

October 30, 2015

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Attention: Julia Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board

Re: North Star Mine – Water Treatment Project

Gentlemen:

We have recently been reading about the above referenced proposed Project apparently approved by the Nevada County Planning Department and Planning Commission. We understand that this project entails two very large ponds to be located along Wolf Creek and another wet-land pond to be placed across the road (Allison Ranch Road) from the two others. These ponds are to contain Toxic Waste Water pumped out of the Mine(s) Located all over the hill above Wolf Creek.

After reading several versions of what is to be done in this project, we gathered that the purpose of these exposed ponds are to stop the mine water from contaminating the local ground water which has been going on for many years.

Since we own a home in the neighborhood and are long time residents of Grass Valley we are concerned about having Exposed Toxic Ponds in our vicinity and more importantly, having them placed along Wolf Creek, which sounds, putting it mildly, "insane". Why would anyone put exposed toxic waste water ponds next to a natural creek OR FOR THAT MATTER ANYWHERE NEAR PEOPLE AND ANIMALS? The Allison Ranch Road area is surrounded by private homes, shopping centers, Fairgrounds and downtown Grass Valley shops, restaurants, and tourists.

I am 19 years of age and am very upset about this proposed project and want to know what a community Planning Department and their Planning Commission is thinking in letting a project like this take place in an area concentrated with families, business abundant wildlife and is heavily dependent upon tourist trade.

I rode my bike along Allison Ranch Road and inspected from the road the North Star Mine property and found that it is need of a great deal of maintenance and is a very large property. I suggest that the mining company proposing this project on the North Star property re-think

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cc: All BOS
Planning
Counsel
CEO

where they place these ponds as they have an enormous amount of property that would serve our community much better than along Wolf Creek.

There are already two existing ponds along Wolf Creek that belong to Grass Valley's water treatment plant that is already a nuisance as there have been many spills and horrible smells from that plant which leads me to believe they are already contaminating Wolf Creek with those spills; we certainly don't need any more exposed ponds with toxic waste water in them near that creek.

My step-father is also a signer to this letter and he fully agrees with my position on the matter. I would greatly appreciate your taking into consideration what I have suggested and presented in this letter and find a more reasonable solution to stopping any ground water contamination from the mines. I understand there are many ways to accomplish this without exposing an entire community and City to exposed toxic waste ponds.

We also drove by the Empire Mine to see what those pond look like. Floating filthy stagnant ponds in an area that is advertised as a tourist attraction in open fields. Is this really necessary, if so, who is responsible for allowing this to exists this day and age?

Please do something to stop any more of this happening in our City. Wasn't Colorado enough reason to re-think this project for Grass Valley?

Very truly yours,

Matthew Damele and
Michael Hunt