

**From:** [Julie Patterson-Hunter](#)  
**To:** [All BOS Board Members](#)  
**Cc:** [Brian Foss](#); [Matt Kelley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rise Gold Idaho Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:43:44 AM

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## Dist 1

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**From:** Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:01 AM  
**To:** bdofsupervisors <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>; Alison Lehman <Alison.Lehman@co.nevada.ca.us>  
**Cc:** Traci Sheehan <traci.sheehan@gmail.com>; Greg Thrush <greg.thrush@sierrafund.org>; Paul Schwartz <psschwartz@sbcglobal.net>  
**Subject:** Rise Gold Idaho Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Proposal

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To:  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
Eric Rood Administration Center 950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
[bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us)

Please read into the record and submit the written copy to the Board of Supervisors.

The permit application for the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Grass Valley is currently in the scoping phase. I did not see the requirement for an economic study proposed for the review process. This is a difficult omission to understand. Reintroducing a large industrial enterprise into an area that has evolved for almost three decades, since the closure of the saw mill, into a rural residential neighborhood is a high risk land use planning decision. I can't imagine what the upside is that motivates Nevada County leadership to consider this proposal. Is it an increase in local tax revenue? Is it jobs for local residents? Is it purely a right to use private property ideological decision? The downside is easy to see looking no further than the applicants project description. Mining will operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day with some level of impact on area noise, traffic, air quality (dust, fumes, carbon), increase volumes of water pumped into Wolf Creek, impact on 300 plus wells following millions of gallons pumped continually from the ground water and mine shafts, disruption from underground expansion of mine shafts within the mineral rights that may impact 900 homes on the surface, and the impact to real estate values as the area transforms from rural residential to industrial. One obvious way to answer some of the questions is to complete an Economic Study and clearly evaluate how the enterprise would impact the local and regional economy. It would clearly evaluate what resources would stay in the community and what resources would leave. The economic study would illuminate the public sector cost of oversight and mitigation

from a historical and current prospective relative to mining enterprises. The economic study would also reveal any redirection of the local economy following approval and implementation of this industrial operation.

I worry about degradation of the quality of life in this part of the county. I worry about the intersection of Brunswick and Bennett during commute hours and who will pay for traffic lights. I worry about our air quality after days of an AQI of over 160 ( really unhealthy) documented at the Litton Building air quality testing station. I worry about businesses along Idaho Maryland that detail cars with their shop doors open, sell recreation vehicles in open air parking lots, work in technology development and production requiring clean environments in Whispering Pines Business Park. I worry about the businesses because over a million tons of crushed rock is proposed to be moved from the Idaho Maryland Mine to the Centennial Mine location (corner of Idaho Maryland and Centennial Drive) and mixed into 60 acres of contaminated soils on that site. What will the impact on these businesses be?

In conclusion, the responsible path is to study and reveal the upsides and downsides of the Idaho-Maryland Mine Reopening Proposal as thoroughly as possible. This includes a neutral Economic Study of the impacts of the proposal on our community and region.

Sincerely,  
Paul Schwartz  
13812 Meadow Drive  
Grass Valley CA 95945  
530-272-2535

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