

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and may be continued on Friday, February 16, 2024, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Supervisors' Chambers, First Floor, Eric Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider the following project:

9:00 a.m. PLN19-0176; EIR19-0001; RZN19-0002; VAR19-0003; MIS22-0019; CUP19-0004; MGT19-0039, MGT19-0040, MGT20-0009, MGT20-0010, MGT20-0011, MGT20-0012, MGT20-0013; LLA20-0006; AAM21-0002; The proposed project would reinstate underground mining and gold mineralization processing for the Idaho-Maryland Mine over an eighty- (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. Following completion of mining and processing activities, the project sites would be reclaimed to open space and land suitable for future development of industrial uses. The representative for the project applicant respectfully requested to move forward with Alternative 2 which was identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Report as the preferred alternative to the proposed project. Alternative 2 proposes to eliminate the Centennial Industrial Site from the proposed project and to deposit Project fill at the Brunswick Industrial Site in lieu of depositing it at the Centennial Industrial Site. The Centennial Industrial Site could be excluded from the proposed project as the equivalent amount of engineered fill could be placed at the Brunswick Industrial Site. For the full Project Description, please see the Draft Environmental Impact Report Chapter 3.0.

LOCATION: The proposed project's surface components would be located within unincorporated western Nevada County on approximately 175.64 acres, consisting of the Brunswick Industrial Site, the Centennial Industrial Site, and an approximately 0.30-acre portion of East Bennett Road for off-site improvements associated with a potable water pipeline easement. The proposed project would also involve underground mining within a defined portion of an approximately 2,585-acre mineral rights boundary claimed by the project applicant. It should be noted that underground mining would not occur within the entire area of mineral rights and would be limited to an approximately 1,415-acre portion of the claimed underground mineral rights boundary as analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the proposed project. The potable water pipeline easement would be located along East Bennett Road and would be contained within the existing right-of-way.

The Centennial and Brunswick Industrial Sites are located within unincorporated Western Nevada County and are owned by Rise Grass Valley (applicant). The 119-acre Brunswick Industrial Site is located southwest of the intersection of East Bennett Road and Brunswick Road and is accessible from Brunswick Road or East Bennett Road. The 56.41-acre Centennial Industrial Site is located southwest of the intersection of Idaho Maryland Road and Centennial Drive, approximately 1.5 miles from the Brunswick Industrial Site.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER'S: 006-441-003, -004, -005, -034; 009-630-037, -039; 009-550-032, -037, -038, -039, -040; and 009-560-036

RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION: Not certify the Final Environmental Impact Report and find the project statutorily exempt pursuant to Section 15270(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines because CEQA does not apply to projects which a public agency rejects or disapproves. The Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors deny the request for Project approval of the Rezone and Variance.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT ACTION: Adopt a Resolution to deny the Rezone (RZN19-0002) for the parcels located at the Brunswick Industrial Site from Light-Industrial with Site Performance Combining District (M1-SP) to Light Industrial with Mineral Extraction Combining District (M1-ME), based on the findings contained within the Resolution, and adopt a resolution to deny the Variance (VAR19-0003) for the construction of several structures up to a height of 165 feet, where 45 feet is required, pursuant to the Light Industrial Zoning District (Nevada County LUDC, Section L-II 2.5 – Industrial Uses, Table L-II 2.5.E), based on the findings contained within the Resolution. Take no action on the following project entitlements: Development Agreement (MIS22-0019), Use Permit with a Reclamation Plan (CUP19-0004) for uses and facilities over the 80-year permit life consist with the project described in the Environmental Impact Report, Management Plans (MGT19-0039, MGT19-0040, MGT20-0009, MGT20-0010, MGT20-0011, MGT20-0012, MGT20-0013), Boundary Line Adjustment (LLA20-0006), Parcel Map Amendment (AAM21-0002).

PLANNER: Kyle Smith, Senior Planner; Nick Pappani, Vice President, Raney Planning & Management

Documents pertaining to the property affected by the proposed action are available for public review and consideration at the following locations: at the Clerk of the Board’s Office, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200, Nevada City, CA 95959; and the Nevada County Planning Department, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959, on-line by visiting the Nevada County webpage dedicated to this project at: <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/3195/Idaho-Maryland-Mine---Rise-Grass-Valley>.

You have a right to attend the public meeting to discuss the project, provide oral testimony, and/or submit written materials regarding these matters. Written materials and comments (an original and 9 copies) may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board at 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959; by emailing BOS.PublicComment@nevadacountyca.gov; or by submitting an eComment at www.nevadacountyca.gov/boardmeetings, and must be received no later than 4:00 pm on February 14, 2024. As the date grows closer to the public hearing, please see the February 15, 2024, agenda for information on how to provide comments during the public hearing. Written or emailed public comments received by 4:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting will be provided to the Board members electronically or in written format and will become part of the public record. The Board Chair may place reasonable restrictions on the time allowed to any person to speak on these matters.

If you challenge the proposed actions of the Board of Supervisors in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing.

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 
Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board

PUBLISH: February 2, 2024
THE UNION