

Public Comment Nevada County Supervisor's Meeting 11/10/2020

My name is Ray Bryars and I live on [REDACTED] in Nevada County

I'm following up on a previous public comment regarding the fact that the county is allowing Rise Grass Valley, a penny stock mining company to move forward with the proposed re-opening of the Idaho Maryland Mine. This despite the fact that Rise CEO Ben Mossman filed bankruptcy and left behind a toxic spill from the Banks Island Gold site in British Columbia, Canada.

I just read that the British Columbia high court recently upheld a new trial for Banks Island senior executives Benjamin Mossman and Dirk Meckert relating to the 2015 spill from the Banks Island Gold site, located south of Prince Rupert on Kaien Island, British Columbia.

On December 6, 2018, CEO Mossman was given a \$15,000 fine after being found guilty of one Fisheries Act violation and one Environmental Management Act violation. At that time the leadership of the Gitxaala Nation was very disappointed and called it a "Slap in the face". Clean up costs were estimated at over \$1.6M.

North Coast Member of Legislative Assembly Jennifer Rice said she was shocked to see the mine license application notices since the mine was in bankruptcy. "When I open the paper, and see this ad — I had to do a double-take. Are you kidding me? I couldn't believe it."

So here we are in Nevada County with our Supervisors reviewing a proposal to open a mine from a developer with a track record of bankruptcy and leaving behind an environmental disaster that has seriously impacted native fisheries. Once again I am requesting that you demand an independent study of the background of this developer and to conduct a financial report on their ability to fund the start up and continue safe operation of the mine for the proposed 80 year working life.

The County must set adequate standards to ensure that any company associated with opening a mine in Nevada County meets a very high level of previous compliance and financial stability such as would be expected from a company opening a mine in a heavily residential area so close to senior centers and a large downtown community.

The bar is set way too low. This penny stock operator is causing a high level of stress on all residents in the area of the mine. They are concerned about traffic, noise, dust, wells being de-watered, not to mention Ammonium Nitrate explosives being stored close to their homes. This is all causing physical/mental stress and is impacting the value of the homes they have worked hard to own.

Consider turning this area into a community asset such as a park or a solar farm, not a whack a mole liability.

Raise the bar Nevada County!