

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
SACRAMENTO REGION
8800 CAL CENTER DRIVE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95826-3200



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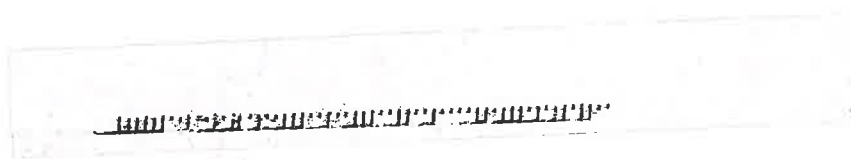
Tammy Pickens
Centennial M-1 Site

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2023

**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Nevada County C/O Clerk Of The Board
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City, CA 95959





PROJECT UPDATE



Proposed Remedial Action Plan Centennial M-1 Property 10344 Centennial Drive Nevada County, California 95959

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) held a public comment period between July 26, 2021 – September 24, 2021, for the proposed Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for remediation of mine waste at the Centennial M-1 Site. Comments received were very informative of the many public concerns associated with the cleanup effort. DTSC is committed to ensuring that each comment is fully addressed before making a final determination on the RAP and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration documents. This commitment has led to a longer than normal response time. We apologize for this delay, but the project will proceed only after all the public concerns are completely evaluated, and any necessary changes that may result from that evaluation are adopted. At this time, we cannot determine when our evaluation will be completed.

While DTSC is no longer accepting comments, the project documents are still available for review online at: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60000716, select the "Community Involvement" tab.

If you have any questions, please contact Dean Wright, DTSC Project Manager at 916-255-3591 or Dean.Wright@dtsc.ca.gov or Tammy Pickens, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at 916-255-3594; 866-495-5651 or Tammy.Pickens@dtsc.ca.gov.

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JUL 07 2023

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Nevada Irrigation District

July 7, 2023

Ben Mossman, President
Rise Grass Valley Inc.
333 Crown Pt Circle, Ste 215
Grass Valley, CA 95959

RE: RESPONSE TO JUNE 1, 2023, RISE GRASS VALLEY LETTER REGARDING PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING FOR IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE PROJECT

Dear Mr. Mossman,

The purpose of this letter is to respond, in part, to the letter submitted by Rise Grass Valley, Inc. (project applicant) to the Board of Supervisors on June 1, 2023, regarding the Planning Commission Hearing on May 10 and 11, 2023 for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project (Project). A second response has been sent to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.

Normally, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) would not respond to a letter of this nature; however, based upon our review it has been determined it is necessary to address misstatements you've made and to remind you that NID as a public agency, and its individual board members, are allowed to offer comments on your proposed project, particularly since it is of regional concern.

We offer the following corrections to statements made in your June 8, 2023 letter:

Comment: "Evidence of organized Project opposition between County representatives and community organizations prior to the Hearing is evident based on statements made by Nevada Irrigation District ("NID") Director Ricki Heck, NID Director Rich Johansen, NID General Manager Jennifer Hansen, and Wells Coalition members at NID Board meetings. In addition, social media posts made by NID members as well as NID's comment letter, indicate NID's strong opposition to the Project and coordination with various levels in the County. NID General Manager, Jennifer Hansen, provided testimony at the Hearing (discussed in greater detail below) purportedly to objectively discuss the Project's impact to local groundwater. However, pre-Hearing statements made at NID Board meetings, and NID's comment letter indicate that NID coordinated with Project opponents.

In addition, Rise notes that documents received from Inyo County indicate that Commissioner McAteer coordinated with NID staff, including Ricki Heck, regarding Hearing testimony, personally reached out to Project opponents to discuss opposition and planned comments during the Hearing, was involved in organizing County public school participation opposition for the Hearing, coordinated with NID regarding NID's testimony,

and affirmatively reached out to engage with community opposition groups, including Charles Brock of Concerned Citizens Roundtable, the Wells Coalition, MineWatch, Community regarding NID's testimony, and affirmatively reached out to engage with community opposition groups, including Charles Brock of Concerned Citizens Roundtable, the Wells Coalition, MineWatch, Community Project opposition between County representatives and community organizations prior to the Hearing is evident based on statements made by Nevada Irrigation District ("NID") Director Ricki Heck, NID Director Rich Johansen, NID General Manager Jennifer Hansen, and Wells Coalition members at NID Board meetings."

Response: CEQA allows NID or any other interested entity or stakeholder to comment and participate in the public review process. This legal reality is even more obvious when the proposed project is within NID's political boundaries and has the potential to impact the District and its ratepayers.

Individual directors do not forfeit rights under CEQA or under the State and Federal Constitutions when they assume office. Director Heck may state any personal opinion regarding issues of public interest, as she did at the planning commission meeting expressing her private views as a landowner within the project impact area.

We also remind you that the water supply assessment for the proposed project was approved by NID, with Director Heck recusing herself from this item when it came before the NID Board.

As the General Manager of NID, I personally wrote the District's May 8, 2023, comment letter and can confirm that I had never met Mr. McAteer or spoke (verbally or in writing) with Mr. McAteer prior the hearing on May 10, 2023. Mr. McAteer had no involvement with the comment letter written or the nature of my testimony. I also did not coordinate written comments or testimony with anti-mine groups or other mine opposition.

Comment: NID's coordination and influence with County employees was explicitly stated by NID Director Rich Johansen at an NID Board Meeting on April 26, 2023. Mr. Johansen's comments specifically address the need to craft talking points in opposition to the hydrological analysis as "it's the one thing that has sunk other mines," and that their talking points could be used to sway the Planning Commission's decision, as "both Ricki and I have been on the Nevada County Planning Commission [...] and we have a pretty good relationship with those who took our place."

Response: You are incorrect in your assumptions and opinion. There was no coordination with County staff, Planning Commissioners, or anti-mine groups regarding the District's May 8, 2023, comment letter or my testimony given at the hearing. In fact, the comment letter was not even sent to the NID Board, county staff, or anti-mine groups prior to formally submitting to County staff as part of the public comment process. Only once it was formally submitted to the County, was it provided to the NID Board or made publicly available.

*Comment: In addition, Commissioner McAteer instructed County Staff to request NID General Manager, Jennifer Hansen, to return to the second day of the Hearing to allow him to question her regarding the impact of the Project on groundwater and elicit misleading testimony to create doubt and confusion on the County's own conclusions in its EIR. Ms. Hansen had previously testified on May 10th (the first day of the Hearing) for the sole purpose of delivering the NID Board's comments on the Project. However, Commissioner McAteer personally requested that County staff ask Ms. Hansen to return on May 11th and, after waiting until the public comment had been closed by the Planning Commission chair so as to preclude Rise from rebutting Ms. Hansen's statements, utilized Ms. Hansen as an "expert witness" to attack the groundwater analysis of the Final EIR (which had undergone review by three independent hydrogeological firms, one of which worked exclusively for the County). Ms. Hansen, who is not a geologist or a hydrologist, explicitly acknowledged that she was **not** an expert and not familiar with the data, stating in relevant part:*

I can't speak to the modelling. I have not personally reviewed the modelling outputs, the calibration, or the assumptions that have been made...

I would not say that I am by any means an expert in their technical studies that were completed in this particular project...

Despite this admission, Commissioner McAteer represented Ms. Hansen's testimony on hydrologic impacts as expert opinion and precluded the three hydrology experts in attendance from commenting on this issue. Commissioner McAteer continued to discuss the adequacy of the EIR as related to the Project's potential impacts on groundwater. Throughout this discourse, County consultant Nick Pappani of Raney Planning and Management, Inc., who prepared the Project's EIR, attempted to provide clarification in response to Commission McAteer's questions and comments. Commissioner McAteer, however, refused to allow Mr. Pappani that opportunity.

Although County consultant Nick Pappani offered to provide insight as to a comparison of the two well monitoring methodologies, Commissioner McAteer was not amenable to discussion, and did not permit. Mr. Pappani, Rise, County Staff, nor the hydrological experts in attendance to comment. Instead, Commissioner McAteer argued with Mr. Pappani, and became angry, incoherently stating, "It doesn't ok it just doesn't ok. You know like poop happens" clearly failing to allow Rise or consultants to rebut or clarify false or misleading evidence. His inaccurate statements inappropriately swayed deliberations.

Response: My appearance at the second day of the hearing was initiated by me, not County staff. During the break on the first day of the hearing, I voluntarily informed the Planning Commission Chairman and Commissioner McAteer that I would be leaving after my public comment was made. I then offered to stay if the Planning Commission had additional questions for NID.

NID has been referenced multiple times by the project applicant and is a major interested stakeholder in the project. It is normal in these types of proceedings to ask questions of an impacted agency that is being relied upon for mitigation and is the agency that governs an area (surface water) that is of concern to the public.

Ben Mossman
Rise Grass Valley Inc.
Idaho Maryland Mine
July 7, 2023
Page 4 of 4

Comment: Actions taken by Commissioner McAteer after the Hearing also indicate that denial of the Project was a fait accompli, planned prior to the Hearing, and was done in collaboration with opposition groups' efforts to thwart approval of the Project. This is evidenced by the fact that after the Hearing Commissioner McAteer attended a project-denial celebration party at the National Hotel in Nevada City with his wife and NID Director, Ricki Heck, on May 11, 2023, just hours after engineering the Project's defeat.

Response: Director Heck has a legal right to attend any celebration or party she would like to. It is unclear as to why her presence at a party is even mentioned in the letter submitted by Rise Mine. This is a non sequitur.

NID will continue to lawfully participate in public processes that affect the District, including the environmental review and other potential approval proceedings for your proposed project. NID will not be deterred from exercising our right to speak freely on public issues and issues of public interest and will continue to advocate for the interests of our ratepayers and taxpayers. NID would like to reiterate our comments provided in the May 8, 2023 letter to the Planning Commission and recommend that the project applicant work collaboratively to resolve the District's issues.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (530)-273-6185.

Thank you,



Jennifer Hanson
General Manager

cc: Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Chris Bierwagen, NID Board President, Division II
Karen Hull, NID Board Vice President, Division III
Ricki Heck, NID Director, Division I
Trevor Caulder, NID Director, Division IV
Rich Johansen, NID Director, Division V
File

Tine Mathiasen

Dist 1

From: Papapanos1969 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2023 10:13 PM
To: Heidi Hall
Cc: bdofsupervisors
Subject: Re: District 1 Newsletter from Supervisor Heidi Hall

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Honorable Supervisor Hall,

I want to let you know that I support the opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. I believe that its long term impact on the economy of this county cannot be overlooked in this process. I also believe very strongly that they have shown sufficient commitment to construct a world class state of the art mining operation that will not harm the environment as the opposition is always stating.

The State of California has the most toughest environmental laws in the country and Rise Grass Valley has prepared and reported on all the issues that have been brought forth in the EIR process. If there is any item that is concerning then ask for more measures to mitigate that issue but don't deny them the opportunity to do such. The biggest issue I heard in the Planning Commission meeting was the concern over nearby home owners losing their water wells. Okay then tell RGV to include the \$14mil that was estimated by NID to put in the water service but don't deny them the opportunity to build the mine. I heard the majority of the opposition stand up to the Planning Commission and make emotional statements about how the mine is going to ruin our environment but they did it purely as an emotional statement with no facts to back up their statements. I ask you to make your decision totally on the facts and not on emotion. And I ask you to represent all your constituents and not just the loud and emotional opposition. I support the mine and there are many people out there that I have spoken to that also support it but they are too quiet in their beliefs.

One last thing is my total disappointment to the circus that was created around the Planning Commission meeting where it was obvious that they had made up their minds before the meeting even started and the deplorable attitude of one members who was seen the evening of the vote having dinner and celebrating the negative vote that he orchestrated. That's not how government should operate and I personally believe that he should be removed from his position on the Commission.

I appreciate your listening to me.

Regards,
Rick Panos

Sent from my iPhone

Dist 1

Tine Mathiasen

From: Paul Schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 10:29 AM
To: BOS Public Comment; bdofsupervisors
Cc: psschwartz21
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine Project DEIR
Attachments: DEIR Comments IMM BOS 1-10-24 SCHWARTZ.docx

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Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

RE: Idaho Maryland Mine Project DEIR

Attached is a short document for your review with my final comments regarding the February 15, 2024 hearing to approve or reject the DEIR for Rise Gold's proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Schwartz, District 1.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

January 10, 2024

To: Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Heidi Hall, Ed Scofield, Lisa Swarthou, Susan Hoek, Hardy Bullock

Matt Kelly

RE: Idaho Maryland Mine Project

From: Paul Schwartz, [REDACTED]

Attention: Comments, Summary- DEIR for the Rise Gold Proposal to Reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine

The Rise Gold proposal to reopen the Idaho Maryland Mine raises many issues. The BOS will consider approval or rejection of the IMM Project DEIR on February 15, 2024. Study of the document by professionals, informed residents, public sector engineers, scientists, and managers, and the Nevada County Planning Commission have said the DEIR is incomplete, unfocused, in many cases based on poor science, and ignores and misrepresents major issues. The only conclusion is for the BOS to **reject the DEIR, support the findings of the Planning Commission, and trust the voices of over a thousand of our neighbors.**

Our economy, environment, and cultures in Nevada County are fragile. We are blessed to have both a balanced and diverse economy. The depth of our local culture is also both diverse and a wonder to be proud of. We evolved and survived the invasive and destructive gold mining era. Many communities did not. We embraced the logging industry until it became evident it was not our future. Through the ups and downs of the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2020s we grew a balanced economy that has most metrics needed to be sustainable into the future. We have taken a moderate and diligent approach to managing the toxic waste left behind by the gold mining industry. Personally, I am angry at those who took millions worth of gold from underneath our cities and fled with it, leaving behind a toxic plume, contaminated streams and rivers, and open mine-shafts. The damage will take generations to mitigate. This occurred not just in Nevada County, but up and down the entire State. Aside from mitigating the environmental disaster of our gold mining history, we are faced with the global impacts of climate change, electric grids that are marginally reliable, water resources that are both essential and uncertain, and the challenges of moving from a car centric transportation model to one that is sustainable and affordable. The Rise Gold mining proposal would impact all of these fragile evolving elements.

Visit any mining town in the western United States and you will see communities in decline. The wealth from mining does not stay local, but the impacts do. The energy and water required to support large scale mining taxes local infrastructure leaving little room for local or regional clean industry to expand. The challenge to County and State regulators to police the environmental, safety, and infrastructure pressures that are inherit in large scale mining are immense. If the BOS were to allow this project to move forward, do you direct NID to prepare plans and projects to provide water to over 300 homes now or do we wait and see what happens? Does the Nevada County Board of Supervisors direct PG&E to upgrade the power distribution grid serving western Nevada County or do we wait to see the reliability impact from doubling electricity demand the IMM will require. What are our responsibilities in reducing our carbon footprint to meet local and State goals? How do we assess the health consequences to our residents of adding increased particulate to pre-existing high levels in the air we breathe? Like the frog in the pot on the stove when the heat is turned up, the planning decisions we make today will slowly reveal consequences for decades to come.

1. No mining project similar to this proposal has been approved in the State of California located close to residential neighborhoods. 4.10-1, 2, 3 - From one section of the **Noise and Vibration** report (Pg 4-10-45) "it is conservatively concluded that the proposed project could result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or standards of other agencies, and the project's noise impacts could be significant."
2. The project grossly miscalculates the **energy requirements and the carbon footprint** of the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine (IMM) enterprise. The DEIR ignores the Nevada County Energy Action Plan.
3. The entire analysis of impacts to natural underground **water** systems lacks the data and analysis to accurately describe potential impacts to existing and future wells in the surrounding residential neighborhoods.
4. The DEIR fails to clearly outline strategy to mitigate **dust and particulant pollution** from the surface rock processing and transporting.
5. Policy related to view sheds, aesthetics, and **community character** in the General Plan are ignored. The DEIR represents **Brunswick Road** as a minor arterial. In reality, now and increasingly in the future, Brunswick Road is one of three major arterials into western Nevada County. Investments and improvements to Highway 174 clearly show the importance of this route.
7. The DEIR analysis fails to address the **cumulative negative impacts** to our community. Chapter 2, 2.5 Areas of known Controversy includes 23 bullets to describe the breadth of the negative impacts of the project.
8. 4.1-1 "Have a substantial **adverse effect on scenic vista**" The analysis dismisses the massive rock infill and multi-story buildings.
9. 4.1-3 "Create a new source of **substantial light** and glare which would adversely affect day or night time views in the area."
10. 4.3-2 The proposed **Asbestos Dust Mitigation** Plan is not detailed in the DEIR.
11. I am concerned about **adding significant and continuous flows to South Fork Wolf Creek**.
12. **Community character**- The strength of our economy, based on Economic Resource Council data, is rooted in technology, R&D, seniors, government, tourism, recreation, stewardship, and healthcare. We are perceived as a retirement, tourist, and recreation destination. **Mining is our past, not our future.**
13. 4.3-5 "Conflict with State or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency." The IMM project as presented **conflicts with the Nevada County Energy Action Plan.**
14. 4.11-7 **NID has not agreed to fully commit an unlimited water supply** to Rise Gold's IMM project and potential replacement of residential well failures.

District 1
RECEIVED

JAN 23 2024

**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Good morning Board of Supervisors

I'm Cedar from District 1 and I stand before you to express my deep concern regarding GHG emissions of the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine. I urge you to deny this project and not certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As a 25-year-old individual, the Idaho-Maryland Mine project holds significant personal implications for both my physical and mental well-being and the well being of the people of my generation. The projected GHG emissions from the mine not only contribute to the broader climate crisis but directly affect the air quality I breathe. Additionally, the mental health impacts associated with climate change, such as increased stress and anxiety, are concerns that resonate deeply with my generation, faced with the individual impacts of more fires, drought, air quality, economic impacts, and knowledge of what is happening.

The core issue lies in the inadequate assessment of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the EIR. The report relies on an arbitrary 10,000-ton/year carbon dioxide emission threshold, chosen by some other air districts, without considering the specific context of Nevada County. The correct threshold is net-zero.

As the lead agency, Nevada County is responsible for establishing a threshold of GHG emissions, not merely copying what other districts used without localized substantial evidence. This is problematic because those thresholds were originally established to achieve the 2006 statewide GHG goal, which is no longer consistent with current statewide GHG reduction goals.

In 2017, the California Air Quality Board Climate Change Scoping Plan clearly stated that achieving no net additional increase in GHG emissions is an appropriate overall objective for new development. However, the mine's proposed emissions of 10,000 tons/year should be considered significant and unmitigated. In fact, it seems incongruous to increase emissions at all when we are trying to reduce them.

Thank you

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1/23/2024 – COMMENTS TO NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JAN 23 2024

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Good Morning. My name is Charlie Brock. I live in Supervisorial District 1. As you all know, it is my studied opinion that Rise Gold's FEIR and Use Permit should not be approved. I'm here today to respectfully request that between now and February 15th you each find the time to review the in depth analysis I personally delivered to each of your inboxes, along with duplicate copies to the Planning Department, on May 8th last year. In this document I point out errors, contradictions, outdated and insufficient technical reports and management plans, as well as erroneous assumptions and unsupported conclusions; providing specific page numbers, and when appropriate copies of salient pages from the Use Permit Application, General Plan, Draft and Final EIR's, all of which support my reasoning. Due to the obviously impossible challenge of parsing these project documents in three minutes, I have tried to create a resource that will allow you to efficiently review the substantial weaknesses, and overall veracity, of Rise Gold's application to reopen the long defunct Idaho Maryland Mine. If your copies of these documents have become buried in the vast piles of research you've undoubtedly accumulated, the Planning Department should be able to provide them to you.

My analysis speaks to, inadequacies and document flaws ranging from General Plan challenges, land use and property value issues, wetland disturbances, near surface collapse, inadequate waste, asbestos and air quality impacts, well production and water quality issues, seismic concerns, and more, while providing you with easy reference to documents and information that speak definitively in support of a NO vote on Rise Gold's FEIR and Use Permit Application.

Since submitting my report last May, I have learned from a senior engineer of the Seismic Hazards Program at the California Geologic Survey that a northerly segment of our Foothill Fault Zone known as the Cleveland Hills fault is identified as an "Alquist-Priolo" fault zone. An Alquist-Priolo designation is the HIGHEST RATING OF EARTHQUAKE RISK designated by the US Geologic Survey. The Rise's Fault Zone Management Plan, Draft and Final EIRs each correctly state that the fault running over 1300 feet through the middle Rise's Brunswick Industrial site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. These documents also emphasize that our Foothill Fault System is a "Type C fault zone, with low seismicity and a low rate of recurrence", and "that the nearest mapped active portion of the Foothills Fault System is approximately 25 miles northwest of the mine site on the Cleveland Hill fault". What all of Rise's crucial planning documents fail to state is that the "active" portion of our Foothills Fault Zone (25 miles to our north) is in fact designated an Alquist-Priolo fault zone, with the HIGHEST RATING OF EARTHQUAKE RISK as designated the US Geologic Survey.

Thank you.



Charles Brock



From: Sheldon, Kent
To: bdofsupervisors
Subject: Rise Grass Valley to Petition for Recognition of Vested Rights at Idaho Maryland Mine
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 3:46:43 PM

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I am writing to state my disapproval of granting this Petition from Rise. Approval of this project will be a disaster for Nevada County, Grass Valley, and all residents anywhere near the Idaho Maryland mine. Please vote against this Petition.

Kent Sheldon - VP of Project Delivery & Life Cycle Management
Energy Storage and Optimization
Wärtsilä Corporation
[REDACTED]

From: minewatchnevadacounty@gmail.com
To: [bdofsupervisors](#); Idaho MMEIR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter From Lana Fredrickson- Just Say No to the Mine
Date: Friday, October 6, 2023 3:04:59 PM

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This letter is submitted by the CEA Foundation MineWatch Campaign on behalf of Lana Fredrickson at lanafredrickson@gmail.com.

Nevada County Supervisors and Planning Department
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

September 12, 2023

Dear Nevada County Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

My name is Lana Fredrickson. I live at [REDACTED]

As a concerned citizen, I am asking you to "just say no" to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine and do not certify the flawed Environmental Impact Report. The project has significant and unavoidable environmental impacts that endanger this community's health and quality of life. A few jobs and uncertain tax revenues just aren't worth the risk.

I live in Cascade Shores, District 1, in Nevada City. I've lived, worked and raised a family in Nevada City since 1985, just retiring this past year. This local natural environment and conscientious community is why I have continued to call this place home. There is no reason why this dastardly plan of re-opening a mine with all the known deleterious effects should be allowed to come to fruition! NONE

Sincerely,

Lana Fredrickson
[REDACTED]

From: minewatchnevadacounty@gmail.com
To: [bdofsupervisors](#); Idaho MMEIR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter from Mary Lee - Just Say No to the Mine
Date: Friday, October 6, 2023 3:14:23 PM

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This letter is submitted by the CEA Foundation VineWatch Campaign on behalf of Mary Lee at [minewatchnevadacounty.com](#)

Nevada County Supervisors and Planning Department
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

September 28, 2023

Dear Nevada County Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

My name is Mary Lee. I live at [REDACTED]

As a concerned citizen, I am asking you to "just say no" to re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine and do not certify the flawed Environmental Impact Report. The project has significant and unavoidable environmental impacts that endanger this community's health and quality of life. A few jobs and uncertain tax revenues just aren't worth the risk.

I live in the Peardale area of Grass Valley and I am in District 1. I am dismayed that Rise Gold Corporation continues to think that they have any legal standing to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Their latest petition using vested rights as a basis for re-opening the mine is sadly laughable! Having lived close to the site for nearly 50 years, I can attest that there has been no mining activity during that time. We citizens of Nevada County witnessed clear headed, logical thinking and expertise from our supervisor's during the last hearing. I trust that the same logic will apply [at the vested rights hearing now scheduled for Dec 13] and that the circus will end!

Sincerely,

Mary Lee



From: [County Counsel](#)
To: Julie Patterson-Hunter
Cc: [Tine Mathiasen](#); [Kit Elliott](#)
Subject: FW: Toxic verticle Lake Firewater
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 8:56:19 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Dist 2

Julie,

We received the below email from a concerned citizen regarding the Mine. Kit has requested I forward to you so it can be handled appropriately.

Thank you,

Kelly McKinley

Administrative Services Associate

Office of the County Counsel

Desk: 530.265.7131

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From: Bob Seidlitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 9:56 PM
To: County Counsel <County.Counsel@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Re: Toxic verticle Lake Firewater

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Jeff. FYI

From: Bob Seidlitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 3:38 PM
To: county.counsel@nevadacountyca.gov <county.counsel@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Re: Toxic verticle Lake Firewater

Correction

From: Bob Seidlitz
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 10:07 PM
To: CountyCounsel@nevadacountyca.gov <CountyCounsel@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Toxic verticle Lake Firewater

County Mine Title Counselor Katherine Elliot.

Your latest challenge about prior legal disposition of the Rise mining permits seems to be missing a very demanding answer about the deep holes constantly re- filling with

toxic water that must be siphoned out into a horizontal recycled potable pooling to be dumped into a local stream to be lost forever.

My voter interest about the deep mining hole is about the fact that the supervisors and the anti-mining foundations seem to ignore the fact that fires use a great deal of nonexistent drinkable water to save towns from fire destruction like Paradise and Maui.

Before any more negligent decisions are made it might be prudent to retain an independent third-party water recycling firm for an analysis and cost to move a great liquid asset into a canyon lake to allow aircraft to use that potable lake for fire prevention, thus gaining insurance rates to be in existence again?

That is the real value of the water well hole in the ground to start!

Any legal determinations must consider the County legal fiduciary position if a fire occurs and the water has been disbursed downstream?

Now is the time to force the issue and make use of the mining permits and States reclamation funds and county cleanup guarantees.

All Nevada Citizens along with the county and water utility deliveries must have economic skin in this new horizontal Lake Firewater game.

Losing an economic argument over common sense is not as costly as losing lives and a city.

Their future lives might just depend on it!

BS

Tine Mathiasen

From: WAHLER ENTERPRISES [REDACTED]
 Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2024 1:59 PM
 To: bdofsupervisors; jim wahler
 Subject: I thought after the last vote by the Board Dec.13-14, 2023 that the IM Mine was behind us. Jim Wahler

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Hi,

I thought on Dec.13-14 with the final unanimous vote by the Board against the Idaho Maryland Mine rights, that we put the IM Mine behind us.

What is this that is happening Feb.15 and maybe Feb.16??? Is this the final end???

Someone told me that you may be drafting a proposal that will stop the harassment by the IM Mine developers from continuing to bring yet more proposals in regards to the IM Mine. All this does is waste more taxpayer money to deal with an issue that Nevada County is absolutely saying NO to and not going to change.

Thank you for your feedback.

Jim Wahler, Former Urban Planner for Lake County, Ill.

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JAN 23 2024

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dist 3

Good morning. My name is John Vaughan. I live in District 3.

At the 2nd day of the Planning Commission Hearing on May 11th, Commissioner McAteer asked Ben Mossman the following question: "Why not assuage all these well owners and go take out a surety bond for \$14M?"

Mr. Mossman's response included lots of detail about predictions and isopleths but he dodged the question, feigning ignorance, stating:

"I don't know where the \$14M comes from, that wasn't explained."

First, the \$14M comes from Nevada Irrigation District, the local experts on water and their assessment of the cost of 378 new water installations. Rise Gold has the same access to NID as any of us and could have easily asked for a detailed explanation.

But Rise believes NID, like all other experts who commented on the EIR, is wrong. The real answer to Mr. Mossman's question is: "Because that's what NID's decades of experience as a water supplier and their internal and external experts say it will cost."

Later in his response, Mr. Mossman asks: "Why would it be 300 [wells]?"

Actually, it's not 300, it's much higher. Rise identified 378 properties, most of which have wells, but there is a much larger area of impact than Rise identified. Rise slapped 378 properties in the EIR at the last minute hoping nobody would notice the huge issues with their Domestic Well Monitoring Program. The real answer to "Why would it be 300?" is: "Because you identified 378 properties that may be at risk."

Rise chose to include these properties in the EIR, yet they did not bother to meet with any of the property owners. They should not be surprised that property owners want a real plan with readily available funding as identified by the local water experts, NID.

In addition to these risks, well owners are being forced to subsidize the Rise project by providing up to 10% of their available near-surface water supply. Rise is "taking" near-surface water rights without permission or compensation, only empty promises.

Property owners should not have to bear the risks and costs of this project.

I respectfully request you trust your Planning Commissioners and vote no on the Rise project.

Thank you.

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JAN 23 2024

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pist 3

About Centennial in 2024

Jan 23, 2024

This morning I'm going to talk a little bit more about the Centennial site. The site has extensive contamination covering much of the 56 acres, which is a health hazard.

The site has a complex history. For decades, tailings were dumped there. Some tailings were processed a second time. Tailings from other mines was also processed. Then after the 1956 shutdown, mine waste was moved around and ground up for aggregate sales, and later, waste rock from other sites was imported for processing.

For the Rise EIR, a batch of samples were taken to supposedly establish that the new mine waste will be Group C, safe for dumping or selling as aggregate. But because of the complex history, those samples really have no value. And complicating things even more, it should be noted that after 70 years, tailings dumped there have leached out much of any contaminants.

Rather, as reported previously, the water coming directly out of the mine is the best indication of the probable classification of the mine waste. And currently, toxic surface water runs into wolf creek via these drains, clearly not Group C.

But regarding the cleanup of Centennial, no progress has been made on completing the Final Remedial Action Plan for two years. We believe that the reason it is stalled is because of the conflict between the EIR and the DTSC cleanup scope. The mine waste would cover 44 of the 56 acres, far more area than was contaminated.

CEA Foundation had commented on the cleanup, expressing concern about the excessive destruction of habitat. Areas that had no contamination were being completely stripped off down to bedrock in order to make way for mine waste and to provide for cover material to put over the sequestered toxic materials.

Therefore we maintained that, under CEQA, the **impact caused by the Mine project should be born by the Mine project, not by the cleanup project.**

So we feel that the DTSC has been waiting to see whether the mine is approved or not. But now, since Rise has asked for Alternative II, there will be no mine waste dumping there. And Alternative II still states that the cleanup will proceed.

Our concern is that Rise will delay, and eventually walk away from the cleanup. Therefore, we feel that requiring a financial guarantee would be appropriate. The cleanup costs will exceed \$3.4 million. Due to the health hazards and the ongoing pollution, the cleanup needs to happen with or without the mine.

Just say yes to the cleanup, and no to the mine.

Thanks

Ralph Silberstein
CEA Foundation

01/09/2024 Good morning. My name is John Vaughan. I live in District 3.

IAN 09 2024

First, Happy New Year. I hope you all had great holidays.

I want to focus today on a specific interchange during the December 14th Vested Rights Hearing, between Rise's Attorney, Chris Powell and Supervisor Hall.

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

At approx. 46 minutes into the transcript, Mr. Powell states to this Board: "**You have a duty** today to make [a] finding that vesting did occur on that date. If you avoid that, you are not fulfilling your **duty**..." Notice the carefully crafted use of the word "Duty", a much stronger word than job.

Then 8 minutes later in the transcript, Mr. Powell repeats himself stating: "If you look at that date and don't confirm that, you are not doing the job you are supposed to be doing today."

Soon after that, Supervisor Hall challenged Mr. Powell about his statements.

Mr. Powell's response was first some rambling about the Hansen case followed by "I'm **not** telling you that you are not doing your job..."

Which is **exactly the opposite** of what he just said...**twice!** Mr. Powell's attempt to walk back his comments is clearly not true.

The point in bringing this up today, is that this exchange is just one example of the dozens and dozens and dozens of half-truths and spin that the Supervisors, County Staff and this Community have had to deal with throughout this process.

I've been involved in the details of this project for 2 years now. I started out unbiased, just wanting to understand the numbers and who was saying what. **Not a single week** has gone by when I have not found some detail in Rise's claims that **just makes no sense** and does not stand up to even mild scrutiny.

I am now convinced that **nothing** we hear from Rise can be trusted. Virtually none of their claims about how great the EIR document is, are true. Virtually none of their claims about vested rights and constitutional rights and property rights and County bias and on and on, are true. Virtually none of their claims about being good citizens or reaching out to the Community are true.

I can't image their truthfulness will improve as we go forward.

I respectfully urge you to trust your Planning Commissioners and Just Say NO to all parts of the Rise project.

Thank you.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

D.343



PO Box 972, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924-0972
www.cea-nc.org / email: info@cea-nc.org

January 9, 2024

Today, we are submitting additional information regarding the contaminated water coming out of the Idaho-Maryland Mine drains along Wolf Creek. We provided some comments regarding the mine water outflows last year. Our concern is that the EIR reliance on testing of mine water at the Brunswick shaft is not valid. This is because the water generally flows into the mine at the Brunswick shaft, finds its way through the tunnels, and then eventually flows out at the Eureka Drains 1 ½ miles away, along Wolf Creek near Centennial Drive. The EIR should have used test values at the drains on Wolf Creek where it flows out after exposure to the mine contaminants, not at the shaft where cleaner water flows in.

Now we have learned that the EIR Hydrology study done by EMKO in 2021 failed to include the US EPA Site Assessment testing done in 2019 at the Centennial site, which also included testing the drain outflows and surrounding areas. **The EPA test results show mine drain outflows into Wolf Creek with high levels of Arsenic, Barium, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Lead, Manganese, Nickel, and Zinc.**

Ben Mossman, CEO of Rise at the time, was the primary contact for the 2019 EPA testing. He executed the voluntary cleanup agreement under the DTSC, thereby conditionally deferring a potential superfund classification. Thus, Rise Gold was certainly aware of the test results from the mine drains. **But those tests results were omitted from the EMKO Hydrology study and the EIR.**

Meanwhile, the misinformation campaign by Rise continues. Quoting new Rise CEO Joe Mullin in a recent full page Union ad: "The water in the mine is clean..."

The Mine Final EIR failed to correctly assess the mine water quality and its treatment, nor did it address how the mine discharge would be treated after the mine closes, despite the fact that these defects were identified in the Draft EIR comments that CEA and the Water Board submitted. The EIR is required to provide valid information, to correctly assess impacts, and to provide adequate mitigations. Yet it failed in all three respects.

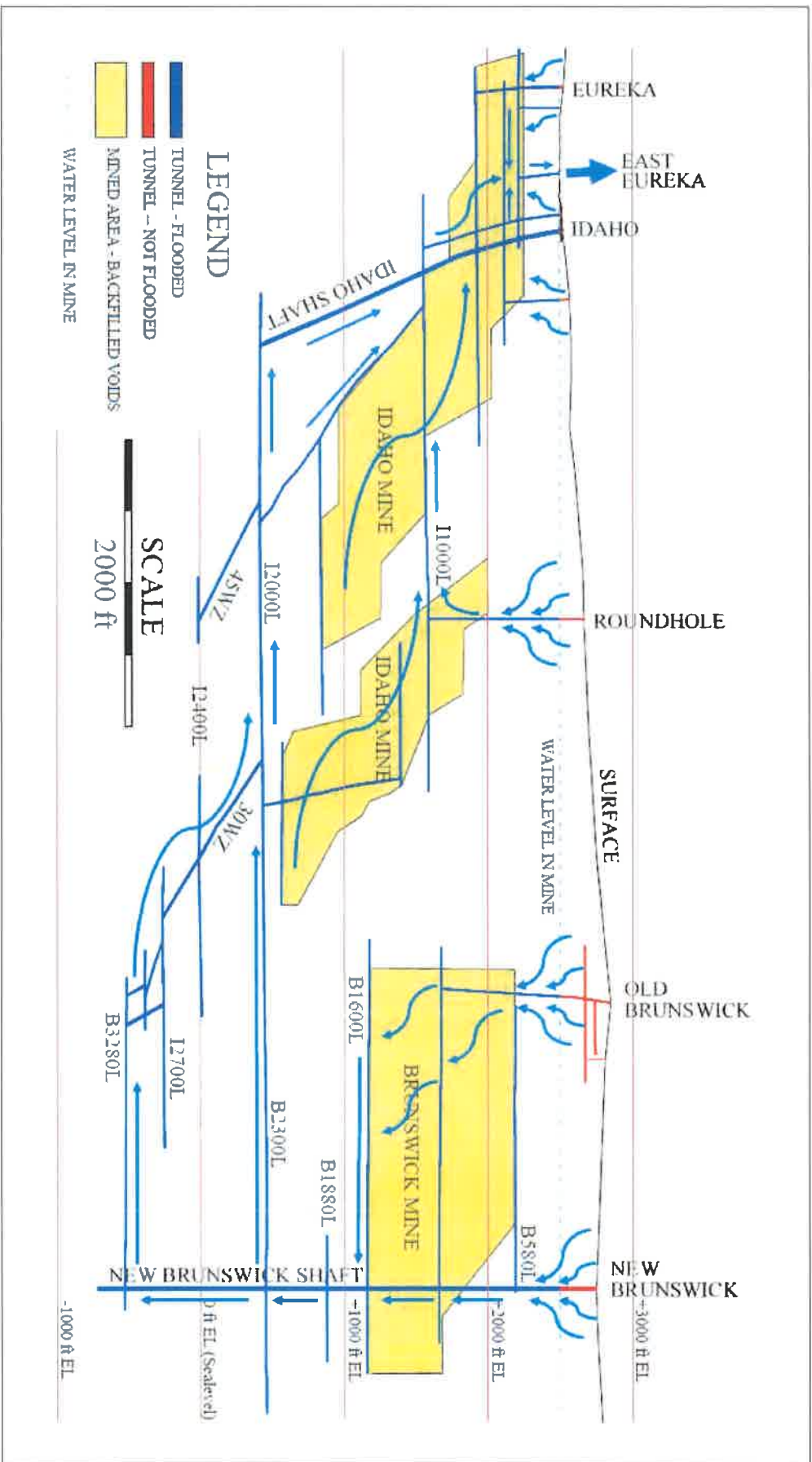
The EIR should not be certified. Just say no.

Thank you.

Ralph Silberstein, CEA Foundation

*Site Inspection Report, Idaho-Maryland Mine, "IMM SI text through App D 9-24-19.pdf," https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/view_document?docurl=/public/deliverable_documents/6354388177/IMM%20SI%20text%20through%20App%20D%209%2D24%2D19%2Epdf , sampling results "IMM-SW-12-T" and "IMM-SW-13_T," Table 4, Page 33.

Figure 3-20 Groundwater Movement in Mine Workings





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Flawed Analysis Regarding Mine Water Levels in the FEIR

June 13, 2023

Today I'd like to talk about the water levels in the Idaho-Maryland Mine. This simple subject has profound impacts on the mine project.

Current water levels are at about the 2497 foot elevation. The water has been at this level, with minor variations, since the mine refilled after it closed in the 1950s. It doesn't vary much because that is roughly the level of the mine drainages along Wolf Creek near Centennial Drive. About 1.5 miles away, at the Brunswick site, the water in the New Brunswick shaft is at the same elevation.

What is interesting is that the water generally flows in at the New Brunswick shaft and other entry points such as the Old Brunswick mine, and eventually flows out at the drains at Wolf Creek. [Emko hydrology report, DEIR Appendix K.2, Figure 3-20, p68]

So why do I say this subject has profound impacts on the mine project? Two reasons:

1) The hydrology report and the groundwater model both rely on the fact that when you look at the variations in the groundwater levels of the wells near the mine, you see those water levels go up and down seasonally, but when you compare those variations with the level in the mine, you don't see the mine water level go up and down.

From this observation, the hydrology study concluded that there is no noteworthy connectivity of groundwater between the well water levels near the surface and the water level in the mine. [Emko, p31]

But guess what? That argument doesn't hold water. When increased flows go into the mine, it never raises the level much above the mine drains because it just flows out. So a fundamental assumption used in the hydrology studies is false.

2) Rise had numerous tests conducted at the Brunswick shaft and those tests show that the mine water has only iron and manganese contaminants. But those tests were all conducted where the water is flowing into the mine. The test that really matters is the one at the drains, after the water has flowed through the miles of tunnels in the mine.

The water at the drain is much more likely to represent the potential for toxic mine waste drainage. And the only tests included in the EIR for the drains show high values of arsenic, zinc, iron, and manganese. Mine waste with those discharges will definitely not qualify as Group C mine waste and therefore would be too toxic to be sold, given away, or dumped. [Emko, Page 43.]

Unfortunately, the Final EIR failed to recognize either of these crucial points.

Thank you.
Ralph Silberstein

From: [Julie Patterson-Hunter](#)
To: [All BOS Board Members](#)
Cc: [Matt Kelley](#); [Brian Foss](#); [Caleb Dardick](#)
Subject: FW: Rise Gold Vesting Rights in IMM
Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:05:51 AM

Dist 3

From: Walt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:59 AM
To: bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov>
Cc: James Bair [REDACTED]; Tim Ogburn [REDACTED]; Tony Powell [REDACTED]; John Vaughan [REDACTED]; johnathon.crook@dtsc.ca.gov; Joan Staffen [REDACTED]; Marion Blair [REDACTED]
Subject: Rise Gold Vesting Rights in IMM

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Nevada County Supervisors and Planning Department

Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

To: Nevada County Board of Supervisors

bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov, Idaho.MMEIR@nevadacountyca.gov

bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov

Idaho.MMEIR@nevadacountyca.gov

Re: Rise Gold's petition for vesting rights to IMM

The granting of Vested Rights to Rise Gold's IMM is not a decision that could be made by the Nevada County. IMM vesting rights do not exist for several reason not the least of which is IMM would not be vesting from a gold mining business 80 years ago but to toxic waste production and "engineering fill" production and sales, and maybe some gold mineralization not yet established. Some additional reasons are:

1) A permit was never obtained by the previous owner and hence no chain of vesting rights

was created.

2) The NC BoS is not the body to decide this matter. The law on vesting rights in mining business is governed by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). This act requires mining operators to obtain a permit from the California Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation which was created in 1991. A permit grants the operator the right to mine and extract minerals from a specific area. The vesting rights ensure that once a permit is obtained, the operator has the right to continue mining operations as long as they comply with the conditions set forth in the OBTAINED and FILED permit and the SMARA regulations. These conditions include reclamation requirements, financial assurances, and environmental protection measures, none of which have been tendered. Moreover the California Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation oversees the implementation of SMARA and ensures that mining operations are conducted responsibly and in accordance with the law. In this case the "law" would most likely be CEQA.

3) The NC BoS has not received approval to act on vesting rights from the Department of Conservation nor have they received financial assurances that all mitigation measures will arise from toxic waste and operations of the IMM and will be followed. The local lead agency, Nevada County, must require and approve (after review by the Department of Conservation) a reclamation plan and financial assurances. Lead agencies may accept operation plans, reclamation plans and environmental studies that meet BLM and USFS, provided they meet the requirements of SMARA.

4) Vesting rights to mine shall occur if there is a business transition to another business, hence "reclamation" Rise Gold IMM is not a Reclamation project by definition. The following are examples of successful reclamation projects: • One mining company in Ventura County reclaimed its mining pit to a strawberry field. • A gravel extraction area at Mississippi Bar in Sacramento County was returned to a riparian (water) wildlife habitat. • An aggregate mine on agricultural land in Yolo County operates in four phases. The intent is that not more than 95 acres is out of agricultural production at any time during the project's life. • Other mined lands have been reclaimed to grazing and production of crops such as alfalfa, corn, grapes and tomatoes.

5) There is no real transference of a gold mining business from 80 years ago until today, and hence no vesting possible from this IMM project. The proper core samples to measure for any gold has not been done to establish that there is gold left in the abandoned mine. Speculation, theory and conjecture are not valid measures. The new business is in fact a Rise Gold IMM business exploitative of an abandoned mine solely for purposes of pumping up stock price on a national penny market where buyers are uneducated on environmental laws and regulations and are easily manipulated by PR, media headlines and media SoundBits. This is not a gold mining business, it's a stock scam business.

I hope this helps,

Walt Froloff
Concerned citizen
Grass Valley, CA

08/08/2023. Good morning. My name is Gail Johnson Vaughan. I live in District 3.

With credit to local filmmaker Lou Douros who has been monitoring Ben Mossman's trial in Canada, [my husband] John has been reading the transcripts from the February 2023 evidentiary hearing and the July trial at the Provincial Court of British Columbia. Mossman, as you know, was found Guilty on 13 of 23 counts for his role at the Banks Island Gold Mine (referred to as B I G in Court documents). Each of the **13 guilty counts** are related to dumping toxic waste into the environment, including zinc and total suspended solids which can include copper, cadmium, lead, arsenic and chromium.

Even a short version of this story takes longer than three minutes, so we're telling it in two parts. I will read the first part and John will read the second half.

There are dozens of notable quotes in the transcripts, which I would love to share were there time. I will, however, share a few that stand out, all from Judge David Patterson:

*"There is no dispute that B I G exceeded the permitted amounts of zinc and total suspended solids...Mossman was responsible for ensuring compliance...B I G should have had a fool proof system..."*ⁱ

and

*"Despite...discharges into the environment not being monitored [correctly]...B I G continued mine operations throughout the fall of 2014 and into 2015."*ⁱⁱ

and

*"As the President, CEO and Mine Manager, Mossman had the authority and duty to ensure BIG ceased operations until the discharges were within the permitted ranges...Rather than take steps to comply with the permits, he acquiesced to the continuation of mining operations without any effective environmental monitoring..."*ⁱⁱⁱ

One more item from the February transcript timeline (edited for brevity) is worth noting:^{iv}

On July 2nd, 2015, before the site visit where multiple effluent discharges were found, an inspector from the Ministry of Energy and Mines following up on an anonymous complaint, emailed Mossman asking whether there had been any mine effluent discharges into waters around B I G.

Mossman called the inspector then sent an email which states *"As discussed on the phone there is no discharge of mine effluent into the environment..."* [emphasis added]

The transcript then notes that in light of Mossman's response and what the inspector knew of BIG, the inspector had *"no reason to suspect Mossman of lying..."*

Thank you.

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NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Good Morning. My name is John Vaughan. I live in District 3.

Mr. Mossman promised at Banks Island as he is promising now that their system is fool proof and will prevent any issues for any reason for 80 years. At the recent Planning Commission Hearing in these very chambers, Mr. Mossman said Rise would have "*the most environmentally friendly gold mine in the world.*" They barely made it 7 months in commercial production at Banks Island.

You will likely hear from Rise and Rise supporters that the issues at Banks Island were "minor". Yet, according to the judge's summary, "Streams in the [two spill] sites had *significant* mine waste discharged into them..."^v For example, just one of the spills was over 63,000 gallons including at least one ton of suspended solids.^{vi} Definitely not minor.

But there is an even more important point: This is not just about the Rise Gold project. This is what can happen when you approve an underground mine, especially in populated areas. This proposed mine is not in the middle of nowhere.

It only requires a brief survey of the mining industry to see that many underground mines follow the same pattern: Small to medium sized violations get waved off with promises to be "fixed in the future"^{vii} and press releases that suggest it's no big deal.

Often, these small to medium sized violations that are claimed to be "minor" are followed by larger violations that can't be ignored...but can't be dealt with because you have to shut down the whole mine, including laying off hundreds of people and in the case at Banks Island, and if approved at Idaho-Maryland, a "Junior" Mining Company with no revenue, all of which leaves no way to keep the negative environmental impact from getting worse if the mine is closed.^{viii}

Even if the mine owners are receptive to fixing various environmental or permit issues and have available funding, the back and forth of developing an agreement and a detailed plan takes time, often weeks or months, before anything is done to fix the on-going problem.^{ix}

So, the environment and the neighbors get hammered because nobody can do anything about it without creating bigger catastrophes.

One final quote, this one from St. Anthony who in the year 1200 said "Actions speak louder than words". We should all pay attention to the actions of the President and CEO of Rise Gold at his last mining adventure.

We respectfully request you trust your Planning Commissioners and Just Say NO to all elements of the Rise project.

Thank you.

John Vaughan, [REDACTED]

ⁱ 07/07/23 Transcript, Item [101] and [104].

ⁱⁱ 07/07/23 Transcript, Item [108]

ⁱⁱⁱ 07/07/23 Transcript, Item [110]

^{iv} 02/13/23 Transcript, Item [54] thru [57]

^v 07/07/23 Transcript, Item [87]

^{vi} <https://ricochet.media/en/537/banks-island-gold-refused-to-shut-down-mine-after-spill-in-remote-coastal-bc> and Dirty Dozen PDF page 11 at:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjsq56G-sOAAxUlk2oFHQ0IAjg4ChAWegQJERAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Freformbcmining.ca%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2021%2F05%2FBCMLR-Dirty-Dozen-2021-report-web.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3qR_7A6iRYFIhmoRD22BCa&opi=89978449

^{vii} 02/13/23 Transcript, Item [120]

^{viii} 02/13/23 Transcript, Item [161] thru [163]

^{ix} <https://ricochet.media/en/537/banks-island-gold-refused-to-shut-down-mine-after-spill-in-remote-coastal-bc>

06/27/2023 Good morning. My name is John Vaughan. I live in District 3.

The Draft EIR commenters for the Rise project who noted serious issues with the EIR included consultants with decades of experience, environmental engineers, mining engineers, geologists, hydrologists, scientists, PhD's, Lawyers, The California Air Resources Board, The City of Grass Valley, NID, other local and state agencies and hundreds of local people who read the details of the Draft EIR.

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NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

For any item of substance, the Final EIR consultants ignored all the commenters claiming they were ill-informed, confused or just wrong. Despite Rise's claims about working with the Community, there was no attempt to clarify or consult or work together to see if maybe, just maybe, some of these people had a good point.

Some examples of comments include:

California Air Resources Board: "It is not appropriate to determine [asbestos] risk from rock samples." ⁱ

The City of Grass Valley: "Cursory dismissal of alternatives is based on economic assumptions for which there is absolutely no supporting evidence... [in the] FEIR." ⁱⁱ

NID: "...NID...is concerned that the level of infrastructure necessary to extend water to affected wells beyond Bennet Rd area would come at a substantial cost." ⁱⁱⁱ

Dr. Oberdorfer: "The report produced by the mine's modeling consultant would not have been an acceptably thorough report in my graduate course." ^{iv}

Dr. Chambers: "The mining project as proposed in this EIR has a fundamental lack of information...related to geochemistry and water quality." ^v

Shute, Mihaley & Weinberger, LLP: "...the F[inal] EIR failed to address or correct the many fundamental issues with the D[raft] EIR. As a result, the EIR violates CEQA and cannot be certified." ^{vi}

It defies common sense that Rise and the Final EIR consultants ignored all the experts, except their own, and made no substantive changes. You would think that if Rise actually cared about local concerns, they would have listened to all the experts, made time to clearly understand the issues and would have offered appropriate adjustments.

The fact that numerous comments of substance were disregarded points to a final EIR that has failed to establish what the impacts truly are and lacks credibility.

I respectfully request you trust your Planning Commissioners and Just Say NO to all elements of the Rise project.

[Bio's for Dr. Oberdorfer and Dr. Chambers are included in the footnotes]

Thank you.

ⁱ Northern Sierra Air Quality Management DEIR comment letter, April 29, 2022 page 1

ⁱⁱ City of Grass Valley, see page 41 <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/47875/24---Public-Comments-Recieved-Since-Close-of-Draft-EIR-Public-Comment-Period>

ⁱⁱⁱ NID DEIR response, page 2-329

^{iv} Jean A. Oberdorfer, PhD., Professor of Geology, Professional Geologist, Certified Hydrogeologist and Doctor of Philosophy, Geology and Geophysics. Dr. Oberdorfer has a broad range of experience with groundwater resource and contamination issues. She has advised public interest groups and acted as an expert witness, page 3051

<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/47875/24---Public-Comments-Recieved-Since-Close-of-Draft-EIR-Public-Comment-Period>

^v Dr. David Chambers, Dr. Chambers has Professional Engineering Degree in physics from the Colorado School of Mines, a Master of Science Degree in geophysics from the University of California at Berkeley, and is a registered professional geophysicist in California (# GP 972). Dr. Chambers received his Ph.D. in environmental planning from Berkeley. Dr. Chambers has 40 years of experience in mineral exploration and development including 15 years of technical and management experience in the mineral exploration industry. DEIR comment letter 3/16/22, page 11

^{vi} Shute, Mihaley & Weinberger, LLC, FEIR response, page 1772

<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/47875/24---Public-Comments-Recieved-Since-Close-of-Draft-EIR-Public-Comment-Period>

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JUN 19 2023

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

EACH SUPERVISOR RECD.

6/14/23

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City CA 95959

Supervisor Hall, Scofield, Swarthout, Hoek, Bullock,

Thanks for your leadership and service to the people and natural landscape of Nevada County. I am writing to ask you to vote no on the reopening of the Idaho/Maryland Mine. The introduction of an extractive industry by a company with a questionable record of honesty and accountability, in the heart of a beautiful community will be a tragedy for the people of Nevada County and the natural ecology we all share.

The Planning Commission working on your behalf in the interest of the people and the environment of Nevada County, clearly made a decision in the best interest of our communities. I hope you will accept their hard work and support the no vote.

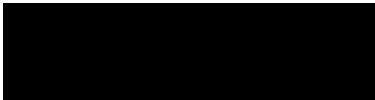
Rise Gold's response to the Planning Commission's vote is a clear indication that the company has little regard for the people, leadership, and landscape of our community. Their threats and accusations are indicators of misguided corporate leadership.

Thanks for listening to my concerns.

Take care,



Daniel Desmond



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JUN 13 2023

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

06/13/2023

Good morning. My name is John Vaughan. I live in District 3.

I'd like to talk a bit about Corporate Culture. Apparently one element of Rise's Corporate Culture is a willingness to use threats of legal action to get their way. A couple of examples include:

Following receipt of negative Draft EIR commentary from the Air Quality Board, Rise's Attorney sent a 10 page letter to the Air Quality Board claiming a number of grievances, including bias, influence by project opponents, defamation, violation of Constitutional Rights, challenges to the science and claims that Rise's business interests had been harmed. The lawyers letter concludes with threats of lawsuits and demands a retraction. The Air Quality Board apparently bent to their demands.

And Rise's grievances that I just noted may sound very familiar, as it's basically the same elements included in the letter that you, the Board of Supervisors, recently received from Rise. Grievance after grievance because the Planning Commission did their job, and the outcome was not what Rise wanted.

What you are seeing may well be a key part of the Rise Corporate Culture. If you were to approve this project, enforcement actions by the County or outside agencies would likely be met with obfuscation and delay, with long letters from Rise's Attorney claiming County Staff or Agency bias, defamation, violation of Constitutional Rights, challenges to the science and threats of lawsuits.

In addition, close examination of the wording in the FEIR and the enforceability of the mitigations and conditions of approval will reveal they are riddled with ambiguity. Such ambiguities in the FEIR feeds a corporate strategy which appears to be designed to ensure that no one but Rise will decide whether or not they are in compliance and whether or not anything has to be done about it and when it will be done.

All the mitigations, compliance promises, and plans noted in the FEIR and Development Agreement are likely just smoke and mirrors as the apparent plan is to use their lawyers to do whatever they want.

I respectfully request you trust your Planning Commissioners. You can't fix a bad idea with threats and empty promises. Just Say No to all parts of the Rise project.

Thank you.

John Vaughan, [REDACTED]

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JUN 13 2023

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PO Box 972, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924-0972
www.cea-nc.org / email: info@cea-nc.org

Flawed Analysis Regarding Mine Water Levels in the FEIR

June 13, 2023

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What is interesting is that the water generally flows in at the New Brunswick shaft and other entry points such as the Old Brunswick mine, and eventually flows out at the drains at Wolf Creek. [Emko hydrology report, DEIR Appendix K.2, Figure 3-20, p68]

So why do I say this subject has profound impacts on the mine project? Two reasons:

1) The hydrology report and the groundwater model both rely on the fact that when you look at the variations in the groundwater levels of the wells near the mine, you see those water levels go up and down seasonally, but when you compare those variations with the level in the mine, you don't see the mine water level go up and down.

From this observation, the hydrology study concluded that there is no noteworthy connectivity of groundwater between the well water levels near the surface and the water level in the mine. [Emko, p31]

But guess what? That argument doesn't hold water. When increased flows go into the mine, it never raises the level much above the mine drains because it just flows out. So a fundamental assumption used in the hydrology studies is false.

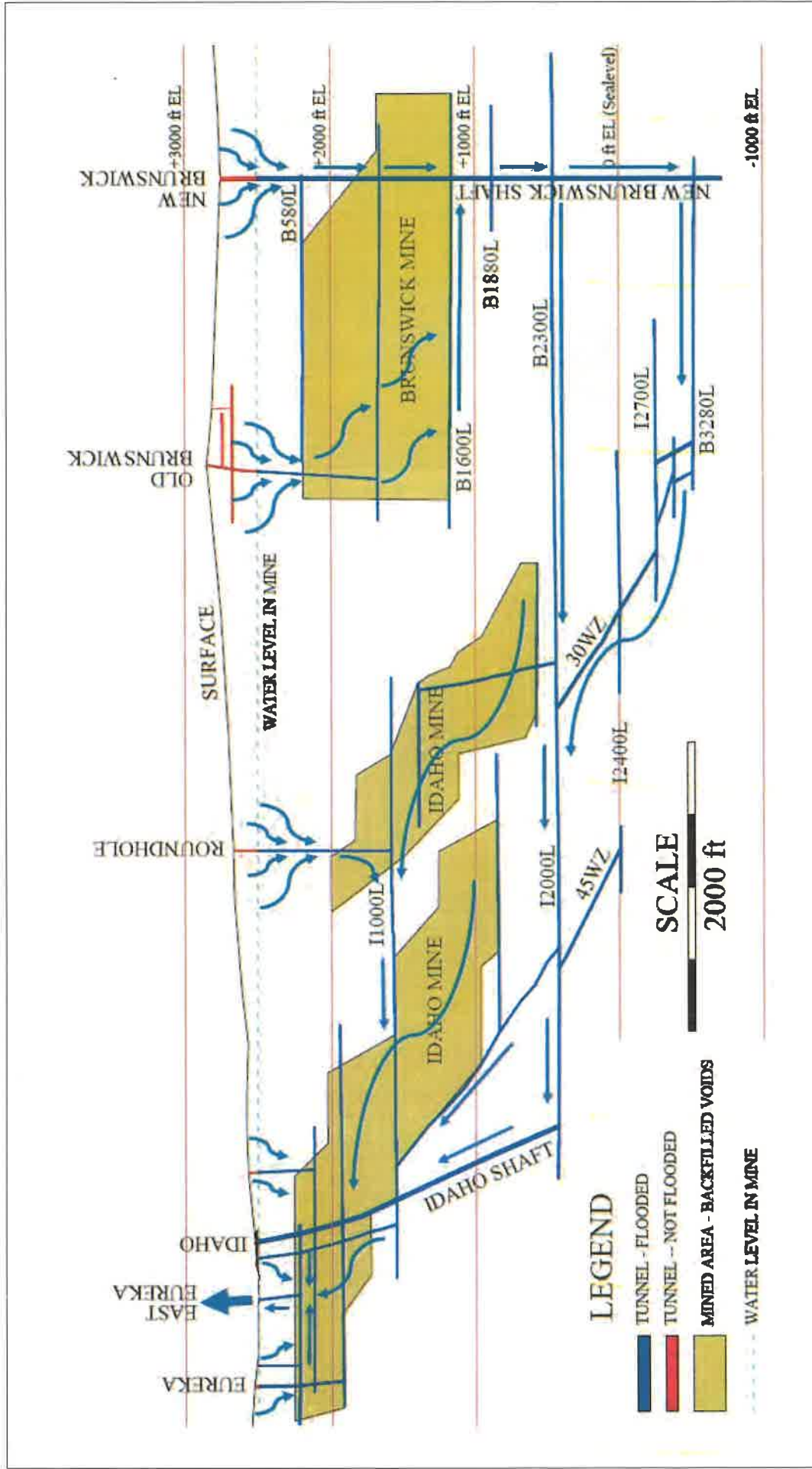
2) Rise had numerous tests conducted at the Brunswick shaft and those tests show that the mine water has only iron and manganese contaminants. But those tests were all conducted where the water is flowing into the mine. The test that really matters is the one at the drains, after the water has flowed through the miles of tunnels in the mine.

The water at the drain is much more likely to represent the potential for toxic mine waste drainage. And the only tests included in the EIR for the drains show high values of arsenic, zinc, iron, and manganese. Mine waste with those discharges will definitely not qualify as Group C mine waste and therefore would be too toxic to be sold, given away, or dumped. [Emko, Page 43.]

Unfortunately, the Final EIR failed to recognize either of these crucial points.

Thank you.
Ralph Silberstein

Figure 3-20 Groundwater Movement in Mine Workings



Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality Analysis Report for the ~~Plato~~-Maryland Mine Project

New Brunswick Shaft

*ED-1
IMD-1
IMD-2
NBS-265
NBS-900
NBS-1300
NBS-1600
NBS-2300*

Laboratory Parameters	Units	D-1	ED-1	IMD-1	IMD-2	NBS-265	NBS-900	NBS-1300	NBS-1600	NBS-2300	Regulatory Standards
		2/13/2018	2/13/2018	2/15/2018	2/15/2018	2/15/2018	2/15/2018	2/15/2018	2/15/2018	2/15/2018	
TPH as Diesel	mg/L	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
TPH as Motor Oil	mg/L	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	0.83	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
TPH as Gasoline	ug/L	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	NA	<50
Metals											
Aluminum	ug/L	<50	290	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	200
Antimony	ug/L	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	6
Arsenic	ug/L	6.6	59	41	37	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	10
Barium	ug/L	<100	130	130	130	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	1000
Beryllium	ug/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	4
Boron	ug/L	<100	140	140	140	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	
Cadmium	ug/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	1.7	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	1.8 (HD)
Chromium	ug/L	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	150 (HD)
Copper	ug/L	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	6.5 (HD)
Iron	ug/L	<100	4800	2200	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	300
Lead	ug/L	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	1.8 (HD)
Manganese	ug/L	<20	310	200	210	270	230	230	230	240	50
Mercury	ug/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	0.05
Molybdenum	ug/L	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	
Nickel	ug/L	24	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	36 (HD)
Selenium	ug/L	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	5
Silver	ug/L	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	1.9 (HD)
Thallium	ug/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	1.7
Vanadium	ug/L	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	
Zinc	ug/L	<50	94	<50	<50	66	<50	<50	<50	<50	83 (HD)
Bacteriological											
E. Coli	MPN / 100 mL	<1.8	<1.8	<1.8	2	<1.8	NA	NA	NA	<1.8	Present
Fecal Coliform	MPN / 100 mL	<1.8	<1.8	<1.8	2	<1.8	NA	NA	NA	<1.8	Present
Total Coliform	MPN / 100 mL	>1600	140	2	17	2	NA	NA	NA	<1.8	>1X

From: [Susan Jueck](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Rise Gold
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 9:39:14 AM

Dist 4

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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The actions of the planning commissioners were disgusting and unconscionable. Rejecting the FEIR and citing zoning violations!...what a joke....they just gave in to the "mob". I am glad to see that Rise Gold will be holding them accountable and ask you all to repudiate their recommendation. I find it amusing that the 200 or so houses getting built down the road has no significant impact.....did the same group protest that? and the property owners around the mine site must have been told this mine could still open in the future.

Rise Gold has gone through all the hoops,crossed all the 'T's" and dotted all the "I's" and are not in violation of any of the permitting steps. (It can be a long agonizing process and we only had to rectify building a garage without permit ,our own fault but resolved amicably).

You all need to vote yes on reopening the mine. Good for our economy and our history.

Thank you for your time and attention'
Lonnie and Susan Jueck
Nevada County 4th District registered voters

To Whom It May Concern,
After reading Saturday June
10th's paper on the Rised mine
project, the paper said to
call and let the Board know
how you feel about the mine.

So this letter is to say my
husband and I say no way
to the mine,

We moved here forty four
years ago because of the beauty,
the nature and the way the
town is so quaint and
quiet.

The mine would destroy
every part of this town
and we do not need the mine.

Please, please keep the
mine out

RECEIVED

JUN 15 2023

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sincerely

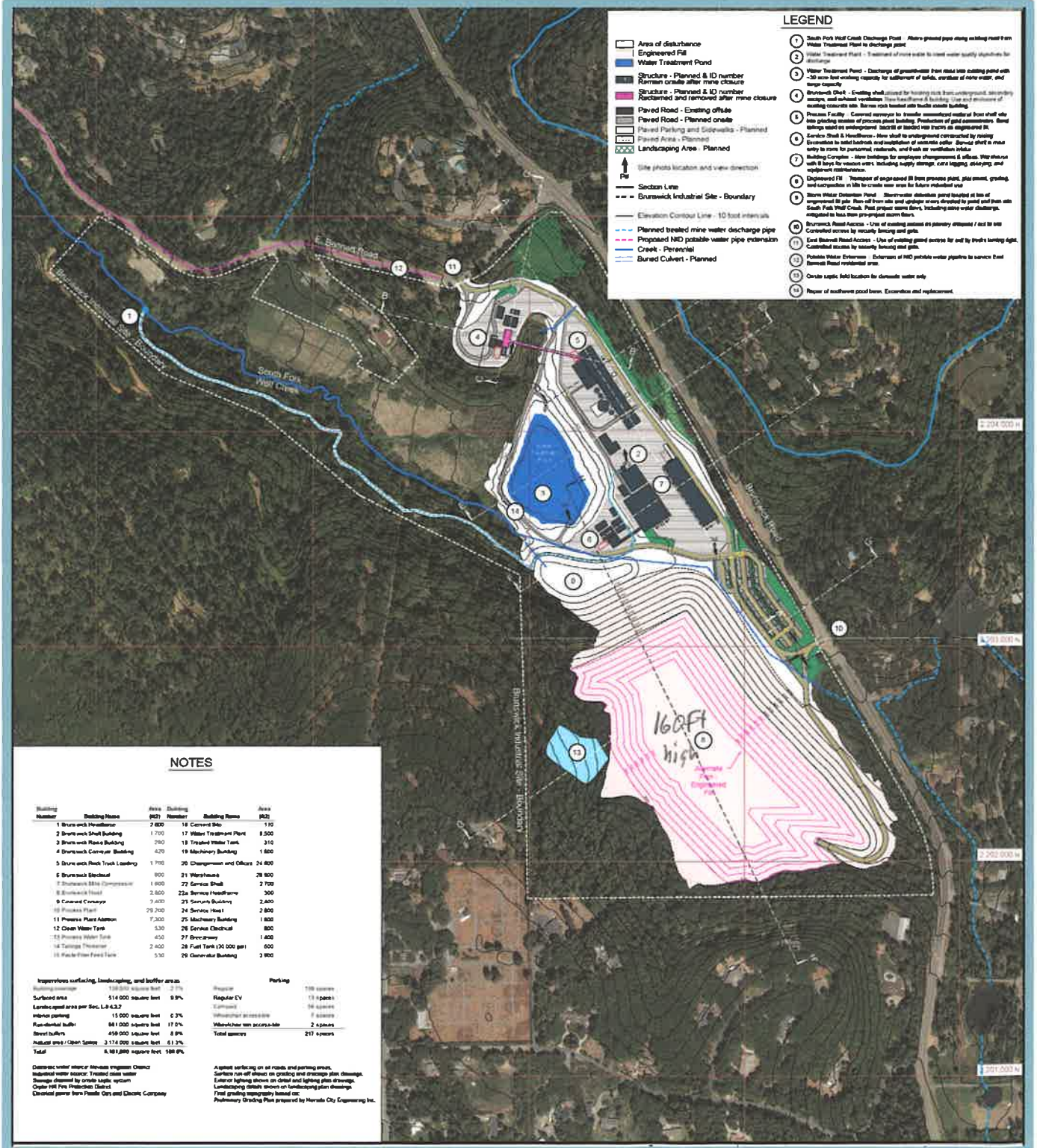
Fred and Pat Lucas

JAN 23 2024

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Draft EIR
Idaho-Maryland Mine Project
December 2021

Figure 6-2
Alternative 2 Site Plan (Elimination of Centennial Industrial Site)



- LEGEND**
- 1 South Fork West Creek Discharge Point - Above ground pipe along existing road to an Water Treatment Plant to discharge point
 - 2 Water Treatment Plant - Treatment of mine water to meet water quality standards for discharge
 - 3 Water Treatment Pond - Discharge of groundwater from mine into existing pond with 50 acre foot storage capacity for settlement of solids, overflow of mine water, and surge capacity
 - 4 Burlewick Shaft - Existing shaft closed for housing back from underground, site-orderly cleanup, and related ventilation. New headframe & building. Use and enclosure of existing concrete site. Service road located into the site south building.
 - 5 Process Facility - Covered conveyor to transfer mineralized material from shaft site into existing system of process plant building. Protection of gold concentrates. Road bridge will be underground. Located at Burlewick shaft as engineered by.
 - 6 Service Shaft & Headframe - New shaft to underground constructed by raising. Excavation to install backfill and installation of concrete shaft. Service shaft is main entry to mine for personnel, materials, and fresh air ventilation intake.
 - 7 Building Complex - New buildings for employee change rooms & offices. The shaft with 8 lanes for resource users including supply storage, care logging, delivery, and equipment maintenance.
 - 8 Engineered Fill - Transport of engineered fill from process plant, plant access, grading, and construction in site to create new areas for future industrial use.
 - 9 Storm Water Detention Pond - Stormwater detention pond located at top of engineered fill pile. Run off from site and upstage of area directed to pond and then into South Fork West Creek. Post project storm flow, including mine water discharge regulated to less than pre-project storm flow.
 - 10 Burlewick Road Access - Use of existing access as primary entrance / exit to site. Controlled access by security fencing and gates.
 - 11 East Burlewick Road Access - Use of existing paved access for east by truck turning right. Controlled access by security fencing and gates.
 - 12 Potable Water Extension - Extension of MID potable water pipeline to service East Burlewick Road residential area.
 - 13 On-site water field location for domestic water only.
 - 14 Repair of southwest pond basin. Excavation and replacement.

NOTES

Building Number	Building Name	Area (sqft)	Building Number	Building Name	Area (sqft)
1	Burlewick Headframe	7,800	18	Conveyer Site	110
2	Burlewick Shaft Building	1,700	17	Water Treatment Plant	8,500
3	Burlewick Flows Building	790	18	Treated Water Tank	210
4	Burlewick Conveyer Building	470	19	Machinery Building	1,600
5	Burlewick Back Truck Loading	1,700	20	Change rooms and Offices	24,800
6	Burlewick Electrical	800	21	Warehouses	26,800
7	Burlewick Shaft Compressor	1,800	22	Service Shaft	2,700
8	Burlewick Road	2,800	23	Service Headframe	500
9	Conveyer Conveyer	3,400	24	Service Building	2,400
10	Process Plant	79,200	24	Service Road	2,800
11	Process Plant Addition	7,300	25	Machinery Building	1,800
12	Clean Water Tank	530	26	General Electrical	800
13	Process Water Tank	450	27	Secretary	1,400
14	Storage Tank	2,400	28	Fuel Tank (20,000 gal)	600
15	Backfill Pond Tank	530	29	Generator Building	3,800

Impervious surfacing, landscaping, and buffer areas	Percent	Parking
Surface area	514,000 square feet 93%	Regular CV
Landscaped area per Sec. L-8-4.3.2		Compact
Impervious parking	15,000 square feet 0.3%	Motorist accessible
Permeable buffer	881,000 square feet 173%	Motorist non-accessible
Street buffers	458,000 square feet 84%	Total spaces
Autoland area / Open Space	3,174,000 square feet 61.3%	
Total	6,183,800 square feet 100.0%	

Impervious surfacing on all roads and parking areas. Surface run off shown on grading and drainage plan drawings. Enter on highway shown on signal and lighting plan drawings. Landscaping details shown on landscaping plan drawings. Final grading regulatory limited cut. Preliminary Grading Plan prepared by Nevada City Engineering Inc.



**Table 6-1
Comparison of Environmental Impacts for Project Alternatives**

Resource Area	Proposed Project	No Project (No Build) Alternative	Alternative 2: Elimination of Centennial Industrial Site and Expansion of Brunswick Fill Pile	Alternative 3: Expansion of Centennial Engineered Fill Pile and Elimination of Brunswick Engineered Fill Pile	Alternative 4: Reduced Throughput
Aesthetics	Significant and Unavoidable	None	Fewer*	Similar or (Slightly) Fewer*	Similar
Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation	None	Fewer	Similar	Fewer
Biological Resources	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation	None	Fewer	Fewer	Similar
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation	None	Fewer	Fewer	Similar
Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation	Fewer	Fewer	Fewer	Similar
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation	Fewer	Similar	Similar	Fewer
Hydrology and Water Quality	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation	None	Fewer	Similar	Greater
Noise and Vibration	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation and Significant and Unavoidable	None	Fewer*	(Slightly) Greater*	(Slightly) Greater*
Transportation	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation and Significant and Unavoidable	None	Fewer*	(Slightly) Greater*	Similar or (Slightly) Fewer*
Wildfire	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation	Fewer	Fewer	Fewer	Similar
Total Fewer (or None):		10	9	4	2
Total Similar:		0	1	4	6
Total Greater:		0	0	2	2

Note: No Impact = "None"; Less than Proposed Project = "Fewer"; Similar to Proposed Project = "Similar"; Greater than the Proposed Project = "Greater"

* Significant and Unavoidable impact(s) determined for the proposed project would still be expected to occur under the Alternative.

