From: Laura Gerhart
To: BOS Public Comment
Subject: Comment for 5/25 Board Meeting
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 12:32:41 PM

Dist 3

5/24/2021

TO: Nevada County Board of Supervisors

FR: Laura Gerhart, Grass Valley property owner, [redacted]

RE: Reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine

As a homeowner and long-time resident, I am writing today with deep concern about what I consider to be Rise Gold/Grass Valley's efforts to minimize the effects their industrial mining operation will have on the quiet rural areas around the proposed mine and dump sites. Rise Gold/Grass Valley is emphasizing that mining will be done 500-1000 feet underground and that the blasting and crushing will be "unnoticeable and undetectable."

Even if this was true, which I do not believe and which is not what the evidence points to in other "modern" mining efforts, their willingness to downplay the underground operations and overlook the above ground impacts point to the company's underlying aim to promote their agenda above honestly considering the effect the mine will have on our community.

I am not well-educated in the particulars of the modern mining industry; however, it is easy to imagine the noise and dust that will be created by mechanisms aimed at getting the rock to the surface from 500-1000 ft. below. In addition, the line of large trucks idling while waiting to have the ore loaded and the sound of all that material landing in a truck bed, over and over for 16 hours a day sounds impactful.

Then, there is the transportation of it out onto Brunswick Road with a truck every 10 minutes or so gearing up and down to get out of the compound, at Greenhorn 4 way stop and while turning onto Whispering Pines. Not to mention the trucks passing back and forth up and down Bennett Road all day.

If that's not enough, the operation includes the sound of morning to night heavy equipment compacting, excavating, and grading fill piles up to 7 stories tall. That's 70 feet! That's higher than most buildings in our lovely county. Just the beep, beep, beep of the movers constantly backing up will be excruciating for miles around let alone the noise of the work being done.

The whole thing sounds like a noisy, intrusive, bad idea. It sounds incredibly impactful. I urge you not to dismiss or diminish the concerns of residents about the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. We make up the county. We purchase goods and services, we participate in community life with work and volunteer activities, we pay taxes, and there are a great many of us who will be affected.

Please do not bring this disruptive proposition to our area in exchange for less than 300 new jobs and a relatively small amount of tax revenue that can likely be acquired in a way more conducive to the health and quality of life that we who live here cherish.

Respectfully,

Laura Gerhart

From: Darryl Snow
To: BOS Public Comment
Subject: Public Comments for May 25, 2021 BOS Meeting
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 12:22:43 PM

Dist 1

My name is Darryl Snow. It's about a 5-minute drive from our neighborhood to downtown Grass Valley. We've spent recent years improving our home and working with our neighbors to get our properties fire-ready because that was our biggest concern, until now. My property is less than 3 acres but there's a 25-acre parcel near the end of the street that was recently sold and is now being developed as a commercial cannabis cultivation operation. If any of you on the Board haven't had this happen in your neighborhood, then you cannot fully understand the impact that it has on your sense of well being, and I hope you'll try to put yourselves in our shoes. For the simple reason that our neighborhood was zoned "AG" at some point in history, it appears that anyone can develop a commercial pot farm without any regard or consideration for the neighbors, and by the way, this is the first AG project that any of us are aware of in our neighborhood's history. We are a residential neighborhood. We've had no real say in the matter and we're limited to commenting in forums like this. We're all on wells and see the effects of drought. I was told that the Regional Water Board was involved with this farm so I called them to ask if documentation was available for public review and I was told that the cannabis files were locked down in order to protect the pot grower's privacy, and maybe that's best so that our neighborhood isn't easily discovered by criminals, but I think that we neighbors should be entitled to see that information upon request. Our little road that we all maintain and pay for is now being subjected to commercial use and I'm told that it is the Fire Marshall's opinion that our road is not zoned for commercial use, but that doesn't seem to matter. We've been listening to trees falling and heavy equipment for the last month and watching our road get abused by this new heavy traffic and the new strangers. And it should get interesting around harvest time when armed criminals come looking for opportunities, especially with four young girls playing in the yard next door to this operation, separated only by a short wire fence.

We neighbors had a meeting with the grower and he said that this is his dream. One neighbor responded by saying "this is our nightmare", and it is. I grow three heirloom tomato plants in my yard each year. The new neighbor is growing 1,500 pot plants outdoors this year and there are no limits on how much groundwater he can extract. If our wells run dry our home values will plummet and there is no recourse but to have water delivered for $1,000 per month and there is no responsibility on the part of the pot grower. And we can hardly wait to smell the skunky aroma in the coming months. We all recently received a letter from a representative of the pot grower which concluded that Nevada County is a right-to-farm county and that we shall not attempt to prohibit farming activities. It went on to say that Nevada County has determined that inconveniences or discomforts with agricultural

operations shall not be considered to be a nuisance if such operations are consistent with accepted customs and standards. Well I guess that it's the County's position that all of my grievances listed above are now considered to be consistent with conditions that are acceptable. There should be some distinction between normal agriculture and commercial pot farming. I hear that Mendocino and Humboldt Counties are becoming more restrictive due to lessons learned, and that the pot growers are moving their operations to Nevada County as a result. Maybe someone should slow things down here before the groundwater supplies, property values, air quality, public health, safety, and quality of life are further diminished. I don't know if there is anything that any of you can do at this point, but I ask you to please listen to us and try to affect positive change going forward. Commercial pot farms should not be in residential neighborhoods, and I hope that some of you can understand why, and if you do, please do what you can to stop allowing this to happen in our neighborhoods. Thank you!

From:	Ken Paige
To:	bdofsupervisors; Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller; Sue Hoek; Hardy Bullock; County Counsel; CEO; Sheriff; Chad Ellis; Kit Elliott; Env.Health; Alex Gammelgard; Public Health
Subject:	Re: For the Public Record May 25th BOS Meeting
Date:	Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:35:14 PM

Dist 2

Dear BOS,

Over the past year, numerous members of the public have repeatedly asked that you provide the public with the data upon which you have based decisions that have been devastating to people's lives. As public servants, you and the County staff have an obligation to provide public records when requested. Unfortunately, both the BOS and County employees have continually stonewalled requests for information.

As just one egregious example, when we requested information and records regarding how the County has spent over $10 million of Coronavirus Relief Funding, County Staff produced a single, 4-page document containing a simple laundry list of general areas where the County has allocated this funding, with no information regarding how these monies are actually being spent or who the beneficiaries of these million-dollar allocations are.

As a result, we have submitted a formal Public Records Request seeking **financial information records** relating to the County's administration of the Coronavirus Relief Funds for the period between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021. This includes the following:

The manner in which CRF funds were utilized for expenditures under the following categories:

- Budgeted Personnel/Services Diverted to a substantially different Use ($790k)
- Improve telework capabilities of public employees ($1.2 million)
- Housing Support ($168k)
- Payroll for Public Health and Safety Employees ($3.7 million)
- Small business assistance ($1.85 million)
- Support to Community Police Departments ($415k)

Even more troubling than the lack of transparency regarding the spending of the Coronavirus Relief Funds has been the complete unwillingness of both County Public Health employees, as well as the BOS to present or discuss with the public the County health data and rationale upon which we are still subject to various shutdown orders and emergency declarations to this day.

Consequently, our Public Records request requires that you produce the data you have actually relied upon in implementing these harmful restrictions. In addition to various **vital statistic information**, we are seeking the following:

- Data upon which you, BOS, have based your decision not to rescind the local state of emergency.
- Data upon which any of your Public Health Officers, including Dr. Scott Kellerman or Dr. Brad Johnson, have relied upon or considered in making their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors with regards to the County's response to the COVID-19/SAR-COV-2 pandemic.

This past year has seen restrictions unlike any other imposed on the people of Nevada County. This has resulted in lost businesses, significant increases in deaths due to suicide and delayed medical

care, and restrictions on our most basic human rights. Because of the extreme nature of these restrictions, a responsible local government would have sought to review as much data and research as possible, in order to fulfill their statutory obligation to terminate the local State of Emergency at the earliest possible date.

We are assuming the BOS and the County Public Health Department have performed their obligations in conducting these inquiries and reviewing such information throughout the course of this purported emergency. However, if you do not provide records to us that reflect such inquiry and discussions by the BOS, we will take this as your acknowledgement that no such analysis was ever conducted with regards to identifying the actual impact of COVID-19 upon this community or with regards to comparing projected impacts of COVID-19 against the projected health, mental, and financial impacts of any mitigation methods adopted by the County.

Ken Paige- owner of Friar Tuck's

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Ken R Paige

Eat your food with gladness & drink your wine with a joyful heart (Ecclesiastes 9:7)

Proprietor Friar Tuck's Restaurant & Bar

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Ken R Paige

Eat your food with gladness & drink your wine with a joyful heart (Ecclesiastes 9:7)

Proprietor Friar Tuck's Restaurant & Bar

Gusto Curtis
Dist 1

Hello Board of Supervisors,

I have been a resident of District One for over five years. I chose to relocate here to raise my family in a healthy environment that was also my wife's upbringing as a native of Nevada City. I am very concerned with the lack of foresight regarding the cannabis regulatory process as it pertains to the quality of life for those living in residential neighborhoods. Yes, I agree that cannabis cultivation is appropriate for certain geographical and demographic areas of Nevada County. However, it is not appropriate to permit a commercial cannabis operation at the end of a residential street that was not constructed to accommodate the traffic requirements of big rig trucks and additional vehicles to deforest and operate the business. Cannabis is a labor and water intensive crop that presents many issues for our neighborhood and many like ours in Western Nevada County.

It is not fair to compare the cultivation of cannabis to that of growing grapes at a winery. I have lived and worked in Napa County and the harvesting of grapes does not attract the criminal element as a cannabis farm does. I also have unique local law enforcement experience of responding to victims of "pot rips" and intercepting verified Sacramento area gangsters armed with handguns and assault rifles. These criminals had targeted "mom and pop" cannabis grows that were much smaller than what is being proposed at the end of our family street. The hired staff responsible for maintaining the grow are not local vetted employees, but are typically people from out of the area that will be driving directly along a home school for children aged five to nine years old. Who will protect these children from possible sexual offenders (PC 290 registrants) that may be employees of this operation?

Our neighborhood and most other neighborhoods in District One subsist on well water. The water necessary to grow a 10,000 sq. ft. cannabis canopy annually is substantial to say the least. What recourse is there for the rest of the families that must redrill their well because the commercial operation at the bottom of our road drained the well(s)? There has been much talk as of recent regarding "quality of life". Are the revenue incentives for new operations that great as to devalue the long-standing residents of this county? Should the eight families sacrifice the following to appease the new neighbor who relocated for the explicit purpose of cannabis cultivation: increased road wear/ pollution, water insecurity, deforesting air pollution, cultivation odor pollution, increase fire danger from electrical supply, unwanted/untrusted employees that pose a danger to the children living and attending school on the street, fortifying property with taller fences and driveway gates, get more guards dogs, install lights/cameras, etc.

There have been short term accommodations made to the detriment of healthy family neighborhoods for the future in Nevada County. What kind of constituents will you have in the years following the slow exodus of families to that of commercial operators when the property values drop, crime increases, wells run dry, and an industry that supports transient labor with no connection to the community? The cannabis cultivation zoning needs to be amended with respect for the well being of generations of families in mind, not revenue.

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: BOS Public Comment
Subject: New eComment for Nevada County Board of Supervisors May 25, 2021, Meeting
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 1:10:24 PM

SpeakUp

Dist 4

New eComment for Nevada County Board of Supervisors May 25, 2021, Meeting

Deanna Darby submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: Nevada County Board of Supervisors May 25, 2021, Meeting

Item: 33. SR 21-0390 Informational presentation regarding Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) programs and uses related to community development land-use activities.

eComment: This would be an extremely useful tool for identifying illegal cannabis grows that have great impact on local neighborhoods. We have lived [redacted] in Nevada City for over 8 years. We've been seriously adversely impacted by these grows. Growers vent their grows resulting in strong smell, lights are visible that look like several football fields of flood lights. Most recently our well has diminished to less than a gal per minute effecting living and the value and salability of our home.

View and Analyze eComments

From: Robin DeMartini
To: BOS Public Comment
Subject: Rise Gold Mine Concerns
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 1:24:35 PM

Unable to identify Dist

Good evening,

I find it fascinating in this day and age, where the overreach of Big Government still masquerades and covers up nefarious intentions (think Flint water issue, Hawaii's defense of sacred land, Big Corporations polluting with no consequence, Cigarettes, Erin Brockovich's story, Chemtrails, and Covid/Fauci, etc.) that a mining company would try to convince us that there would be no polluting, no impact to our water, no obvious increase in noise, and that there would be no impact on our air quality.

I am very concerned about the proposed mine polluting South Fork Wolf Creek (it being used as a storm drain). The impact down the food chain could be staggering. Clean water is the key to life (I'm stating the obvious)!

The dust that will be wafting off the commuting dump trucks alone will easily pollute the air, get into our lungs and will inadvertently settle on all of our plants, homes, air vents, window screens and cars. The dust would be on our home gardens, our outside recreation areas (land and water) and it will also settle on our skin and hair and could be easily absorbed into our bodies (a toxic substance can affect every cell of your body within 20 minutes via your epidermis/skin).

I do not consent. Please find it in your hearts to say NO. Please hear and understand your community's long term impact regarding this important decision. The mine will probably have a negative impact for generations to come.

What will your legacy be; the Big Corporate Dollar, or making the right decision for your own health, your family's health, neighbors, businesses and friends? Someone (YOU, our elected officials) has to stand up to this madness.

Thank you for hearing my plea and concern.

Think good, Say good, Do good,
Robin