR. **CEQA is not just about useless, abstract miner theory. The law requires clarity about what the actual miner will actually do, what burdens, harms, risks,**

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and issues will actually be encountered, and how the actual miner will actually mitigate those problems and accomplish the real project as detailed in a DEIR that enables everyone who could be impacted to be able to make informed decisions. What responsible government must know the COMPREHENSIVE REALITIES before it allows this kind of underfunded miner (see my # 2) to reopen a mine closed and flooded since 1956 to begin new, expanded, and deeper mining into unknown conditions in that 2585-acre underground mine below thousands of objecting surface residents 24/7/365 for 80-years. What this and other objections are doing in our various ways is to convince our government that the disputed and deficient DEIR does not ever adequately inform any of us about what is actually going to happen and not happen underneath our homes and property and to our environment.

B. Examples Of Some General Opening Questions About The DEIR And Miner, Reflecting What Locals Distrust As Errors, Omissions, Or Deficiencies.

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(1) Fact Base of Questions Regarding Local Resistance (see my # 3.N): Most of the informed people among the thousands living above or around the 2585-acre underground mine beneath our homes and properties appear (like me) to have specific fears and concerns about the mine and disputed DEIR. Such locals like me find no sufficient and reliable answers in the DEIR to their predictable questions and concerns. Instead, we are discovering or learning about many errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the DEIR, especially about the potential risks, threats, and problems that would be occurring beneath us 24/7/365 for 80 years, if the DEIR and mine were approved, especially (i) regarding groundwater and NID water depletion or waste in what we expect to be prolonged dryness and drought from climate change generally ignored by the DEIR, (ii) regarding the use of hexavalent chromium cement paste to shore up the underground mine and perhaps ending up in wells or the Wolf Creek, and (iii) regarding the way the DEIR seems to pretend that the only considerations that matter are the small parts of the mining situation and plan (eg, the owned surface sites and 30 dry wells along East Bennett Road) that almost entirely ignore our local interests and concerns living above and around the underground mine. In other words, there is no apparent net benefit from this mine to us locals, but many obvious risks, harms, and problems for which no solution or insufficient mitigation is proposed or revealed in the DEIR. See my #2.

Related Questions:

Why has the DEIR not even attempted to recognize, much less address, any of us locals' concerns? Why must this be an "apples versus orange" debate, in which the apple is real and the DEIR orange is alternate reality?

Why has the DEIR not addressed the scientific evidence of climate change affecting our shared NID water and groundwater supplies? How can the DEIR justify only looking at the past to predict the mine future, when the future realities will be different not only because of climate change, but also because of what the DEIR mining is changing 24/7/365 for 80 years in its mining, including into new, deeper, and expanded parts of the



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2585-acre mine with unknown and unexamined condition underneath thousands of surface residents?

Why does the DEIR not identify and notify the surface owners' and users' above and around the 2585-acre mine and otherwise recognize their legal rights in competition with the underground mine?

Why has the DEIR mine done nothing to address the stigma consequences of its DEIR mining plan on thousands of people living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre mine, such as the loss of value in their homes? By submitting such a disputed DEIR full of such errors, omissions, and deficiencies what can a home seller say to a buyer about the mining occurring literally beneath the house? Because, unlike the disputed DEIR which would say "don't worry, my CEQA report says everything the law requires me to tell you is fine," wouldn't the home sellers' truths have to be that until someone stops it: (i) there could be 24/7/365 blasting, tunneling, rock removal, shoring with toxic hexavalent chromium, dewatering and other mining activities in a 2585-acre mine beneath your new property, (ii) the DEIR says not to worry, and the government for some reason approved it, by I and everyone else around here objected and are resisting, and (iii) there are hundreds of detailed objections by us locals and other experts denouncing that DEIR and its government approval because we consider the DEIR to be full of error, omissions, and deficiencies and the miner by its own admission unable to afford to accomplish even what the DEIR states, much less what such objections insist would have to be done for the mine to be tolerable, if that were even possible when adequate reliable information is available correcting the DEIR's deficiencies?

How can Rise fund even what is proposed in the insufficient DEIR, considering what it has admitted in its SEC 10K and 10Q (see my #2)? What is the track record of Rise and its officers, directors, and major shareholders in safe mining consistent with environmental laws and regulations? What is their litigation and governmental investigation or enforcement history, since sometimes settlements of serious allegations are relevant in judging suitability and credibility for such DEIR mining? (That and more is relevant to any investor or lender making a credit judgment about such a miner seeking funding, and, therefore, that information must be relevant to any consideration of the feasibility of any DEIR mining plan.)

Considering the many concerns about the performance and compliance capabilities of this DEIR miner and plan, will the DEIR advocates accept DEIR and other approvals as conditional on timely performance standards and compliance? Stated another way, will DEIR advocates accept more meaningful consequences for noncompliance and wrongs than a mere breach of contract remedy, which almost always produces disappointing results in bankruptcy, especially in the context of a cross-border bankruptcy, or in other abandonment of the types common in the mining industry whenever things go badly or the mine has played out? (See, eg, my # 2 and the EPA website listing more than 40,000 abandoned mines in California, many once in bankruptcy before the trustee or others decisionmaker decided that such assets were now worthless or worse liabilities.)



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(2). Fact Base of Questions Regarding Surface Owner Rights: Any underground miner, including this DEIR miner, is subject to various legal duties to those who own the surface above or around the mine, such as, for example, duties of this 2585-acre underground mine to continue to provide subjacent and lateral support to prevent “subsidence,” to avoid misuse or pollution of the local groundwater, and otherwise not to make nuisances or disturbances interfering with surface uses or harming the value of the surface estates. Here the disputed DEIR seems to pretend that there is no one on the surface above or around the 2585-acre underground mine (in fact, there are thousands of us), and that the DEIR miner is free to do whatever it wishes, whether or not described in the DEIR.

Related Questions:

Why does the DEIR not address the thousands of surface owners’ and users’ legal rights in competition with the underground mine?

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What amount of subsidence (or worse) should people living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine expect to experience from the DEIR described mining activities under realistic conditions, for example, assuming that the actual average rainfall/snowfall is only 80%, 60%, 40%, or 20% of what the DEIR claims for the period between 1967-2017 on account of climate change creating drier and more drought condition?

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What would be the effect on the mine of hundreds of us locals living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine drilling our own competing wells to our own ground water, either (i) within the first 200 feet considered our surface when the property is above that mine, or (ii) deeper when the surface property is not above, but around the mine?

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What would be the effect on the DEIR mine of a surface owner or user obtaining a court injunction against the mine allowing any intrusion of hexavalent chromium into our shared groundwater or our properties either (i) within the first 200 feet considered our surface when the property is above that mine, or (ii) deeper when the surface property is not above, but around the mine?

(3). Fact Base of Questions Regarding Local Law Reforms (See my # 3.N) To Clarify And Limit What Constitutes A Nuisance Or Other Wrong:

While government has the power to grant permits and approve EIR’s for such projects, our laws, including our State and Federal Constitutions, also protect the competing rights of surface owners above and around mines and other neighbors from trespass, nuisances, and other kinds of objectionable conduct. If the government were to approve the DEIR and the mine, the thousands of affected people and others may consider whether some of the expected conduct at the DEIR mine could be a trespass or nuisance or otherwise sufficiently objectionable to begin passing self-defense laws that clarify or confirm what is a nuisance or is otherwise no longer to be tolerated as an intrusion on such personal or property rights. Rather



than only address that in legal disputes, voters can be expected to elect like-minded officials and pass initiatives that add such protections to our laws. See my # 3.N. Obviously, the DEIR mine threat is merely the inspiration and example for the general need for such greater protections, and the laws would be of more general application, although that general application would include what such voters regard to be intolerable in the DEIR example. As noted above, once one mine is allowed in our community, it becomes a magnet for others and other undesirable businesses with negative environmental and other consequences, as happened in Richmond after Chevron and Benicia after Valero.

Related Questions:

When the thousands of locals living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine exercise their voting rights to protect and defend their interests with new local defense laws of general application, such as limiting mining hours, noise, vibration, and other protections and clarifications against what us locals would consider to be nuisances or other unacceptable conduct, what is the effect of that on the feasibility of the DEIR mine?

When the thousands of locals living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine exercise their voting rights to protect and defend their interests with new 'pay your share' laws, such as taxing certain commercial enterprises, including mines, that regularly use more than (say) 20 heavy truck trips during any 12 hour period during a day for more than an average of 20 days a month during any 6 months period on busy, two land roads within significantly populated areas [to be defined, but including the mining trucks planning to use roads like Brunswick and Idaho Maryland Roads in the Grass Valley area], what is the effect of that on the feasibility of the DEIR mine?

When the thousands of locals living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine exercise their voting rights to protect and defend their interests with new reporting and monitoring laws and regulations for the protection of those surface residents, as well as making that data public information readily available for our community, what is the effect of that on the feasibility of the mine?

C. Fact Basis of Examples of Specific Questions About The Financial Feasibility of the DEIR Miner And Miner Accomplishing the Mitigations Or Other Protections For Neighbors And The Shared Environment Assumed Or Represented In The DEIR, Including As Mitigation:

Based upon the admissions by Rise in its current SEC Form 10K and 10Q Filings, as demonstrated in my Objection at # 2, it appears that Rise has insufficient reported cash and credit to afford to accomplish what is represented or expected by its DEIR, even just to reopen the mine, not to mention to complete the needed safety and mitigation work. Indeed, the reported financial margins are so tight that the DEIR admits that the project is not feasible even if they were prohibited (as many of us locals demand) to only mining 12 hours a day instead of 24/7/365. Considering those and other factors, the government decisionmakers either must

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reject the DEIR as not feasible, or demand to know who else besides Rise is going to provide the cash or credit to make this DEIR plan feasible. Stated another way, the decisionmakers should insist on knowing who is the "real" miner here, and on what terms and conditions. If this DEIR is a means to package a "flip" of the actual mining operations to someone else, such as a partner, operating tenant, loan-to-own lender, or other third party, the government decisionmakers should know that and all relevant details before any DEIR approval, as well as the CEQA data from the third-party funding operator. This is especially critical because the disputed DEIR already lacks essential information about Rise to enable the government decisionmakers to judge its character, financial condition, and track record to evaluate its ability to raise the funding it would need if it planned to mine itself.

Related Questions:

What is the source of funding for each aspect of the mining and related activities stated in the DEIR? If it comes from third parties, what are the terms and conditions for such funding, and why is that third party not participating as a disclosed party in the DEIR?

Do the DEIR advocates deny that the character, financial performance capability, and track record of the miner are important factors in CEQA compliance and feasibility?

Considering the questions about its financial condition, what types and amounts of insurance coverage and surety bond coverage will this DEIR mining have? What is the risk of human error, and how is it mitigated for such hazardous activities and even the high-risk mitigations, like treating the mine water dumped into the Wolf Creek and NID system?

D. Examples of Specific Questions About The Margin For Mine DEIR Assumptions Or Contention Errors And For Changes In Applicable Laws, Regulations And Circumstances Affecting The Mining:

The disputed DEIR assumes the timely availability of everything it needs to timely accomplish everything as assumed, represented, or expected in the DEIR. In most cases there is no disclosure as to how or why such things must be true, feasible, or affordable, much less any relevant evidence. In other words, most of the DEIR are just words with no credible supporting foundation in relevant facts or evidence, such as demonstrated in the previous section # 2 about Rise's financial condition and funding and in the earlier discussion of the DEIR (at 6-14) admitting that the project was not feasible if it had to operate on a 12-hour instead of 24-hour day. See my discussions in my # 13 about the deficient Alternatives Analysis in DEIR #6. Whether or not so admitted or exposed from other Rise's public documents, the DEIR frequently seems to contemplate that everything must be done precisely as and when it is planned and explained in the DEIR. Since us local objectors do not imagine that any ultimate mining operation can be ultimately permitted in accordance with the DEIR's "only do it my way" approach, that makes the DEIR nonfeasible for more reasons than just insufficient funds. The time to find this out is now, rather than later when us locals successfully enforce our competing rights, such as, for example, during shortages for our competing rights to NID and



groundwater and if and when the miner complains for the first time about bad consequences for not giving the mine and others what the DEIR expected, unless the DEIR plan is allowed to take our competing shares of NID or groundwater and take other competing advantages of us for their unwanted mine.

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Related Questions:

Since it seems unlikely that all the mining and other activities in the DEIR will be permitted exactly as stated in the DEIR, what variances are possible for the DEIR to remain feasible, and what variances would make the project nonfeasible?

For example, how much less in NID or groundwater by volume, duration, or frequency can the project tolerate before the DEIR dewatering or other plans fail and the project ceases to be feasible.

Does the DEIR mine deny that, if (as we believe) the DEIR does not now fully and accurately reveal its true vulnerabilities in the inevitable competition for scarce, shared resources (eg, water or air quality) with those of us living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, that the mine should be barred from complaining later when us locals insist on our competing rights and priorities?

Ind 254-100

Since, among the things, what matters most to those of us living on the surface above or around the 2585-acre underground mine are the preservation of the water table level sufficient for the survival of our forest trees and home plants, as well as human uses from NID or well water, what is the impact of the DEIR water usage of those concerns? Assuming no one impacted is convinced about the disputed DEIR's assumed "balancing" by imagined "recharge" by average rainfall incorrectly assumed to continue as between 1967-2017, what is the effect of the thousands of us drilling wells to tap our share of the groundwater we own on the mining plan of the DEIR that ignores any such competition?

Why is the DEIR claiming "credit" in its "balancing" claim of benefit for its DEIR dewatering plan sending our local owned community groundwater off downriver somewhere in the Wolf Creek, since that does nothing to reduce the dry and drought conditions for those of us who live above and around the 2585-acre underground mine?

Why does the DEIR imagine that NID wants the dangerous hexavalent chromium in the Wolf Creek that the miner is putting into the cement shoring for the underground mine, even if it were treated to the currently lax (but certain to change) standards of tolerance that offer no liability protection for the polluters? See my #'s 3.C, G, H, and 7.

Ind 254-101

E. Examples of CEQA Related Questions About Deficiencies And Noncompliance.

As discussed in my #'s 3.E and M, 4, 14, and elsewhere, including my supplemental filing to address certain CEQA issues, the disputed DEIR is challenged for error, omissions, and



Ind 254-101

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deficiencies regarding essential data. Without the ability to make informed decisions, responsible government should not act to approve the DEIR, especially because any such approval would not convince any objector to tolerate the DEIR mining under the circumstances.

Related Questions:

In the many places where CEQA requires data in the DEIR that is omitted, deficient, or erroneous, is there any reason why the decisionmakers or local residents at risk should not assume that such noncompliance implies that the information is negative and sufficient to prevent approval of the DEIR? If the DEIR advocates contend that they should be excused somehow from compliance, why doesn't the DEIR request permission for such noncompliance and explain the purported justification? Why does the DEIR not explain omissions to the data us locals consider essential?

Since the DEIR often fails to support its contentions and assumptions with evidence or even credible reasoning, especially as to conditions relevant to the 2585-acre underground mine in the future, why should those unsubstantiated contentions and assumptions be rejected as mere speculation? Do the DEIR advocates deny that the burden of proof and persuasion for CEQA approval of the DEIR is on them, and not on the objectors?

What happens when and if the DEIR's asbestos, arsenic, and other hazardous substances (see DEIR #'s 7 and 10) mitigation or safety plans cease to be feasible, as, for example, if the miner cannot or fails for any reason to water the dangerous dust it brings to the surface?

Since the mine owes a legal obligation to provide continuous subjacent and lateral support for the surface owned and used by us locals above and around the 2585-acre underground mine to prevent subsidence and protect groundwater (see, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, M, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12), why does the DEIR not address that risk when it reopens the mine closed and flooded since 1956 and that now is to be mined in new, expanded, and deeper places as to which the conditions are not revealed in the DEIR and probably have not even been investigated properly? See my # 3.E, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

CONCLUSION:

For the reasons stated and others detailed in related objections to the DEIR and the mine, I urge that the disputed and nonfeasible DEIR be rejected as noncompliant with CEQA and as containing material errors, omissions, and deficiencies.

Sincerely,
/s/ Larry Engel
G. Larry Engel



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 254: G. LARRY ENGEL

Response to Comment Ind 254-1

This comment is introductory in nature and the commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter provides several examples but explains that the inadequacies in the DEIR will be fully explained in the comments below. In general, the commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate in the following areas: impacts to groundwater, the scope of the project (i.e., exclusion of the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site), the use of outdated hydrogeologic data, the presence of hexavalent chromium (Cr^{+6}) in the Cement Past Backfill (CPB), and the project's impacts to hydrology in the light of the drought.

Regarding the impacts to groundwater, the DEIR found this impact to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Regarding the proper scope of the project and cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site, the commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. Regarding the data used to estimate groundwater impacts, the commenter is referred to Master Response 13 – Historic Hydrogeologic Assessments. Regarding the hydrology impacts during the drought, the commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Regarding the presence of hexavalent chromium in the CPB, the DEIR states that chromium is a naturally-occurring trace component in the materials used to make cement, the binder for the CPB. Hexavalent chromium is typically less than two percent of the total chromium content in cement, while the total chromium itself is a very small component in the finished cement (approximately 220 parts per million.) Thus, the fraction of hexavalent chromium in cement is usually only about 0.000004 (or 0.0004 percent) of the total mass of the cement before forming any admixtures (e.g., concrete or CPB). (DEIR, p. 4.8-47.)

As the DEIR notes, it is only during the mining phase that Cr^{+6} could have any potential to leach from CPB, because that is when there would be air (oxygen) in the mine workings (Cr^{+6} can only form under oxidizing conditions). Once the mine re-floods, reducing conditions (very low dissolved oxygen levels creating a negative oxidation reduction potential) would return in the mine workings, which would prevent any leaching of Cr^{+6} . However, during mining, if there were any Cr^{+6} in the water within underground workings due to groundwater inflow, it would be reduced to Cr^{+3} (due to low oxygen levels in the water), which is relatively immobile in water and has a much lower impact on water quality than Cr^{+6} . Once the water was pumped from the mine any Cr^{+3} would generally precipitate out of the water in the pond or be removed by the physical filtration unit in the WTP. (DEIR, p. 4.8-48.)

Blasting or backfilling with CPB would be conducted exclusively within the underground mine workings. Thus, any water that contacts those components would be present only within the mine workings and would be pumped out of the mine workings by the dewatering system. As a result, that water would not have the potential to flow into the fractured bedrock and flow toward any domestic supply wells. The dewatering causes a low-pressure area around the underground workings such that groundwater inflow is toward the mine, not from the mine toward the domestic wells. (DEIR, p. 4.8-58.) Additionally, in obtaining the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Project Applicant would ensure that the



leaching of hexavalent chromium would not cause any impact and would meet regulatory standards. (DEIR, p. 4.8-47–48.)

The commenter also discusses the project's impact to property values and whether the Project Applicant is adequately capitalized to undertake the project, should the County approve it. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 254-2

The commenter provides a Table of Contents for the Comment Letter. Responses to specific comments are provided below.

Response to Comment Ind 254-3

The commenter states that the DEIR inadequately analyzes a variety of project impacts but fails to specify how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate for the following reasons: the scope of the project is not adequately described as it excludes the remediation of the Centennial Industrial Site and the commenter states that the project area is actually the entire 2,585-acre mineral rights boundary. The commenter also states that the DEIR underestimates the number of wells potentially impacted by the project and that the DEIR relies on outdated hydrological data in light of the current drought. The commenter states that the DEIR fails to analyze potentially hazardous constituents such as hexavalent chromium, asbestos, and arsenic. The commenter also states that the dewatering of the mine will adversely impact vegetation in the area. The commenter also states the DEIR inadequately analyzes noise and vibration impacts and the traffic impacts.

Regarding the DEIR's estimation of the number of groundwater wells impacted, the use of historical hydrology data, and the project's affect on groundwater in general, the DEIR analyzed the impact to groundwater supplies in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 13 – Historic Hydrogeologic Assessment, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Regarding the assertion that the DEIR underestimates the true scope of project by excluding the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site and the entire 2,585-acre mineral rights boundary, the commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA, and Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

Regarding the DEIR's treatment of hexavalent chromium, asbestos, and arsenic, the DEIR examined asbestos both in the Health Risk Assessment (DEIR, p. 4.3-61.) and in the context of emissions (DEIR, p. 4.3-80) and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. Regarding hexavalent chromium, the commenter is referred to the portion of Response to Comment Ind 254-1 that discusses hexavalent chromium in CPB.

Noise and vibration impacts of the project are analyzed in detail in Chapter 4.10 of the DEIR, and transportation impacts are evaluated in Chapter 4.12. Regarding subsidence concerns, the commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings.

The commenter's concerns related to climate change and drought are addressed in Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.



The commenter also describes at length the Project Applicant's financial status and the potential adverse impacts to real estate values that will result should the County approve the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 254-4

This comment seeks to incorporate “follow-up written filings” from the Nevada County Planning Commission hearing held on March 24, 2022 from organizations such as Community Environmental Advocates, Minewatch Nevada County, and the Sierra Club. It is unclear if the commenter is referring to those organizations' written comments received on the DEIR during the public review period which closed on April 4, 2022. To the extent that those organizations submitted written comments on the DEIR, the commenter is referred to the applicable responses to comments [e.g., Group Letters 6, 7 and 8 (CEA); Group Letters 28 through 32 (Wolf Creek Community Alliance); Group Letter 23 (Sierra Club); Group Letter 25 (South Yuba River Citizen's League; Group Letters 11 and 12 (Friends of Banner Mountain)].

Response to Comment Ind 254-5

The commenter discusses at length the financial condition of the Project Applicant and its filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). The commenter states that the DEIR is flawed because of the lack of information indicating the Project Applicant is sufficiently capitalized to undertake the project. However, CEQA requires that the DEIR only evaluate the environmental impacts of the project. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21100.) “Environment” is defined as the physical conditions that exist within an area affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora and fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21060.5.) Economic and social effects that are not related to physical impacts need not be evaluated in the DEIR. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15131(a).) Accordingly, the Project Applicant's financial condition, or the project impact on property values, does not fall within the scope of environmental impacts required to be discussed in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Regarding the commenter's tenuous references to dewatering and drought/climate change, please see Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 254-6

The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate for three reasons. First, the Project Description of the scope of the DEIR does not account for the entire 2,585-acre mineral rights boundary. Second, the DEIR excludes the remediation and cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site. Third, the DEIR underestimates the impact to groundwater wells. Regarding the mineral rights boundary area, the commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. Regarding the Centennial Industrial Site, the commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. Regarding the project's impacts to groundwater wells, the commenter does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The DEIR examined impacts to groundwater supplies and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.



Response to Comment Ind 254-7

The commenter references asbestos, arsenic, and hexavalent chromium but does not provide additional detail or explain the DEIR is inadequate in examining any impacts associated with asbestos, arsenic, or hexavalent chromium. The commenter is referred to Responses to Comments Ind 254-1 and Ind 254-3. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to analyze the extent of the underground mine workings. The commenter implies that the project will include underground mining throughout the 2,585-acre mineral rights boundary. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. The commenter also states that the DEIR will result in groundwater depletion which will dry out vegetation and exacerbate wildfire risk but provides not additional information. The DEIR examined impacts to groundwater supplies and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Regarding impacts to vegetation, the commenter is referred to Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation.

Response to Comment Ind 254-8

The commenter states that the project will have adverse impacts to Property values within the mineral rights boundary and that the County should consider information submitted by the Project Applicant in various SEC filings. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to adequately address the extent of mining operations throughout the entire mineral rights boundary. The commenter also states that the DEIR erroneously excludes the Centennial Industrial Site and the entire mineral rights boundary from the Project Description. Finally, the commenter is concerned that underground mining could lead to instability or collapse on the surface. Regarding property values and SEC filings, the commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response - 2 Social and Economic Impacts. Regarding the adequacy of the DEIR in regard to operations within the mineral rights boundary, the commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project under CEQA, regarding the assertion that the cleanup of the Centennial Cleanup Project should be analyzed in the DEIR. Regarding surface stability, the commenter is referred to Master Response 29 - Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 254-9

The commenter references information in the Project Applicant's SEC 10-K Report. The commenter also expresses concern regarding the possibility of subsidence due to underground mining and states that the dewatering of the mine will cause adverse impacts to private groundwater wells. Lastly, the commenter is concerned about underground mining operations within 200 feet of the surface. Any information contained in the Project Applicant's SEC 10-K Report is irrelevant to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. Regarding the possibility of subsidence, the commenter is referred to Master Response 29 - Near Surface Workings. The commenter's concern regarding impacts to private groundwater wells is addressed in Master Responses 14 and 15. Lastly, the DEIR states that no mining activity will occur at a depth less than 500 feet. (DEIR, p. 3-19; also see COA included in Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.).

Response to Comment Ind 254-10

The commenter references the Project Applicant's SEC 10-K Report and asserts that the Project Applicant is either undercapitalized or will not receive adequate investment to make the project viable. The applicant also states that the project's impact to the water table will dry out vegetation,



making the area more prone to wildfire. The commenter also reiterates concerns regarding the project's potential negative impacts to property values. The commenter states that lowering of the water table will create new wildfire threats. It is assumed that this commenter refers to potential impacts to vegetation. The commenter states that the project will also result in subsidence within the mineral rights boundary. Regarding the potential impacts to vegetation, the commenter is referred to Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependant Vegetation. References to the SEC 10-K Report or impacts to property values are not relevant to the adequacy of the DEIR's discussion of physical impacts to the environment. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues, and Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts. Regarding subsidence, the commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings. Regarding hexavalent chromium, the commenter is referred to the portion of Response to Comment Ind 254-1 that discusses hexavalent chromium in CPB.

Response to Comment Ind 254-11

The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate because it does not fully explain the extent of new underground mining within the mineral rights boundary. The commenter also asserts there is a discrepancy within the DEIR regarding the daily production amounts of the project (i.e., 500 tons per day as stated on DEIR p. 3-19 or 1,000 tons per day as stated on DEIR p. 6-2.) Regarding the extent of new underground mining, the commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining. Regarding the daily production amounts, the project will generate a total of 1,000 tons of mineralized material. (DEIR, p. 3-19.) As the DEIR states, the 500 tons figure refers to expected amount of barren rock, which will result from mine development. (DEIR, p. 3-19.) The 1,000-ton figure refers to the expected amount of mineralized material to be produced by gold mineralization production. (DEIR, p. 3-19.)

Response to Comment Ind 254-12

The commenter references the financial feasibility of the project. The commenter is also concerned that the truck traffic from the project will cause damage to local roadways. Regarding the financial feasibility of the project, the commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. Regarding the potential for damage to local roadways, Mitigation Measure 4.12-6(b) of the DEIR requires the Project Applicant to enter into separate road maintenance agreements with Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley to provide the project's fair share of funding for maintenance of roadways commensurate with the project's impact to pavement conditions on both Nevada County and Grass Valley roadways, including Brunswick Road between E. Bennett Road and SR 49, and E. Bennett Road between project driveway and Brunswick Road.

Response to Comment Ind 254-13

The commenter quotes the second paragraph of DEIR page 4.8-51. The DEIR states in this paragraph that additional mining at depths greater than the existing underground mine workings is unlikely to impact groundwater due to reduced hydraulic connectivity. The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate because it provides no discussion supporting this discussion. However, the DEIR's Appendix K.3 (Groundwater Model Report), prepared by environmental consultant Itasca Denver, Inc., specifically discusses and simulates the drawdown of groundwater levels at the end of future mining relative to the 2019 water level based on expected mining depths. (DEIR, Appx. K.3, p. 24 and Fig. 5-4.)

Regarding drought and climate change, please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.



Regarding 1,000 tons versus 500 tons, please see the above response to comment.

Response to Comment Ind 254-14

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to disclose the harmful effects associated with the presence of hexavalent chromium in the Cement Paste Backfill (CPB). The commenter is referred to the discussion on hexavalent chromium in Response to Comment Ind 254-1. The commenter also states that the DEIR's Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) is inadequate because the study that the DEIR relied on (EMKO Environmental, Inc. *Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project*, March 2020) does not take into account hexavalent chromium as a possible toxic air contaminant. However, as explained in the DEIR, whereas the small trace amount of hexavalent chromium present in the cement used for CPB presents a potential water quality concern, it would not pose an emissions concern. (DEIR, 4.8-47.)

Response to Comment Ind 254-15

The commenter reiterates concerns regarding the presence of hexavalent chromium in the CPB but the commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The commenter is referred to the discussion on hexavalent chromium in Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-16

The commenter generally states that the portions of the DEIR, including Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) are inadequate but provides no specific information; thus no further response is necessary. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-17

The commenter states that the DEIR's assumption regarding "balancing" and "recharge" ignores the realities of the climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. As described in the WSA (Section 6.2 Additional Planned Future Potable Water Supplies) and in NID's 2020 UWMP (NID 2020 UWMP Section 4.9.1 Climate Change Effects), NID has analyzed climate change impacts to its water supplies. NID's Plan for Water is NID's vehicle to assess climate change impacts and develop and implement mitigation strategies and modifications to operate within climate change (NID 2020 UWMP Section 6.2 Resilience Planning). As part of the Plan for Water process, NID has developed a climate change hydrologic model to project and analyze supply availability under different climate change scenarios. Findings from this process will then be used to identify and evaluate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures could include the following: data gathering and information analysis enhancement to further inform decision making, hydrologic modeling enhancements, demand reduction measures, supply augmentation opportunities, and policy enhancements. The Plan for Water process is ongoing. As the Plan for Water process is developing mitigation measures for drought resiliency, NID will continue to implement its current drought and water shortage contingency efforts as described in NID's 2020 UWMP. See Master Response 16 (Drought and Climate Change) for additional discussion on climate change and drought.

The commenter also alleges the DEIR's discussion of NID's project water supplies and the statutorily required water supply assessment is inadequate. However, it is unclear what the commenter finds inadequate about these portions of DEIR Chapter 4.11 (Public Services and Utilities). The commenter faults the DEIR for only analyzing project water supplies until 2040. However, these planning horizons are derived from NID's Urban Water Management Plan and are not chosen by the Project Applicant. The DEIR analyzed the issue of sufficient water supplies



for the project and found the impact to be less than significant. (DEIR, p. 4.11-35.) In addition, the potential impacts to groundwater resulting from the mine dewatering operations for the project were evaluated through the use of a groundwater model as described in Appendix K of the DEIR. The groundwater model was based on the expected mining plan during year one to year 25, and Sensitivity Scenario 6 considered the significant expansion of mining in areas with potential for mineralization as shown in Figure 5.10 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR for an additional 40 years of mining. As shown in Figure 5-12, and discussed on page 29 of the Groundwater Model Report (Appendix K.3 of the DEIR), the 5-ft drawdown contour extent of Scenario 6 at the end of potential additional mining (to Year 65) relative to the 2019 water level expands less than 500 ft from that of the Base-Case Scenario. The drawdown contour of the Base-Case Scenario is at the end of the original planned future mining (Year 25) relative to the 2019 water level. The comparison of drawdown contours between Scenario 6 and the Base-Case Scenario suggests that the added potential mining (beyond the 65 years modeled) will not lead to significant incremental drawdowns as the mining progresses because the mining activities occur in deep, low hydraulic conductivity rocks. Please see Master Response 14 (Adequacy of Groundwater Model) for additional discussion on the groundwater model.

Response to Comment Ind 254-18

The commenter quotes and annotates the “Water Supply Sufficiency” paragraph from DEIR page 4.11-39. The commenter states that DEIR’s assertion that NID will have sufficient water supplies during a 15-year projection is a “bait and switch” because the Water Supply Sufficiency discussion only considers surface water. NID does not utilize groundwater as an existing or planned source of water due to limited groundwater availability. (DEIR, p. 4.11-9.)

As stated in the WSA, the non-potable water demands for the project will not be served by NID, but will instead be met by groundwater through the proposed mine dewatering operations. Mine dewatering operations for the project were evaluated through the use of a groundwater model as described in Appendix K of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 254-19

The commenter states that the DEIR’s summary of NID water demand versus water supply during various hydrologic conditions does not take into account numerous residences that may have to rely on potable water due to impacts to groundwater wells. However, the commenter does not provide any evidence that additional groundwater wells may be impacted besides those identified in the DEIR. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

As described in the WSA (Section 2.3 and Projected Water Demand and Table 2-2 Projected Water Demand), and as described in the DEIR (Table 4.11-3), water demands for buildout of the project have been estimated in terms of potable water demands (to be served by NID) and non-potable water demands for mine operations (to be served from groundwater). Potable water demands are estimated to be 23,600 gallons per day (gpd), which includes 5,700 gpd for the Brunswick Industrial Site and 17,900 gpd for the residential uses on East Bennett Road. Non-potable water demands (to be served from groundwater) are estimated to be 84,000 gpd, which includes 40,000 gpd for water vapor in ventilation, 20,000 gpd for cemented paste backfill, and 24,000 gpd for concentrates and engineered fill. Because water uses for dust control and compaction of engineered fill are temporary and will occur only during the initial construction, and



are not part of the buildout mine operations, those water demands (42,000 gpd) were not included in the buildout water demand projections for the project.

Response to Comment Ind 254-20

The commenter states that the DEIR is generally inadequate, erroneous, or misleading. However, the commenter provides no specific information to support its assertions. The commenter reiterates that the DEIR underestimates the number of private groundwater wells impacted by the dewatering of the mine. Regarding the DEIR's estimation of the number of groundwater wells impacted and the project's affect on groundwater in general, the DEIR analyzed the impact to groundwater supplies in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 13 – Historic Hydrogeologic Assessment, Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The commenter also states that the DEIR ignores the realities of climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. The commenter also states that the water supply planning horizons should be the entire life of the project (i.e., 80 years.) However, the analyzed planning horizons are derived from NID's Urban Water Management Plan and are not chosen by the Project Applicant. The DEIR analyzed the issue of sufficient water supplies for the project and found the impact to be less than significant. (DEIR, p. 4.11-35.) Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-21

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to discuss potential impacts to additional property owners with groundwater wells who live within the mineral rights boundary. The DEIR analyzed the impacts to groundwater and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The commenter also asserts, without evidence, that it is a certainty that additional property owners with groundwater wells will be impacted by the project. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

Response to Comment Ind 254-22

The commenter recites numerous figures regarding the potable and non-potable water demand required for the project in DEIR Chapter 4.11 (Public Services and Utilities), but does not specifically identify any inadequacies with the DEIR. For example, the commenter points out that the DEIR's estimate for total non-potable is 84,000 gpd (DEIR, p. 4.11-36) and claims that the DEIR does not identify or omits any non-potable water demand for the Centennial Industrial Site. However, the DEIR states that 42,000 gpd of non-potable water use is estimated for the Brunswick Industrial Site while another 42,000 gpd is estimated for the Centennial Industrial Site for a total of 84,000 gpd. (DEIR, p. 4.11-39.) Because the commenter does not articulate a clear criticism or identify any inadequacy with the DEIR, no further response is necessary (see Master Response 1).

Response to Comment Ind 254-23

The commenter states that project will reduce groundwater and surface water supplies to the point that local residents will be pitted against each other but provides no evidence to substantiate this assertion. The commenter also states that the DEIR ignores climate change and states that



relying on past rain data is misleading but does not provide any specific examples. The DEIR analyzed the impacts to groundwater and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change, and Master Response 13 – Historic Hydrogeologic Data.

The commenter implies that most or all of the property owners within the mineral rights boundary will lose their well water but provides no evidence to substantiate these claims. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

The commenter expresses concern about the treated water to be discharged to South Fork Wolf Creek and claims that the DEIR ignored hexavalent chromium. The DEIR does not ignore hexavalent chromium and the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Regarding the discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek the commenter is referred to Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-24

The commenter states that the DEIR is inadequate because it assesses project water supplies using a 20-year projection rather than the entire life of the project (i.e., 80 years.) However, as noted in the DEIR, the DEIR is not required to examine projected water supplies over an 80-year period. Instead, Water Code section 10912 requires a lead agency to identify the public water system that will provide water service to the project (i.e., Nevada Irrigation District or NID) and request the water provider to prepare a WSA for the project. (Wat. Code § 10910(a)-(c).) Water Code section 10910 (c)(4) requires that a WSA include a discussion with regard to “whether total projected water supplies, determined to be available by the city or county for the project during normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years during a 20-year projection, will meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project, in addition to existing and planned future uses, including agricultural and manufacturing uses.” Accordingly, the Idaho-Maryland Mine WSA addresses these three hydrologic conditions through the year 2040. (DEIR, p. 4.11-20.) The commenter also states that the DEIR ignores climate change in assessing water supplies for the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. The commenter also questions the validity of the Water Supply Assessment itself (Appendix N) but does not state how it is inadequate. Lastly, the commenter references hexavalent chromium. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-25

The commenter states that the DEIR references “water treatment complication problems” on page 3-15. However, DEIR page 3-15 contains no such reference. The commenter also states that the water treatment system could fail. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this



comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary. The commenter also references hexavalent chromium. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. The portion of the comment related to storms is somewhat unclear. Notwithstanding, the following is offered. DEIR Impact 4.8-3 analyzes the capacity of the water treatment pond and determines that sufficient capacity exists based on the storm events modelled. See also Appendix K.5 detailing Brunswick Industrial Site drainage and stormwater facility sizing. The clay-lined pond does not discharge and is designed to retain sufficient freeboard not to overtop (see page 4.8-73 of the DEIR).

Response to Comment Ind 254-26

The commenter states that the project's water usage is wasteful regarding activities such as dust suppression, but the commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter also states that the DEIR ignores the realities of drought and climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 254-27

The commenter states that the DEIR underestimates the scope of impacts to private groundwater wells and that the project will result in dire consequences to groundwater supplies. The commenter also states that the DEIR ignores drought and climate change. However, the commenter does not identify specifically how the DEIR is inadequate. Regarding the impacts to groundwater, the DEIR found this impact to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 254-28

The commenter states that the DEIR underestimates the scope of impacts to private groundwater wells but provides no evidence to substantiate this assertion. The commenter also states that water usage associated with the project is wasteful but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. Lastly, the commenter states that the DEIR obfuscates the estimated water usage of the project. Regarding the impacts to groundwater, the DEIR found this impact to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Regarding water usage for the project, the total estimated project water demand is discussed in Impact 4.11-7 on pages 4.11-35 to 43. The impacts associated with water supplies for the project were found to be less than significant.

Response to Comment Ind 254-29

The commenter states that the project will negatively impact groundwater supplies, but the commenter does not specifically identify how the DEIR is inadequate. The DEIR analyzed impacts to groundwater and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The commenter also references the dewatering process and the discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The commenter is referred to Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.



Response to Comment Ind 254-30

The commenter reiterates that the DEIR fails to capture the true scope of the project i.e., the 2,585-acre mineral rights area and that the impacts to groundwater supplies may affect all property owners within this area. Regarding the assertion on the proper scope of the project, the commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. Regarding groundwater impacts, the commenter does not state how the DEIR's discussion of impacts to groundwater is inadequate. The DEIR analyzed impacts to groundwater and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-31

The commenter states that the dewatering of the mine would interfere with recharge of groundwater supplies but does not specifically state how or why the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The DEIR determined that any impacts associated with groundwater recharge would be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, 4.8-54.) The commenter also references the property rights of owners near the project but does not comment on the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 254-32

The commenter states that the DEIR contains no satisfactory scientific or informed discussion regarding the DEIR's discussion of recharge to groundwater. The commenter also discusses the groundwater property rights of surface owners within the project's mineral rights boundary. The commenter also states that the Itasca study regarding groundwater prepared in support of the DEIR is inadequate and that structure of the DEIR in general obscures the impacts to groundwater data. Lastly the commenter states that the DEIR uses inconsistent data throughout to describe the impacts to groundwater.

The commenter does not specifically explain why the DEIR is inadequate in any of the areas listed above. For example, the commenter does not identify why the DEIR is lacking scientific discussion regarding groundwater or why the Itasca study (DEIR Appendix K.3) is lacking. The commenter states that DEIR uses inconsistent data but does identify which data is inconsistent. The DEIR analyzed impacts to groundwater and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, 4.8-54; 80.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The project-specific groundwater modeling was independently peer reviewed by the County's third-party consultant. The data used for the groundwater model and the conclusions of the groundwater model, as reflected in the DEIR, were peer-reviewed by the County's independent groundwater expert, who concurred with the conclusions of the DEIR.

The commenter's concerns about surface water depletion and drying out forests is addressed in Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation.

Response to Comment Ind 254-33

The commenter reiterates concerns that the DEIR fails to accurately discuss the extent of potential impacts to groundwater supplies. The commenter also references a statement from the DEIR on page 4.8-66 regarding the DEIR's conclusion that impacts to groundwater supplies could be significant absent mitigation measures. The commenter states that this statement on page 4.8-



66 is inconsistent with other portions of the DEIR that discuss groundwater. The commenter also states that the project will negatively impact tourism and economic values in the community. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to acknowledge climate change and drought.

The commenter does not specifically state how the DEIR understates the scope of impacts to groundwater supplies. Additionally, the commenter does not specifically state how the statement on DEIR page 4.8-66 is inconsistent with other portions of the DEIR. Regarding impacts to tourism and economic values, the commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts. Regarding climate change and drought, the commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 254-34

The commenter quotes several passages from DEIR page 4.8-62 regarding the DEIR's discussion of impacts to groundwater supplies. The first passage states that mining would occur at deeper locations where fractures or geologic discontinuities decrease with depth due to the weight of overlying geologic materials, which in turn would not transmit significant quantities of water and impact groundwater wells. The passage then refers the reader to an Appendix which supports this assertion. The commenter asserts that the supporting models from the Appendix must be in the DEIR itself. However, there are no CEQA authorities that support this assertion. The commenter also states that the DEIR also fails to acknowledge climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

With regard to the other two passages, the commenter states that the DEIR fails to accurately discuss the extent of potential impacts to groundwater supplies. However, the commenter does not state how the DEIR's discussion of impacts to groundwater is inadequate. The DEIR analyzed impacts to groundwater and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-35

The commenter reiterates concerns that the DEIR fails to accurately discuss the extent of potential impacts to groundwater supplies. However, the commenter does not specifically state how the DEIR's discussion of impacts to groundwater is inadequate. The DEIR analyzed impacts to groundwater and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model. The commenter also states that the DEIR groundwater monitoring and mitigation plan is inadequate but does not state why the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The commenter also states that the project will impact wells throughout the entire mineral rights boundary, thus forcing County residents to switch to NID service, which will ultimately overwhelm NID's water supplies. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, "[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence." As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

Please see Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation, regarding the concerns about drying out forests and increasing fire risk. Please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change, regarding climate change concerns.



Response to Comment Ind 254-36

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to adequately analyze the risks posed by hexavalent chromium present in the CPB. The commenter does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate with regard to hexavalent chromium. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-37

The commenter reiterates concerns that the DEIR failed to adequately discuss hexavalent chromium and that discussion of hexavalent chromium should have been included in DEIR Chapter 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials). The commenter also discusses the PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup and the movie *Erin Brockovich*. The commenter does not explain how the discussion of hexavalent chromium in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) is either inappropriate or insufficient. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-38

The commenter details its general opposition to the project, stating that the project would result in no net benefit to the community and that there are better land uses available for the project site. The commenter's opposition to the project is noted for the decision makers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-39

The commenter states that DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) is generally inadequate. The commenter also states that the DEIR admits that air quality impacts would be significant absent mitigation. One of the primary functions of an Environmental Impact Report is to inform lead agencies about the potential significant impacts of a project, and whether those impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level. It is not uncommon for a project to have significant impacts before mitigation. The commenter also states that the DEIR inadequately discusses asbestos but does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to discuss air impacts from wildfire caused by the project or from fugitive dust because water supplies may be exhausted. Both of these concerns are speculative and do not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-40

The commenter references inadequate mitigation measures for air quality impacts and Nevada County's existing poor air quality. DEIR Chapter 4.3 (Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy) discussed impacts to air quality, including potentially impeding an air quality plan and exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The DEIR determined these impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, 4.3-66, 78.) Regarding the commenter's question about "...what does the mine's carbon offsets elsewhere (see 4.3-96 plus) have to do with making our local air quality and climate change problems less severe...?," climate change is a global issue, and unlike criteria pollutant effects, is not localized. Thus, offsetting GHG emissions elsewhere in California is an entirely appropriate and industry standard approach to mitigating GHG emissions.

Response to Comment Ind 254-41

The commenter states that the Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan ("ADMP") is inadequate because it does not consider the potential for deeper mining. The commenter also states the DEIR does not examine the potential possibility that the project will not have sufficient water supplies to control



fugitive dust. The commenter also states the DEIR fails to consider the possibility of human error. The ADMP consists of mitigation actions that take place on the surface and it is unclear how deeper underground mining would affect those actions. (DEIR, p. 4.3-83.) Regarding the unavailability of water supplies to control fugitive dust or the possibility of human error, these comments are speculative. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” Furthermore, water for fugitive dust control will be obtained from multiple sources (e.g., NID, treated groundwater at the Brunswick Site).

Response to Comment Ind 254-42

The commenter states that the DEIR is flawed because it assumes that emergency generators at the project site would only be operated for 100 hours per year. The commenter does not explain how this figure is erroneous. The commenter also states that the DEIR underestimates climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to discuss Public Safety Power Shutoffs (“PSPS”) but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard, or why such discussion relates to an environmental impact. In addition, PSPS are addressed in Impact 4.11-6 of the Public Services and Utilities chapter of the DEIR. The commenter also discusses the PG&E bankruptcy litigation and the financial condition of the Project Applicant, both of which are not relevant to the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 254-43

The commenter states that the “Non-CEQA Related Analysis” related Public Safety Power Shutoffs and the operation of generators onsite should have been included as a foreseeable impact of the project. However, as explained in Footnote 48, physical impacts stemming from a PSPS are too speculative for evaluation. Pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15145, an “EIR is not required to engage in speculation in order to analyze a worst-case scenario.” (see *Napa Citizens for Honest Government v. Napa County Bd. of Supervisors* (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 342, 373.)

Response to Comment Ind 254-44

The commenter states that the DEIR’s discussion of impacts due to odors is inadequate because the DEIR does not consider the possibility of odors from expanded and deeper mining. However, the DEIR only identifies potential odors emanating from diesel emissions from project trucks, the water treatment plant, and the ore processing. (DEIR, p. 4.3-84-85.) There are no odors associated with the underground mining component of the project and more expansive or deeper mining would not produce new odors. The commenter also questions why Mitigation Measure 4.3-7(b) (Carbon Offsets – Construction Emissions) is being proposed. Pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15126.4(c)(3), carbon offsets are permitted to mitigate for project emissions. (DEIR, 4.3-97.)

Response to Comment Ind 254-45

The commenter states that the DEIR’s use of Footnote 48 on DEIR page 4.3-104 regarding impacts that are too speculative for evaluation is an excuse to sidestep a discussion of climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. The commenter also states that the DEIR does not consider project impacts within the entire mineral rights boundary. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.



Response to Comment Ind 254-46

Please see Response to Comment Ind 254-17 and Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. Regarding hexavalent chromium, the commenter is referred to the portion of Response to Comment Ind 254-1 that discusses hexavalent chromium in CPB. The commenter also appears to raise legacy contaminant concerns that could be generated by deep mining. For this, please see Response to Comment Grp 25-30.

Response to Comment Ind 254-47

The commenter states that the project will deplete groundwater supplies but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The DEIR examined the project's potential impacts to groundwater supplies and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The remaining portion of the comment is identical to Comment Grp 254-17. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 254-48

Comment Grp 254-48 is identical to Comment Grp 254-18 and a portion 254-19. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-18 and the applicable portion of Response to Comment 254-19.

Response to Comment Ind 254-49

A portion of Comment Grp 254-49 is identical to Comment Grp 254-19. To the extent that both comments are identical, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-19. The commenter states that the DEIR erroneously relies on past hydrological data and ignores climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 13 - Historic Hydrogeologic Assessments and Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change. The commenter discusses the statutorily required Water Supply Assessment and questions the validity of NID's statements regarding future water supplies. (DEIR, p. 4.11-49.) However, the commenter does not identify any inadequacies with the DEIR's discussion of water supply on which to formulate a response.

Response to Comment Ind 254-50

The commenter expresses opposition to the project but does not otherwise comment on the adequacy of the DEIR. The comment is noted for the decision makers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-51

The commenter expresses opposition to the project but does not otherwise comment on the adequacy of the DEIR. The comment is noted for the decision makers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-52

The commenter expresses opposition to the project but does not otherwise comment on the adequacy of the DEIR. The comment is noted for the decision makers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-53

The commenter addresses the financial condition of the Project Applicant. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The commenter also discusses a number of legal issues and precedents but does not specifically discuss the adequacy of the DEIR; thus, no further response is warranted.



Response to Comment Ind 254-54

The commenter expresses opposition to the project. The comment is noted for the decision makers. The commenter also states that the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site should be considered part of the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 254-55

The commenter states that the discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek will contain hexavalent chromium. However, any hexavalent chromium that would be present in the water pumped from the mine would be treated before being discharged to South Fork Wolf Creek. The commenter is referred to Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. The commenter also states that the dewatering of the mine will dry out vegetation in the area thus increasing wildfire risk. The commenter is referred to Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation. The commenter also references legal precedent regarding nuisance. The comment is noted.

Response to Comment Ind 254-56

The commenter reiterates concerns that the dewatering of the mine will dry out nearby vegetation. The commenter is referred to Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation.

Response to Comment Ind 254-57

The commenter expresses general opposition to the project but also references hexavalent chromium and the depletion of groundwater supplies. However, the commenter does not provide specifics regarding these topics. The DEIR examined the project's potential impacts to groundwater supplies and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) See also Response to Comment Ind 254-17. Regarding hexavalent chromium, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-58

The commenter discusses hypothetical scenarios related to climate change. Please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 254-59

The commenter discusses legal precedents related to nuisance and inverse condemnation in the context of the possible subsidence. Subsidence is discussed in DEIR Chapter 4.6 Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources. That Chapter of the DEIR determined that impacts pertaining to subsidence, liquefaction, or landslides were less than significant after mitigation. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 254-60

The commenter references the Project Applicant's filings with the SEC. The Project Applicant's SEC filings are not relevant to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter references several potential impacts associated with the project but does not offer additional information. The commenter also states that cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site should be analyzed in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. Regarding hexavalent chromium, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-61

The commenter urges the County to consider any potential impacts to property values resulting from the project. The commenter also references several potential impacts associated with the



project such as air quality, traffic, noise, and vibration. The commenter does not provide additional information or identify any inadequacies with the DEIR. The DEIR analyzed the referenced impacts in Chapters 4.3, 4.10, and 4.12. The commenter also discusses the financial condition of the Project Applicant. The commenter is referred to Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. In addition, regarding subsidence, please see Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings; regarding hexavalent chromium, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1; regarding climate change, please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change; regarding water supply, please see Master Responses 14 and 15.

Response to Comment Ind 254-62

The commenter discusses potential economic impacts of the project and states that there are more desirable land uses that should be considered. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts. In addition, the repeated reference to a “larger” groundwater impact zone than identified in the supporting studies of the DEIR is speculative. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

Response to Comment Ind 254-63

The commenter states that the project’s impact to air quality in the region will prevent residents from using wood stoves or burn their leaves. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary. The commenter also states that the project will negatively impact the tourism industry and will attack business that are large polluters. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 254-64

The commenter reiterates concerns regarding the project’s potential impacts to property values. The commenter also states that the benefit of local employment is outweighed by the potential negative impacts of the project. The commenter is referred to Master Repose 2 – Social and Economic Impacts. The commenter also states that the cleanup of the Centennial Industrial Site should be included in the DEIR. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. The commenter also urges the County not to approve the project. The commenter’s opposition to the project is noted for the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 254-65

The commenter expresses concern that the County will not enforce the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan should the project be approved. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response – Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 254-66

The commenter states that many aspects of the DEIR’s Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) are inadequate. For example, the commenter states that impacts to groundwater wells are likely to occur throughout the entire mineral rights boundary and that groundwater supplies will not adequately recharge after the dewatering of the mine. However, the commenter does not



state how the DEIR is inadequate with regard to Chapter 4.8. The DEIR discusses impacts to hydrology extensively and found that impacts would be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17. The commenter also references hexavalent chromium concerns. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Regarding climate change concerns, please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 254-67

The commenter references a number of potential impacts discussed in the DEIR but does not comment on the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter also references future underground mining throughout the mineral rights boundary. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. The commenter also references potential subsidence. The commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings. The commenter also states that the project will interfere with groundwater recharge; however, the DEIR analyzed groundwater recharge and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter also references the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), but that legislation only applies to recognized groundwater basins, which is not applicable for this project.

Response to Comment Ind 254-68

The commenter is skeptical that the project will not interfere with groundwater recharge, but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The DEIR analyzed groundwater recharge and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter asks where will the water come from to replace what the project takes away. The water will come from the fractured bedrock. As discussed in Appendix K.2 to the DEIR (page 19), the primary source of recharge is percolation of local rainfall into the fractured bedrock. In addition, as described in Section 3.3.2 of Appendix K.2, the amount of recharge each year also appears to be relatively constant since almost all of the wells maintain a consistent magnitude of seasonal fluctuation from year to year and there are no long-term trends observed in most of the wells that can be correlated to variations in annual water-year rainfall.

Response to Comment Ind 254-69

The commenter states that the project will result in adverse impacts to groundwater supplies but offers no additional information; thus, no additional response is required. The commenter also states that property values will be negatively impacted. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 254-70

The commenter is concerned about subsidence caused by the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings. The commenter also expresses general opposition to the project. The comment is noted.

Response to Comment Ind 254-71

With the exception of the first paragraph, Comment Ind 254-71 is identical to Comments Ind 254-17 through Ind 254-19. To the extent that the comments are the same, the commenter is referred to Responses to Comments Ind 254-17 through Ind 254-19. The commenter states that the DEIR is deliberately organized to be difficult to comprehend. The commenter does not explain how the how the DEIR’s organization is inadequate.



Response to Comment Ind 254-72

The commenter references several potential impacts associated with the project but does not state specifically how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter states that the DEIR fails to consider climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to account for additional mining within the mineral rights boundary. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. The commenter also states that the project will interfere with recharge of groundwater supplies. The DEIR analyzed the project’s impacts to groundwater recharge and found the impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model. The commenter also references hexavalent chromium concerns. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

It is noted that, in reference to rock fracturing, mining uses explosives to break rock into smaller pieces so it can be moved. The small amounts of explosives used in mining do not open cracks and fissures beyond the immediate vicinity of the blast itself and would not open cracks outward, allowing water to flow from outside areas into the mine. As discussed in Section 4.2 of Appendix M, the breaking of rock includes drilling a number of parallel holes in the mine face. Generally, one or more of these drillholes are located near the center of the drill pattern and used as void or “relief” hole (open holes not loaded with explosives). The holes drilled around that hole are then loaded with explosives and are set off. That first hole “relieves” the blast and allows the least amount of explosives possible to break the first rock out of the mine face. The remaining holes located around the first blast are then initiated using a series of delays to progressively enlarge the blasted area until the final dimensions and profile of the drift are created. Any fracturing of rock outside of the blasted excavation is limited to a very few inches beyond of the drill hole and therefore the process cannot create the extensive cracks or fissures ostensibly envisioned by the commenter.

Response to Comment Ind 254-73

The commenter expresses general opposition to the project and states that project will negatively impact tourism and will eliminate an opportunity for more preferable land uses. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts. For climate change concerns, please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. Impacts to groundwater and thoroughly address in Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR, as demonstrated in Master Responses 14 and 15. The commenter also states that the project’s impact to air quality in the region will prevent residents from using wood stoves or burn their leaves. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

Response to Comment Ind 254-74

The commenter states that the DEIR improperly segments the Centennial Industrial Site. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to assess the impacts to groundwater supplies within the mineral rights area. However, the commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The DEIR analyzed groundwater impacts and found them to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) Regarding the mineral rights areas, please see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. The commenter is also concerned about subsidence from underground mining. The commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near



Surface Workings. Regarding hexavalent chromium, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-75

The commenter states that DEIR Chapter 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) is inadequate because it does not discuss hexavalent chromium. However, the DEIR adequately discusses hexavalent chromium in Chapter 4.8. Additionally, the commenter states that the DEIR improperly segments the Centennial Industrial Site. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. Please also see Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation, regarding the commenter’s drought and dried vegetation concerns. The commenter also appears to raise legacy contaminant concerns that could be generated by deep mining. For this, please see Response to Comment Grp 25-30.

The commenter also alleges that the DEIR ignores the underground mining occurring in the 2,585-acres under the airport surface area. The commenter seems to imply that mining could adversely affect the airport, but does not specifically identify how. Thus, while the comment is unclear, the following is offered. Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas, and the attendant figures, show that the underground mining would not occur beneath the airport.

Response to Comment Ind 254-76

The commenter states that DEIR Chapter 4.9 (Land Use and Population and Housing) is inadequate because the commenter alleges that the project is incompatible with the project site. However, the commenter provides no additional detail on which to form a response. DEIR Chapter 4.9 found that general plan and zoning of the site is generally consistent with the proposed use, considering the requested land use approvals. (DEIR, p. 4.9-18).

Please also see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

Response to Comment Ind 254-77

The commenter states that DEIR Chapter 4.10 (Noise and Vibration) is inadequate because the Centennial Industrial Site is not a separate project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. Please also see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

Response to Comment Ind 254-78

The commenter states that the DEIR’s analysis of noise and blasting does not account for potential areas of future mining. The commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas and Response to Comment Grp 21-44. The commenter also points to the “Effects of Ground Cover” paragraph on DEIR page 4.10-24 and states that the DEIR did not apply this to other portions of the mineral rights boundary. However, the ground cover absorbs sound on the surface, so this concept does not properly relate to blasting noise. Any additional blasting within the mineral rights boundary would occur underground.

Response to Comment Ind 254-79

The commenter states that the project’s impacts to air quality will eliminate opportunities for local residents to continue historical practices such as wood stoves and leaf burning but provides no evidence of this assertion. The commenter also states that project’s water usage for dust control will exhaust NID water supplies. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or



inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.” As this comment amounts to speculation, no further response is necessary.

Response to Comment Ind 254-80

The commenter states that the project’s dewatering of the mine will dry out surrounding vegetation and exacerbate wildfire. The commenter is referred to Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation. The commenter also states that the DEIR fails to discuss the true emergency generator use due to PSPSs. PSPS are not scheduled nor are PSPS regular occurrences, but rather are instituted on an as needed basis when weather patterns present a particularly high danger for starting wildfires. Thus, the amount of generator use for PSPS is speculative. Nevertheless, page 4.3-103ff of the DEIR included an informational analysis of PSPS generator uses. The commenter does not state how this portion of the DEIR is inadequate.

Response to Comment Ind 254-81

This comment serves as a transitional paragraph within the comment letter. The comment is noted.

Response to Comment Ind 254-82

The commenter raises the topic of growth inducing impacts and states that the project is “undesirable” and would attract similarly undesirable businesses. These types of “quality of life” issues do not fall within the scope of CEQA. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 254-83

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to adequately list cumulative impacts but does not list any cumulative impacts; thus, no response is possible. The main contention of the commenter appears to be the commenter’s oft-repeated claim that the DEIR only analyzed impacts within the Centennial and Brunswick Sites, rather than the entire mineral rights area. As has been repeatedly stated in the preceding responses, this assertion is addressed in Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas. The commenter also states that the project’s impacts to air quality will eliminate opportunities for local residents to continue historical practices such as wood stoves and leaf burning but provides no evidence of this assertion, which is speculative and unsubstantiated. The commenter also states that project will attract undesirable businesses to the area. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 254-84

The commenter states that the “DEIR comments basically incorporate other DEIR section, and I, therefore, do the same where I have disputed and objected to those other referenced DEIR commentaries.” The comment does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR and is noted.

Response to Comment Ind 254-85

Climate change concerns are addressed in Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change, and groundwater depletion is address in Master Responses 14 and 15. Regarding groundwater depletion as it relates to drying of vegetation and increasing fire risk, please see Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation. The commenter states that the DEIR does not discuss “irreversible environmental changes” in Chapter 5 in a satisfactory manner but does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter also states that the DEIR’s statutorily required



section regarding significant irreversible environmental changes should include the dewatering of the mine. However, as the DEIR indicates, while the mine would be dewatered, the groundwater would be treated on-site and pumped back into the South Fork of Wolf Creek. Thus, the dewatering does not constitute a “large commitment of non-renewable sources.” (DEIR, p. 5-8.)

Response to Comment Ind 254-86

The commenter states that the significant and unavoidable impacts listed in Section 5.6 underestimates the true number of impacts. However, the commenter does not list which additional impacts must be included in Section 5.6. The commenter states that the dewatering of the mine will dry out nearby vegetation causing additional visual impacts. The commenter is referred to Master Response 33 – Groundwater Dependent Vegetation. The commenter also states that noise levels will be higher than stated in the DEIR due to project operations, but does not state why, nor provide substantiation for this unmerited claim. The commenter also states that traffic will be worse than stated in the DEIR, but does not explain why, nor provide substantiation for this unmerited claim. No further response is possible or required.

Response to Comment Ind 254-87

The commenter defers to other commenters regarding the DEIR’s Chapter 6 Alternatives Analysis. As summarized in DEIR section 6.2, and provided in CEQA Guidelines section 15126.6, an EIR shall provide a reasonable range of alternatives that achieves the project objectives but avoids or reduces significant project impacts. The alternatives analysis is not required to consider every project alternative but is governed by a “rule of reason” that requires the EIR to set forth only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice. (see CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(a).) The alternative analysis in the DEIR considered nine different alternatives. Five alternatives were considered but rejected from detailed analysis given that they did not meet most project objectives, were infeasible, and/or did not avoid significant project impacts. Four alternatives were analyzed in detail (see DEIR section 6.3.) The County believes this provides a reasoned choice of alternatives for consideration by the public and decisionmakers. The commenter does not suggest any specific alternative.

The commenter also appears to suggest that the DEIR does not evaluate the full time period of project impacts. That this is not supported can be demonstrated by considering the groundwater analysis. The groundwater model relied on a 25-year hydrogeologic model to assess groundwater impacts from project implementation, based on known locations of mineralized gold ore and represents the underground location of where mining would occur during the first 25 years of mine operation. Sensitivity Scenario 6 used in the groundwater model considered the significant expansion of mining in areas with potential for mineralization, as shown in Figure 5.10 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR for an additional 40 years of mining. This groundwater model scenario represents the reasonably foreseeable location of where future mining would likely take place after the initial 25-year period. As shown in Figure 5-12, and discussed on page 29 of the report, the 5-ft drawdown contour extent of Scenario 6 at the end of potential additional mining (to Year 65) relative to the 2019 water level expands less than 500 ft from that of the Base-Case Scenario. The drawdown contour of the Base-Case Scenario is at the end of the original planned future mining (Year 25) relative to the 2019 water level. The comparison of drawdown contours between Scenario 6 and the Base-Case Scenario suggests that the added potential mining (beyond the 65 years modeled) will not lead to large incremental drawdowns as the mining progresses because the mining activities occur in deep, low-K rocks.



As stated in Response to Comment Grp 7-82, the groundwater flow model would be updated periodically after dewatering commences and additional groundwater level data is collected to evaluate dewatering impacts. New groundwater level data and updated modeling would incorporate changes to the long-term mining plan, data from monitoring wells, and measured pumping rates. For further discussion, please see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

The commenter also expresses general opposition to the project. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-88

The commenter states that the DEIR does not adequately portray the “No Project Alternative” but the commenter does not explain why. It is unclear whether the commenter is requesting evaluation of an additional alternative, or taking issue with the alternatives selected for evaluation in the DEIR. If the former, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-87. If the latter, the proffered reasons as to why the alternatives analysis is inadequate are unclear. There seems to be a suggestion that a version of the No Project Alternative should have been considered whereby the mine commences but has to subsequently shut down due to financial infeasibility. The lack of clarity in the comment precludes any further meaningful response effort on the part of the lead agency.

The commenter references the Project Applicant’s SEC filings. However, those filings are not relevant to the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 254-89

The commenter states that the DEIR’s Alternatives Analysis is flawed because it rejects a number of alternatives. Specifically, the commenter states that the DEIR erroneously dismisses other industrial uses because they are not more intensive than the project. However, the commenter does not state why such uses are less intense than the project. Please see Response to Comment Ind 388-6. The commenter references the Project Applicant’s SEC filings. However, those filings are not relevant to the adequacy of the DEIR. Comment noted.

Response to Comment Ind 254-90

The commenter states that for this particular project CEQA allows for the consideration of the financial condition of the Project Applicant. However, under CEQA, the DEIR is limited to considering the project’s physical impacts to the environment. The Project Applicant’s financial condition or SEC filings are not relevant to the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1. Regarding hexavalent chromium, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-91

The commenter generally states that the DEIR does not comply with CEQA and should not be approved. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 254-92

The commenter reiterates its concerns with the DEIR addressed elsewhere in the Comment Letter and states that that the DEIR is flawed and does not comply with CEQA. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers and the specific assertions regarding the DEIR’s inadequacy are addressed in Responses to Comments Ind 254-1 through Ind 254-91.



Response to Comment Ind 254-93

The commenter reiterates its concerns with the DEIR addressed elsewhere in the Comment Letter and raises concerns regarding hexavalent chromium. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers and the specific assertions regarding the DEIR's inadequacy are addressed in Responses to Comments Ind 254-1 through Ind 254-92.

Response to Comment Ind 254-94

The commenter appears to state that the DEIR incorrectly applies the holding in *California Building Industry Association v. Bay Area Quality Management District* (2015) 62 Cal. 4th 369, but does not provide clear explanation on this point, thus precluding a meaningful response. The commenter indicates that they will provide more detail in a separate comment letter. Regarding the generally referenced groundwater depletion, please see Master Responses 14 and 15. Regarding climate change, please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 254-95

This is an introductory comment for a series of concluding comments relating to the DEIR. The commenter also describes the County Planning Commission hearing in March 2022. The comment is noted.

Response to Comment Ind 254-96

The commenter states that the residents of the County are concerned about certain primary issues. Specifically, the depletion of the groundwater, the use of hexavalent chromium and the discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, and the true scope of the project. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers and the specific assertions regarding the DEIR's inadequacy are addressed in Responses to Comments Ind 254-1 through Ind 254-91. Regarding the true scope of the project (i.e., the wells on East Bennet Road) and impacts to groundwater, the DEIR analyzed these impacts and found them to be less than significant after mitigation. Regarding hexavalent chromium, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Regarding the discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, the commenter is referred to Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek.

The commenter disapproves of the DEIR and believes it does not accurately portray the project. The comment is noted. The commenter also asks why the DEIR has not considered climate change in connection with the project. The commenter is referred to Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change. The commenter asks why the DEIR does not identify and notify surface owners of the legal rights. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter is concerned about the potential impacts to property values. The commenter is referred to Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts. The commenter refers to the Project Applicant's SEC filings. The Project Applicant's SEC filings do not pertain to the DEIR. The commenter references performance standards and penalties for noncompliance. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 254-97

The commenter asks what amount of subsidence residents can expect should the project be approved. The commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 254-98

The commenter asks what effect the project will have on residents living throughout the mineral rights boundary with regards to groundwater. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8



(Hydrology and Water Quality), Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

Response to Comment Ind 254-99

The commenter asks what the effect an injunction obtained by a local resident would have on the DEIR in regard to hexavalent chromium. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter discusses the rights of local residents pertaining to nuisance and trespass. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter asks a series of questions regarding local residents exercising their rights. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter references the SEC filings of the Project Applicant. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter asks a series of questions about the Project Applicant's financial condition. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter states that the DEIR assumes that all of the preliminary project components will be completed on time. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter asks, since it is unlikely that all mining activities will be permitted as envisioned by the DEIR, what variances are possible to ensure the viability of the project. This comment does not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 254-100

The commenter poses a series of questions regarding the viability of the project under certain scenarios. These questions are speculative and do not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 254-101

The commenter states that the DEIR contains omissions and inadequacies. The commenter asks about the enforcement of mitigation measures and obligations of the Project Applicant regarding subsidence. Regarding subsidence, please see Master Response 29. The commenter urges that the project not be approved. The comment is noted for the decisionmakers and the specific assertions regarding the DEIR's inadequacy are addressed in Responses to Comments Ind 254-1 through Ind 254-100.



Individual Letter 255

G. Larry Engel
Engel Law, PC
P.O. Box 2307
Nevada City, CA. 95959
530-205-9253
Larry@engeladvice.com
www.engeladvice.com

April 4, 2022

Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County, Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave., Suite 170
Nevada County, CA. 95959-1423
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

RE: Supplemental Brief On CEQA Issues And
Authorities ("CEQA Brief" or "Supplement")
Supporting G. Larry Engel's Objection (the
"Objection" or "Engel Objection") to the Draft
Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") SCH
#2020070378 for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
dated December 2021 (the "Project") In Response
to the County of Nevada (the "County")
Community Development Department's Related
Notice dated February 7, 2022 (the "County DEIR
Notice").

Dear Matt:

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On March 30, 2022, I filed my “**Objection**” to the DEIR regarding the Idaho-Maryland Mine referenced in the County DEIR Notice mentioned above, entitled, “Objections to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (‘DEIR’) [SCH #20200070378] for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project dated December 2021 (the ‘Project’) In Response to the County of Nevada (the ‘County’) Community Development Department’s Related Notice dated February 7, 2022 (the ‘County DEIR Notice’)” by G. Larry Engel. I incorporate by reference that Objection into this “**Supplement**,” including my March 30, 2022, cover letter, as if that and this “CEQA Brief” were one document as my “Objection.” That incorporation by reference also incorporates by reference what my Objection incorporated by reference into itself, such as the other appropriate objections at the March 24, 2022, hearing or in follow-up written objections, such as those by the CEA Foundation, the Friends of Banner Mountain, and their constituent



organizations and members. The reason the documents were filed separately by me is that I needed more time for this briefing after learning at the March 24, 2022, County public hearing that the County may have a different interpretation than I do about the application under my described facts and circumstances of CEQA to my Objection and others. This is the supplemental brief I announced in that Objection would be coming to support my request for reconsideration of certain economic feasibility arguments in my Objection and to illustrate what I consider to be the correct interpretation of CEQA, in contrast to what the DEIR incorrectly asserts or implies to be the meaning and effect of CEQA.

After describing some general issues and less technical reasons for rejecting the disputed DEIR for CEQA noncompliance (before the technical ones to follow later in this Supplement), I have presented below some of my legal arguments based on the CEQA Guidelines and some key court decisions that reveal DEIR noncompliance with CEQA or other applicable law and illustrative case support for my competing interpretations used in my Objections. For example, I do a detailed examination of the “common sense” and “good faith” CEQA test from the similar mining case of *Gray v. County of Madera*. That *Gray* analysis applies more strongly to defeat this disputed DEIR than it did to defeat the EIR in that case, especially by insisting on what my Objection addressed as a need for feasibility, good faith, clarity and reality/truth that avoided the illusions, distracting irrelevancies, misleading data, and other flaws resulting in the DEIR’s “alternative reality” that often lacks “common sense” (as *Gray* said when insisting that its EIR mine mitigation had to place the neighbors’ losing water in the same position they were in before the mining).

1. Some Introductory Reasons For Allowing My Objection As Consistent With The Correct Interpretation Of CEQA And Rejecting The Disputed DEIR Interpretations.

Throughout the DEIR are citations to CEQA (or its “Guidelines,” which for all purposes here (and in my Objection) I include as part of what I collectively refer to as “CEQA,” to rebut DEIR’s disputed positions. See generally the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code # 21000 et seq (the “CEQA” statutes) and 14 Cal Code Reg #’s 15000 et seq (the “CEQA Guidelines” or “Guidelines,” respectively). Also, the DEIR in many places implies disputed CEQA interpretations as excuses for why the DEIR omits or deficiently describes information that I believe (and demonstrate below) are required by CEQA or other applicable law. One common example is the DEIR’s frequent excuse for omissions on the abused theory that the missing data is too “speculative.” Even worse, the disputed DEIR asserts incorrect, misleading, unsubstantiated, or otherwise objectionable positions, often cast as “assumptions” or “conclusions” that are even outside of the DEIR’s own boundaries for what it considers to be required by CEQA. Under such disputed DEIR positions, any rebuttal by my Objection or others could be resisted without regard to its merits, simply as excludable by the DEIR (or the County, as lead CEQA agency) as beyond the disputed CEQA boundary.

What follows below explains more about correct boundaries for objections, as well as presenting other grounds for permissible rebuttal in my Objections, such as, for example, using DEIR or Rise admissions as evidence to impeach or rebut DEIR assertions or excuses for omissions. Note, for example, that the DEIR has a whole section at 4.3-103-104 called “Non-



CEQA Related Analysis,” which opens the door to my Objection countering that without being limited by CEQA interpretations. Also, for example, consider that at the same time the DEIR (and apparently the County planners at the March 24 hearing) is insisting (incorrectly as I show below) that there should not be any economic feasibility rebuttal allowed, the DEIR asserts (at 6-14) that the project would not be economically feasible if it were limited to a 12-hour workday. However, there must always be an even playing field to allow my such rebuttals and counters in my Objection to any such DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies, both because I contend and demonstrate below that my Objection is CEQA compliant and that the DEIR is not compliant, and because I must also be entitled to impeach and rebut the DEIR no matter how counters to such errors, omissions, and deficiencies relate to CEQA. This brief supports that approach.

2. The Disputed DEIR Fails The General Requirements For An Adequate DEIR Under CEQA And Its Guidelines As Interpreted By Key Court Cases Like *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno*, *Gray v. County of Madera*, And Others. (More Specific Guideline And Court Decision Applications Are Discussed Further Below).

A. A Brief Review of the CEQA Guidelines At Issue Generally That Defeat The DEIR.

CEQA Guideline # 15151 specifies “Standards For Adequacy Of An EIR” that require the DEIR to be prepared “with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decisionmakers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of the environmental consequences [of the ‘project,’ a term separately discussed later below]. ... [T]he sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what is reasonably feasible. ... [T]he EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts.” With reference to the court rulings addressed below, that Guideline notes that they are looking for “adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure.” This disputed DEIR fails each of those requirements in scores of ways addressed in my Objection and others. For example, my Objection demonstrates how the DEIR ignores entirely the hexavalent chromium threats in the cement paste the DEIR expects to use to shore up the 2585-acre underground mine, as well as the many mine dewatering and groundwater depletion issues, that are exposed in my Objections.

By a painstaking comparison of detailed DEIR provisions against reality (and against the other inconsistent parts of the DEIR) I demonstrate in my Objection more than 50 individual errors, omissions, and deficiencies, each of which should be fatal to the DEIR and which, together illustrate an objectionable or worse DEIR “pattern and practice” of avoiding any such “good faith effort at full disclosure” or any such “sufficient degree of analysis for intelligent decisionmaking about environmental consequences.” See my discussion below of the “forecasting” required in Guideline # 15144. By ignoring its CEQA obligations, the DEIR tries to save itself from having to “summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts,” but my Objection and others will force that compliance now. For example, the DEIR cannot survive the thousands of negative studies about hexavalent chromium on the EPA website, the

Ind 255-3



EU ban, the *Erin Brockovich* movie case study, and other data cited in my Objection and others, especially when the DEIR refuses even to acknowledge the existence of any controversy.

The “one size fits all” approach of the Guidelines sometimes makes them a poor fit for an unusual project like this attempt to reopen a gold mine closed and flooded since 1956. I doubt CEQA drafters expected some miner would attempt such a DEIR, for such mining (i) where there are now thousands of surface owners above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, and (ii) where the DEIR admits a massive lack of knowledge about the conditions that now exist in that mine or will result from the 24/7/365 blasting, tunneling, rock removal, dewatering, shoring up with hexavalent chromium cement paste, and otherwise doing mine work for 80-years. Rather than confront the “hard questions” and objections that would come from “good faith” compliance with CEQA, the disputed DEIR tries to evade those things and to create an artificial reality with massive information gaps and other errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the DEIR, such as by imaging that reality is too “speculative” to require any comment. My Objection and other reveal those wrongs and flaws, but many mysteries remain that create more unanswered questions (see, eg, my Objection #'s 14 and 15).

Guideline #15364 defines “feasible” as meaning “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time [by or for the ‘Applicant,’ another term addressed further below], taking into account **economic, environmental, legal, social, and technical factors.**” (Emphasis added) I address later the debate over “economic feasibility” and how my Objection # 2 data must be considered for many different reasons, including if only under the rules of evidence and *Gray’s* common-sense test or *Sierra Club’s* good faith requirement for impeachment and rebuttal of blatant DEIR errors, omission, deficiencies, and worse. But I note here that what the DEIR claims to be “infeasible” is often “objectively feasible,” but simply infeasible personally for this financially challenged speculator looking for a speculator’s profit. For example, in addressing the Alternative of working the mine for a 12-hour day instead of a 24-hour day, at 6-14, the disputed DEIR makes the unsubstantiated claim that the 12-hour day would cause the project to be economically infeasible. However, that is more of a comment about the unique, personal economic challenges of Rise exposed in its current SEC Form 10K and 10Q filings (see my Objection # 2) than about any objective feasibility, if done by a competent and financially capable miner. (However, that 12-hour day limit is high on the law reform goals of our local resistance by the thousands of resident voters living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre mine who don’t want 24/7/365 blasting, tunneling, rock removal, dewatering, and other objectionable activities beneath us for 80-years, as explained in my Objection # 3.N.)

Guideline # 15144 defines “forecasting” to “necessarily involve... some degree of forecasting ... [because] [w]hile foreseeing the unforeseeable in not possible, an agency must use its best efforts to find out and disclose all that it reasonably can.” That effort is part of the “good faith” required by cases like *Sierra Club*, “common sense” required by *Gray*, and others using similar concepts with different words or phrases. In any event, the DEIR made no such required effort, clinging instead to the unknowns of the mine closed since 1956 as an excuse lacking in good faith to avoid having to confront inconvenient truths, as demonstrated in my Objections, especially by the DEIR incorrectly insisting, without good faith or common sense, on ignoring the hexavalent chromium risks or on insisting that the future groundwater supplies had to replicate the past “recharges,” even when the DEIR did not update ancient

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and unreliable mining condition data about the past, and despite climate change and the “new normal” making that past irrelevant and misleading, as described in my Objection # 3.M and below. Incidentally, Guideline # 15145 about “speculation” requires that the DEIR “should note its conclusion” that a “particular impact is too speculative for evaluation.” That alert in the DEIR is the only way to flag for the lead agencies the need to make a decision as to who takes the risk of the unknown: the public living above or around the 2585-acre underground mine or the exploitive mining speculator who may prefer not to know and then have to explain what horrors may lurk in that long closed and flooded mine or may escape from the new, expanded, and deeper mining. Such willful DEIR ignorance of such unknowns should not give any benefit of any doubt to such speculator like in the DEIR. For example, as I demonstrated in my Objection at # 3.M, the DEIR considered the groundwater recharge adequacy for the rest of the 80-years of 24/7/365 mining after 2040 (when the largely inapplicable NID surface water data expired that the DEIR was incorrectly applying) to be too speculative to discuss. Similarly, the DEIR refused seriously to analyze the current conditions in the existing 2585-acre underground mine closed since 1956 and to investigate the unknown conditions of its new, deeper, and expanded DEIR mining there. In each such case, the lead agency now has to decide whether to deny the DEIR as too risky or worse (as the thousands of us locals living on the surface above or around the 2585-acre underground mine insist in objections) or else reward this foreign controlled, no net benefit mine with little capacity to pay for its mistakes or worse by allowing the DEIR mining without anyone knowing the resulting environmental consequences. (Because most of us prefer not to discover harms the hard way when they assault us, potential victims may prefer the self-defense actions by exercising our legal and political rights to stop the menace.) See my Objection at #'s 2, 3.A, B, M, and N and 4.

This abuse of “forecasting” and evading disclosures as “too speculative” for DEIR comment is an especially intolerable excuse when the DEIR evades CEQA requirements without warning, such as by implicitly assuming without disclosure that inconvenient science and facts are too speculative, such as about climate change, future groundwater recharge, or the lethal toxicity of hexavalent chromium. For example, no rational person should have any good faith belief (as the DEIR claims) that our mine dewatering depleted groundwater around the 2585-acre underground mine will be reliably “recharged” in a future for the next 80-years of average rain from between 1967-2017. Yet, that is what the DEIR fantasy it insists that us thousands of surface residents and voters must tolerate for the next 80-years, while we suffer the new normal dryness and drought climate change as it menaces our property, our trees, our environment, and our community. See my Objection #'s 3.M, A, B, D, E, and F, 4, 5, and 14. Fortunately, the thousands of us on that surface above that dewatering depletion each own our shares of that same groundwater. Therefore, we can compete with the DEIR for our own owned groundwater with new and deeper wells, especially as the climate change droughts the DEIR insists on ignoring result in NID cutbacks. See Objection #'s 3 and 4, (The future for water is a zero-sum game, and none of us locals can tolerate this threat of 24/7/365 depletion of our shared groundwater that we have no less right to use than any mine, and, when our law reform efforts are accomplished, we may have superior rights). See my Objection #'s 3.N and Id. To put this in the wording of the Guideline # 15124 below, that is an example of a “reasonably foreseeable indirect impact” triggered by the DEIR groundwater depletion direct impacts.

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B. DEIR General Informational/Content Guidelines For Relevant CEQA Principles of General Application.

Ind 255-7

Guideline # 15121 describes how an EIR works as an informational document (and why us local resisting residents and voters above and around the 2585-acre underground mine are working so hard to prevent this disputed DEIR from becoming an EIR). Guideline # 15003 lists many court rulings that clarify the meaning and effect of CEQA, most of which are violated by this DEIR as described in my Objection and others. See generally, the descriptions in # 15002, including the stated public's right (at #15002(j)) to respond to this DEIR as I have in my Objections, because of the DEIR's many errors, omissions, and deficiencies. My Objection and others hopefully will defeat the DEIR, but anything that may survive a rewrite or challenge still does not limit the agency's ultimate discretion, which is critical, because of all the many aspects of relevant reality that the DEIR refuses to address at all or in a compliant and satisfactory manner. As noted herein, no responsible government can assign to us locals such burdens, risks, and harms for the benefit of these mining speculators proving no net benefit to our community from this mine (see my Objection #'s 2 and 4), such as the risks of the DEIR's unaddressed unknowns in the existing 2585-acre mine closed and flooded since 1956 and in that area for new, deeper, and expanded mining into unknown conditions, where the DEIR insists on exploring for gold at our risk as those living on the surface above or around that no net benefit, 2585-acre underground mine.

Ind 255-8

Guideline # 15120(c) requires the draft EIR to contain the information required by Sections 15122 through 15131, which my Objections and others demonstrate this disputed DEIR fails to do properly and completely as required. See, eg, my Objection # 12 responding to the disputed and deficient DEIR's # 5.1.

Ind 255-9

Guideline # 15148 "Citation" requires that: "The EIR shall cite all documents used in its preparation including, where possible, THE PAGE AND SECTION NUMBER OF ANY TECHNICAL REPORTS WHICH WERE USED AS THE BASIS FOR ANY STATEMENT IN THE EIR." (Emphasis added) As my Objection demonstrates, the disputed DEIR rarely does that, and, as a result, most of the DEIR should be regarded as unsubstantiated, because it generally fails to comply fully with that citation rule. The public should not have to hunt for purported authority among that mass of disputed and mostly irrelevant exhibits for the many dubious or otherwise suspect statements in the DEIR. (The point is that the DEIR's exhibits can be so challenged as flawed in some or many ways, such as being irrelevant to this DEIR mine's unique facts and circumstances, outdated, superseded by better science, incomplete or initially defective or self-serving, such as the mine's questionable pre-closing records before 1956, often before modern regulations and standards, etc.)

Ind 255-10

Guideline # 15150 addresses "incorporation by reference," which does not permit the DEIR to do what it did to purport to add substance to the deficient DEIR by adding a mass of its selected exhibits that are often inapplicable, irrelevant or worse to the facts and circumstances here at the 2585-acre underground mine that has been flooded and closed since 1956 and subject to all the issues addressed herein or in my Objection and others (and even some admitted in the current and past Rise SEC Form 10K and 10Q filings addressed in my Objection at #2). The DEIR's vague cross-references or missing cites to specific pages in that mass of exhibits are not compliant with that # 15150(c).



Ind 255-11

Guideline # 15143 “Emphasis” dooms the disputed DEIR, which repeatedly fails properly to judge correctly what is “significant” and then to “focus on the significant effects on the environment,” which must be discussed “with emphasis in proportion to their severity and probability of occurrence.” My Objection notes such DEIR noncompliance many times as to many issues, but the most obvious is the DEIR’s barely mentioning the hexavalent chromium and never discussing its risks and harms with any “emphasis.” The groundwater depletion and other risks stated in my Objection also fail to receive proper “emphasis,” because the DEIR never satisfactorily recognizes the fact of the thousands of us locals living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, and that underground mine itself receives insufficient DEIR emphasis. Another need for “emphasis” is the failure to address the conditions in that 2585-acre underground mine (closed and flooded mine since 1956), both at the start of the new process, and when confronting the unknown conditions being created by the new, expanded, and deeper mining, all of which pose serious and unaddressed threats to both the environment and those of us locals living on the surface above or around that neglected, mine’s “environmental setting.”

Ind 255-12

Guideline # 15154 “Projects Near Airports” requires additional information in the DEIR, which is lacking, especially since some of the airport is above or around the 2585-acre underground mine, as noted in my Objection. That airport is essential to local fire defense and evacuation.

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Guideline # 15142 “Interdisciplinary Approach” should also be applied to objectors for a “level playing field,” to allow such interdisciplinary objections to have equivalent impact as the DEIR advocates.

Ind 255-14

C. Sierra Club v. County of Fresno (“Sierra Club”) And Related Cases, As Well As Those Listed In Guideline # 15003(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j): Demonstrating The DEIR’s General Noncompliance With CERA And Other Applicable Law In Fundamental Ways.

Without limiting the generality of those Guideline # 15003 and its cited court ruling principles, to which I will add additional data from *Sierra Club* and certain other precedents (before detailed analysis of the key *Gray* mining decision below to illustrate the application of these principles), I note that Guidelines 15002 and 15021 (among others) impose specific duties on the lead agency for the protection of our environment, our local community, and the public. By violating those duties, the DEIR disables our government from doing its own duties effectively, because of the errors, omissions, and deficiencies cited in my Objection and others. For example, without a total rewrite of the DEIR to add missing data and make corrections of errors and deficiencies, the County cannot do its duty “to respond to comments from the public” (# 15002(j)), to “respond to the information [“that the project could cause substantial adverse changes in the environment”]” by the actions listed in # 15002(h), and to make the findings in # 15002(g), as well as to do its duties to minimize environmental damage and balance competing public objectives in # 15021, such as to “not approve a project as proposed if there are feasible alternative or mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant effects that the project would have on the environment” (at # 15021(a)(2)). For example, consider: (i) the DEIR’s incorrectly



rejected Alternative of using the Brunswick site not as a mine, but rather as an industrial site (see my Objection # 13). [Note: of all the many absurd and unsubstantiated things in the DEIR, one most lacking in what the *Gray* case called “common sense” was rejecting that industrial site for the sole stated reason that it was too “intense.” Compared to the DEIR’s far more ultra-intense, divisive, risky, burdensome, harmful, and controversial mining, the industrial use looks tolerable versus such no net benefit DEIR mining proposal, especially if the goal is just a reasonable return on its mine purchase price, rather than a super-windfall gamble at our community’s expense, as explained in my Objection at #’s 2, 4, and 13], and (ii) the DEIR rejecting a normal 12-hour day mitigation as economically infeasible, not objectively, but just for Rise’s admittedly challenged financial condition and speculative goals [see *Id.*] Also, pursuant to #15021(b) and (d) the County may consider “SPECIFIC ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, LEGAL, SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL FACTORS,” as well as to use them to “balance a variety of public objectives.” (Emphasis added) In addition, as described in Guideline # 15355 and elsewhere less than “significant” individual impacts can have cumulative significant effect as explained in my Objection, including from this project when “added to the other closely related past, present and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects.” While Guideline # 15370 defines “mitigation” broadly for these purposes, the disputed DEIR mitigations are exposed in my Objections as deficient or worse.

With that background I will now offer a brief tour of the leading California Supreme Court case, *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018), 6 Cal. 5th 502 (“*Sierra Club*”), which I offer as a way of reducing the need for sorting through scores of seemingly inconsistent lower court CEQA cases, which are often debated without considering the distinguishing facts and circumstances that make most such contrarian, pro-EIR cases inapplicable to our DEIR dispute (that is one reason why I chose to add the *Gray* decision below to illustrate these principles in a more factually similar context.) The *Sierra Club* case involved a master planned seniors’ community on 942-acres of former agricultural land to be built in five phases over 10-years. The County approved (and trial court upheld) an alternative plan that wisely “prohibited the discharge of treated effluent into the river from the wastewater treatment plant” (at 508), which the County should do here as well to protect Wolf Creek from the hexavalent chromium menace and other toxins that escape DEIR insufficiently described “treatment” for any reason. While the key issue left to the Supreme Court was the project’s air quality menace that defeated the EIR, the court provided a useful description of the controlling standards and principles that should also apply here to protect us locals from such disputed DEIR mining.

The *Sierra Club*’s conclusion was as follows:

We conclude as follows [at 510]: When reviewing whether a discussion is sufficient to satisfy CEQA a court must be satisfied that the EIR (1) includes sufficient detail to enable those who did not participate in its preparation to understand and to consider meaningfully the issues the proposed project raises [citing *Laurel Heights I*] ... and (2) makes a reasonable effort to substantively connect a project’s air quality impacts to likely health consequences. As explained below, the EIR in this case failed to do so. ... or explain in meaningful detail why it is not feasible at the time of drafting to provide such analysis...

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The same defects apply to our disputed DEIR as to many risks, burdens, and harms addressed in my Objection and others. At to the "understanding" test, I had trouble understanding many DEIR issues, despite all my experience in other failed mines and their often-fanciful environmental impact reports, whose errors, omissions and deficiencies were exposed by realities revealed in the bankruptcies or other end-games, as they joined the rest of the more than 40,000 abandoned mines on the EPA list that the EPA and other governments seem unable to clean up or resolve. Little health data can be found in the DEIR, which is due in part to the general DEIR flaw of understating the problems, such as by ignoring hexavalent chromium entirely as a threat or blindly mining in the 2585-acre underground mine area without sufficient knowledge of what conditions now exist there or will be released by new, deeper, and expanded mining.

The next *Sierra Club* test of an EIR is stated at 511-12 as:

The foremost principle under CEQA is that the Legislature intended the act 'to be interpreted in such manner as to afford the fullest possible protection to the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutory language. ... [T]he [EIR] ... is a document of accountability. ... The EIR 'protects not only the environment but also informed self-government. ...

... 'An agency may abuse its discretion under CEQA either by failing to proceed in the manner CEQA provides or by reaching factual conclusions unsupported by substantial evidence. (# 21168.5.) Judicial review of these two types of error differs significantly: While we determine de novo whether the agency has employed the correct procedures, 'scrupulously enforc[ing] all legislatively mandated CEQA requirements [as a matter of law, with cite omitted], we accord greater deference to the agency's substantive factual conclusions. ...

[After discussing the procedural issues, especially the question of whether the EIR's discussion of environmental impacts is adequate, the court continued at 513-14] Even if the Regents are correct in their conclusion that there are no feasible alternatives to the Laurel Heights site, the EIR is nonetheless defective under CEQA. As we stated in a context similar to CEQA, there must be a disclosure of the 'analytic route the ...agency traveled from evidence to action.'

[T]he adequacy of an EIR's discussion of environmental impacts is an issue distinct from the extent to which the agency is correct in its determination whether the agency is correct in its determination whether the impacts are significant. '[A]n EIR's designation of a particular adverse environmental effect as 'significant' does not excuse the EIR's failure to reasonably describe the nature and magnitude of the adverse effect. ... [citation for the ruling that 'The EIR's approach of simply labeling the effect as 'significant' without the accompanying analysis of the project's impact on the health of the Airport's employees and nearby residents is inadequate to meet the environmental assessment requirements of CEQA.' With another cite] An adequate description of

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adverse environmental effects is necessary to inform the critical discussion of mitigation measures and project alternatives at the core the EIR. See Guidelines #15151...

... But whether a description of an environmental impact is insufficient because it lacks analysis or omits the magnitude of the impact is not a substantial evidence question. A conclusory discussion of an environmental impact that an EIR deems significant can be determined by a court to be inadequate as an informational document without reference to substantial evidence. (At 514-15)

Our Courts of Appeal have consistently recognized that adequacy of discussion claims are not typically amenable to substantial evidence review. ... Noncompliance with substantive requirements of CEQA or noncompliance with information disclosure provisions ... may constitute prejudicial abuse of discretion within the meaning of Sections 21168 and 21168.5 ... [W]hen an agency fails to proceed [as CEQA requires], harmless error analysis is inapplicable. ... [and] the error is prejudicial. (At 515)

What that means to our DEIR is that most of my Objection and others can be resolved by the court as a matter of law de novo. The disputed DEIR has made its errors, omissions, and deficiencies so obvious that there is no way for the County to save them, and the DEIR must be rejected and redone, if they wish to try again. The DEIR is so deficient in most cases that the County has little to work with for its own analysis to satisfy the courts.

As the *Sierra Club* court stated at 515: "The courts have looked not for an exhaustive analysis but for adequacy, completeness, and a good-faith effort at full disclosure." The disputed DEIR here fails at each of those requirements, as demonstrated in my Objections and others. There is no sufficient such adequacy, completeness, or good faith in the disputed parts of the DEIR. What the Supreme Court considered deficient in its EIR for air quality is worse by comparison here, not only as to the air issues in my Objection at # 10, but also as to the many other such DEIR impacts that my Objection reveals to suffer from the same flaws. In each case it is prudent to remember what the *Sierra Club* court said (at 520-21) quoting the *Vineyard* decision I discuss below: "The relevant informational document here is the EIR, and the EIR must communicate not to the reviewing court, but 'the public and the governmental officials deciding on the project. ... The question is ... not whether the project's significant environmental effects can be explained, but whether they were.'" As demonstrated in my Objections and others, the DEIR is a massive and self-inflicted example of "hiding the ball" (see, eg, my Objection #'s 3.E, 14, and 15). Often those fatal omissions seem to be because the DEIR tries to abuse the excuse of the future being too speculative, but many problems about the mine that matter most have been ignored as inconvenient truths for which much could have been said consistent with CEQA, if the DEIR performed to the required standard. Unfortunately, being unwilling to address the "hard questions" (see, eg, my Objection #'s 14 and 15), the DEIR advocates left the County with a defective and noncompliant DEIR.

Please note here, however, that even Rise's own likely favorite cases do not allow DEIR claims that lack good faith or that are illusory, or speculation, or bogus assumptions. That is what appears to exist here, since my Objection # 2 proves that Rise currently cannot afford to perform the DEIR and mitigations, even as they proposed them, as distinct from what more will ultimately be required by government or courts or local law reforms, if the mine proceeds. That fact, largely based on Rise's own SEC 10K and 10Q filing admissions, makes the DEIR comments

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often “illusory” and suggests a lack of “good faith.” That is especially true given all the DEIR’s other “strategic” errors, omissions, and deficiencies exposed in my Objection without any good excuse, such as the DEIR only occasionally mentioning the use of hexavalent chromium in the mine shoring cement paste without any mention of it or its dangers in the DEIR’s “Hazards And Hazardous Materials.” See also my Objection # 3.E and M, where I illustrate other examples of obscuring data, insufficient data, strategic omissions, and other inappropriate tactics prohibited by CEQA cases like *Banning Ranch Conservancy v. City of Newport Beach* (2017), 2 Cal.5th 918, 940-41 (“**Banning**”) and *Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rancho Cordova* (2007), 40 Cal.4th 412, 442 (“**Vineyard**”), each insisting on “a good faith reasoned analysis,” rather than scattered or buried data, and unexplained data in exhibits.

In any event, under the applicable facts and circumstances in this case and a correct interpretation of CEQA and its Guidelines and relevant precedents (as distinct from distinguishable or other lower court decisions in need of correction by the California Supreme Court), I urge that everything in my Objection be considered. (The DEIR presented its disputed legal interpretations of various CEQA requirements, and so it’s only fair and appropriate for the CEQA lead agency to consider my counters.) In the meantime, I believe that the DEIR is also irreconcilable with the following example California decisions (and relevant cases, statutes, and Guidelines cited therein). *E.g.*, *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018), 6 Cal.5th 502; *Concerned Citizens of Costa Mesa, Inc v. 32nd Dist. Ag. Ass’n* (1986), 42 Cal.3d 929; *POET, LLC v State Air Resources Bd.* (2013), 218 Cal. App. 4th 681; *Gray v. County of Madera* (2008), 167 Cal. App. 4th 1099.

3. *Gray v County of Madera*: One Detailed Example Of An Illustrative CEQA Case Before My More Systematic Analysis of Authorities Supporting My View Of How CEQA Should Be Interpreted And Applied As To Particular Issues.

Consider the somewhat similar case of *Gray v. County of Madera* (2008), 167 Cal. App. 4th 1099 (“**Gray**”), where the court reversed the trial court’s denial of the project opponents’ challenges on **both CEQA and non-CEQA grounds, which defects the court found (at 1120) to be CEQA “prejudicial.”** Those objectors sought the usual relief in such CEQA challenge cases, ie, (i) a petition for a writ of mandate to overturn a county’s issuance of conditional use and mining permits for an 86-acre “excavation pit”/rock quarry (and related 35 acre “hot-mix asphalt plant,” processing facility, administration complex, stock piles and processing areas, a road, and other project “accessories”) for “aggregate” with approved rezoning pursuant to a certified environmental impact report (EIR), and (ii) a complaint for injunctive declaratory relief. The *Gray* mining would remove **900,000 tons of aggregate per year for 50 years involving 320 round trips by truck per day and consuming 72,000 gallons of water per day.** Unlike our DEIR mine so close to our suburban town with thousands of residents living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, the *Gray* mine was in a cattle grazing area zoned agricultural with only “dozens of residences and 55 domestic wells within one mile of the project.” As like our DEIR, there were many (175) public objections raising many of the same issues raised by my Objection and others, **including things this disputed DEIR (and perhaps some at the County) seems to resist as outside some imagined CEQA boundary, such as about (i) “economic or other feasibility,” and (ii) similar “comments**

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describing the impacts to their property value that would occur as a result of the project,” thus rebutting the appropriateness of such property value as an objection topic, even without my added Objection twists, such as that trashing of our property values harms home and commercial construction jobs and the local economy. (Unlike our DEIR for a gold mine, which product has no local use and no net benefit here (see my Objection # 4), there was an arguable local need for aggregate in *Gray*, making that a stronger case for the approval than exists in our DEIR case.)

As usual in these disputes, the *Gray* court applied the statutory standard of review for “challenging an agency decision under CEQA” by asking: “(1) whether there is any substantial evidence in light of the whole record to support the decision; and (2) whether the agency abused its discretion by failing to proceed in the manner required by law. Pub. Resources Code 21168, 21168.5. *** The appellate court reviews the administrative record independently; the trial court’s conclusions are not binding on it.” at 1108-10. The “County has the burden of showing that there is substantial evidence to support its decision.” at 1111. “The court then summarized its focus in applying those principles as follows:

‘When assessing the legal sufficiency of an EIR ... the reviewing court focuses on adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure.’ [citation] ‘The EIR must contain facts and analysis, not just the bare conclusions of the agency.’ [citation] ‘An EIR must include detail sufficient to enable those who did not participate in its preparation to understand and to consider meaningfully the issues raised by the proposed project.’ [citation] ‘Analysis of environmental effects need not be exhaustive, but will be judged in light of what was reasonably feasible. ...’

As frequently occurs, many of the disputes in this case center on the question whether relevant information was omitted from the [EIR]. ... [Prejudice from such noncompliance is sufficient for reversal] if the failure to include relevant information precludes informed decisionmaking and informed public participation, thereby thwarting the statutory goals of the EIR process.’ [citations] at 1109.

In my Objection and others all those requirements are satisfied for rejecting the DEIR, including dozens of instances of strategic or tactical errors, omissions, and deficiencies in the disputed DEIR that evidence what that standard calls lack of good faith, such, among many other things, as burying controversial data in obscure places (eg, not mentioning the use of toxic hexavalent chromium in the DEIR’s “Hazards And Hazardous Materials” section or most other places where one would look for such lethal substances) or manipulating and omitting crucial 2585-acre underground mining and groundwater data without mentioning the thousands of affected surface owners, hundreds of wells, and their competing surface and groundwater rights, as if the only DEIR concern were 30 dry wells along East Bennett Road. In any event, what follows illustrates how the *Gray* court applied those principles in a less controversial case than our stronger case against this disputed DEIR.

The first *Gray* court issue was to address two general challenges (at 1110) that “the EIR [the DEIR and FEIR collectively] failed to fulfill CEQA’s requirement as an informational document and violated CEQA by failing to take into consideration the ‘whole of the project,’” although, because of the way the objectors’ case was presented, the court backed into those



conclusions by way of the specific issue arguments. So, I will discuss those specifics after putting aside the general discussion of the County's response to the DEIR public objections, because we are not yet at that stage in our DEIR process, although I note that, as the *Gray* court stated at 1110: "Under CEQA, the County is required to evaluate comments to the DEIR and prepare written responses. (# 21091, subd. (d), CEQA Guidelines # 15088.)" In our case that means those general violations occur as described in my Objection, because no court could possibly consider compliant the DEIR discussions, for example, of hexavalent chromium harms and risks, or the deficient groundwater depletion and other impacts on the neglected surface owners' and users' rights and ownership interests above and around the 2585-acre underground mine that the DEIR generally ignores. Consider this example question in testing adequacy, what do us thousands of such surface residents tell a buyer when we try to sell our homes in the impact or stigma zones above or around the 2585-acre underground mine? I studied the thousands of pages of DEIR materials to prepare a 150-page Objection about my top 50 or so outrages, and yet I still could not adequately inform a buyer if I tried to sell my house. For example, apparently to reduce DEIR controversy with us locals, we still do not even know from the DEIR where the 2585-acre underground mine is located by reference to surface streets in our suburban community above and around that mine. Indeed, the best information I could readily find about even parts of the burden, risk, and harmful realities of the 2585-acre mine (which I included in my Objection #2) came not from the DEIR, but from the Rise Gold Corp current SEC Forms 10K and 10Q on its website.

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As is true as to my Objections to the DEIR (except for the hexavalent chromium horrors in our case not present in *Gray*), the main *Gray* controversy (starting at 1111) also concerns the mine's impact on water. Unlike our disputed DEIR' errors, omissions, and deficiencies in discussing groundwater threats to us surface owners and users above and around the 2585-acre underground, rather than just the distinguishable situation of the 30 wells along East Bennett Road on which the DEIR attempts to distract our attention (see, eg, my Objection #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, and M, 4, 5, and 14), the *Gray* EIR admitted the risk of depletion of neighboring wells and causing quality issues, although it tried to minimize the threat by attempted and deficient mitigation with replacement water and monitoring in ways that were unsatisfactory, although (as NID stated at the March 24 hearing) superior to what is proposed in our disputed DEIR. (Unlike our DEIR, where there is no monitoring for the hundreds of existing wells owned by the thousands of surface residents above or around the 2585-acre underground mine [with more wells to come as climate change drought cuts NID supplies] and no real analysis with any substantial evidence of that new, deeper, and expanded 2585-acre mining impact or of any viable mitigation of the problems, the *Gray* monitoring at least seemed to have included everyone, despite other deficiencies which the court found to violate CEQA.)

For reasons noted below and that also apply to our disputed DEIR and are addressed in my Objection (see, eg, #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, and M, 4, 5, and 14) and others, the *Gray* court concluded (at 1119-1120):

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We are rejecting the County's conclusion on the water issues because we have concluded that the mitigation measures that were proposed to address the potentially significant adverse impacts on the water levels of private wells of neighboring landowners are not viable or effective. The



mitigation measures do not allow the landowners to use water in a manner substantially similar to how the landowners are currently using water because the mitigation measures (1) would allow Baker to replace potable water with nonpotable water, (2) could expose the landowners to new regulatory oversight in the use of their water, (3) would create a water supply system that does not reliably provide water at the times and in the amounts needed by the neighboring landowners, and (4) could cause new and potentially significant impacts on the environment. The only mitigation option that would address many of these problems is the proposal to build a new water system, but there is no substantial evidence to conclude that this option is even feasible. Thus, the mitigation measures are inadequate under CEQA. (Emphasis added)

All of those factors against approving the *Gray* EIR that fail to comply with CEQA are also applicable in my Objection and others to the disputed DEIR, except that there is no offer to build a new water system here on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine (and, if there were such a proposal, as in *Gray* that would require its own new EIR and violate the CEQA rules against deferred mitigation [at 1118], among other objections. The DEIR mine dewatering treatment system here flows into the Wolf Creek and away from us locals.)

More importantly, as my Objection (at my # 2) demonstrated by Rise and DEIR admissions, no such mitigation is adequately analyzed by the applicable CEQA standards and, in any event, such mitigation is not reliable; eg, not currently affordable or otherwise feasible by the DEIR miner. More importantly, although it was not an issue in *Gray*, because the mine was entirely on owned property competing for groundwater with neighbors, in our DEIR situation there are also many of us surface owners above and around the 2585-acre underground mine who have additional rights to compete for our own share of the same groundwater as discussed in my Objection (see my #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, M and N, 4, 5, 8, and 14), in addition to our rights to drill new or deeper wells, especially when climate change dryness and drought results in NID cut backs.

One of the most important rulings in *Gray* is as follows (at 1117-1118) in rejecting some EIR mitigations as defying "common sense" (which as my Objection demonstrates is a common flaw in this disputed DEIR):

We agree with RWQCB [California Regional Water Quality Control Board] that providing replacement water through bottled water is not a viable or effective mitigation measure. It defies common sense for the County to conclude that the providing of bottled water is an effective mitigation measure. As presented, ... [it] does not explain how and in what amount the bottled water will be delivered to the neighboring landowners. The measure requires replacement at least equal to the lost amount of water production from the landowners' wells. ... [discussing variable uses etc] Often landowners will be unable to predict their amount of water needs in advance. It is also unlikely that neighboring landowners have water meters that will help them calculate their water usage. Mitigation Measure 3.9-1b does not explain how it will address the issue of fluctuating water usage by supplying bottled water. A

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water system, as proposed by the Board, could solve the problem [although the court adds that: "The EIR also fails to examine whether building a new water system would cause significant environmental impacts"]. However, the proposal for a water system was never studied by the County staff. Thus, there is no substantial evidence that it is feasible to build a water system. Therefore, [it] ... does not present viable mitigation options.

Furthermore, ... the EIR fails to explain how the use of nonpotable [project] water to irrigate the [neighboring] land [a mitigation measure] ... would have an impact on livestock, wildlife, and habitats. ... [or] how the water bottles that are used will be replaced or recycled. (Emphasis added)

This same analysis applies to the disputed water truck alternative in our disputed DEIR addressed in my Objections, plus (as in my # 2) this DEIR miner has demonstrated no financial capacity to make any such mitigations feasible for the thousands of us living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine.

As *Gray* also explains further (at 1116-1117) regarding its "common sense" CEQA test of feasibility that should also defeat this DEIR, as explained in my Objections and others:

We agree with ...[objectors] that there is no substantial evidence that the mitigation measures are feasible or effective in remedying the potentially significant problem of decline in water levels of neighboring wells. In order to mitigate this problem ... [the miner] must present a viable solution that can effectively replace the decline in the water available to the neighboring residents. ... [W]e decline to ... [defer to the Board's findings because they] are not supported by substantial evidence or defy common sense. LAW IS NOT REQUIRED TO ABANDON COMMON SENSE. HERE, OUR COMMON SENSE INFORMS US THAT THE MITIGATION MEASURES WILL NOT EFFECTIVELY REPLACE THE WATER THAT COULD BE LOST BY THE NEIGHBORING LANDOWNERS. IT IS TRUE THAT THE MITIGATION MEASURES WILL PROVIDE A REPLACEMENT FOR THE LOST AMOUNT OF WATER. HOWEVER, NEITHER MITIGATION MEASURE ... WILL PROVIDE NEIGHBORING RESIDENTS WITH THE ABILITY TO USE WATER IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MANNER THAT THEY WERE ACCUSTOMED TO DOING IF THE PROJECT HAD NOT EXISTED AND CAUSED A DECLINE IN THE WATER LEVELS OF THEIR WELLS. (Emphasis added)

Our disputed DEIR mine is even in greater violation of that "CEQA common sense" test than in the *Gray* case for all the reasons explained in my Objection, including what I demonstrate there in my # 2, where Rise admits its financial challenges and impaired prospect that make achieving anything to be accomplished in the disputed DEIR speculative at best, especially the vague and CEQA noncompliant mitigations as to water issues for us thousands living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, whose fate the DEIR never sufficiently even considers, much less adequately resolves as required by *Gray* and "common sense." Note that, as quoted above, *Gray* insists that any such water mitigation must put us neighbors in the same water position as we would have been in if there had been no mine,

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and the DEIR does not even have a plausible approach to propose such a thing, which lack of feasible solutions to DEIR groundwater and NID water problems may explain why the disputed DEIR so often ignores those issues and generally avoids addressing the thousands of us living a normal suburban surface life (although in our beautiful forest) above and around that 2585-acre underground mine.

For example, as to the need so to preserve equivalent water realities for impacted neighbors consistent with “common sense,” consider some of the many deficient mitigations the Gray court rejected, such as (at 1117):

“Mitigation Measure 3.9-1(a) provides that Baker could rehabilitate or deepen the neighboring wells to provide additional water. But there is no substantial evidence to conclude that the neighboring wells would provide additional potable water. [That mitigation measure] ... also would ... permit Baker to replace the lost water by providing a connection to the Project wells. The DEIR concedes that the water from the Project wells is not acceptable for consumptive uses and already provides that water for consumptive use would come from the remaining production in private wells or through Mitigation Measure 3.9-1(b) [the rejected water system idea]. Thus, the neighboring residents would have to change their water usage to use the water from their private wells for consumptive purposes only and the water from the Project wells for other uses. Besides this inconvenience, neighboring landowners may also need to comply with regulatory oversight because of their use of the nonpotable water, for example in landscaping irrigation, which may require the neighboring landowners to mitigate and remediate any degradation to underlying groundwater. ... [In response to the County’s argument that there are “confined” water conditions that enable such mitigation to escape regulation, the court responded that it was “unclear” that interpretation is correct, and the court continued] However, of more concern is that there is no substantial evidence to conclude that the aquifer that supplies water to the Project and to the neighboring wells, which is currently confined, would remain confined over the [50 year] operational life of the Project. According to the [State] RWQCB, as the pit is excavated, it may function as a well that could connect the production wells with neighboring wells. Thus, the neighboring landowners could become subject to regulatory oversight in the future. ... Therefore, Mitigation Measure 3.9-1(a) is not viable because it does not replace the lost water from private wells with a substantially similar quality of water. (Emphasis added)

The court explained (at 1119) that:

[A lead CEQA agency can defer detailing certain mitigation measures] ...as long as the lead agency commits itself to mitigation and to specific performance standards. ... [But] we conclude that here the County has not committed itself to a specific performance standard. Instead, the County has committed itself to a specific mitigation goal--the replacement of water lost by neighboring landowners because of mine operations. However, this goal is not a specific performance standard such as the creation of a water supply mechanism that



would place the neighboring landowners in a situation substantially similar to their situation prior to the decline in the water levels of their private wells because of the mining operations, including allowing landowners to use water in a substantially similar fashion to how they were previously using water. Moreover, the listed mitigation alternatives must be able to remedy the environmental problem. We have concluded that the listed mitigation alternatives, except the building of a new water system, cannot remedy the water problems because they would not place neighboring landowners into a situation substantially similar to what the landowners experienced prior to the operation of the mine. And the option to build a water system, which is the only effective mitigation that was proposed if it was feasible, was never studied or examined. Thus, the County is improperly deferring the study of whether building such a system is feasible until the impact occurs. (Emphasis added)

For such reasons as so stated by the *Gray* court, my Objections and others must also defeat the DEIR here.

My Objection at #'s 4, 8, 12, 13, and elsewhere also addresses some traffic issues, usually as they impact other environmental impacts like fire evacuation routes, road and infrastructure cost increases, and other harms and impacts on which I rely on other objectors whose greater knowledge I incorporate here. However, as part of my Objection's no net benefit from the DEIR mine analysis (at my #4), I note that the 50 to 100 trucks a day 24/7/365 for 80 years would be a substantial CEQA problem that was not mitigated by the DEIR, even if sufficient money was reliably available (about which locals are skeptical for reasons explained in my Objection # 2 from the miner's own admissions). However, because my *Gray v. Madera County* situation has a comparable problem for 50-years of "320 truck round trips per day" (at 1106), although in a more rural setting than our DEIR mine (at its # 4.12), I direct the County's attention to the following *Gray* analysis (at 1121-22), where the EIR admitted the traffic impact problems, but tried to mitigate them by the applicant paying an "equitable share" of the cost of construction of future improvements if requested by Caltrans or Madera County [with a formula] and to the long term maintenance fee based upon aggregate tonnage mined with no formula. I refer the County to that *Gray* court analysis at 1121-22, where the court analyzed the proposed mitigation and said: "the mitigation measures relating to traffic impacts are inadequate" (although more than what our DEIR proposes), expressing that the court "generally agree[s]" with the following objections of CEQA violations because such mitigation:

- (1) It is not enforceable; (2) it illegally defers development of the details and performance standards; (3) no substantial evidence supports the conclusion that the "fair share" fee will actually be spent on mitigation. In support of these three suppositions, Appellants complain that "[t]here is nothing in the mitigation measures that requires Caltrans or Madera County to actually impose impact fees." Also, "[t]he EIR fails to include any discussion of how or when the possible mitigation fees would be collected or spent, nor does it identify the extent to which the mitigation measures would alleviate the traffic impacts if some fair share fees were

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ultimately imposed.” Finally, “the County made no finding regarding the limitation or the feasibility of the county guaranteeing the funding for roadway improvements.” We generally agree. (Emphasis added) [NOTE THAT THIS COUNTY GUARANTEE IS AN EXAMPLE OF ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY BEING USED IN REBUTTAL TO DEFEAT A CEQA MITIGATION CLAIM.]

This same kind of criticism applies to the disputed DEIR as to many proposed mitigations to impacts about which my Objection and others complain.

For another example, consider the *Gray v Madera County* court’s rejection (at 1122-23) of the “incorrect methodology in determining significance of noise levels.” This analysis exposes similar flaws in our disputed DEIR at its # 4.10 and elsewhere for noise and other impacts addressed in my Objection # 9 and elsewhere. For example, consider the court’s demonstration (at 1123) how in that case “there is no single noise increase that renders the noise impact significant,” but that the “cumulative noise impact” was significant.

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Thus, the EIR should consider whether the cumulative noise impact would be significant when increases of up to 2.1dBA are added to the existing noise level. For example, even though a 2.1 dBA noise in isolation will not be noticeable, when added to the already high noise level, it could cause a tipping point of noise problems for the general public. The EIR, however, does not analyze this issue and merely concludes that it would not be significant because “[i]t is generally recognized that an increase of at least 3 dB is usually required before most people will perceive a change in noise levels.” This bare conclusion cannot satisfy the requirement that the EIR serve as an informational document. Moreover, the Board’s statement of overriding considerations ... does not assist the County because it only considered one residence ... and did not consider the potentially significant impact of cumulative noise level. Thus, the EIR failed to adequately analyze the Project’s impact on noise levels. (Emphasis added)

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This same kind of criticism applies to the disputed DEIR as to many such unsubstantiated “conclusions” or “assumptions” (a consistent flaw in the DEIR about which I complained many times in my Objection) about impacts both as to noise and many other things. Even more importantly, as I explain in my Objection #’s 3.N and 4, the disputed DEIR rarely is correct about its “cumulative impacts,” and that is critical, because, as my Objection details (see # 4), that is how this no benefit mine crowds out the more desirable future additions to our community by exhausting our environmental tolerance standards limits on a cumulative basis, so that adding even good uses becomes a future CEQA violation for such desirable additions, while we’re stuck in indefinite disputes with this no net benefit mine that so blocks our community’s opportunities.

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The *Gray* court concluded in its non-CEQA analysis that the County failed to comply with Senate Bill No. 610, Water Code sections 10919-10914 by failing to prepare a water supply assessment for the project that applies to “public water system” that was not applicable to the mine, except (the court held at 1131) as to the possible mitigation construction of a water system for the affected neighbors. As the court explained (at 1131) quoting the *Vineyards* precedent, that “requires the lead agency to identify likely water sources for a project” and



required “assum[ing] that all phases of the project will eventually be built and will need water, and must analyze, to the extent reasonably possible, the impacts of providing water to the whole project.” In *Gray* the County failed to analyze the impacts of providing water to the proposed water system. Thus, the County there, perhaps like the County here for this disputed DEIR, “must do a water supply assessment or provide substantial evidence to explain why it did not have to comply with Senate Bill 610.” (Id.) See Guideline # 15155. **In this DEIR that means all those water uses addressed in my Objections not just for the Brunswick treatment facility for the dewatered groundwater it dumps into the Wolf Creek, perhaps for NID use, but also its insufficiently analyzed and deficient mitigation for the thousands of us surface locals who now have hundreds of wells above and around the 2585-acre underground mine and the multiples more such wells that will be drilled to compete with the mine, as it removes our shared/co-owned groundwater 24/7/365 for 80 years, assuming as *Vineyards and Gray* require that “all phases of the project will eventually be built and need water.” See, eg, my Objection at #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, and M, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, and 14. There is clearly nothing sufficient or compliant about those issues in the disputed DEIR, which barely discussed those of us surface residents, voters, and competitors above and around the 2585-acre underground mine, which is an essential part of the project and our worst menace, as explained in many objections and addressed further below.**

4. While the Parties Can Debate About The Extent Of Any CEQA Required Discussion Of “Economic Feasibility” By Itself As A Category For Analysis, Economics Factors And Feasibility Can Be Required Under Other CEQA Disclosure Categories And Are Certainly Appropriate Counter Evidence For Objections Impeaching Or Rebutting The Disputed DEIR.

There is a legal debate about when and how economic feasibility considerations must be disclosed as its own category like water, air quality, traffic, etc. in order to comply with CEQA. Some argue, for example, that such discussions are part of CEQA # 21061.2 or CEQA Guidelines # 15064 or 15131 or others discussed below. But see CEQA Guidelines 15131. I argue that it depends on the specific legal context and required as to the issues raised in the DEIR and Objections like mine in this case, as discussed below where (as here) the particular facts and circumstances compel such disclosures, especially where those are factors compelled by what *Gray v. Madera County* above called “common sense” or by other applicable law our court rules, such as to prevent bad faith or worse. The California Supreme Court can eventually resolve that question later of how best to deal with DEIR’s totally lacking in performance credibility. But this much is already certain and clear: there is no direct or indirect prohibition on economic feasibility discussions or other such topics outside of CEQA effects on the environment.

Before addressing below some cases and other approaches to requiring consideration of such evidence of economics, **consider in detail Guideline # 13131 “Economic And Social Effects,”** with which the DEIR fails to comply and which entitles my Objection to be fully considered by the County. **Section 13131(b) states:**

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Economic or social effects of a project may be used to determine the significance of physical changes cause by the project. For example, if the construction of a new freeway or rail line divides an existing community, the construction would be the physical change, but the social effect on the community would be the basis for determining that the effect would be significant. [After another example of project noise disrupting church service the conclusion is] ... Where an EIR uses economic or social effects to determine that a physical change is significant, the EIR shall explain the reason for determining that the effect is significant." (Emphasis added)

Guideline # 15382 "Significant Effect On The Environment" states: "A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant."

Guideline # 15021 (b) and (d) likewise invites consideration of "specific economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors," and: "(d) CEQA recognizes that in determining whether and how a project should be approved, a public agency has an obligation to balance a variety of public objectives, including economic, environmental, and social factors ... and ... shall prepare a statement of overriding considerations as described in Section 15093 to reflect the ultimate balancing ..." To set a baseline for such balancing the "Project Description" at # 15124(c) the EIR must contain a general description of the project's technical, ECONOMIC, and environmental characteristics ..." (emphasis added)

Such economic factors addressed in my Objection (see, eg, # 2) include more than the challenged financial condition of the miner admitted in its SEC Forms 10K and 10Q that appear to make the DEIR accomplishments unaffordable and, therefore, illusory. For example, as explained in my Objection, the real estate value losses caused by the mining to the thousands of us above or around the 2582-acre underground mine will cause many adverse effects, such as, for example, a loss of construction jobs in the area, self-defense competition against the mine by surface owners to salvage groundwater from depletion (eg, digging or deepening competing wells to preserve precious surface owned groundwater from being wasted in dewatering a no net benefit mine), and many other changes addressed in my Objection at # 3.N or 4, as us locals enforce our legal and political rights to mitigate what we regard to be the adverse impacts, risks, burdens, and harms of the DEIR mine.

The same can be said as to Guideline # 15131(c) stating: "Economic, social, and particularly housing factors shall be considered by public agencies together with technological and environmental factors in deciding whether changes in a project are feasible to reduce or avoid the significant effects on the environment identified in the EIR." As demonstrated in my Objection and others, there is no way to reconcile such DEIR mining underneath a suburban community on the surface above or around such a 2585-acre underground mine. Considering everything we locals stand to lose and suffer from this no net benefit DEIR mine, the physical competition and other legal and political exercises of defense rights to counter the mine will have many indirect physical impacts. See my Objection at #'s 3.N and 4. Such effects will be cumulative and expose the DEIR to more disclosure objections under Guideline # 15130 "Discussion of Cumulative Impacts," especially since such DEIR



mining 24/7/365 for 80-years will cause continuous counter reactions by us adversely and continuously impacted locals until the mining stops.

In other words, there is no immunity for such omissions for the DEIR in other compliance or applicable law, and no prohibition on including such things in any opposition. See Kostka & Zischke, *Practice Under the Cal. Environmental Quality Act*, # 13.24 p.634 and Gray at 1120-1121, which states: "CEQA requires that the lead agency analyze any significant physical changes that may be caused by social or economic impacts that are the result of the Project."

While the open pit quarry in *Gray* did not have all such underground mining impacts in that court's view of those facts, our disputed DEIR project does involve facts and circumstances where social and economic impacts of the project do cause significant physical changes under that *Gray* test. Remember that us surface victims of mining impacts by the DEIR mining beneath us in the 2585-acre mine have our own rights to mitigate our damages (which is a necessary response to the DEIR related mitigations being illusory as unaffordable by this miner) as demonstrated in court precedents cited in my Objection #'s 2, 3.N, 4, and 14, where I discuss surface owners defending against the DEIR mine with competing new or deeper wells (a specific example of a mine caused "physical change" resulting from an economic impact on us living above and around the 2585-acre underground mine of knowing that none of the DEIR stated mitigation may be economically feasible (or credible or reliable) for this DEIR miner, which admits data in its current SEC Forms 10K and 10Q inspiring doubts about reliability of the needed funding or credit (or even mine "proven reserves" for attracting investment), as my Objection # 2 proves.

Unlike the *Gray* situation that failed to see in that case that "physical changes to the environment will result from any loss in the property value of neighboring lands that will arise from a potential decline in water levels in private wells," my Objection makes that case for physical changes here, because we are better focused on the difference between cause and effect. The DEIR trashing our property values is a motivation, and it incites us locals to resist, compete, and counter with the appropriate exercise of our legal and political rights, as described in my Objection # 3.N and elsewhere. However, it's implementing that defense and counter from that exercise of our legal and political rights and competition that "causes" the physical changes that courts like the *Gray court* wished to see. When us locals are battling to save our homes and trees, our groundwater and environment, and community way of life from the DEIR menace, it's reasonably foreseeable that we locals may counter with every legal and political tool at our disposal. Many of those have counters and competitions physical change consequences that must be addressed pursuant to CEQA, because this is more than just a battle for our environment. It may include us surface owners enforcing our legal and political property rights, for example, for more and deeper wells in direct competition against dewatering of the underground mine proposed by the DEIR, and the environment will be caught in that crossfire between those two sides. [I understand that NID has its own concerns about such local well competition against the mine as described in my Objection at #'s 3.N and 4, but instead of trying to moderate us locals in our well competitions that also affect the environment, I suggest that NID focus instead on stopping the mining threats to which we are reacting. But for this DEIR, nothing needs to change. However, if the mine is permitted, nothing will ever be the same again until the mining stops again.]

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For example (and saving more argument on this for discussion below), my Objection #3.N illustrates (ie, evidence) that (perhaps with some local law reforms from responsive officials or, if need be, by initiatives) I (and others like me) may exercise one of three defense options as such a surface owner to tap my own groundwater as necessary for the use of my home and to save my 48 plus tall trees (all over 50 feet and some heirlooms twice that) in competition with the DEIR mine's wasteful and harmful misuse of my groundwater 24/7/365 for 80-years for dewatering the mine when climate change dryness and drought result in an NID cutback (as I report previously suffering years ago when my East Bay MUD cut my water back to 50 gallons a day per person in order to comply with a mandate to ship our water to Marin County which had none; an experience I will not repeat by using one of my other such options): (i) I could drill my own competing well as deep as necessary and appropriate, (ii) I could make a sharing deal with one or more adjacent surface neighbors in exchange for funding to improve such wells to a sufficient depth to compete effectively, or (iii) I could organize a group of adjacent property owners to drill a competing community well for sharing such water in competition with the mine. (While NID or others may resist such ideas as environmental harmful, as I point out in my Objection # 3.N, it is intolerable for us surface owners to watch our property, trees, and environment suffer, while the mine dewatering depletes our shared groundwater and disposes of it down the Wolf Creek somewhere else. The solution for NID is to stop the mine, so none of this is necessary. Our voting numbers should enable us thousands of locals above and around the 2585-acre underground mine to arrange appropriate law reforms and political alliances that empower our defenses and enable such competitions against the DEIR mine. In any event, there seems no worse result for us that suffering this DEIR and mining approval.)

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As explained throughout my Objection, including at my # 14, I note that the DEIR itself directly incites an economic feasibility dispute by its own disputed claims, such as at DEIR 6-14 claiming that the mine is economically infeasible if it were limited to 12-hour days (a key item on our new local agenda for political reforms, as explained in my Objection # 3.N), thereby requiring the County to realize that the cause of that problem is not the 12 hour day, but rather the DEIR miner's lack of working capital, credit, and financial resources as demonstrated in my Objection at # 2, quoting admissions from the current Rise SEC Form 10K and 10Q. Similarly, the DEIR attempts (and fails) to argue compliance with CEQA by citing to the DEIR's "Non-CEQA Related Analysis," and that empowers us to require the County to allow us locals to expose the errors, omissions, and deficiencies in that part of the DEIR with our own counter Non-CEQA Related Analysis, so there is a level battlefield. Indeed, as shown below and by a review of my 150-page Objection will confirm that many of my evidence and rebuttals at issue in this debate are counters that often use inconsistent quotes or admissions from the DEIR (or Rise as to its SEC 10K and 10Q filings addressed in my Objection at # 2).

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5. My Objection Properly Uses Economic Feasibility And Other Challenged Rebuttals Not Just For CEQA Compliance, But Also As Evidence To Counter And Impeach The Disputed DEIR With Contradictions, Inconsistencies, And Admissions That Expose Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies.



When a court evaluates a challenge to an EIR approval, it considers (under various standards, depending on the circumstances, such as discussed in *Sierra Club and Gray*) whether there was compliance with applicable law as a matter of law, or there was sufficient “substantial evidence” to support the lead CEQA agencies decision. THAT MEANS IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT WHAT CEQA REQUIRES OR PERMITS, IT IS ALSO ABOUT THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. See the California Evidence Code. When the County addresses whether to consider something like “economic feasibility” or other evidence in my Objection, it must also consider whether the courts will later accept such evidence, without regard to CEQA debates, because it is relevant use of DEIR miner admissions or otherwise admissible rebuttal evidence to “impeach” or counter the DEIR’s false, incorrect, or misleading statements or omissions. Truth and reality still matter for CEQA compliance, and the DEIR cannot just present a false or misleading “alternative reality,” such as by asserting something false as a fact or something impossible as if were real, true, and happening. To state the obvious, only a DEIR that comprehensively speaks the truth and presents reality can be approved, as *Gray* illustrated in its insistence on “common sense” and as *Sierra Club* insisted on “good faith.”

The DEIR cannot prevail by simply insisting on presenting one-sided, miner propaganda that the objections can expose as false, misleading, or otherwise objectionable with counter evidence, especially when the objection quotes the miner’s own admissions, inconsistencies, and falsehoods against the DEIR to expose its errors, omissions, or deficiencies. Each statement in the DEIR that is incorrect or misleading can be impeached by rebuttal evidence, which cannot be excluded if as a matter of evidence law (as distinct from CEQA) it is relevant and admissible. That is true even as to the admissions in Rise Gold Corp’s current SEC Form 10K and 10Q filings that reveal why the DEIR must be rejected, because those documents admit (with its own accountant’s adding a “going concern qualification” as to Rise’s financial statements) that there is no apparent sufficient funding to accomplish even the startup expenses of reopening the mine and beginning operations as planned in the DEIR, much less doing the DEIR mitigations that are needed. See my Objection #’s 2, 4, and 14. The very existence of the DEIR mining threat is already harming our real estate values and causing other burdens, risks, and harms, so this process cannot be about some hypothetical plan where government empowers an insufficiently funded miner with an option “to shop” this disputed opportunity.

What my Objection does, and other objections could do, is expose with such evidence DEIR’s many internal contradictions to prevent the DEIR from prevailing inappropriately, such as by my Objection exposing contrary or inconsistent statements either (i) within the DEIR, or (ii) in the current Rise SEC Form 10K or 10Q, which (as I show in my #2) discusses many of the same mining related issues as the DEIR in different, inconsistent, or even contradictory ways. The California Supreme Court’s most important lesson about CEQA in *Sierra Club* is the need for both clarity and truth. Objectors like me are entitled to challenge a DEIR that “crosses those lines.” Especially at times like this in our divided world’s larger conflicts, where constant barrages of false news/propaganda seek to create “alternative realities” (eg, Russia’s distortions and worse about Ukraine), it is important to remember that the rule of law itself depends on having one clear and truthful reality. The DEIR often can be shown to fail that test, and the DEIR needs to be redone to clarify the actual reality of this mine. To do that requires corrections and edits to the DEIR consistent with my Objections and similar other objections.



Furthermore, the County should also allow appropriate consideration of accepted matters to which courts would take "judicial notice" as matters of fundamental logic or reality, to prevent obviously false or misleading claims from being accepted by denying contrary such common sense and proof. For example, if Rise were to say, "Don't worry about any dry wells or health or safety rules, because I'll just pay any victims to make them whole" (an exaggerated version of the disputed DEIR claim to cover anyone whose well dries up, which my #2 proves is also illusory or speculative), that would imply that Rise had the ability to accomplish that implausible claim. Why? Because people are not allowed to just invent nonrealities contrary easily proven facts in the real reality, especially by admissions from the person asking a court or government official to join in that fantasy to officially (but incorrectly) pronounce it to become real. See what *Gray* insists must be "common sense" and what *Sierra Club* and others address as "good faith," but what most of us objectors consider basic truths that define "reality," as opposed to the "alternative reality" created by the disputed DEIR, such as when it insists on pretending there will be sufficient "recharge" of our local owned groundwater simply because the disputed DEIR claims average rain between 1967 and 2017 will somehow reoccur and be sufficient. See my Objection at #'s 3.A, B, D, E, F, M, and N, 5, and 14. When the rule of law applies (and as CEQA must apply here), no naked "emperor" is allowed to insist that he's wearing a fancy suit, because we allow people to say the clear truth that "the emperor has no clothes." This is what my Objection and other objections seek to do about this DEIR. For example, the admissions I cite in my Objection # 2 should be allowed to rebut that illusory DEIR assurance that somehow, without even knowing the huge number of affected old and new wells over even a shorter period than 80 years, the DEIR miner will be able to supply the needed replacement water.

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Please remember that the DEIR itself put its financial feasibility into issue for rebuttal by claiming (at DEIR page 6-14) that limiting mining to a 12-hour day made the project economically infeasible. Since DEIR uses that claim to defeat better "Alternatives" (ie, the traditional industrial use) and mitigation, the law requires allowance of such rebuttals in my Objection and others. That admission by the DEIR itself at page 6-14, by manipulating the data on "Alternatives" thereby legally "opened the door" for all my economic feasibility counter arguments, and it illustrates the DEIR's inconsistency.

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When the DEIR wants to plead poverty like that, it does. But then the DEIR also implies its financially capable when it wants to make implied or express promises of being able to afford whatever mitigation may become necessary (eg, providing water to all dry well owners). The DEIR cannot have it both ways without us being able to expose that nonreality one way or the other. See, eg, my #'s 2, 4, 13, and 14. Yet, when the DEIR discusses (eg, 4.8-66) replacing such hundreds of wells as the dry up over time (besides the 30 along East Bennett Road), Rise's current financial condition and questionable future prospects discussed in my #2 prove that mitigation is not reliable, as it lacks sufficient evidence of financial capacity to accomplish such mitigation and other DEIR project work, especially as the climate change that the DEIR ignores forces many of us to drill more and deeper competing wells to reach our own groundwater as NID supplies are reduced. See, eg, my #'s 3.D, E, F, M, N, 4, 5, 8, and 13. Indeed, that is what the DEIR itself admits it cannot accomplish (at 6-14) if it's limited to a 12-hour workday, as objectors may still demand as law reform. A CEQA and legally compliant DEIR would have to



disclose such realities, and, when (as here) the DEIR fails to do so, objectors must be allowed to expose them.

Furthermore, another DEIR “opening of the door” to my less CEQA-traditional rebuttals is the DEIR’s “Non-CEQA Related Analysis” at 4.3-103-04, incorrectly purporting an attempt to show “good faith,” but allowing us locals to prove the opposite, if we are allowed to do so before court processes apply the rules of evidence in favor of my such objections. My point on this also includes this related DEIR admission: that some of what the DEIR (and perhaps some at the County) considers to be outside some disputed CEQA boundary is needed for essential clarity. This means one of two alternative admitted things: either the disputed DEIR CEQA “boundary” is wrong, or essential clarity of purpose and what they incorrectly consider “good faith” requires going beyond the CEQA constraints. Either way, if the disputed DEIR can include what they call “Non-CEQA Related Analysis,” then we objectors must also be able to respond and counter in kind without limitations about CEQA.

This cannot be a one-sided process where the DEIR can make any infeasible, false, or misleading claims they wish, while us objectors are not permitted to rebut and expose those claims. The reality is that in many instances the disputed DEIR fails to comply with applicable law, because its purported safety and mitigation assumptions and so-called facts, goals, and contentions addressed in my Objection and others are not only incorrect, deficient, and otherwise noncompliant, but also are illusory (as in not reliably funded). The CEQA lead agency must allow us to prove those objections by accepting our substantial evidence to the contrary, including fatal admissions by the DEIR and the miner, including as to economically infeasibility. As I prove in my Objection # 2, Rise and its accountant admit that there are “going concern” financial issues that make its performance at best too speculative and at least as to some things admittedly probably infeasible. When the miner’s accountant warns the investors to beware that the mining may not be feasible for lack of sufficient funds, how can any responsible government not at least test the more obvious DEIR performance capability illusions?

In any event, I made my offer of proof as to such admissions, DEIR contradictions and inconsistencies, and other evidence (and their applications) in my Objection # 2 and other places in requesting such County reconsideration to require consideration of my Objection’s economic feasibility and other rebuttals and counters. More important, as in my Objection #2 and elsewhere, I urge the County to ask if Rise is the “real party in interest” here, or whether they are acting for the real party with the necessary financial resources “behind the curtain.” If, for example, Rise were “fronting” for someone else or planning to “flip the deal,” that would also create CEQA objections to this DEIR. See the Guideline discussion of “Applicant” # 15351. Since Rise reports presently lacking the funding to accomplish this disputed DEIR plan (see my #2), it is reasonable to ask why or for whom they are investing in this disputed DEIR effort.

There are multiple reasons that I am so focused on economics that the DEIR resists disclosing, as did most of the other miners I’ve encountered whose mines are now among the more than 40,000 abandoned mines on the EPA list, since in my experience such economics end more mining adventures than any other cause. Another reason is that, regardless of what is required or not in the DEIR under CEQA, in one proper way or another economic evidence will, if necessary, dominate any locals’ court challenges and politics and law reform efforts. What drives us locals living on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground DEIR mine is

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the “reality” of what impacts us and creates our opportunities to counter the mine appropriately. Such reality includes what we know from the Rise SEC Form 10K and 10Q filings, such as that its reported working capital, credit, and resources are not sufficient to accomplish even the DEIR work, including essential mitigations and safety work described in the DEIR, much less what would be necessary in reality at the end of the approval process. See, eg, my Objection #'s 2, 3.N, and 4. Therefore, to keep that 2585-acre mine from becoming even worse in reality, us locals are entitled to use any and all flaws and deficiencies in the DEIR to defend ourselves. However, to match the DEIR’s mistaken emphasis on local jobs the mine touts creating, please consider that one inevitable consequence of this DEIR mining is that the mine will cost more local residential and light commercial construction and remodeling work jobs than such alleged mining adds local jobs. Why? Because the building trades will suffer with us locals as the DEIR mine trashes our local property values and marketability, even from merely the stigmas from the DEIR threatened blasting, tunneling, rock removal, dewatering, and other mine work literally beneath us thousands living on the surface above or around that 2585-acre mine. Who wants to build or even remodel above or around an active mine? See my Objection at # 3.N and 4. Since the County must balance the pros and cons, it must consider the opposite of the economic case that the DEIR has tried to make for mining jobs, which is less construction jobs and, for us now poorer residents whose home values are suffering, less money in the local economy.

6. A Quick Appeal For Consideration of Climate Change Realities Creating A “New Normal” Where Chronic Drier Weather And Drought Rebut The DEIR Illusions That Our Future Can Be Predicted From Our Past, Especially As To Groundwater.

In my Objection at # 3.M and elsewhere I protested the fallacy in the climate change denying DEIR that our “new normal” environment for the next 80-years can be predicted from the past. However the CEQA debate on that subject is ultimately resolved, the disputed DEIR is not credible. (I do not mean the DEIR expressly denies climate change and drought; it just ignores such inconvenient truths and reality by exclusive focus instead on the irrelevant, and no longer predictive, past.) For example, the DEIR contends (and we locals dispute) that we can afford to suffer the loss of our precious groundwater for wasteful mine dewatering 24/7/365 for 80-years, because the average rain between 1967 and 2017 allegedly will be sufficient for such recharge and balancing for 80 more years. See my Objection # 3.M. No rational, informed person should believe that, much less bet their homes and personal way of life here above the 2585-acre underground mine on that illusion, regardless of what the DEIR incorrectly claims about the past. So, at the present time we have two irreconcilable views of our future reality, but, in this unique context, we locals also have an extra advantage against the DEIR, because we surface owners above and around the 2585-acre mine own our shares of that same groundwater that the mine seeks to waste in dewatering to send elsewhere down the Wolf Creek. Besides contesting the DEIR, we locals are already competing with hundreds of existing wells that are improperly ignored (like us locals above and around that underground mine) in the DEIR, and we can increase our competition with deeper old wells and more new wells to tap our own local groundwater beneath us. Nothing in the disputed

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DEIR confronts or even mentions such competitions. See my Objection # 3.M and N, 4, and 14.

Also note the related fatal flaw in the disputed DEIR: it does not sufficiently address (as required by CEQA) the impact on our shared groundwater or other environmental issues of either (i) its old mine work in the existing mine flooded and closed since 1956, or (ii) the new, expanded, or deeper mining into the unknown condition areas in the 2585-acre underground mining area. Such changes in such underground conditions by mine work 24/7/365 for 80 years cannot be ignored because the DEIR considers such consequences to be “speculative.” As surface owners we have the right to oppose this no benefit mine taking our groundwater for such a gamble into the unknown. Even if CEQA somehow allowed that, which we dispute, we are not limited to a CEQA contest to resist and compete against the DEIR mine, since we also have our own surface owner property rights to advance in other legal and political forums, where reality and the rules of evidence apply, including as to climate dryness and droughts. See my Objection # 3.M and N, 4, and 14.

Part of the reason the DEIR history-based illusions are doomed is that the law is catching up with climate change drier and drought realities, even though the legislation tends to be either general reforms regarding climate change or other applications. For example, CEQA Guideline # 15064.4(a) and (b) acknowledges climate change by requiring a project’s greenhouse gas emissions See, eg, *Center for Biological Diversity v. Department of Fish & Wildlife* (2015), 62 Cal. 4th 204; California Health & Safety Code # 38500 et seq. As to the more general battle over climate issues and CEQA I defer to the other more expert objections that I incorporate by reference. The key factor, however, is that this disputed DEIR lacks credibility as to its refusal to confront reality by insisting on the past water results predicting our future as old normal for the next 80 years, instead of the much drier and worse future, thereby creating an alternative reality some call a “legal fiction” where climate change can be ignored. Fortunately, we have other means to defeat the DEIR on such groundwater issues besides CEQA, as well as to prevail on our second reason (besides climate change) in the CEQA dispute over groundwater recharge, because under these circumstances the disputed DEIR cannot ignore the risks of greater depletion on account of the unrevealed effects on groundwater supply and recharge of the DEIR’s reopening mining and the new, deeper, and expanded mining in the 2585-acre underground mine, especially considering such surface owner existing and future well competition against the mine.

7. The DEIR’s Other Suspicious Noncompliance With Specific CEQA Or CEQA Guideline Requirements Support My Objections To Errors, Omissions, And Deficiencies In the DEIR’s Disputed Presentation.

A. What Is The Real CEQA “Project” And Its “Environmental Setting”?

Guideline # 15124 requires a “project description” with certain mandatory details that this Supplement and my Objections demonstrate in scores of instances to be omitted or erroneously or deficiently described in the disputed DEIR. For example, the activities at the “Brunswick Industrial Site” (plus 30 dry wells along East Bennett Road) and the “Centennial

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Industrial Site” are one integrated CEQA “project” that the DEIR improperly tries to split into what it incorrectly describes as two separate CEQA “projects.” That **one integrated “project” also includes the disputed DEIR’s most neglected, yet most environmentally dangerous part, the 2585-acre underground mine above and around which thousands of surface owning residents and voters live.** See also Cal Pub Resources Code # 21065, that defines “Project” as “**an activity** which may cause either a **direct change** in the environment, or a **reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change** in the environment ...” That makes the 2585-acre underground mine that is generally neglected and insufficiently addressed in the disputed DEIR the core of the “project,” because that is where most of the direct (and reasonably foreseeable indirect) adverse impacts are happening, as addressed in my Objection and others. Accord Guideline #’s 15002(d) and 15378, which clarifies that the “project does not mean each separate government approval” in the process. See, eg, *Nelson v. County of Kern* (2010), 190 Cal. App. 4th 252 (mining and reclamation work were parts of a single project); *River Watch v. Olivenham Municipal Water District* (2009), 170 Cal. App. 4th 186 (the Water District water trucks loading and unloading activities at the landfill are part of the landfill project that needed CEQA approval). Note, however, that even separate projects can have cumulative effects, as explained in Guideline # 15355.

Guideline # 15124(a) requires a “precise location and boundaries of the proposed project” “on a detailed map,” but, as my Objection repeatedly demonstrated, none of us thousands of surface owners above or around the 2585-acre underground mine know what is happening underneath us, because we lack any meaningful data, even a street map locator. (The dotted lines on the disputed DEIR map are meaningless, because it’s an aerial view obscured by our forest trees that shows no surface location clues. While still deficient, the current Rise SEC Form 10K addressed in my Objection # 2 contains a better description of that underground mine and the mining than does the disputed DEIR, all of which is intolerable as well as noncompliant, since us most impacted surface neighbors at the core of the project above and around that 2585-acre mine still have no satisfactory idea where we are in relation to all this 24/7/365 blasting, tunneling, Cr+6 hexavalent cement shoring, dewatering, and other mining work that is not only an environmental threat, but also may conflict with our surface owner and groundwater property rights.

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Guideline # 15124(b) requires a particular type of “statement of objectives,” which the disputed DEIR fails to do properly, as explained in my Objection, especially as to the 2585-acre underground mining beneath us thousands of surface residents and voters, all of whom are asking the same kinds of questions (see, eg, my Objection # 15) that are never satisfactorily addressed in the disputed DEIR.

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Guideline # 15124(c) requires a general description of the project’s technical, **ECONOMIC, and environmental characteristics” (emphasis added)**, but again the disputed DEIR fails to do so, as demonstrated in my Objection (eg, #’s 2, 3, and 4), especially with respect to the core disputes regarding the 2585-acre underground mine and with respect to “economics” (which the DEIR never addressed at all).

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Likewise, **Guidelines #15124(d) and (d)(2)** require more things that the disputed DEIR fails to do properly or at all in various respects addressed in my Objection, although since much information appears to be missing or deficiently stated, it is hard for us to be precise about what is known only to the DEIR advocates. However, to illustrate the point, since the



DEIR entirely ignores the hexavalent chromium threats to us locals, it's hard for us to know with what agencies the DEIR should be consulting or what permits they should be seeking. The same is true with groundwater depletion and related problems deficiently addressed in the DEIR, although I would like to know what the DEIR applicant's dealing with NID may be. This data is important, so we know to whom else we should be complaining about specific objections. In any event, the many public agencies likely making decisions on the project will be making more than one, and those must be disclosed pursuant to # 15124(d)(2).

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Guideline # 15125(a) requires a "description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project," such as to set a "baseline" and "to give the public and decision makers the most accurate and understandable picture practically possible of the project's likely near-term and long-term impacts." See also # 15125(c), where the Guidelines state: "Knowledge of the regional setting is critical to the assessment of environmental impacts ... [with] special emphasis ... on environmental resources that are rare or unique to that region and would be affected by that project." The disputed DEIR is a miserable failure at that for scores of specifically demonstrated reasons in my Objection, especially because the DEIR ignores the thousands of us on the surface above and around the 2585-acre underground mine as part of that "vicinity" and "region." To pick one, in contrast to the details (still insufficient) about the surface Brunswick Industrial Site, the 30 wells along East Bennett Road, and the Centennial Industrial Site, there no meaningful disclosure about the surface areas where thousands of us live above or around the 2585-acre mine. That omission is among the more damning reasons for rejecting this DEIR, besides the DEIR obscuring both the hexavalent chromium threat and the massive depletion of our groundwater (as to which each of us neglected surface owners above and around the 2585-acre mine have equivalent or better property rights never mentioned at all in the DEIR).

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Guideline # 15125(a)(1) and (2) are unfortunate in this particular project context, because they are designed to keep project advocates from imagining a hypothetical future which is their unrealistic fantasy to justify their environmental impacts. But here we have the reverse, because this disputed DEIR is about reopening a closed and flooded mine since 1956 about which the historical data in many cases is deficient, missing, or misleading (eg, consider how science and knowledge has changed since 1956, making most such data unreliable and often irrelevant for predicting the future; eg, back then asbestos was considered a good thing). [The Guidelines fortunately are not law, and so, when what was designed for traditional subdivision projects is counterproductive in such exploitive mining context, we can insist of truth and common sense, rather than blindly following guidelines if they make no sense in our context. Stated another way, as read by this DEIR, such Guidelines would be contrary to the CEQA statutes and invalid for this purpose as a disputed excuse for the DEIR to create a false, alternative reality from the past that defeats the purpose of CEQA to confront the future with scientific truth and reality, like climate change's new normal of dryness and drought.] That DEIR lack of accuracy about using such past to predict the future is especially dangerous as to mining issues such as water depletion, illusory recharge, and climate changes, as demonstrated in my Objection (eg, 3.M) and my discussion of climate change here. This is where *Gray* and its "common sense come in." Consider that the DEIR basically offers no data about what the conditions exist now in the flooded 2585-acre underground mine beneath thousands of us surface residents above and around the mine, and



the DEIR offers no reliable or sufficient data about what that more problems mining will create as it blasts, tunnels, removes rock, and adds Cr+6 toxins in the shoring cement paste, dewater, and otherwise mines in new, expanded, and deeper areas. In effect, the old and new mining is about the unknown, and the DEIR essential asks that the miner be allowed to engage in all those dangerous activities blindly, with no idea of the environmental consequences now or even worse in the future. In effect, that would transfer all such mining caused environmental and other risks to those of us living on the surface above or around the 2585-acre mine and elsewhere. That is the opposite of what CEQA was intended to accomplish.

Fortunately, that DEIR misuse of # 15125(a)(1) and (2) can be partly moderated by enforcement of #15125(a)(3), which states: "An existing conditions baseline shall not include hypothetical conditions, such as those that might be allowed, but have never actually occurred, under existing permits or plans, as the base line." Because of the mine being closed and flooded since 1956, as demonstrated throughout my Objection, almost everything about the 2585-acre underground mine is "hypothetical" and speculative in the DEIR, as is admitted in many cases in the DEIR itself or in the current or past Rise SEC Forms 10K or 10Q filings on its website analyzed in my Objection at # 2. So, there is no tolerable base line as required, because there was no investigation for the DEIR. For example, the disputed mine admits that it plans to mine into new, expanded, and deeper places in the 2585-acre underground mine as to which it has no information and no base line, in effect transferring the risk of the unknown onto us locals, giving the DEIR mining a "blank check" as to whatever the impact of that unpredictable activity may be on the concerns expressed in my Objection as others, such as risks as to (i) whatever worse or new toxic materials may be removed from those new areas and dumped or dewatered on the surface (eg, new hazardous materials? Or more intense ones, like worse levels of asbestos, arsenic, etc?), (ii) new underground water depletion or recharge problems being created by such blind new blasting, tunneling, dewatering, or mining, or (iii) any other nuisances or problems described in my Objection (such as at # 4 "subsidence" from loss of subjacent or lateral support harming us locals owning the surface above and around the 2585-acre mine). See also my Objection #'s 3.N, 4, and 14.

For example, because the DEIR entirely ignores the competing surface ownership rights of us locals above or around the 2585-acre underground mine neglected in the DEIR, consider again the leading such Supreme Court decision of *Keystone Bituminous Coal Ass'n v. DeBenedictis*, 480 U.S. 470 (1987), where the Court upheld against a coal miner challenge the Bituminous Subsidence And Land Preservation Act (aka the Subsidence Act, as it's called in Pennsylvania and many places where it has been replicated), where mining was limited to prevent "subsidence" (the loss of surface lateral and subjacent support and loss of groundwater or depletion of surface water. Those are legal rights we surface residents already have here, but it helps to have more laws to detail specific applications and thereby avoiding the need for expensive defense litigation, as discussed in my Objection # 3.N). That Supreme Court decision defined the "subsidence" concerns (also equally at issue for this DEIR project, especially because of the massive and objectionable groundwater depletion and [even what little is so far revealed of] the DEIR's new, deeper, and expanded DEIR blasting, tunneling, rock removal, dewatering, and other mining activities) as follows (at 474-5):

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Coal mine subsidence is the lowering of the strata overlying a coal mine, including the land surface, caused by extraction of underground coal. This lowering of the strata can have devastating effects. It often causes substantial damage to foundations, walls, and other structural members, and the integrity of houses and buildings. Subsidence frequently causes sinkholes or troughs in land which make the land difficult or impossible to develop. Its effect on farming has been well documented—many subsided areas cannot be plowed or properly prepared. **Subsidence can also cause the loss of groundwater and surface ponds.** In short, it presents the type of environmental concern that has been the focus of so much federal, state, and local regulation in recent decades. (Emphasis added). [That conclusion about groundwater has a fn 2 which states:]

Fn2. “Whenever [subsidence effects] extend, damage can occur to buildings, roads, pipelines, cables, streams, water impoundments, wells, and aquifers. Buildings can be cracked or tilted; roads can be lowered or cracked, **streams, water impoundments, and aquifers can all be drained into the underground excavations.** Oil and gas wells can be severed, causing contents to migrate into underground mines into aquifers, and even into residential basements. Sewage lines, gas lines, and water lines can all be severed, as can telephone and electric cables. ... (emphasis added).

While that subsidence law generally required 50% of the coal to remain for support in strategic places, it did many other things to protect the surface and limit the mining. That decision explained that the government was entitled to so act “to protect the public interest in health, the environment, and the fiscal integrity of the area,” such as by “exercising its police powers to abate activity akin to a public nuisance,” although the court made clear that the police power was broader than nuisances. (At 488) [As to see mining “nuisances” from which the DEIR cannot save this mine, reread California Civil Code # 3480, Penal Code #372 and 372a, and NRS 202.470. Also see my Objection # 3.N, recognizing that us local voters could exercise our rights to provide greater and more specific defenses against mining nuisances, as well as, considering the DEIR’s understated asbestos threats and ignored hexavalent chromium issues, see *People v. ConAgra Grocery Products Co.* (2017), 17 Cal. App. 5th 51, where a maker of lead paint promoted and sold it as a nuisance.]

Of special note, the Supreme Court (at 493-94) noted that this challenge was to the enactment of the law before it was enforced, and that meant that it was premature to complain about how the law might be abused, when the facts of that surface and underground mining competition of rights were not yet established. Citing its own precedent in *Hodel v. Virginia Surface Mining & Reclamation Ass’n Inc*, 452 U.S. 264 (1981), the Court explained:

“[The] court ignored this Court’s oft-repeated admonition that the constitutionality of statutes ought not be decided except in an actual factual setting that makes such a decision necessary. [citations omitted] Adherence to this rule is particularly important in cases raising allegations of an unconstitutional taking of private property. *** (at 497): [W]here an owner possesses a full ‘bundle’ of property rights, the destruction of one ‘strand’ is not a taking because the aggregate must be viewed in its entirety. [The Court



then followed that discussion how valid zoning laws always affect without any “taking” property uses with things like setbacks, lot size vs building size, etc.]

Ind 255-46

Finally, # 15125(d) states that: “The EIR shall discuss any inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans, specific plans and regional plans ... [such as for] air quality attainment maintenance plan or State Implementation Plan, area-wide waste treatment and water quality control plans, ... [and many others].” My Objection and others identify many such inconsistencies, but such objections cannot be complete, because of the other omissions, errors, and deficiencies about which we complain in our objections. For example, since, as described above and in my Objection and others, the new, expanded, and deeper mining results are not revealed in the disputed DEIR, we locals cannot be blamed for not detailing the resulting DEIR inconsistencies, or even those that now exist, but are not revealed in the DEIR, which has disclosed no sufficient current information on the state of the existing underground mine that has been closed and flooded since 1956.

B. Who Is The “Applicant” Versus The “Real Party In Interest”?

Ind 255-47

Guideline # 15351 defined “Applicant” as the “person who proposes to carry out a project which needs a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use or financial assistance from one or more public agencies when that person applies for the governmental approval or assistance.” As in court litigation filings and many such governmental entitlements, the “real party in interest” is supposed to be the applicant or at least be disclosed. As my Objection asks (see my # 2’s and 15), is Rise only an agent, “front,” or a “flipper” for an “undisclosed principal” or someone else “behind the curtain?” If so, that reality should be disclosed in the disputed DEIR. My Objection (at # 2) demonstrates why that is a reasonable question, since the current Rise SEC Form 10K and 10Q report insufficient working capital, credit, or resources to accomplish what is stated in the DEIR to be done, even the long initial startup work to dewater the mine and begin preparations for operating, much less the many more months required thereafter of subsequent work before gold revenue (if any) is available to pay the mine’s bills, since Rise admits in such 10K that there are no “proven reserves” and that the profitable gold volume is speculative. That reality is what inspires common local questions about whether this DEIR is part of some undisclosed arrangement or plan to flip or otherwise arrange some change in control transaction, such as a profit-sharing lease, a loan to own control arrangement, or other creative partnership deal with someone even less likely directly to obtain approval of the DEIR with appropriate disclosure as the Applicant.

While, as described in my Objection (at # 1), I have no personal knowledge about Rise that is not in the public records I cite, the circumstances are puzzling. In any event, as a bankruptcy lawyer with extensive relevant experience (see my Objection # 1) I have been involved in hundreds of distressed asset sales and other such creative distress transactions, and it is customary that the seller does extensive due diligence regarding the creditworthiness and character of the bidder. As the *Gray*, *Sierra Club*, and other cases discussed above demonstrate in requiring “good faith,” the starting point of such “good faith” is to be sure the “applicant” is the real party in interest who is financial and otherwise



capable of performing the DEIR. Otherwise, approving the DEIR may be merely giving away an "option" for such an agent to flip the deal or otherwise act for someone else "behind the curtain."

8. Miscellaneous Noncompliance With the CEQA Guidelines That Further Evidence A Pattern And Practice Of DEIR's Comprehensive Obscurity Contrary To The *Sierra Club* And Other Standards For Required Information.

A. Introduction To Objectionable Techniques To Set Up False Assumptions And Conclusions Or Otherwise Evade Disclosure Obligations

My Objection and specific examples above both demonstrate scores of times when explicitly or implicitly the disputed DEIR abused "speculation" as an alleged excuse for dodging the *Sierra Club's* general requirements CEQA data and information and for evading inconvenient truths. I object whether that is a coincidence or a tactic to enable the DEIR incorrectly to "assume" away problems or to leap to unsubstantiated conclusions by treating its incorrect positions as if they were beyond contest, when they were the opposite and fatal flaws for which the DEIR had no answers. The following are lesser examples of Guideline noncompliance that, by themselves seem minor, but which in that context of massive such specifically debated DEIR errors, omissions, and deficiencies reveal more evidence of both a comprehensive, prohibited "pattern and practice" and evidence for "objectionable techniques" or worse. As I complain about throughout this Supplement and my Objection, the DEIR's words like "assumption" and "conclusion" are often a way of announcing an objectionable statement that itself is disputed opinion, speculation, or worse in the DEIR. In a trial such evidence would be impeached by using contrary miner or DEIR admissions, inconsistencies, or other rebuttal evidence, as well as by objecting to a sufficient "lack of foundation" under the Rules of Evidence. (That "lack of foundation" for disputed opinions or worse by the DEIR is especially troubling when the DEIR pretends that it is offering "expert opinions," when there is no qualified expert available to cross-examine, and no specifics or sufficient cross-references to any expert study or report that is relevant and applicable to these facts and circumstances as to this specific "project.")

B. "Hide The Ball" Noncompliance, Such As By Burying Data Where It Is Less Likely To Be Seen Or Understood In Context, Often May Be Revealed By Less Serious Types Of Noncompliance With the Guidelines.

Guideline #15122 requires a table of contents or index "to assist readers in finding the analysis of different subjects and issues," which means that the failure to include information where it should be identified is noncompliance and well as an objectionable tactic. See also my discussion of the DEIR's noncompliance with Guideline # 15120(a) and (b), requiring the DEIR to "state where in the document each element is discussed" and or "at a minimum a table showing where each of the subjects is discussed." In my Objection to this tactic (eg, at # 3.E) the classic example is the failure of the DEIR to address the toxic hexavalent chromium (Cr+6)

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threat in its “Hazards And Hazardous Materials” section at # 4.7, but rather instead in only a few other places where it is mentioned in passing, as if there were no issue with including Cr+6 in the cement paste for shoring up the 2585-acre underground mine beneath thousands of suburban residents and voters living on the surface above and around that mine. (Many times, the DEIR did not even use the words hexavalent chromium or Cr+6, when discussing that cement paste.). See, eg, my Objection #'s 3.C, G, H, and 7. There are many other examples, especially regarding disputed DEIR water problems and the core issues in dispute regarding the 2585-acre mine, which is better described (although still deficiently) in in the current Rise 10K than in the DEIR. See, eg, my Objection #'s 3.A, B, D, and M, 4, 5, and 8.

Ind 255-49

Guideline # 15123 requires a summary “of the proposed actions and its consequences” (at (a)), with “each significant effect with proposed mitigation measures and alternatives” (at (b)(1)), with “areas of controversy known to the lead agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public” (at (b)(2)), and with “issues to be resolved including the choice among alternatives and whether or how to mitigate the significant effects (at (b)(3)). The same problems and objections apply to this with even greater force and in more instances than addressed here. But, without repeating the top 50 examples in my Objection, my complaints in the prior paragraph about the table of contents and hiding the ball problems apply even more strongly here, since the summary is supposed to a better “finder” tool. However, the DEIR fails miserably as a guide to find what matters. See my Objection # 15, listing unanswered questions, where, when confronting errors, omissions, and deficiencies in one topic place, you later find some (but less than required) of what you want to know somewhere else in the process of looking for something else.

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9. Concluding Remarks.

As explained in my Objection # 1.D, at the public hearing on March 24, 2022, the County representative began by excluding all consideration of evidence and argument regarding the financial condition and character of the DEIR miner and the financial feasibility of accomplishing key safety and mitigation results assumed in the disputed DEIR, contrary to this and other objections. Since the County had not yet heard any arguments why that position is incorrect under these particular facts and circumstances, I ask the lead CEQA Agency to reconsider for reasons stated above. I also urge the County to expand that economic study as well for such objections by me and others.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

// Larry Engel

G. Larry Engel



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 255: G. LARRY ENGEL

Response to Comment Ind 255-1

The commenter provides a Table of Contents for the Comment Letter. The comment is noted.

Response to Comment Ind 255-2

This comment is introductory in nature. The commenter explains that this comment letter will focus primarily on legal arguments for why the DEIR is inadequate pursuant to CEQA. The comment is noted. The commenter also references their previous letter. Please see responses to Individual Letter 254.

Response to Comment Ind 255-3

The commenter restates CEQA Guideline section 15151 which sets the standard for adequacy of an environmental impact report (“EIR”). The commenter states that the DEIR violates Section 15151 due to inadequate discussion of hexavalent chromium. The commenter also states that Individual Comment Letter 254 details over 50 “errors, omissions, and deficiencies” that violate Section 15151. Regarding the presence of hexavalent chromium in the Cement Paste Backfill (“CPB”) to be used in the project, the commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Each asserted inadequacy raised by the commenter in Commenter 255-1 is addressed in Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 255-4

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines section 15364 which defines “feasible” to mean “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15364.) The commenter construes the term “economic” to mean that the project must be feasible based on the commenter’s perceived financial condition of the Project Applicant. There are no CEQA authorities to support this interpretation of Section 15364. Feasibility, within Section 15364, refers to the feasibility of project alternatives or mitigation measures. CEQA review is limited to a project’s impacts to the physical environment and the DEIR is not required to analyze the financial condition of the Project Applicant.

Response to Comment Ind 255-5

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines section 15144 which states that “[d]rafting an EIR or preparing a negative declaration necessarily involves some degree of forecasting. While foreseeing the unforeseeable is not possible, an agency must use its best efforts to find out and disclose all that it reasonably can.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15144.) The commenter states that the DEIR made no effort to forecast the condition of the underground mine workings, the rate of recharge to groundwater supplies, the presence of hexavalent chromium in the CPB, or the future conditions associated with climate change. The commenter also raised various assertions submitted in their Individual Commenter Letter 254. However, the commenter does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate and relies on conclusory statements. Regarding the hydrological condition of the mine workings, the commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model. Regarding groundwater recharge, the DEIR analyzed the project’s potential to interfere with recharge and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) As also discussed in Response to Comment Ind 254-87, while the groundwater model relied on a 25-year hydrogeologic model to assess groundwater impacts from project implementation, based on known locations of mineralized gold ore and represents the underground location of where mining would occur during the first 25 years of mine operation, the



modeling also considered longer-term mining. Sensitivity Scenario 6 used in the groundwater model considered the significant expansion of mining in areas with potential for mineralization, as shown in Figure 5.10 of Appendix K.3 of the DEIR for an additional 40 years of mining. This groundwater model scenario represents the reasonably foreseeable location of where future mining would likely take place after the initial 25-year period. As shown in Figure 5-12, and discussed on page 29 of the report, the 5-ft drawdown contour extent of Scenario 6 at the end of potential additional mining (to Year 65) relative to the 2019 water level expands less than 500 ft from that of the Base-Case Scenario. The drawdown contour of the Base-Case Scenario is at the end of the original planned future mining (Year 25) relative to the 2019 water level. The comparison of drawdown contours between Scenario 6 and the Base-Case Scenario suggests that the added potential mining (beyond the 65 years modeled) will not lead to large incremental drawdowns as the mining progresses because the mining activities occur in deep, low-K rocks.

The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1 for a discussion about hexavalent chromium. Regarding climate change, the commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 255-6

The commenter reiterates the same concerns identified in Comment Ind 255-5 including groundwater recharge, hexavalent chromium, and climate change. The commenter is referred to responses in Response to Comment Ind 255-5. The commenter references the DEIR’s “Non-CEQA Related Analysis” section on DEIR pages 4.3-103–104. The commenter states that the DEIR does not adequately forecast potential impacts and mislabels certain impacts as too speculative to be determined. As an example, the commenter states that any reasonable person would determine recharge of groundwater within the entire mineral rights boundary will not be possible following the dewatering of the mine. However, the commenter does not specifically identify how the DEIR’s discussion of groundwater recharge in Impact 4.8-2 (DEIR, p. 4.8-54) or the Groundwater Model Report (DEIR, Appendix K.3) is inadequate.

As discussed in Appendix K.2 to the DEIR (page 19), the primary source of recharge is percolation of local rainfall into the fractured bedrock. In addition, as described in Section 3.3.2 of Appendix K.2, the amount of recharge each year also appears to be relatively constant since almost all of the wells maintain a consistent magnitude of seasonal fluctuation from year to year and there are no long-term trends observed in most of the wells that can be correlated to variations in annual water-year rainfall.

Response to Comment Ind 255-7

The commenter states that the DEIR violates certain CEQA provisions but does not specifically state how the DEIR violates these provisions. The commenter also states that the DEIR makes no effort to address the “unknowns” throughout the mineral rights boundary. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

Response to Comment Ind 255-8

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines sections 15122 through 15131, which establish the required contents of the Environmental Impact Report. The commenter generally asserts that Individual Letter 254 shows that the DEIR violates these CEQA provisions. Please see responses to Individual Letter 254.



Response to Comment Ind 255-9

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines Section 15148, which requires that an EIR cite to “all documents used in its preparation including, where possible, the page and section number of any technical reports which were used as the basis for any statements in the EIR.” The commenter states that the DEIR violates Section 15148. California courts have not construed Section 15148 so rigidly. CEQA requires an EIR to reflect a good faith effort at full disclosure; *it does not mandate perfection ...*” (*El Moro Community Assn. v. California Dept. of Parks & Recreation* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 1341, 1354 (emphasis in original) (upholding an EIR even though technical reports were only referenced by general subject matter and did not contain specific citations.) The DEIR identifies the name of each technical document relied upon and its corresponding appendix identifier in the Table of Contents (DEIR, p. iv–vi.) The County also made available all of the appendices listed in the DEIR to the public. The DEIR does not violate Section 15148.

Response to Comment Ind 255-10

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines Section 15150, which establishes how an EIR may incorporate by reference another document. Section 15150 provides that where a document is incorporated by reference, the portion incorporated must be briefly summarized and the document must be made available to the public. The commenter states that the DEIR violates Section 15150 by incorporating by reference documents that are inapplicable or irrelevant and that documents incorporated are inadequately summarized. However, the comment lacks specificity as it does not identify which documents incorporated by reference are inadequate.

Response to Comment Ind 255-11

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines Section 15143, which requires the DEIR to discuss significant effects “with emphasis in proportion to their severity and probability of occurrence.” The commenter asserts that the DEIR “barely” mentions hexavalent chromium and never discusses its risks with any “emphasis.” The commenter asserts that groundwater depletion never receives proper “emphasis”, and the full extent of the mineral rights boundary receives insufficient “emphasis”. The DEIR discusses hexavalent chromium on page 4.8-47–48; the commenter is also referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. The DEIR analyzed the project’s impacts to groundwater supplies and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) Regarding the conditions of the underground mine workings, the commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model. Regarding future mining areas within the mineral rights boundary, please see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

Response to Comment Ind 255-12

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines Section 15154, which requires that a lead agency preparing an EIR shall utilize the Airport Land Use Planning Handbook published by Caltrans’ Division of Aeronautics to assess whether the proposed project results in a safety hazard or noise problem for persons using the airport or persons residing or working in the project area. The commenter states that the DEIR violates Section 15154 due to a nearby airport.

The DEIR states that the Nevada County Air Park is less than one mile away from the Project Site. (DEIR, p. 4.7-36.) “The [Project Site] is partially within Zones D and E of the Nevada County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (NCALUCP). For Zone D, airspace review is required for objects at elevations above 3,207 feet mean sea level (msl). The tallest point of the project site (the proposed 165-foot-tall headframe building) would be at 2,912 feet msl. In addition, the project is not a noise-sensitive use, would not pose a hazard to flight, and would not exceed the density



requirements; therefore, the project would comply with the requirements of the NCALUCP for Zones D and E.

Nevertheless, the proposed project would be required to be reviewed by the ALUC because it would have a building floor area of 20,000 square feet or greater, would include more than 100 people on-site, and would include new development of buildings more than 100 feet tall in Zones D and E. The purpose of the ALUC review would be to review the proposed project for consistency with the compatibility criteria in the NCALUCP, and not for the purpose of identifying potential environmental effects.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area related to the Nevada County Air Park. Therefore, impacts related to airport safety hazards and noise would be less than significant.” (DEIR, p. 4.7-36.)

In addition, Master Response 7 - Location of Future Mining Areas, and the attendant figures, show that underground mining would not occur beneath the airport.

Response to Comment 57-13

The commenter references CEQA Guidelines section 15142, which requires that an EIR be prepared using an interdisciplinary approach. The commenter states that Section 15142 “should also be applied to objectors for a ‘level playing field,’ to allow such interdisciplinary objections to have equivalent impact as the DEIR advocates.” This comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and is somewhat unclear. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 255-14

The commenter states that the DEIR erroneously dismissed from consideration a No Project (Alternative Use). Specifically, if the project were not approved, the Project Site could be used for an industrial use. Development of the Brunswick Industrial Site with industrial uses, consistent with the current M1-SP zoning, could reasonably be expected to result in above-ground uses that are more intensive in certain respects than the proposed project. (DEIR, p. 6-13.) This would be contrary to CEQA’s objectives for an alternative, which is to avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project (Section 15126.6(f).) Therefore, the DEIR dismissed this alternative from further consideration. (Id.) The commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in dismissing this Alternative from further consideration. Please see Response to Comment Ind 388-6.

Response to Comment Ind 255-15

The commenter provides the factual background and holding from *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502 (“*Sierra Club*”). The commenter states that the DEIR violates the holding of *Sierra Club* but does not explain how. The commenter references hexavalent chromium and new underground mining and asserts that the DEIR does not assess the condition of the underground workings. Regarding hexavalent chromium, the commenter to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Regarding the condition of the mine, the commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas and Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model.

Response to Comment Ind 255-16

The commenter quotes a number of passages from *Sierra Club* and states that the DEIR should be dismissed as a matter of law but provides no additional information. The comment is noted.



Response to Comment Ind 255-17

The commenter quotes from *Sierra Club* for the notion that a reviewing court looks not for an exhaustive analysis but for adequacy, completeness, and a good-faith effort at full disclosure. The commenter states that the DEIR for the project fails at all three but does not provide any specific information on which to formulate a response.

Response to Comment Ind 255-18

The commenter lists several CEQA cases and states that the holdings of the cases indicate that the DEIR is inadequate but provides no additional information. The commenter also references the Project Applicant's SEC filings which are not relevant to the DEIR. Regarding hexavalent chromium, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 255-19

The commenter references the CEQA case of *Gray v. County of Madera* (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 1099 and quotes the legal standard of review. The commenter states that the DEIR would fail under this standard of review because the DEIR did not discuss hexavalent chromium in Chapter 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) and states that the DEIR lacks adequate data and underestimates the number of private groundwater wells impacted by the project. The presence of hexavalent chromium in the CPB presents a potential impact to water within the underground mine workings. Accordingly, the DEIR appropriately discussed hexavalent chromium in Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality). (DEIR, p. 4.8-47–49.) The commenter is also referred to Response to Comment Ind 254-1. Regarding groundwater, the DEIR assessed the project's impacts to groundwater supplies and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) Regarding the adequacy of groundwater data, the commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model. Regarding mining within the mineral rights area, please see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas, and Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 255-20

The commenter compares the facts of *Gray v. County of Madera* to the current project and asserts that, unlike *Gray*, the groundwater monitoring for the project is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells. Regarding analysis of deeper and expanded mining in the mineral rights boundary, please see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas, and Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 255-21

The commenter cites to *Gray v. County of Madera* where the Court rejected the lead agency's mitigation measures regarding the impact of a proposed quarry to nearby groundwater wells. The facts of *Gray* are not relevant to the adequacy of the DEIR for the project. However, it should be noted that the lead agency in *Gray* proposed to replace potable water with non-potable water which, could expose landowners to new regulatory oversight, would create an unreliable water system, and may create new and potentially significant impacts to the environment. Here, the DEIR's Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(a) proposes to implement a Groundwater Monitoring Plan 12 months prior to the dewatering of the mine. (DEIR, p. 4.8-67.) Additionally, Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(c) would connect 30 properties along East Bennett Road to NID service which would provide potable and reliable water. (DEIR, p. 4.8-68.) Lastly, Mitigation Measure 4.8-2(b) requires the Project Applicant to supply a comparable water supply to any property impacted by mining operations. (DEIR, p. 4.8-68.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.



Response to Comment Ind 255-22

The commenter states that the project's mitigation measures regarding groundwater do not satisfy CEQA and are not feasible or affordable by the Project Applicant. However, the commenter does not specifically state why the DEIR's mitigation measures are inadequate. The commenter also states that the facts of *Gray* are different from the facts of the project because the project features more overlying property owners that depend on groundwater. The commenter is referred to Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of the Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 255-23

The commenter references a rejected groundwater mitigation measure from *Gray* which involved the Project Applicant providing bottled water to residents whose groundwater wells were impacted by that project. The commenter compares the mitigation measure in *Gray* to a “water truck alternative” in the DEIR. It is unclear what the commenter is referring to in regard to the “water truck alternative.” The proposed mitigation measures for impacts to groundwater can be found at DEIR pages 4.8-67–68.

Response to Comment Ind 255-24

The commenter quotes language from *Gray* in which the court found that the project's mitigation measures relating to groundwater were not supported by substantial evidence in the record. The commenter states that the project's groundwater related mitigation measures also are not supported by substantial evidence because those mitigation measures are inadequate. However, the commenter does not explain why the DEIR's proposed groundwater mitigation measures are inadequate or provide additional information on which to formulate a response. The groundwater mitigation measures in Chapter 4.8 of the DEIR reflect input from the County's third-party hydrology consultant for the project, West Yost, who deemed the measures adequate to mitigate the project's impacts to a less than significant level. Please also see Master Response 15.

Response to Comment Ind 255-25

The commenter points to language in *Gray* where the court found that mitigation measures relating to traffic impacts were inadequate because the record did not indicate any definite commitment on the part of the Project Applicant as to when traffic improvements would take place. The commenter asserts that the DEIR's traffic related mitigation measures suffer from the same flaw. The lead agency in *Gray* relied on two letters from Caltrans, stating that while Caltrans had not identified any specific plan for traffic improvements, there was a clear methodology for collecting fees from the quarry project and there was sufficient commitment to completing the traffic improvements. (*Gray v. County of Madera* (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th, 1099, 1122.) The court disagreed, stating that the Caltrans letters showed intent but no definite commitment to make traffic improvements.

Here, the DEIR requires the Project Applicant to, “[p]rior to commencement of engineered fill hauling, . . . enter into separate road maintenance agreements with Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley to provide the project's fair share of funding for maintenance of roadways commensurate with the project's impact to pavement conditions on both Nevada County and Grass Valley roadways including Brunswick Road between E. Bennett Road and SR 49 and E. Bennett Road between project driveway and Brunswick Road. (DEIR, p. 4.12-91.) Unlike *Gray*, Mitigation Measure 4.12-6(b) indicates a clear commitment, and enforceable requirements within the DEIR, that the Project Applicant enter into road maintenance agreements. Moreover, the project's DEIR found certain traffic impacts to be significant and unavoidable due to the



uncertainty of implementation, which is distinguishable from the situation in *Gray v. County of Madera*.

Response to Comment Ind 255-26

The commenter points to language in *Gray* where the court found the project's noise related mitigation measures inadequate because the mitigation measures did not account for existing noise levels and whether project-related noise would cumulatively exceed regulatory thresholds. The commenter states that this holding in *Gray* exposes similar flaws in the DEIR. However, the commenter does not offer any additional information as to why the DEIR is similarly inadequate. The DEIR examined "existing ambient noise levels and the anticipated existing plus-project traffic noise levels at the nearest residences to each roadway segment, as well as the project-related increase in traffic noise levels and the impact assessment threshold for each roadway segment..." (DEIR, p. 4.10-35.) "As shown in the [Table 4.10-5], the traffic noise level increases from the transport of fill from the Brunswick Industrial Site to the Centennial Industrial Site and employee trips would not exceed the applicable thresholds of significance at any of the receptors." (DEIR, p. 4.10-35.) While the DEIR acknowledges that the use of "jake brakes" by project trucks could lead to significant noise impacts, Mitigation Measure 4.10-2 requires truck operators to operate their trucks in such a manner as to not require the use of jake brakes. (DEIR, p. 4.10-37.)

Response to Comment Ind 255-27

The commenter states that the DEIR does not adequately assess "cumulative impacts." The CEQA Guidelines define cumulative impacts as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15355.) The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or more than one project. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15355(a).) Cumulative impacts may result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15355(b).) Cumulative impacts were assessed in each resource section of the DEIR as appropriate, and in Section 5.3 of the DEIR. The commenter offers no additional information as to how the DEIR's analysis of cumulative impacts is inadequate; thus, no further response is possible. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-83.

Response to Comment Ind 255-28

The commenter states that the DEIR failed to prepare an adequate Water Supply Assessment ("WSA") as required by SB 610. However, the commenter does not explain how the WSA prepared for the project is inadequate but appears to suggest that the DEIR underestimate well impacts, and thus, the number of homes that will need to be provided with potable water. Regarding the adequacy of the groundwater model and groundwater monitoring wells, please see Master Responses 14 and 15, respectively. Note also that water supply is discussed in DEIR Chapter 4.11 (Public Services and Utilities) at pages 4.11-8–11. The commenter is also referred to the WSA itself, prepared by West Yost (Appendix N, *Idaho-Maryland Mine Water Supply Assessment*. December 1, 2021.)

Response to Comment Ind 255-29

The commenter states that the economic feasibility of a project under CEQA should be assessed similar to other components typically addressed within an EIR (e.g., air quality, traffic, biological resources, etc.). The commenter also states that the economic impacts (i.e., property values) of the project must be considered in the DEIR. The commenter points to various CEQA authorities, such as Public Resources Code section 21061.2 and CEQA Guideline sections 15064 and



15131(a). The commenter also points to CEQA Guideline section 15131(b), which states that “[e]conomic or social effects of a project may be used to determine the significance of physical changes caused by the project.”

Regarding the financial condition of the Project Applicant, there are no CEQA authorities that require an analysis of a Project Applicant’s financial condition as part of an EIR.

Regarding economic impacts, the commenter states that any negative impacts to property values as a result of the dewatering of the Idaho-Maryland Mine are the type of impacts recognized by Section 15131(b). The commenter misconstrues Section 15131(b). Economic impacts may be used to determine the extent of a physical impact caused by the project. Losses in property values are purely economic impacts, and the commenter does not explain how negative impacts to property values could be used to determine the extent of a physical impact to the environment. Please see Master Response 2 - Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 255-30

The commenter asserts that the project’s potential impacts to property values fall within the scope of Section 15131(b). The commenter argues that the possibility of diminished economic value will motivate property owners to extract more groundwater or drill deeper wells, thus depleting groundwater supplies. The commenter essentially argues that the economic threat of diminished property values will prompt a social response to compete for groundwater which will cause a significant impact. However, the commenter confuses cause and effect. Here, the economic or social effect would not determine the significance of the physical changes caused by the project (i.e., the impact to groundwater wells caused by the dewatering of the mine). Moreover, the assertion that the project would result in property owners competing for, and eventually depleting, groundwater supplies is speculative. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, “[a]rgument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.”

Response to Comment Ind 255-31

This comment is a continuation of Comment Ind 255-30. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 255-30.

Response to Comment Ind 255-32

The commenter states that the DEIR’s discussion of the “Reduced Hours” alternative on DEIR page 6-13–14 puts the financial condition of the Project Applicant at issue. However, the commenter does not explain how the Project Applicant’s financial condition is relevant to the adequacy of the DEIR and does not point to any CEQA authorities requiring such an analysis. While an EIR may exclude a project alternative that is economically infeasible (*Center for Biological Diversity v. County of San Bernardino* (2010) 185 Cal.4th 866), that issue is distinct from the financial condition of the Project Applicant.

Response to Comment Ind 255-33

The commenter reiterates that the financial condition of the Project Applicant or other asserted evidence that the project is economically infeasible renders the DEIR inadequate. However, the commenter does not point to any CEQA authorities to support the notion that the project’s financial condition is relevant to project’s impact to the environment. CEQA defines “environment” to mean the “physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project,



including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance." (Pub. Resources Code, §21060.5.)

Response to Comment Ind 255-34

The commenter states that the discussion of the Reduced Hours alternative on DEIR page 6-13 puts the financial condition of the Project Applicant at issue. The commenter does not provide any CEQA authorities to support this argument. The commenter is referred to Responses to Comments Ind 255-32 and Ind 255-33.

Response to Comment Ind 255-35

The commenter states that the discussion of the Reduced Hours alternative on DEIR page 6-13 puts the financial condition of the Project Applicant at issue. The commenter does not provide any CEQA authorities to support this argument. The commenter is referred to Responses to Comments Ind 255-32 and Ind 255-33.

Response to Comment Ind 255-36

The commenter references the "Non-CEQA Related Analysis" (i.e., public safety power shutoff) on DEIR pages 4.3-103–4 and reiterates concerns regarding the financial condition of the Project Applicant. The commenter states that the Non-CEQA Related Analysis indicates that the DEIR is inadequate but offers no additional information. Regarding the financial condition of the Project Applicant, the commenter is referred to Responses to Comments Ind 255-32 and Ind 255-33.

Response to Comment Ind 255-37

The commenter states that the DEIR does not properly assess the impacts of climate change in connection with groundwater supplies. The commenter also states that the DEIR inadequately assesses the project's impacts to groundwater. The commenter does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate with regard to these topics. Regarding climate change, the commenter is referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. Regarding groundwater, the DEIR analyzed the project's impacts to groundwater supplies and found those impacts to be less than significant after mitigation. (DEIR, p. 4.8-54.) Regarding the conditions of the underground mine workings, the commenter is referred to Master Response 14 - Adequacy of Groundwater Model. Please also see Response to Comment Ind 254-17.

Response to Comment Ind 255-38

The commenter states that the remedial cleanup action at the Centennial Industrial Site should be included in the DEIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. The commenter also states that the Project Boundary in the DEIR is inadequate because the DEIR underestimates the number of impacted groundwater wells. Regarding the Centennial Industrial Site, the commenter is referred to Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA. Regarding the number of groundwater wells impacted by the Project, the commenter is referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas, and Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model.

Response to Comment Ind 255-39

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to properly list a "Statement of Objectives" as required by CEQA Guideline section 15124(b) but provides no reasons why the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. The Project Objectives may be found at DEIR pages 3-11–2.



Response to Comment Ind 255-40

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to include the mandatory elements in the Project Description as required by CEQA Guidelines section 15124. Specifically, “a general description of the project's technical, economic, and environmental characteristics...” (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15124(c).) However, the commenter does not explain how the DEIR is inadequate with regard to Section 15124(c).

Response to Comment Ind 255-41

The commenter states that the DEIR fails to meet the requirements of CEQA Guideline sections 15124(d) and (d)(2), which requires, among other things, a list of permits or discretionary approvals required for the project. The commenter states the DEIR makes it difficult to know what permits or discretionary approvals are being sought. Per the requirement in Section 15124(d)(1)(B), a “list of permits and other approvals required to implement the project” is available in DEIR Chapter 3.0 (Project Description), pages 3-46 to 3-48.

The commenter incorrectly states that hexavalent chromium is ignored in the DEIR. Please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 255-42

The commenter states that the DEIR contains an inadequate description of the environmental setting as required by CEQA Guidelines section 15125. The commenter specifically states that the DEIR's baseline is inadequate because it does not include the entire mineral rights boundary. However, the DEIR does not limit analysis of impacts to an area smaller than the mineral rights boundary, and includes analysis of impacts in all appropriate geographic areas. (DEIR, Figure 3-2.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.

Response to Comment Ind 255-43

The commenter reiterates that the project violates CEQA Guidelines section 15125 regarding the environmental setting but does not provide any specific information on which to formulate a response. The commenter expresses general opposition to the project which is noted for the decision makers. The commenter does refer to concerns about what problems will be created as the project blasts, tunnels, removes rock, and adds Cr+6 in the shoring cement paste, dewaterers, and otherwise mines in new, expanded, and deeper areas. For concerns regarding hexavalent chromium, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1. For concerns regarding blasting, see Response to Comment Ind 254-72. Regarding dewatering concerns, please see Master Responses 14 and 15.

Response to Comment Ind 255-44

The commenter states that the DEIR violates CEQA Guideline section 15125(a)(3), which states that the “existing conditions baseline shall not include hypothetical conditions, such as those that might be allowed, but have never actually occurred, under existing permits or plans, as the baseline.” The commenter states that because the Idaho-Maryland Mine was last operated in 1956, the environmental baseline is hypothetical and speculative. However, the commenter does not specifically state how the project's baseline is inadequate. In addition, investigation of the underground conditions has occurred to the extent feasible. For example, water samples were collected from the New Brunswick shaft in 2018 and analyzed for a range of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and mercury (see Table 3.6 of Appendix K.2).



The CEQA Guidelines specify that the baseline generally should be described as the physical conditions that exist in the area affected by the project at the time the EIR process begins. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15125(a)(1).) The commenter does not identify any specific deficiency in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 255-45

The commenter discusses the rights of overlying property owners above the mineral rights boundary and references United States Supreme Court caselaw regarding the interpretation of a Pennsylvania statute about coal mining and support for structures on the surface. These comments do not pertain to the adequacy of the DEIR. To the extent the commenter is concerned about subsidence, the commenter is referred to Master Response 29 – Near Surface Workings.

Response to Comment Ind 255-46

The commenter states that the DEIR violates CEQA Guidelines section 15125(d), which requires an EIR to discuss any “inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans, specific plans and regional plans.” The commenter provides no additional information on which to formulate a response. The referenced inconsistency analysis is provided in Impact 4.9-2 of the DEIR. The DEIR found that the project is generally consistent with the Nevada County General Plan land use designations, with consideration of the requested approvals. (DEIR, Figure 3-5.) The DEIR also found the project would have a less than significant impact on regional plans such as the applicable air quality plan. (DEIR, p. 4.3-66.)

Response to Comment Ind 255-47

The commenter suggests that the Project Applicant is not the actual “Applicant” as defined by CEQA Guideline section 15351 by referencing the Project Applicant’s SEC filings. SEC filings are irrelevant to the adequacy of the DEIR. The commenter does not provide any additional evidence to substantiate this claim and no further response is required.

Response to Comment Ind 255-48

The commenter states that the DEIR is drafted in a way to conceal errors, omissions, and deficiencies. This comment is vague and does not identify any inadequacies with the DEIR. No further response is required. Regarding hexavalent chromium, which is addressed in the DEIR, please see Response to Comment Ind 254-1.

Response to Comment Ind 255-49

The commenter states that the DEIR violates CEQA Guideline section 15123. The commenter does not state how the DEIR is inadequate in this regard. All of the DEIR components required by Section 15123 can be found in the DEIR’s Chapter 2.0 (Executive Summary.)

Response to Comment Ind 255-50

The commenter states that the Nevada County Planning Commission should have allowed public comment regarding the financial condition of the Project Applicant at the March 24, 2022 hearing. The commenter does not identify any CEQA authorities that requires an analysis of a Project Applicant’s financial condition.



Individual Letter 256

Dist

Ind 256-1

~~I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland mine~~

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new jobs, in some cases satisfying careers with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$122,000 including benefits. The mine will also spur additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) GABRIEL KULP
Address 12819 LOMA RICA DR GV ZIP 95945
Phone 530-274-8965
Email Address ACESWELDING@HOTMAIL.COM

**NO
TO REOPENING
THE MINE.**



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 256: GABRIEL KULP

Response to Comment Ind 256-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 257

Gail Johnson Vaughan, PsyD
11793 Lower Colfax Rd. Grass Valley, CA 95945

Matt Kelley,
Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

RE: Inadequate Assumptions of DEIR

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Ind 257-1

I am Gail Johnson Vaughan, a 40-year resident of our County, the last 20 of which have been in District 3. I hold a doctoral degree in Organizational Psychology with a special interest in Behavioral Economics and the psychology of decision making.

As a forty-year resident of Western Nevada County I have severe concerns about the inadequacy and lack of accuracy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report . My overriding concerns fall in two areas: 1) assumptions on which the report is based, and 2) the lack of inclusion of exacerbating impact on the climate crisis.

Ind 257-2

The draft EIR fails to give your department and the Board of Supervisors the adequate analysis you need to determine whether this project benefits our County sufficiently to outweigh the consequences of its negative impacts now and for the next four generations of our residents. The science supporting the DEIR is only as good as the accuracy of the assumptions on which it is based. This DEIR uses a limited and faulty set of assumptions.

Daniel Kahneman, PhD in psychology, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics, for his work on the psychology of judgment and economic decision-making. He tells us that "intuition cannot be trusted in the absence of stable regularities of the environment."¹

At no time in human history has there been a greater absence of stable environmental regularities than we are experiencing now. The DEIR does not assess these irregularities of our environment before assigning a level of significance to a range of environmental impacts. Kahneman goes on to say "In a less regular, or low-validity, environments, the heuristics of judgment are invoked", [such as the substitution heuristic] where "quick answers to difficult questions are produced by substitutions, creating coherence where there is none and the question answered is not the one intended."²

The reality of this is made clear in the statement at the NID Board Meeting on February 9, 2022 by Itasca principle hydrologist Liu Houmau, PhD. He said: "... but definitely we did not look into

¹ Kahneman, Daniel, (2011). *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. Pg 241

² Kahneman, Pg 243



Gail Johnson Vaughan, PsyD
11793 Lower Colfax Rd. Grass Valley, CA 95945

- the extensive [impact] of climate change because those are not defined into the future.” The fact that they are not defined into the future explodes the expectation that the DEIR analysis of impacts and mitigations can be relied upon for 80 years.
- Intuition based on historical data permeates this DEIR. To be adequate in this era of environmental irregularities this EIR must go beyond a single set of assumptions drawn from historical data and include multiple sets of assumptions which take into consideration the continuum of possible and perhaps unthinkable impacts of a changing climate over 80 years.
- The DEIR relies on intuition in a number of ways.
- It is the sort of intuition that concludes that assumptions of impact based on historical data are sufficient to predict the full negative impact of this project when we sit at the 11th hour of life-threatening climate change.
 - It is the kind of intuition that argues that although Dr Liu, DEIR expert hydrologist states that it is not possible to create a predictive hydrology impact model that takes climate change into consideration, that it acceptable to base the DEIR analysis of well integrity and water quality for the next 80 years on historical data that assumes a cycle of a few dry years followed by many wet years.
 - It is the kind of intuition that argues that it acceptable to assume that the consequences of the project's negative air quality impact are not significant even when added to our County's failing air quality grade from American Lung Association.
 - It is the kind of intuition that overlooks the facts that the project's negative impacts exacerbate the speed of climate change, that even now is resulting in unprecedented ongoing drought, and resultant horrific smoke-smothering wild fires.
 - It is the kind of intuition that assumes it is acceptable for the project's energy use to make the Nevada County Energy Action Plan's electricity savings objectives impossible to meet as well as double current non-residential emissions and undercut the Energy Action Plan's goal of reducing water use countywide and encouraging smart efficient use of precious water resources.
 - It is the kind of intuition that assumes that it is acceptable to allow “fugitive dust” including microparticles of asbestos to enter our air mitigated only by spraying water on them as well as omitting effective mitigations for “fugitive dust” escaping during the hundreds of daily truckloads of crumbled rock extracted from the mine.
- These examples of faulty assumptions highlight some, but not all of the inadequacies of the DIER assumptions. Good enough for now is not good enough to predict the extensive impact of climate change on the already massive number of negative environmental impacts of this project. While we cannot know exactly what those extensive impacts of climate change will be it is imperative that the EIR include a range of assumptions across the continuum of possible



Gail Johnson Vaughan, PsyD
11793 Lower Colfax Rd. Grass Valley, CA 95945

↑ and perhaps unthinkable impacts of a changing climate over 80 years. It is also imperative that the EIR include a range of flexible mitigations, all acceptable by Rise Gold prior to starting the project, that can be implemented based on conditions in the moment.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Gail Johnson Vaughan

Gail Johnson Vaughan, PsyD
11793 Lower Colfax Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95945
gail@gjv4kids.com 530-277-6571



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 257: GAIL VAUGHAN

Response to Comment Ind 257-1

This comment is introductory in nature. The commenter states the DEIR is inadequate. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 257-2

The commenter states that the DEIR relies on a faulty set of assumptions but does not provide sufficient additional detail to enable a specific response. The commenter also states that the DEIR cannot be relied upon over the life of the project because of unknowns related to climate change. California courts have consistently held that “an EIR is not required to engage in speculation in order to analyze a worst case scenario.” (see *Napa Citizens for Honest Government v. Napa County Bd. of Supervisors* (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 342.) The commenter is also referred to Master Response 16 - Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 257-3

The commenter reiterates that the DEIR cannot be relied upon because of the climate change. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 257-2. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 27 – Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 257-4

The commenter states that hydrological impacts cannot be predicted to the climate changed. The commenter is referred to Response to Comment Ind 257-2. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 257-5

The commenter states that the County has existing air quality issues and the project will exacerbate those issues. The commenter is referred to Master Response 18 – Air Quality Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 257-6

Please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 257-7

The commenter states that the project’s energy consumption will impede Nevada County’s Energy Action Plan. The commenter is referred to Master Response 25 – Nevada County Energy Action Plan.

Response to Comment Ind 257-8

The commenter states that the project will result in adverse impacts to air quality such as fugitive dust and asbestos. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.3 of the DEIR, Master Response 18 – Air Quality Thresholds, Master Response 22 – Conservatism of Asbestos Assumptions, and Response to Comment Ind 187-3.

Response to Comment Ind 257-9

The commenter reiterates concerns with project’s contribution to climate change. The commenter is referred to Master Response 27 – Greenhouse Gas Thresholds and Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change. A mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and is included as Chapter 4 of this Final EIR. The mitigation measures and conditions of approval will be enforced by the County. To the extent the applicant receives permits from other state and federal agencies, those agencies will be responsible for their enforcement.



Individual Letter 258

Neuada County Planning Commission Public Hearing 3-24-2022
Public Comment

- Ind 258-1** Honorable Chair and Commission members. I am Gail Johnson Vaughan, a 40-year resident of our County. I hold a doctoral degree in Organizational Psychology with a special interest in Behavioral Economics and the psychology of decision making.
- You are tasked with the awesome responsibility of recommending to our Board of Supervisors whether this project benefits our County sufficiently to outweigh the consequences of its negative impacts now and for the next four generations of our residents. You have been provided with a draft EIR that fails to give you the adequate analysis you need to make that recommendation.
- Psychologist Daniel Kahneman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics, for his work on the psychology of judgment and economic decision-making. He tells us that "intuition cannot be trusted in the absence of environmental regularity." At no time in human history has there been a greater absence of environmental regularity than we are experiencing now.
- The DEIR relies on intuition in a number of ways.
- Ind 258-2** •It is the sort of intuition that concludes that assumptions of impact based on historical data are sufficient to predict the full negative impact of this project when we sit at the 11th hour of life-threatening climate change.
- Ind 258-3** •It is the kind of intuition that argues that although Dr Lui, DEIR expert hydrologist, states that it is not possible to create a predictive hydrology impact model that takes climate change into consideration, that it acceptable to base the DEIR analysis of well integrity and water quality for the next 80 years on historical data that assumes a cycle of a few dry years followed by many wet years.
- Ind 258-4** •It is the kind of intuition that argues that it acceptable to assume that the consequences of the project's negative air quality impact are not significant even when added to our County's already failing air quality grade from American Lung Association, and even when the project's negative impacts exacerbate the speed of climate change, that already is resulting in unprecedented ongoing drought, and horrific smoke-smothering wild fires.
- Ind 258-5** •That it is acceptable to allow "fugitive dust" including microparticles of asbestos to enter our air mitigated only by spraying water on them and no mitigation from "fugitive dust" escaping during the hundreds of daily truckloads of crumbled rock extracted from the mine.
- Ind 258-6** • It is the kind of intuition that permeates the DEIR. The science supporting the DEIR is only as good as the accuracy of the assumptions on which it is based. Perhaps the greatest inadequacy of the DEIR is basing its analysis on a single set of assumptions rather than multiple sets of assumptions which take into consideration the continuum of possible and perhaps unthinkable impacts of a changing climate over 80 years. Those multiple sets of assumptions must be added to the DEIR. Thank you.

Gail Johnson Vaughan, PsyD
11793 Lower Colfax Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95945



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 258: GAIL VAUGHAN

Response to Comment Ind 258-1

Please see Response to Comment Ind 257-2.

Response to Comment Ind 258-2

Please see Response to Comment Ind 257-3.

Response to Comment Ind 258-3

Please see Response to Comment Ind 257-4.

Response to Comment Ind 258-4

Please see Responses to Comments Ind 257-5 and 257-6.

Response to Comment Ind 258-5

Please see Response to Comment Ind 257-8.

Response to Comment Ind 258-6

Please see Response to Comment Ind 257-9.



Individual Letter 259

From: Garrett Stuessy <dreamtime2013@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 2:38 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: My Opposition to opening the Idaho maryland Mine

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are not expecting this email or don't recognize the sender, consider deleting.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

Dear Mr Kelly, and Nevada County planning dept,

Ind 259-1

I have been a Nevada county resident for 9 years, a homeowner (I lost my home in the river fire), and a father of 2 middle school kids. We now live near Cedar ridge, and pass by the mine site daily. I am now involved in Real Estate and I see that this proposed project will drastically impact this industry and all of the property values in the area. It is my position that the DEIR has severely underestimated all of the environmental impacts that would come about.

Ind 259-2

Firstly, the groundwater. This kind of disruption underground can have unforeseen impacts on the aquifers, water table and wells in a wide ranging area, the DEIR analysis is inadequate and obviously slanted towards the outside mining company. Nobody wants the kind of noise and heavy traffic that will come with such a project. We all live in Nevada county because we want to have unspoiled nature around us, and some form of peace. Silicosis is a very real concern from all the dust that will abound, it can damage lungs indiscriminately, and easier than you may think. I should also mention my opinion that the wildlife here also has a right to a habitat and a peaceful existence, and the mine is a threat to that.

Ind 259-3

In a time when we collectively have no choice but to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this is a step backwards. In our own back yard! The mine represents nothing more than a humiliating admission that our county would rather have its own mineral resources plundered, sacrifice our 'backyard' for a few blue collar jobs; than be a forward thinking example of how a California county can adapt to changes in the modern world. In other words, I feel that attracting businesses and families to relocate and bring their wealth here is a good thing, and this would be dealt a huge blow by the environmental impacts of this mine.

Ind 259-4

We must weigh up the economic benefits if there are any, with the damage that would come to the geology, soils, air quality, noise levels, aquatic biology and domestic wells, traffic, forestry and aesthetics right here at home, and climate change statewide and globally. I see that the negative impacts far outweigh any positives, and I see that the DEIR report has not been thorough enough to be realistic, it has let us down as a community.

Sincerely,
Garrett Stuessy

concerned Grass Valley resident/ homeowner/ investor/ father



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 259: GARRETT STUESSY

Response to Comment Ind 259-1

The comment notes the DEIR underestimates the impacts of the proposed project but does not detail the specific inadequacies. Therefore, a detailed response cannot be provided. Please also see Master Responses 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Ind 259-2

Please see Master Response 14 with regard to the adequacy of the groundwater model. Please refer to Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for more information related to air pollution impacts, specifically Impact 4.3-2 addresses concerns regarding health risks associated with silica exposure. Please also see Master Response 21 – Conservatism of Silica Assumptions. In addition, impacts related to noise, traffic, and wildlife habitat are addressed in Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, Chapter 4.12, Transportation, and Chapter 4.4, Biological Resources, of the DEIR, respectively.

Response to Comment Ind 259-3

Please refer to Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for more information related to climate change. In addition, please see Master Response 2 with regard to social and economic impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 259-4

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. The comment expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 260

February 7, 2022

Nevada County Planning Commission
950 Maidu Avenue Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: RE-OPENING OF THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE

Dear Commissioners:

Ind 260-1

1) De-watering the mine would send 2500 gallons of water per minute into Wolf Creek which is equivalent to a "flood surge". Ongoing de-watering would send about 850 gallons of water per day into the creek for the duration of the project. The effect of this abnormal water flow is unpredictable and could adversely affect local water resources.

Furthermore, mine contaminants in the water adds to the problem of water quality.

Ind 260-2

2). The amount of energy to run this gold mine is 10 megawatts per day. The mine is estimated to contribute about 150 metric tons of CO2 daily into the atmosphere.

These are my two main concerns about this mine project. Either one is enough to deny approval of this project. We are paying a price for past environmental abuse that has caused climate change. Please don't contribute further to this global problem.

Ind 260-3

Vote "no" on re-opening this mine.

Sincerely,



Gary K. Ambuehl
10701 Bragg Avenue
Grass Valley, CA 95945
PH: 530-274-0492



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 260: GARY AMBUEHL

Response to Comment Ind 260-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Responses 35 and 36 regarding water quality and flows in South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 260-2

Please refer to Chapter 4.3, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy, of the DEIR for more information related to energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. The comment expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 260-3

The comment is a closing remark and does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 261

February 7, 2022

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

FEB 10 2022
NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Dist 3

RE: RE-OPENING OF THE IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE

Dear Commissioners:

Ind 261-1

1) De-watering the mine would send 2500 gallons of water per minute into Wolf Creek which is equivalent to a "flood surge". Ongoing de-watering would send about 850 gallons of water per day into the creek for the duration of the project. The effect of this abnormal water flow is unpredictable and could adversely affect local water resources.

Furthermore, mine contaminants in the water adds to the problem of water quality.

Ind 261-2

2). The amount of energy to run this gold mine is 10 megawatts per day. The mine is estimated to contribute about 150 metric tons of CO2 daily into the atmosphere.

Ind 261-3

These are my two main concerns about this mine project. Either one is enough to deny approval of this project. We are paying a price for past environmental abuse that has caused climate change. Please don't contribute further to this global problem.

Vote "no" on re-opening this mine.

Sincerely,



Gary K. Ambuehl
10701 Bragg Avenue
Grass Valley, CA 95945
PH: 530-274-0492



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 261: GARY AMBUEHL

Response to Comment Ind 261-1

See Response to Comment Ind 260-1.

Response to Comment Ind 261-2

See Response to Comment Ind 260-2.

Response to Comment Ind 261-3

See Response to Comment Ind 260-3.



Individual Letter 262

From: Gary Baker <gary@plan-aire.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Cc: Ed Scofield
Subject: Response to Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR
Attachments: Response to Draft EIR January 19, 2022.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 Kelly and Ed Scofield

Ind 262-1

Attached are my comments on the Draft EIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. There are only 6 pages of comments provided after my review of the entire 1070 pages of the Draft document.

Any project being proposed should have a benefit to the community and while the project as described will employ about 300 people, many of those workers will come from outside the County.

Ind 262-2

This is a large private operation which has some significant impacts which are not mitigated. Additionally there were very few alternatives examined to reduce those significant and unavoidable impacts. The project does not contain any public improvements other than the fire engine for Ophir Hill and a water line to serve about 40 people. With the amount of land included in the project, areas could have been set aside for parks, trails or other public improvements but they are not included.

Ind 262-3

As stated in my comments attached, the Draft EIR does not appear to be neutral and reads as a biased presentation supporting a private mining operation. This Draft EIR is certainly superior to the EIR prepared for the Cannabis Ordinance three years ago, however there should have been more alternatives presented to mitigate some of the visual concerns which were considered significant and unavoidable. Some ideas are presented in my responses to mitigate some of the visual impacts.

Ind 262-4

Clearly this project will attract a lot of public attention and while I have no particular vested interest in whether the project is approved or not, I do believe there could have been more sensitivity in the project design to mitigate some of the visual impacts. I also believe that the community should receive some benefits from a project and not just unavoidable impacts from a private development.

Gary Baker
530 268-3500
gary@plan-aire.com



Plan-aire CANNABIS SITE PLANNING AND REGULATORY AGENCY PERMITTING
12373 CREEK VIEW DR., GRASS VALLEY, CA 95949 • PH (530) 268-3500 • EMAIL: gary@plan-aire.com
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING • www.plan-aire.com

January 19, 2022

Matt Kelley
Senior Planner
County of Nevada
Community Development Agency
Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, California 95959

Via e-mail: Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us

Regarding: Responses to Draft EIR for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
SCH# 2020070378

To: Matt Kelley

From: Gary Baker

Ind 262-5

I have read the 1070 pages of the Draft EIR for the proposed project and have included below my comments below on various sections of the document. There were no links in the document which allowed for the download of any of the appendices and there was no link on the County website for downloading these either.

Ind 262-6

This Draft EIR is far superior to the EIR prepared for the Nevada County Cannabis Ordinance which was circulated three years ago. However, it is my personal opinion that the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project Draft EIR is not a neutral document and presents a very favorable and biased picture of the proposed project and lacks alternatives to mitigate environmental impacts which have been identified as significant. This project if approved will expose the community to potential traffic impacts from the trucking of material, the delivery of explosives to the site, visual impacts as well as other impacts

Ind 262-7

which may not be significant as identified in the EIR but in fact may be just more than nuisance for some residents of the County.



Plan-aire

Ind 262-8

For instance, the projects evaluation in the Draft EIR says that Heavy Truck traffic was not included in the traffic study. There were no alternatives provided for the buildings

Ind 262-9

higher than 45' or justification provided for the increased building heights. There was no

Ind 262-10

evaluation of the impacts of the industrial land and potential buildings which may be located on the land and pad areas created by this project. The alternatives presented in

Ind 262-11

the Draft EIR only include the No Project, Reducing one fill area while increasing the other and reducing the mine output while still building all of the improvements. That does not appear to be a reasonable set of alternatives.

Ind 262-12

The main beneficiary of the project appears to be the Ophir Hill Fire Department who will receive \$1.0 million dollars when the project is approved. There was no financial benefit analysis presented in the Draft EIR as to any benefit to the community as a result of the project except the creation of about 300 new jobs which a portion of those jobs would employ people who do not currently live in Nevada County. Mining at the site of the

Ind 262-13

magnitude presented in the Draft EIR should create very large profits for the mine owner over the 80 year life of the operation, yet there is not a single improvement proposed which enhances Nevada County such as a new park, trail system or library as a result of the project. Other than the fire truck, the project only provides private improvements for a private project.

Wolf Creek Discharge

Ind 262-14

During the NOP public review timeframe ending in August 2020, we submitted various comments on the proposed project that we believed should be addressed in the EIR. While a few of those suggestions were in fact discussed in the Draft EIR, several suggestions were not addressed which related to alternatives for the water being discharged by the operation of the dewatering of the mine and long term dewatering during the operation of the mine. All of the project descriptions and alternatives, other than the no project alternative, discharge water from the mine into South Wolf Creek. While Wolf Creek may in fact be utilized today as a storm drain because of the discharges being introduced by the Grass Valley Sewage Treatment Plant and some dewatering operations at the North Star Mine, it is also considered a natural creek and watershed. Adding additional flows to Wolf Creek from the initial mine dewatering will have some impact on the water level of the creek, but more importantly, the creek is still being used as a storm drain to transfer volumes of water from the proposed mine.

We had previously asked to evaluate water discharge disposal alternatives for the proposed project. These could have included a variety of alternatives including but not limited to piping the water to agricultural or grazing lands for use and eventual ground



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	<p>water recharge or sending the water to evaporation ponds. Additionally, piping of the treated water to the Nevada Irrigation District for distribution via their vast network of canals may also be a viable option for the discharged waster from the project. Another alternative would be to use the recycled water for park, golf course or landscaping irrigation. Even if none of these alternatives are feasible, there should at least be some discussion in the Draft EIR on alternative discharges for the treated pumped water from the proposed mine other than disposal into a watercourse.</p>
	<p>Visual Impacts</p>
Ind 262-15	<p>The proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine project includes the construction of two large pads designated as Centennial and Brunswick as well as a 64' high industrial building and a 165' high tower for mine operations. Both the 64' high building and 165' high tower exceed the maximum building height of 45' in the existing zoning. The two pads also create 31 acres of Industrial land on the Brunswick site and 44 acres of Industrial land on the Centennial site and both pads are identified in the Draft EIR as significant unavoidable visual impacts relating to the development of the project.</p>
Ind 262-16	<p>The Draft EIR does not contain and type of description or justification for the 64' building height or the 165' high tower. There were no drawings or diagrams provided which indicate the types of machinery or equipment that would be used with either of these structures to provide the reader of the Draft EIR of an understanding of why these building heights were required to operate the facility. Additionally, there were no alternatives provided for different types of equipment which could be used as an alternate to keep the building height within the 45' height limit. Also, there was no</p>
Ind 262-17	<p>examination of alternative constructions methods such as locating a portion of the 64' building underground to maintain the 45' height or placing the building in a depression so the buildings visibility from the adjacent view shed and roadway would not exceed the 45' height limit. The 165' tower appears to be excessive in height and no alternatives have been proposed to either redesign the components in the tower to lower the overall height. The proposed 80' tower which provides access to the mine appears to be consistent with the previous mine operation so the 165' high tower appears to be very excessive.</p>
Ind 262-18	<p>The two pads proposed to be created from material obtained from the underground mining operation are both identified in the Draft EIR as significant visual impacts. While the Draft EIR looked at two alternatives relating the proposed pads the result of those alternatives still used the same amount of fill material from the mining operation and where one pad would decrease in height the other pad would increase in height. There was no evaluation of building pads using less material thus creating an overall decrease</p>
Ind 262-19	



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	<p>in the visual impact of the proposed grading operation. The only rationale presented was the saving of costs by placing fill onsite rather than trucking the material offsite. It appears that viable pads to be used for industrial development would still be achieved if both of these pads were lower and it may be that the pads would actually be larger than what is proposed if they were not as high. The overall visual impact would be reduced if the pads were lower.</p>
Ind 262-20	<p>The site sections in the visual impact analysis is very misleading because the sections and graphics only show the 60' high pad and not the potential 45' high buildings that would potentially be constructed on top of the pad. Further, since one of the stated objectives of the project includes the construction of these pads, analysis should have been provided in the Draft EIR for all the impacts associated with the development of these pads. There would be impacts relating to sewer disposal, utilities and traffic among others which should have been included in the cumulative analysis at the very least.</p>
Ind 262-21	<p>The traffic portion of the Draft ER did not even show the development of these industrial pads as a future project, yet the pads which would readily be available to market after the construction. The total pad area is 75 acres which could contain hundreds of thousands of square feet of new development. Probably only a fraction of that square footage would be available without constructing the pads as proposed as part of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. There is a direct nexus between the mine operation and construction of these two pads for industrial use so the impacts of the industrial use should be fully considered in the EIR.</p>
Ind 262-22	<p>Water Supply</p> <p>It is not clear why the amount of available water increased from 176,143 Ac Feet in the NID water storage in year 2 of the project to 381,346 Ac Feet in year three as shown on Table 4.11-6 during the drought years in the 2035 year forecast. The year 2 figure represents a potential deficit of 20,306 Ac Feet while year 3 of the drought condition shows a surplus of 155,447 Ac Feet. NID has disclosed that they are no longer pursuing the Centennial Dam project, so what water source was added to the NID system to increase the total amount of available water?</p>
Ind 262-23	<p>Noise</p> <p>Noise levels were measured at receptor points which were located between 500' to 2,000 feet from the noise source. Other projects in Nevada County including cannabis projects are required to address noise concerns from a project as measured at the</p>



Plan-aire

property line. It is unclear why a separate method of measuring noise levels is used for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project compared to other county projects.

Ind 262-24

Future Mining Operations

Figure 4.8.13 shows potential future underground mining operations. The exhibit depicts several areas of future underground mining which extend beyond the current mineral claim of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. If there is an extension of mineral rights contemplated as part of the project the project description should be revised and impacts of that expansion should be included in the EIR.

Demand on Housing

Referencing Page 5-2 f the Draft EIR

As shown in Table 4.9-5 of Chapter 4.9, as of 2018, Nevada County had 53,745 total housing units with a 22.5 percent vacancy rate (12,098 vacant housing units). The unincorporated area of Nevada County had a total of 32,182 housing units with 4,645 vacant housing units (14.4 percent vacancy rate). Therefore, the addition of 312 persons as a result of the proposed project would not impact the existing housing stock for Nevada County.

Ind 262-25

In the Union newspaper, published in Grass Valley on January 18, 2022 the following information was printed,

The new record high median price of a home sold in western Nevada County — \$565,000 — was set in July and matched again in August, before December sales closed out the year with a \$515,000 monthly median price.

Prices aren't likely to come down soon, as western Nevada County struggles to establish any semblance of a normal inventory of homes on the market.

As of Wednesday, Jan. 12, there were 145 homes for sale locally, down 14% from the same time last year and 60% lower than the 360 homes listed for sale in pre-pandemic January 2019.

The housing situation is far different in Western Nevada County according to the recent report which shows 145 homes available and the findings in the Draft EIR which is showing 4,645 homes available. The Draft EIR should be reexamined to correlate with the current housing supply.

Ind 262-26

Traffic

5 of 6



Plan-raise

The traffic study appears to be inconsistent. On Table 4.12-8 there are 10 one way truck / trips per day and on page 4.13-15 there are 100 round trips per day shown. On page 4.12-55 the text shows that heavy trucks are not included in the Draft EIR.

It does appear that truck traffic and the impacts of the trucks entering and leaving the site from the proposed project should be included in the EIR.

Mine Operations

Many if not most gold mines start with one operator and after a period of time the mine is sold to another operator, or the mine is closed for long periods of time, sometimes for years due to market pricing of the commodity or other factors. When the mine is not operating, security and other services must still be provided for the site. When new operations begin, there may be changes proposed which were not addressed in previous environmental documents or local permits.

Ind 262-27

The Draft EIR is addressing the project as if it will operate continuously for 80 years under the same conditions and ownership. There is no discussion in the Draft EIR which looks beyond the current design or impacts of the project as currently proposed. For the mine to be viable for future operations if it closed for periods of time, dewatering must still be maintained for the life of the project, even if gold is not currently being extracted. Some provision should be included to ensure that adequate water treatment and site security is maintained for the life of the project which could be guaranteed by the posting of some type of bond. Furthermore, if the project design were to change which requires additional buildings or other improvements which were not addressed in the original EIR an updated EIR should be required for the project.

While these may not be considered environmental impacts as such, in periods where the mine is not operating certain protections should be put in place to protect the community from both environmental impacts and site safety from the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project whether the mine is operating or not.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 262: GARY BAKER

Response to Comment Ind 262-1

The comment is an introductory comment. No response is required.

Response to Comment Ind 262-2

The commenter alleges that very few alternatives were examined to reduce the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impacts. The DEIR evaluates alternatives to the proposed project in Chapter 6. As summarized in DEIR section 6.2, and provided in CEQA Guidelines section 15126.6, an EIR shall provide a reasonable range of alternatives that achieves the project objectives but avoids or reduces significant project impacts. The alternatives analysis is not required to consider every project alternative but is governed by a "rule of reason" that requires the EIR to set forth only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice." The alternative analysis in the DEIR considered nine different alternatives. Five alternatives were considered but rejected from detailed analysis since they did not meet most project objectives, were infeasible, and/or did not avoid significant project impacts. Four alternatives were analyzed in detail (see DEIR section 6.3.) The County believes this provides a reasoned choice of alternatives for consideration by the public and decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 262-3

The commenter suggests that the DEIR is biased. The CEQA Guidelines allow a Project Applicant to prepare a DEIR as long as the lead agency, in this case Nevada County, independently reviews the DEIR. (14 CCR 10584(d)(3); (e).) Not only did the County independently peer review the information provided by the applicant, but the County hired Raney Planning and Management to prepare the DEIR.

Regarding alternatives, please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2.

Response to Comment Ind 262-4

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR but expresses the opinion that more sensitivity in project design could have been employed to mitigate some of the visual impacts. The comment is noted for the record and has been forwarded to the decision-makers for their consideration.

Response to Comment Ind 262-5

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. As part of Nevada County's efforts to make the DEIR available for public review, all DEIR materials, including appendices, were made available to be downloaded at the following web address:
<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/3436/Idaho-Maryland-Mine-Draft-EIR>.

Response to Comment Ind 262-6

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-3.

Response to Comment Ind 262-7

The comment does not directly address the adequacy of the DEIR. Regarding transport of explosives to the site, please see Master Response 10 – Explosives, Reagents, and Brunswick Fill. Regarding truck traffic, please see the analysis in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, of the DEIR. Visual impacts are addressed in Chapter 4.1, Aesthetics, of the DEIR.



Response to Comment Ind 262-8

As discussed on page 4.12-52 of the DEIR, an analysis of VMT from heavy truck trips is not required pursuant to SB 743 and the CEQA Guidelines and, thus, was not included in the DEIR. For further details, please see DEIR pages 4.12-53 through 4.12-55. However, it is important to note that the remaining transportation analyses contained in the DEIR (e.g., level of service, queuing) did evaluate the potential effects of the project's heavy truck traffic. For an example of supporting evidence, please refer to Table 4.12-8, Project Trip Generation, which includes project haul traffic.

Response to Comment Ind 262-9

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2.

Response to Comment Ind 262-10

With respect to potential future development of industrial uses on the proposed engineered fill pads, such projects will be required to demonstrate compliance with applicable policies, regulations, and standards set forth at the federal, State, and local level as part of obtaining necessary permit approvals before construction of such uses could commence. In addition, future development applications for industrial uses on the engineered fill pads would require separate discretionary approval, thus requiring separate CEQA environmental review. As future potential industrial uses are not a component of the proposed project, such uses are not evaluated in the DEIR.

Response to Comment Ind 262-11

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2.

Response to Comment Ind 262-12

A financial benefit analysis is not required pursuant to CEQA - please see Master Responses 1 and 2. Nevertheless, an economic analysis for the project is being prepared by the County separate from the CEQA process.

Response to Comment Ind 262-13

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR, but rather asserts that the project does not enhance Nevada County. The comment is noted for the record and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration. Please see Master Response 1.

Response to Comment Ind 262-14

Regarding alternatives, please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2. In addition, please see Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek and Master Response 36 – Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 262-15

The commenter correctly cites the significant and unavoidable impact determined by the DEIR to occur as a result of the proposed project with respect to Impact 4.1-2, which starts on page 4.1-14 of the DEIR. In its role as the lead agency, the County of Nevada will consider the information in the DEIR along with other information that may be presented to the agency in deciding whether to approve the project. Because significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified in the DEIR, for which feasible mitigation measures cannot reduce the potential impact to a less-than-



significant level, the County, should it decide to approve the proposed project, would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2.

Response to Comment Ind 262-16

Pursuant to CEQA, an EIR is required to evaluate the physical environmental impacts of the project, as proposed by the applicant. CEQA does not require an EIR to explain why the applicant is proposing certain project features. Notwithstanding, the requested heights of the proposed 64-foot-tall process plant, the proposed 165-foot-tall headframe for the Brunswick shaft, the proposed 80-foot-tall headframe for the proposed service shaft, and the proposed 50-foot-tall hoist buildings associated with the two mine shafts require a variance from the County. The County will need to make certain findings in order to approve the variance, during which time the County will consider the applicant's justification for the increased heights.

The types of machinery and equipment within each of the structures is identified throughout the DEIR as necessary (e.g., operational noise analysis). However, engineering level detail, such as actual brands and types of equipment, is not required in an EIR. (*Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 20, 26.)

Response to Comment Ind 262-17

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2.

Response to Comment Ind 262-18

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2 and 262-16.

Response to Comment Ind 262-19

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-2.

Response to Comment Ind 262-20

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-10.

Response to Comment Ind 262-21

Please see Response to Comment Ind 262-10.

Response to Comment Ind 262-22

Table 4.11-6 of the DEIR references NID's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, specifically Tables 5-1, 5-2, and 5-3. Please refer to said tables, in particular, Table 5-3, which shows that the increased water supply in multiple dry year 3 is due to carryover water storage.

Response to Comment Ind 262-23

Please see Response to Comment Ind 617-5.

Response to Comment Ind 262-24

Please see Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas.



Response to Comment Ind 262-25

As shown in Table 4.9-5, the DEIR relies upon housing unit totals and vacancy rates presented in the Nevada County 2019-2027 Housing Element Update, which is the currently adopted Housing Element for the County. As such, the data presented in Table 4.9-5 of the DEIR is sufficient.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the commenter challenges the legitimacy of the DEIR's data pertaining to housing supply and vacancy rates for the entire County, by conflating the DEIR's data with information provided in the Union newspaper for an unspecified area "locally" in western Nevada County. Thus, the sets of data cited by the commenter do not involve the same geographical area, and thus, cannot be compared in the manner in which the commenter presents the argument.

Response to Comment Ind 262-26

The commenter misinterprets the data presented in Chapter 4.12, Transportation, and Chapter 4.13, Wildfire, of the DEIR. With respect to Table 4.12-8, the 10 one-way truck trips per day apply specifically to gold concentrate-related haul traffic to the Brunswick Industrial Site. Meanwhile, the 100 round trips per day discussed on page 4.13-15 of the DEIR pertain to transport of engineered fill and represent the maximum amount of such trips that could be required. Thus, the commenter is citing different types of trips that would be expected to occur as part of the proposed project, which accordingly, would involve different trip amounts.

With respect to the discussion cited by the commenter that occurs on page 4.12-55, as detailed on pages 4.12-53 through 4.12-55 of the DEIR, an analysis of VMT from heavy truck trips is not required pursuant to SB 743 and the CEQA Guidelines and, thus, was not included in the DEIR. However, truck trips were included in the DEIR's analysis of potential project impacts related to LOS, traffic-related safety hazards, and cumulative impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 262-27

Please see Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility. It is also noted that, as stated on page 4.6-24 of the DEIR, to ensure that reclamation will proceed in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan, the County shall require as a condition of approval Security that will be released upon satisfactory performance. The applicant may pose Security in the form of a surety bond, trust fund, irrevocable letter of credit from an accredited financial institution, or other method acceptable to the County and the State Mining and Geology Board as specified in State regulations, and which the County reasonably determines are adequate to perform reclamation in accordance with the mining operation's approved Plan.

The comment has been noted for the record and forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 263

From: Gary C <ecstasy4me2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 12:57 PM
Subject: IDAHO MARYLAND/RISE GOLD MINE DEIR AND OTHER ISSUES

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are not expecting this email or don't recognize the sender, consider deleting.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

Ind 263-1	Some of the top concerns include: CONTINUING LAWSUITS AGAINST MINE OPERATORS
Ind 263-2	WILDLIFE DISRUPTION
Ind 263-3	REAL ESTATE PROPERTY VALUES DECREASING DEIR FLAT OUT MISTAKES
Ind 263-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The groundwater model has fundamental flaws in the initial start point and baseline data assumptions – all of which throw off the entire analysis.
Ind 263-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dealing with mine waste – Asbestos will be a huge and expensive problem that requires far more comprehensive management than described in the report.
Ind 263-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenhouse gas emissions - The report excluded elements that would put the project over an arbitrary threshold limit, but recent climate change goals say the threshold should be "net zero".
Ind 263-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleanup of the toxic, pre-superfund Centennial site that would be used to dump mine waste is not included in the DEIR but is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
Ind 263-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Missing construction time estimates throw off the entire analysis of noise, traffic, and air.
Ind 263-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The DEIR incorrectly assesses nighttime noise and underestimates the noise of dumping mine waste near established residential neighborhoods.
Ind 263-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air traffic hazards and aesthetic impacts need to be studied further due the likelihood of a moisture cloud plume that could be created by warm, saturated air ventilation.
Ind 263-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blasting plans don't follow U.S. mining guidelines that restrict blasting during evening hours.



Ind 263-12

- The plan doesn't demonstrate that the impact on biological and aquatic resources would be less than significant.

Ind 263-13

- Meteorological data used to assess the health risk of airborne pollutants doesn't fit Grass Valley's profile or accurately reflect local conditions

Gary cartzdafner @ grass valley



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 263: GARY CARTSDAFNER

Response to Comment Ind 263-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility.

Response to Comment Ind 263-2

Please refer to Chapter 4.3, Biological Resources, of the DEIR for more information related to wildlife disruption. The comment expresses general concerns regarding the project but does not specifically address the adequacy of the DEIR. Thus, a detailed response is neither possible nor required.

Response to Comment Ind 263-3

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Issues.

Response to Comment Ind 263-4

Please see Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model.

Response to Comment Ind 263-5

Please see Master Response 8 – Mine Waste Characterization and Master Responses 22 and 23 regarding asbestos.

Response to Comment Ind 263-6

Please see Master Response 27 – Greenhouse Gas Thresholds.

Response to Comment Ind 263-7

Please see Master Response 4 – Cleanup Project is a Separate Project Under CEQA.

Response to Comment Ind 263-8

The comment expresses a general opinion that missing construction time estimates throw off the entire analysis of noise, traffic, and air, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response. Please also see Master Response 24 – Project Construction Schedule.

Response to Comment Ind 263-9

The comment expresses a general opinion that the DEIR incorrectly assesses nighttime noise and underestimates the noise of dumping mine waste near established residential neighborhoods, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response.

Response to Comment Ind 263-10

See Response to Comment Grp 7-95.

Response to Comment Ind 263-11

The comment expresses a general opinion that blasting plans don't follow U.S. mining guidelines that restrict blasting during evening hours, but does not provide specific examples that would



allow for a detailed response. In addition, it is unclear what blasting plan, as well as what U.S. mining guidelines to which the commenter is referring. Impacts related to blasting are addressed in Chapter 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, as well as Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, of the DEIR. In its role as the lead agency, the County of Nevada will consider the information in the DEIR along with other information that may be presented to the agency in deciding whether to approve the project, including consistency with all applicable regulations regarding blasting.

Response to Comment Ind 263-12

The comment expresses a general opinion that the plan doesn't demonstrate that the impact on biological and aquatic resources would be less than significant, but does not provide specific examples that would allow for a detailed response. In addition, it is unclear what plan the commenter is referring to. As discussed in Chapter 4.4, Biological Resources, the DEIR sets forth mitigation measures to reduce the severity level of all identified impacts to less than significant.

Response to Comment Ind 263-13

Please see Master Response 17 – Meteorological Data Used in HRA.



Individual Letter 264

**IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT
DRAFT EIR COMMENT FORM**

To document the author of comments received, please provide the following information. Thank you.

Name: GARY EMANUEL

Address: 115 RUBY LEDGE CT.

Organization (if applicable): MINE WATCH

Please provide us with your written comments on the Idaho-Maryland Mine Draft EIR by **5:00 PM, April 4, 2022**. Comments may be placed in the comment box located in the back of the Board of Supervisors Chambers during the Special Public Meeting of the Nevada County Planning Commission. Written comments may also be submitted (email or hardcopy) to the address below:

**Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
Idaho.MMEIR@co.nevada.ca.us**

Ind 264-1

The Board of Supervisors needs to require Bonds to ensure that future requirements are met. The applicant has a history of failure.



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 264: GARY EMANUEL

Response to Comment Ind 264-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 3 – Operator Responsibility. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 265

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new wells to provide a strong economic future for the county and for decades to Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive neighborhood that respects our natural environment while creating over 60 once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

NO MINE

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in the county with an average expected annual earnings of more than \$42,000. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related services. The project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County families and help build stable and prosperous communities.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has an innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors to help start our local economy by strongly supporting the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) GARY & CHRISTINE G

Address 11010 Gold Hill Drive

Phone _____

Email Address griffith_nys@sbcg

Ind
265-1

Dist 3



Mine

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RIFATH
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global.net



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 265: GARY AND CHRISTINE GRIFFITH

Response to Comment Ind 265-1

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/Administrative Issues. The comment has been noted for the record and will be forwarded to the decisionmakers as part of their consideration of the proposed project.



Individual Letter 266

Nevada County Planning Commission
& Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Attn: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
Ph: 530 265-1423
matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

3/30/2022

**Comments on the draft Environmental Report for the proposed
Idaho-Maryland Mine**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the adequacy of this long, complex document. My wife, Christine & I have been residents of Nevada County at 11010 Gold Hill Drive for 23 years, working locally as teachers at the Nevada City School of the Arts. Our neighborhood is directly adjacent to the Empire Mine Historical State Park, situated on the ridge that ends at the Brunswick site and stands opposite the Centennial site discussed in the proposal. We are less than a ¼ mile away from the mineral rights boundary of this project, ½ mile from the Centennial site and just under a mile from the Brunswick site. So, it is fair to say that this proposed project is right in our backyard.

Ind 266-1

During our years living here, we have become very familiar with the 'Area of Projected Impact' that the proposed mine would operate within. We walk and ride in the 'Union Hill' portion of the state park. We visit the meadow that encloses the South Fork of Wolf Creek at all seasons, even skiing there after the occasional heavy snow storm. My daughter grew up going to that creek, in the forested section of the state park upstream of the meadow and downstream of the Brunswick site, a place we can walk to from our house. We frequently drive East Bennett, Brunswick, Idaho-Maryland and Whispering Pine roads making errands or visiting friends. 18 years ago I began monitoring the water quality of South Fork Wolf Creek, for its turbidity, its flow, its nitrates, pH, TDS and dissolved oxygen, walking reaches of the stream, documenting its sinuosity of flow, its diverse flora and its wildlife. I've worked with the state park on restoration projects in the meadow, taken students from my 5th Grade class there, to sketch, measure, observe, and cut back blackberry thickets. All this area close to me is home in an intimate,



↑ shared way. Neighbors meet on the trails and compare notes about the latest bear sightings or the arrival of spring migrating birds. People walk their dogs or help an elderly relative up and down the forested hill at the end of our street. Taken together, we all feel how precious and irreplaceable this area is, aesthetically, for our health, and for the forest, stream and meadow species that inhabit them.

It is with this eye that I read the DEIR, with my science teacher and naturalist background, but really as a long-term resident who calls the wider area where we walk, ride and travel daily our home. And how does the DEIR fare in that analysis? As a complex, intensely technical document that somehow in spite of its many pages repeatedly does its best to ignore or downplay many of the potential impacts that could hinder its proposed project.

Here are some of the ways in which the DEIR feels inadequate:

1) Cultural and Tribal Resources. Although the chapter in the DEIR states that letters were sent to tribal groups without response and that no archeological survey was considered necessary, it is well-known locally that the 'area of potential impact' as delineated in chapter 5 contains both sites of cultural significance and archeological sites important to the Nisenan people. I know of two bedrock mortars (grinding rocks) within the Bennett Street Grassland area. They are also known to the State Park and many of the people who visit that part of the South Fork. If one walks over to the bus stop in downtown Grass Valley there are large public displays about Wolf Creek, one of which shows Nisenan village sites, shared in consultation with the local Nisenan, one on the main stem of Wolf Creek near the Centennial site, the other on South Fork Wolf Creek, somewhere close to the Brunswick site. Other traditional and archeological sites doubtless exist in the area. Yet the DEIR is not successful in finding any. Wolf Creek Community Alliance has had a working relationship with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe for years and have collaborated with them on a number of projects. To say that they did not respond to an email or letter is not enough, especially when it is common, public knowledge that tribal resources exist in the area. The DEIR needs to include archeological surveys of the two sites and the area of projected impact. The DEIR also needs to include full consultation with indigenous tribes.

Ind 266-2



Ind 266-3	2) <u>Aesthetics</u> — The draft does little to account for the importance of recreation and the impact the project would have on that. Many of the trails in the state park are very much in the ‘airshed’ or ‘viewshed’ of the two project sites. The DEIR doesn’t address seriously the aesthetic
Ind 266-4	impact to state park visitors or to the many in neighborhoods who regularly take informal trails in the area, listen to birds, or exercise. The DEIR should look not just at scenic vistas, but also visual and noise
Ind 266-5	impacts and its impact on park visitors or neighbors given that the area of projected impact is a crucial recreational area for the community.
Ind 266-6	3) Related to this is <u>Noise</u> . The ridge-top on which many of the “Union Hill” trails in the state park are located are elevated above or at a height equal to the two proposed mine sites. The analysis of noise doesn’t appear to take that into account or measure impacts from those elevated locations. My house, for example, being right on Gold Hill Drive, following the top of the ridge, makes it so that we hear very clearly any of the extra-loud noises of the surrounding area. The noises that stand out, such as the work at the Loma Rica development right now, or the roar of a motorcycle going up Hwy 20, do not fade into the background. They disrupt one’s attention, and if frequent enough annoy and actually lessen our well-being. That mine noise will somehow be less than the noise background is now, makes no sense. The DEIR should better analyze the presence and frequency of distracting noises that cut through the background. Yes, the DEIR admits this will be a significant issue during construction - which, by the way, seems quite serious as it is projected to last somewhere between six months and two years. There should be something in the DEIR that limits or penalizes the applicant if their ‘significant and unavoidable’ construction noise goes on past a certain timeline. Beyond that, the DEIR should discuss limiting the permitted hours for this noise to match neighborhood patterns, for example, stopping operational noise after 5 pm. Further, the idea that mining operation noise would be just below the level of annoyance or somehow under what county ordinance permits is offensive in that it doesn’t address the cumulative impact of day to day, yearlong, decade-long noise levels. At one point in the Biological Resources section the draft suggests that birds subjected to the constant noise will be able to ‘adapt.’ Humans in the area of the mine shouldn’t be judged in that way and told that there will be no significant impact, or that they can adapt to the increases. The DEIR
Ind 266-7	
Ind 266-8	
Ind 266-9	
Ind 266-10	



	needs a more detailed, human-oriented analysis of noise impacts that doesn't just apply to ordinances and overall sound levels.
Ind 266-11	4) <u>Biological Resources</u> . The biological surveys in the DEIR are incomplete and need to be redone. Surveys for plants are done out of blooming season for species of special concern. Surveys for amphibians are based on single walks down streams. Deer are not observed and so their movement through the area as well as their fawning or feeding areas are not accounted for. The biological richness of the area in many ways is better known by locals than by the surveyors, who seem mostly intent on NOT finding species of special concern that might hinder the project.
Ind 266-12	The same can be said for the description and characterization of the South Fork Wolf Creek. I have monitored the stream for 18 years for Wolf Creek Community Alliance. The South Fork is a perennial stream starting above Brunswick Road. Trout have been observed from that point above Brunswick through a number of stream reaches, including the Bennett Street Grassland reach, all the way to its confluence with Wolf Creek. Although obviously disturbed and degraded in sections (mostly by previous mining!) in the two sections that run through the state park there is a great diversity and richness of species. Stately old madrones, alders, ash, native walnut, cottonwood and douglas fir grow along the banks, along with the uncommon pacific yew. Birds are abundant, and well-documented by the Gold Country Avian Society bird banding project at the Grassland. The benthic Macroinvertebrate (BMI) collections done in the South Fork by Wolf Creek Community Alliance (WCCA) have consistently scored the highest in richness and abundance of sensitive species compared to any other sites tested in the watershed. Yet, the DEIR doesn't include any hydrological data for the forest reach of the South Fork where WCCA has its monitoring site. The biological memo for South Fork doesn't include any survey of the grassland reach. And not a single survey of BMI is done to create a
Ind 266-13	baseline for stream aquatic ecology health. This is the stream the
Ind 266-14	project proposes to flood with treated mine water for 80 years. The
Ind 266-15	DEIR should include much more biological analysis for the stream, starting with a baseline of biological conditions along the whole creek, from its headwaters above Brunswick Road down through the grassland
Ind 266-16	reach. Surveys should be thorough and undertaken at the correct seasons, for blooming, breeding and nesting. Trail cameras should record movement of animals, such as the deer the DEIR doesn't



- Ind 266-17 observe, in order to understand the real extent of the biological resources potentially impacted by the project. Actual noise data that relates to impacts to birds and other species needs to be done, not simply reference to selected studies that create a biased picture of minimal impacts. The lack of effort in these regards is really appalling.
- Ind 266-18
- Ind 266-19 5) Related to possible impacts to streams due to the proposed project is, of course, the bigger question of water impacts themselves. Although the hydrological chapter goes to great length to attempt to show that a zone of low transmissivity exists below a certain depth and that well water levels have not varied much from dry to wet season, and that the fractured rock below ground is uniform enough to predict very low drawdowns of groundwater, none of the analysis is very convincing. The DEIR needs to more honestly factor in uncertainty. It needs to do water samples in other locations than the Brunswick Mine Shaft to get a better picture of the chemical composition of water underground. It needs to sample more wells over a longer period of time. And all of its conclusions need to be re-considered in the context of an 80 year period (how can a permit of such length be granted?) which is predicted to see increased wildfire, increased periods of drought, and increased episodes of extreme weather events. Water is life, especially in California. NID, our local water agency is currently undertaking an overall review of its water supply and water delivery for the future, with a very active concern for its ability to continue to supply water into the future due to both climate change and increasingly impactful new regulations guaranteeing delta stream flows downstream and applying water rights to groundwater. The DEIR doesn't include any of these crucial considerations. In this sense the DEIR is not just inadequate. It is actually dangerous. It endangers our water security by ignoring future impacts. A full analysis of these future impacts needs to be included.
- Ind 266-20
- Ind 266-21
- Ind 266-22
- Ind 266-23
- Ind 266-24 6) Traffic. The report states that traffic impacts would be significant and unavoidable at one intersection. That is impact enough. Reading the chapter on traffic, however, I feel that other significant impacts are not sufficiently discounted. I find the many abstract intersection charts and calculations to be divorced from my everyday experience as a driver. How many trucks will I encounter on average driving to do errands or other trips? How will the roads themselves be impacted due to the 100 truck trips a day? How will it feel on Whispering Pine after it has been widened to accommodate the daily truck traffic heading to the



	<p>Centennial site to dump mine rock? My sense is that there would be significant impacts on all the roads locally that RiseGold would use for transporting hazardous materials, for refueling, for conveying waste mine rock, or even due to employee trips on the roads. The DEIR needs to go beyond the very technical intersection studies to show what impacts there would be not in terms of technical attainment numbers, but in terms of community driver experience. How much longer will it take to get to our destinations due to the increased traffic? How often will we be sitting behind trucks smelling their fumes?</p>
Ind 266-25	<p>Related to this are two critical questions I also don't see addressed satisfactory in the DEIR. The first is infrastructure. Yes, the applicant will pay their fair share of road improvements, but how much additional maintenance and repair will be needed due to 80 years of heavy truck use and will the applicant be required to pay for it? Even if payment is guaranteed, we are still talking about extensive traffic delays over long periods of time, both for initial road realignments and needed repair and maintenance. Generally, I feel that 80 years of increased traffic as described would have significant impacts on road infrastructure and I don't see that fully addressed. In this regard</p>
Ind 266-26	<p>cumulative impacts including increased residential development at the the approved Loma Rica project, the proposed Pine Hill project on East Bennett, and doubtless others over the 80 years lifetime of the project need to be considered. Detailed analysis of the cumulative impacts of all this needs to be included.</p>
Ind 266-27	<p>Finally, there is the crucial question of evacuate routes. This needs to be carefully studied and not simply dismissed as insignificant. Everyone living here locally is acutely aware of their primary and secondary evacuation routes and recognize this as a matter of life and death. Additional traffic on roads, or bottle-necks can lead to situations where people are stuck on the roadway in the path of an approaching fire. Careful study and analysis of the slowdowns and bottle-necks potentially caused by truck traffic on-route and employee evacuation needs to be presented in the DEIR. These scenarios should also include situations where trucks carrying hazardous or explosive materials are involved.</p>
Ind 266-28	<p>7) <u>Health and Hazards</u>. The DEIR includes many mitigations that promise to reduce health issues and hazards to "less than significant" levels. The DEIR should analyze those mitigations more thoroughly, instead of simply stating that permits or regulations will be followed.</p>



Ind 266-29	More explanation of those mitigation plans should be included IN the report, not promised for later. Additional monitoring, tables for fines, and triggers for operation shut-down should be included. Specific funding analysis to ensure that all this is made possible should be identified.
Ind 266-30	
Ind 266-31	
Ind 266-32	
Ind 266-33	Mechanisms allowing for public access to real-time data analyzing water and air quality, sampling for asbestos and silica should be detailed in the DEIR. Tracking of hazardous materials should also be included. As a citizen, I start with a skeptical view of any industries ability to eliminate or safeguard against health hazards. The DEIR is not convincing in eliminating that skepticism. Much more additional description of proposed measures, along with additional ones, is needed in order for any of us to feel safe living close to this proposed mine.
Ind 266-34	
Ind 266-35	8) <u>Energy and Greenhouse Gas impacts</u> . Climate change is an existential crisis for the whole planet. Our national government, the state and our county have all created goals for meeting that challenge. Fundamentally that included less burning of fossil fuels and lower energy use. Yet the applicants proposal would significantly increase both of these. The goals set forth in Nevada County's Energy Action Plan would be severely undermined. Yet the DEIR does not mention this or see it as a problem. The DEIR needs to address this. Buying carbon offsets does nothing to solve that problem. Also, the very calculation for GHG emissions and offsets needs to be re-examined. Do calculations take into account all sources of emissions, including those caused by the creation of materials needed for the project? Do calculations underestimate the GHG impact of various mine activities. In independent review is needed here. In any case, purchasing carbon offset credits should be be seen as adequately addressing state goals of reducing not just offsetting emissions. The county, in its assessment of this project needs to take seriously the impacts large industrial projects such as the once proposed here would have on combating climate change. This DEIR does not do this.
Ind 266-36	
Ind 266-37	
Ind 266-38	
Ind 266-39	9) Cumulative Impacts. Last, but hardly least, I continually come up against the absurdity of a project with so many potential impacts being permitted for 80 years. We are talking about the year 2102, or later, a period of four generations, the 22nd century, a time of significant unknowns. As a county it should be prudent to only consider a permit of much shorter length. 5 years to see if the applicant can follow through



on its many commitments to mitigate impacts. Perhaps 10 years or 20 at the outside. I read that the applicant needs an 80 year permit to prove profitability. That really should not affect the communities reasonable need to protect itself against the many probable or unforeseen impacts this project could have in spite of the most optimistically written EIR. That really should not cause us to state that, given the predicted increases in drought, wildfire and extreme weather events, an 80 year permit is unacceptable, unacceptable because it involves too much risk of too much impact. The DEIR appears to think that little if anything will change in 80 years and does not consider the dramatic changes that science, that government predicts. The DEIR needs to fully address the potential impact involved in permitting a project for 80 years. It should analyze the cumulative nature of impacts that project could cause in 20 years, 40 years, 60 years, 80 years, and consider alternative versions of the project that are not longer (!) as one of the 4 alternatives suggests, but SHORTER.

Ind 266-40

Dear planning commission and board of supervisors. Clearly, this proposal if approved in any fashion would have profound impacts on our country. I ask that you task the reviewers and writers of this DEIR to improve its analysis, include missing elements that should be included, and seriously rather than minimally address the real potential impacts of the project. Thank you for your time and your work to keep the community I live in a beautiful, healthy place to live, for all of us and our children's children's children.

Sincerely,

Gary Griffith
11010 Gold Hill Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Nevada County



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 266: GARY GRIFFITH

Response to Comment Ind 266-1

Comment noted. This is an introductory comment and does not provide a comment on an environmental issue associated with the project, but has been forwarded to the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 266-2

Please see responses to Group Letter 14. In addition, as noted in DEIR section 4.5.4, and Appendix G, a Historic Properties Inventory and Finding of Effect report included a cultural records search, literature review, consultation with the Nevada County Landmark Commission, consultation with the NAHC, and a field survey. The commenter mentions two tribal resources that are not on the project site, and would not be impacted by the project.

Response to Comment Ind 266-3

The comment infers that use of parks, public lands, and trails in the area may be impacted because users will see impacts on the views from these publicly available facilities. The commenter does not identify any trails, public facilities or lands or parks located in the vicinity of the project site, or any that may be impacted by the project. The nearest trail to the project area is the Loma Rica Trail running north-south along Brunswick Road from Loma Rica Drive north to Bubbling Wells Road; additionally, the edge of Empire Mine SHP is approximately 850 feet from the boundary of the Brunswick Site. (DEIR p. 4.11-8.) However, the distance from that nearest trail to the proposed project's noise-generating operations within the Brunswick Site is over 2,500 feet. The nearest trail within the Empire Mine SHP is nearly half a mile, or approximately 2,250 feet, from the nearest proposed noise-generating activities within the Centennial Site. The project site is surrounded by undeveloped forested land, industrial, rural residential development and commercial uses. (DEIR p. 4.1-1; see also Table 3-2.) As part of the Aesthetics Technical Study, public viewer groups and vantage points from the surrounding area were considered to assess how the public would perceive changes in site conditions associated with the proposed project. The vantage points include public views considered to be the most visually sensitive locations. The commenter does not name any park, trail or public land that has a view of the project site. None of the parks or trails in the general vicinity of the project have line-of-sight to either the project site or any anticipated project operations, and the views from any of the listed facilities would not be impacted by the project. (DEIR p. 4.11-8)

Response to Comment Ind 266-4

Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/ Administrative and Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts, regarding quality of life concerns.

Response to Comment Ind 266-5

Please see Response to Comment Ind 266-3 above regarding aesthetics impacts to user of trails and park visitors.

The comment infers that use of parks, public lands, hiking, equestrian and mountain biking trails in the area may be impacted by noise. The commenter does not identify any trails, public facilities or lands or parks located in the vicinity of the project site, or any that may be impacted by the project. The nearest trail to the project area is the Loma Rica Trail running north-south along Brunswick Road from Loma Rica Drive north to Bubbling Wells Road, additionally, the edge of Empire Mine SHP is approximately 850 feet from the boundary of the Brunswick Site. (DEIR p. 4.11-8.) However, the distance from that nearest trail to the proposed project's noise-generating operations within the Brunswick Site is over 2,500 feet. The nearest trail within the Empire Mine



SHP is nearly half a mile, or approximately 2,250 feet, from the nearest proposed noise-generating activities within the Centennial Site. The DEIR analyzed other sensitive receptors located much closer to the noise-generating aspects of the proposed project than the State Park; and these closer receptors were determined to be less than significantly impacted by project noise generation. Accordingly, more distant receptors, including the Empire Mine SHP trail network, or the Loma Rica Trail would similarly be less than significantly impacted by project noise generation. The Loma Rica Trail runs near the County airport and would be much more impacted by the noise from air traffic and the nearby industrial park than the project. DEIR Figures 4.10-7 and 4.10-8 show that both daytime and nighttime noise generation of operations at the Brunswick Site would be well below 40 dBA at the Empire Mine site. DEIR Table 4.10-4 (General Plan Noise Element Exterior Noise Limits) shows that the County's noise standard applicable to recreation use is 70 dBA Leq during the hours in which the park would be open to the public (i.e., 7 am - 7 pm). As such, the project's noise level of less than 40 dBA at the park site from Brunswick operations would be more than 30 dBA **below** the County's noise standard applicable to recreation uses. At the portions of the Empire Mine SHP nearest to the Centennial Site, predicted daytime noise levels are 27 dBA at the grasslands and 22 dBA at the nearest trail within the park. (DEIR Figures 4.10-7 and 4.10-8.) The noise levels at both locations are well below the County's 70 dBA daytime noise level standard. As a result, the Empire Mine SHP and the Loma Rica Trail, which are the only public recreational facilities somewhat near the project site, would not be adversely impacted by noise from operations at the Centennial Site.

Response to Comment Ind 266-6

As discussed on page 5 of the project's Noise and Vibration Assessment (DEIR Appendix L), audibility is very subjective and can vary from person to person. Thus, audibility is not used as a significance criteria in evaluating noise impacts. In addition, a noise source can be audible without a substantial increase in ambient noise levels occurring. It is important to note that residents in the general project area, including the City of Grass Valley, are currently exposed to noise from existing trucks on the area roadway network, as well as noise from automobile traffic, all of which are audible. An extensive ambient noise survey was undertaken for the project's noise impact assessment to establish baseline ambient conditions to ensure that any identified substantial noise level increases above those ambient conditions would be identified as significant and that appropriate noise mitigation measures would be developed.

The noise prediction model used to quantify the transmission of sound from the project area to the surrounding areas accounts for topography, atmospheric conditions, ground cover, shielding by intervening buildings, noise attenuation provided by building walls and ceilings, and vegetation (see pages 5-7 of DEIR Appendix L). Local topographic survey data was imported to develop a 3-dimensional model of not only the project site but the surrounding neighborhoods as well. (DEIR 4.10-23.) Accordingly, contrary to the commenter's assertion, the sound analysis did take into account topographical variation such as the referenced ridge top. Reverberation (echo) can occur when sound impacts a reflective surface. However, vegetated ground with extensive tree cover, such as that present in the project vicinity, tends to be acoustically absorptive rather than reflective. (DEIR 4.10-24.) Where sounds can be heard over long distances, that phenomenon is frequently attributable to either a lack of intervening topography, vegetation, and ground cover between the source and receiver, or atmospheric conditions conducive to sound propagation. Such conditions are not anticipated to occur due to reflections or echoes at locations with soft ground, irregular topography, and extensive tree cover.



Response to Comment Ind 266-7

The significant and unavoidable construction noise impact is limited to receptors proximate to the East Bennett Road water pipeline construction area. The DEIR made the reasonable assumption that these limited construction activities would be complete within approximately 6 months. The County is not required to speculate as to whether potable water pipeline construction would extend beyond these reasonable estimates. Nevertheless, the comment has been forwarded to the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 266-8

The comment is unclear but appears to suggest that project operational noise should stop at 5pm. The commenter's request is noted and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers. The requested hours of operation, as noted in Table 3-7 of the DEIR, have been evaluated in this DEIR, and potential effects of such operational hours are evaluated throughout the technical chapters of the DEIR. For example, Chapter 4.10, Noise and Vibration, found that the project's operational noise would be below applicable County noise standards, using reasonable assumptions. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.10-3.2 requires implementation of a comprehensive noise monitoring program to ensure that the project's noise levels satisfy the County's noise standards once the project is operational and monitoring can be conducted. Specifically, the measure requires the following: "A comprehensive noise survey shall be conducted of each facet of the operation to both verify the modelling assumptions of the project noise analysis...and to ensure that compliance with the applicable Nevada County noise standards is being achieved at nearby sensitive receptors...If the results indicate that the County noise standards are being exceeded either by individual equipment or processes, or cumulative noise generation of the entire facility, operations shall cease until additional engineering controls can be implemented as needed. Such measures could take the form of noise barriers, installation of sound absorbing materials, use of additional silencers, etc.". The noise monitoring measurements will provide a safeguard for the residents, the County and the applicant in ensuring the project's noise generation will be maintained at acceptable levels.

Response to Comment Ind 266-9

Please see Response to Comment Ind 266-8 above.

Response to Comment Ind 266-10

Please see Response to Comment Ind 266-8.

Response to Comment Ind 266-11

Please see Master Response 30 – Biological Technical Study Adequacy, Master Response 31 – Rare Plant Surveys, and Master Response 38 - Foothill Yellow Legged Frog and California Red Legged Frog regarding surveys conducted, timing, and peer review.

Migration corridors, including deer migration, was analyzed in DEIR Impact 4.4-4.

Response to Comment Ind 266-12

The DEIR contains voluminous baseline surface water quality data. The baseline surface water quality data are described within Section 3.4.1.2 and presented in Tables 3.5 through 3.10 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR. The baseline data include results from samples collected from the underground workings, from drains that discharge water from the underground workings, from Wolf Creek, and from South Fork Wolf Creek. The results include field parameters, general water chemistry parameters, and metals. In particular, Table 3-8 of Appendix K.2 contains pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), electrical conductivity, and oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) measurements from three locations along South Fork Wolf Creek and two locations on the



former SPI site that discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek. Table 3-8 of Appendix K.2 presents laboratory analytical results for 18 general water chemistry parameters and 19 different metals from two samples collected along South Fork Wolf Creek at locations that will be upstream and downstream of the proposed treated water discharge location.

Table 3-10 of Appendix K.2 provides field measurements of flow, temperature, specific conductance, pH, and turbidity for two locations (upstream and downstream) along South Fork Wolf Creek, measured during five different storm flow conditions, including summer baseflow, early-season post-storm (comparable to first-flush) flows, winter baseflow, rising flows during a “qualifying rain event of 1.25 inches, and peak flows during the same “qualifying rain event”. Additional details regarding flow conditions and baseline water quality conditions in South Fork Wolf Creek are also provided in Appendix K.1 of the DEIR.

Further analysis of the baseline water quality data is provided in Section 3.4.2 of Appendix K.2 of the DEIR. In particular, data from South Fork Wolf Creek are presented on Figures 3-12 and 3-19 while the baseline data from the underground workings, drains, and Wolf Creek are presented on Figures 3-12 through 3-18.

Please also see Master Response 36 – Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek, Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, Master Response 34 – Resident Fish, and Master Response 32 – Temperature of Mine Water Discharge. Regarding benthic macroinvertebrates, please see Response to Comment Grp 31-12.

Response to Comment Ind 266-13

The commenter does not specifically state which biological technical study should have a “survey of the grassland reach.” Significant biological analysis of the project site and surrounding area was conducted to prepared DEIR Chapter 4.4. Please see Master Response 30 – Biological Technical Study Adequacy and Response to Comment Grp 31-12 regarding BMI.

Response to Comment Ind 266-14

Please see Master Response 36 – Flows in South Fork Wolf Creek, Master Response 35 – Discharge to South Fork Wolf Creek, and Master Response 32 – Temperature of Mine Water Discharge describing groundwater treatment and discharge into South Fork Wolf Creek.

Response to Comment Ind 266-15

The biological study included surveys of the project site, offsite surveys where applicable, local professional expertise, and review of various databases to generate data sufficient to understand potential biological impacts. Areas that will not be impacted by a project do not need to be surveyed just because they are somehow “connected” to the property unless there is a potential for the project to impact that resource. Please see Master Response 30 – Biological Technical Study Adequacy and responses to Group Letter 2.

Response to Comment Ind 266-16

Please see Master Response 30 – Biological Technical Study Adequacy, Master Response 31 – Rare Plants, and Master Response 37 – Birds and Raptors.

Response to Comment Ind 266-17

The commenter states that trail cameras should be used to observe movement of animals such as deer. The CEQA guidelines require analysis of substantial interference to “the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.” Migration is defined as the seasonal movement of animals from one habitat to another. Various animal, bird, and fish



species are not automatically considered migratory just because they move from one location to another. Migration serves a purpose for the species such as winter/summer habitat for foraging or breeding. It is acknowledged and analyzed in the DEIR impact analysis (see section 4.4.4) that species exist within the project site that are common to the area. Potential impacts to these species were analyzed and mitigation measures have been provided where it was determined impacts to species could occur as a result of project activities, including the implementation of preconstruction surveys and agency permitting requirements. The only migratory species acknowledged by the County General Plan is deer migration corridors. Impact 4.4-4 addressed the project's impact to this potential migratory corridor and concluded it would be less than significant.

Response to Comment Ind 266-18

As discussed in DEIR section 4.10.2, ambient noise monitoring was conducted at twelve locations surrounding the project site (see Figure 4.10-2). The results of the noise monitoring were presented in Table 4.10-1. The commenter provides no information why the noise monitoring conducted for this project, which documents ambient conditions, should differ for animals. DEIR impact 4.4-2, subsection Wildlife Disturbance, addressed potential noise and nighttime lighting impacts on wildlife populations and found the potential impact less than significant.

Response to Comment Ind 266-19

The hydrology analysis presented in the DEIR was prepared by a qualified expert and peer reviewed by the County's own independent hydrogeological expert. Please see Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model.

Response to Comment Ind 266-20

Please see Response to Comment Ind 266-12 above.

Response to Comment Ind 266-21

Please see Response to Comment Ind 266-12 above. In addition, please see Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, for an updated description of the proposed monitoring approach, which now also includes a proposal by the applicant to monitor domestic water wells within or nearby the predicted 1-ft drawdown isopleth of the project. These 378 properties are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 of Master Response 15. To provide property owners additional assurance, a condition of approval will be imposed on the project requiring this domestic well monitoring.

Response to Comment Ind 266-22

The comment appears to request additional analysis regarding future conditions as a result of climate change. Please see Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 266-23

The commenter asserts that the DEIR should analyze the changing environment due to climate change and future regulations regarding delta stream flows. Please see Chapter 4.8 and Appendix N of the DEIR and Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 266-24

Comment noted. DEIR Chapter 4.12 is primarily based on the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) prepared for the proposed project (see Appendix O). The TIA's methodology, intersection and road segments for analysis, and significance criteria were appropriately based on Nevada County, City of Grass Valley, and CalTrans guidance. The commenter does not identify any specific issues with the traffic analysis as presented in the DEIR.



Response to Comment Ind 266-25

As required under Mitigation Measure 4.12-6(g), the applicant is required to enter into road maintenance agreements with both Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley. The TIA analyzed seven different level of service scenarios, including three related to future cumulative conditions. These scenarios included cumulative no project, cumulative plus project (scenario #1), and cumulative plus project (scenario #2). These scenarios account for reasonably foreseeable future growth and are described in DEIR section 4.12.4 and Impact 4.12-9.

Response to Comment Ind 266-26

A detailed analysis of cumulative impacts is provided throughout the technical chapters of the DEIR. Please refer to Chapter 5, Statutorily Required Sections, for a map (Figure 5-1) and list of projects included in the cumulative scenario, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15130.

Response to Comment Ind 266-27

Please see Master Response 5 – Evacuation Routes.

Response to Comment Ind 266-28

Compliance with a regulatory permit or other similar process may be identified as mitigation if compliance would result in implementation of measures that would be reasonably expected, based on substantial evidence in the record, to reduce the significant impact to the specified performance standards (CCR Title 14 Section 15126.4).

Response to Comment Ind 266-29

Please see Response to Comment Ind 266-28 above.

Response to Comment Ind 266-30

A mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and is included as Chapter 4 of this Final EIR. The mitigation measures and conditions of approval will be enforced by the County. To the extent the applicant receives permits from other state and federal agencies, those agencies will be responsible for their enforcement.

Response to Comment Ind 266-31

CEQA requires an analysis of the project's impact to the environment. An analysis of the Applicant's financial feasibility is not required by CEQA. Please see Master Response 1 – Non-EIR/ Administrative Issues and Master Response 2 – Social and Economic Impacts.

Response to Comment Ind 266-32

Any compliance documents associated with permit monitoring and submitted to the applicable agency will be considered a public record and available to the public for review.

Response to Comment Ind 266-33

DEIR Chapter 4.7 analyzed potential hazardous materials impacts associated with the project. As outlined in DEIR section 4.7.3, the County Environmental Health Department is responsible for County programs regulating the storing and handling of hazardous materials. As stated in DEIR section 4.7.3, the County's hazardous material program includes:

“regulating hazardous materials business plans and chemical inventory, hazardous materials storage, hazardous materials management plans, and risk management plans. The hazardous materials business plan program requires businesses in Nevada County to prepare plans detailing facility information, a hazardous materials inventory, and an emergency response plan if hazardous materials storage equals or exceeds minimum reportable quantities.”



Mitigation Measure 4.7-1(d) requires the applicant to submit a hazardous business plan to the County for review and approval prior to any transport, storage, or use of hazardous materials.

Response to Comment Ind 266-34

The comment does not address the adequacy of the DEIR and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers.

Response to Comment Ind 266-35

Please see Master Response 25 – Nevada County Energy Action Plan, regarding the project’s consistency with this plan.

Please also see Master Response 27 – Greenhouse Gas Thresholds, Master Response 28 – Greenhouse Gas Credits, and Master Response 16 – Drought and Climate Change.

Response to Comment Ind 266-36

Please see Response to Comment Ind 266-35 above.

Response to Comment Ind 266-37

The air quality and greenhouse gas analysis was independently reviewed by the County environmental consultant prior to preparation of the DEIR.

Contrary to the commenters assertion, Mitigation Measure 4.3-7(b) requires the project to retire carbon offsets in a quantity sufficient to offset the project’s greenhouse gas emissions to a less than significant level. Please see Master Response 27 – Greenhouse Gas Thresholds, and Master Response 28 – Greenhouse Gas Credits.

Response to Comment Ind 266-38

The DEIR does address climate change, without entering in speculation, and the context of the project and the County relating to the global impact. (see DEIR Chapter 4.3.)

Response to Comment Ind 266-39

As identified in CEQA Guidelines section 15125, the environmental analysis presented in the DEIR should normally compare physical environmental conditions as they exist at the time of the Notice of Preparation. The DEIR analyzed the project’s potential impacts consistent with this requirement in addition to reviewing potentially significant cumulative impacts based on known or planned development in the region. CEQA Guidelines section 15130 requires an EIR discuss cumulative impacts of a proposed project. Cumulative impacts are considered impacts created because of the combination of the proposed project with reasonably foreseeable future projects. DEIR section 5.3 summarizes the cumulative impacts analysis, and each resource analysis includes an analysis of cumulative impacts specific to that resource.

Response to Comment Ind 266-40

The comment generally expresses concerns related to the project and the DEIR, and has been forwarded to the decisionmakers for their consideration.



Individual Letter 267

From: ghp2013@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Idaho MMEIR
Subject: Mine Environmental Impact Comments

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are not expecting this email or don't recognize the sender, consider deleting.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

Please enter the following comments for the record:

Ind 267-1

The draft Environmental Impact Report does not sufficiently address the risks related to hydrology in the immediate area of the mine. The geology in the area is known for numerous random (and unmapped) fractures in to local bedrock. Without a detailed knowledge of these fractures, the consequences of de-watering the Idaho-Maryland Mine cannot be known.

Ind 267-2

Within a 5-mile radius of the mine, many houses are dependent on family-owned water wells. The proposed de-watering of the mine could easily result in the inadvertent reduction of the water table or the complete dewatering of water wells on surrounding properties.

Ind 267-3

Although the project proposes to provide NID as an alternative source in this event, this is insufficient. The quality of NID water is inferior to family wells in this area. And, furthermore building the infrastructure required to distribute NID water in this area would be very costly and difficult. Many residences are located away from main roads, along unimproved private roads. Such an installation of NID water service would present numerous legal issues, destructive of private property and in some cases completely impractical.

We respectfully request that this EIR be rejected.

Sincerely,

GARY and TINA SPRIGGS
13480 Lower Anchor Ln
Grass Valley CA 95945
Ghp2013@gmail.com



INDIVIDUAL LETTER 267: GARY AND TINA SPRIGGS

Response to Comment Ind 267-1

The commenter states that the DEIR does not sufficiently address impacts to groundwater because there are random and unmapped fractures. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 267-2

The commenter states that the project will adversely affect private wells but does not state how the DEIR is inadequate. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas, Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

Response to Comment Ind 267-3

The commenter states that the provision of NID water is inadequate because NID water is inferior to private well water but provides no evidence to substantiate this claim. The commenter also states that extending NID service to properties near the project is impractical. The commenter is referred to Chapter 4.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality), Master Response 7 – Location of Future Mining Areas, Master Response 14 – Adequacy of Groundwater Model, and Master Response 15 – Adequacy of Groundwater Monitoring Wells.

The Well Mitigation Plan (Appendix K.9 of the DEIR) has been modified and is attached to the Final EIR as Appendix D. More detail on actions and potential mitigations, is provided in the modified Well Mitigation Plan and mitigation of wells outside the E. Bennett area may not include a connection to NID potable water supply.

Drinking water supplied to Nevada Irrigation District (NID) customers meets and exceeds state and federal public health standards, based on testing results that serve as the basis for the District's Water Quality Report. (see <https://www.nidwater.com/files/1e68c2c9b/NID+WQR+2021.pdf>)

