

From: [Pamela Biery](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Cc: [Pascale Fusshoeller](#)
Subject: An Open Letter to Nevada County Supervisors Concerning Rise Gold
Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 6:19:04 PM
Attachments: [Nevadacounty-Tourism.png](#)

Dist 3

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An Open Letter to Nevada County Supervisors

September 15, 2021

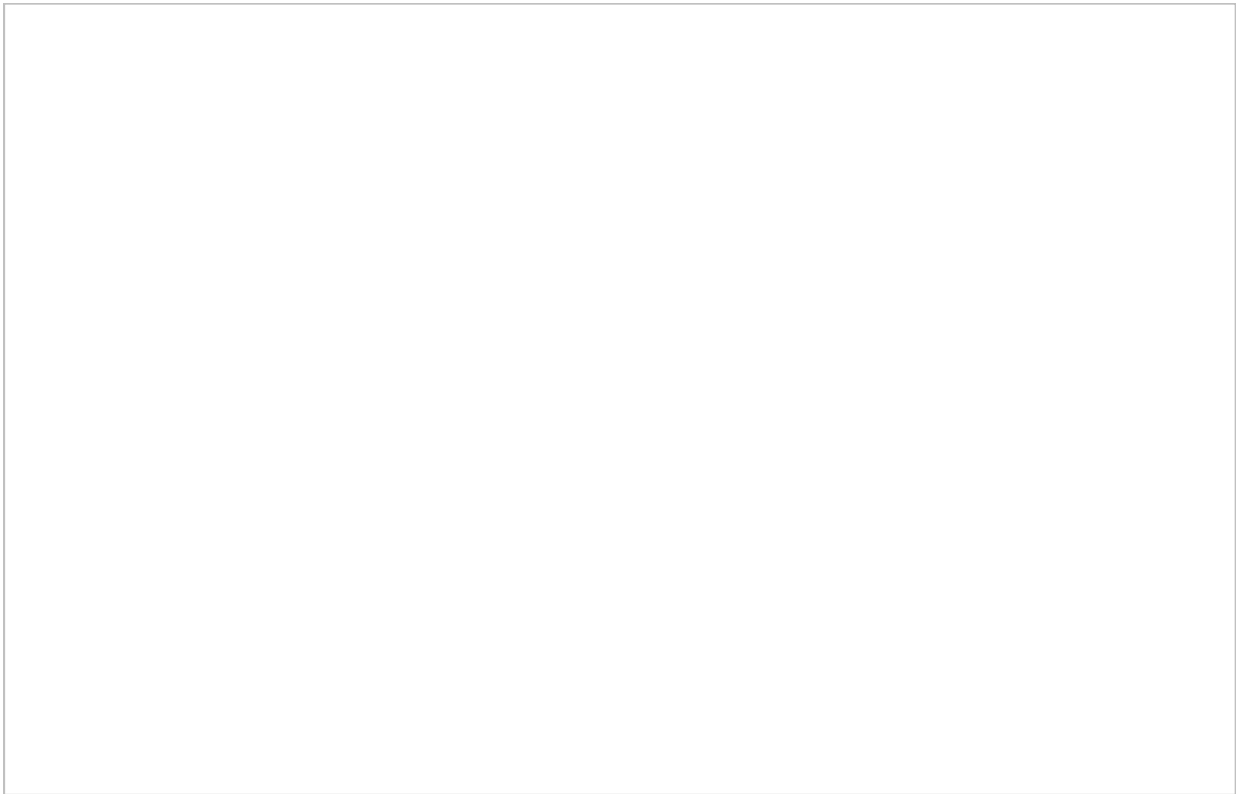
Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Pamela Biery. I have lived in or near Nevada County for 35 years. I am a small business owner with a focus on public relations and in particular, until COVID, sustainable tourism. I have spent many years working with communities on developing and promoting tourism events and especially, sustainable tourism geared towards visitors that reduce impacts and improve experiences. This work includes grants from the City of Nevada City, contracts with the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce, City of Colfax, City of Yuba City, and the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds.

Nevada County has seen tourism consistently rise. From my perspective, 2019 was a banner year with trends in walkable tourism and shoulder season activities enhancing an already vital tourism industry.

Tourism provides Nevada County with a means to switch from its historic resource-extraction economy of mining and timber to hospitality services and related arts and cultural activities. The scenic quality of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Truckee lend themselves to being enjoyed casually by visitors year-round.


This graph by Dean Runyon Associates, published in Nevada County's 2019-2020 Economic Report, demonstrates the positive economic impact of tourism.



Tourism is not compatible with Rise Gold's proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The environmental impacts are best discussed by scientists, but suffice it to say, noise and dust pollution along with constant traffic and decreased home values are strong deterrents to tourism. Best take a hard look with serious scientists at the Pandora's Box of thousands of gallons of toxic water and who knows how much toxic dust before heading far down the path of re-opening. These elements are for the moment, somewhat safely contained—not so with re-opening.

So my questions for you, honorable Supervisors are simple: are you willing to risk the environmental and economic health of our community for the promise of a few jobs? Is it possible that we might learn from the past and opt to present what is preserved, rather than further destructive trends? Are you prepared to interrupt a promising path to economic stability and gamble with Nevada County citizens' financial and physical wellbeing for an out-of-country firm being fined and litigated in its [home country of Canada?](#)

Thank you for your consideration and public service,

Pamela Biery
Grass Valley resident

Registered Voter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Proposed Mine Reopening
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 3:05:53 PM

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September 16, 2021

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

A new resident of the county, I immediately became aware of the proposed reopening of the mine, when I arrived in May of 2021. It is easy to see that gold mining is an important part of the history of Grass Valley and its surroundings. However, now the community that I am enjoying getting to know has much more to offer than its history. According to the Nevada County Economic Resource Council, "Business owners and their employees who work and plan in Nevada County enjoy the TOTAL package. The region provides a balanced lifestyle for professionals and their families with access to good quality amenities, education, services and recreation. The beautiful outdoors, vibrant cultural districts, an engaged community and a thriving Tech Hub provide an idyllic combination to spur innovation, creativity and great quality of life."

All that would be threatened by the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. I first became concerned by the clear impact to the environment of this proposal caused by the water and land use, as well as the heavy truck traffic that would be needed. Water is most definitely a key challenge here, as is air quality.

Next, I learned of the financial history and track records of the principal involved in Rise gold. Having moved here from a small town which is currently dealing with a multi-million-dollar solution to a problem created by unrealistic promises from a developed, I hope fervently that the economics of this proposal will be thoroughly vetted, likely showing that all other concerns aside, it should not be approved.

Jobs are promised, and that always seems like an effective siren song. However, as I travel the community, I see signs in nearly every business reading "hiring now". The essay in the September 14 Union by Martin Hall sheds a whole different light on Rise Gold's promised employment picture. He uses their own data sources to show how much more effective other industries than mining in creating additional jobs. And if you believe, as does the Economic Resource Council, that "quality of Life" is an important factor in attracting employment opportunities, then it is critical to do everything possible to protect it.

Speaking of jobs and the environment, what work has been done to follow-up on the report, "Biomass in the Sierra Nevada", published by the Sierra Business Council in 2020, and updated with new information on their website in July 2021? Biomass and other innovative forest management methods could both create jobs and improve the environment. And it is probably very helpful that the infrastructure bill recently passed by the Senate includes substantial funding for forest management.

I thank you each for the time and energy that you commit to providing leadership to the county. Reaching solutions that can solve problems while attempting to satisfy multiple needs and stakeholders is never easy. I believe that in the case of the Idaho-Maryland Mine that the best solution is to say no to this project and focus on the environment and economy of the future, not of the past.

Carol McMillan
[REDACTED]

From: [Webmaster](#)
To: [BOS Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: Noise
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:06:43 PM

Dist 3

From: richard vaters [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 6:01 AM
To: Webmaster <Webmaster@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Noise

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As a retired general contractor I am wondering why this construction at Idaho Maryland & Brunswick is allowed

to start construction noise at 5:30 a.m. . The codes for Grass Valley clearly state 7 o'clock start time,

When contracting I was to follow these guidelines, why is this work noise being allowed unlawfully.

Please look into this situation as it is quite annoying. We all hope when building construction starts

these guidelines will be enforced. Thanks for your time , Ken

From: [Webmaster](#)
To: [BOS Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: Construction noise !!!!!!!
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:08:16 PM

From: richard vaters [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 6:08 AM
To: Webmaster <Webmaster@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Construction noise !!!!!!!

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I will ask again , why is construction noise starting before 7 a.m. at the Brunswick & Idaho Maryland project.

This morning it started at 6 a.m. Please look into this problem,

This is private sector construction and county codes (laws) state no construction until 7 a.m.

Thanks again Ken

From: [Nancy Jacobsen](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Economic Impact Report
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:30:50 PM

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Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for initiating an Economic Impact Report on the proposed Rise Gold Mine. This is a very important step that needs to be reviewed carefully. There are so many factors that will affect our future in Grass Valley and wishful thinking or "best case" scenarios don't cut it. I look forward to reading the economic study when it is released.

Sincerely,

Nancy Jacobsen



From: [KAREN STONE](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: the Mine
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 10:45:23 AM

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NO NO NO NO NO NO NO!!!!

NOT a viable resource for ANYTHING!!

Time to Revere our Earth!!

The economic "benefits" are BullShit!!

There is nothing more important than preserving and nourishing this beautiful area we live in. We all moved here for our lifestyle, now LET'S NOT RUIN IT!

PLEASE, use your INTELLIGENCE and not your attachment or idolization of the DOLLAR!!

That we are even TALKING about this is a travesty.....

Rev. Karen S. Stone

From: [Martha Turner](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Kudos and Thanks!
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:48:08 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

I want to say thank you for hearing the concerns of the community and having authorized an independent economic study to examine the impact of the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine by Rise Gold-Grass Valley. It will give us all the unbiased information that will be critical to the BOS to make their final decision about this proposed mine.

Sincerely,

Martha Turner

Resident of Grass Valley

Nevada County District 3

From: [Laura Wagner Balch](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Cc: mineconcerns@cea-nc.org; [Gary Balch](#)
Subject: Wagner-Balch opposition to Rise Gold Idaho Maryland Project
Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 7:33:05 AM
Attachments: [WagnerBalch opposition to Rise Gold IMproject.docx](#)

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Please see attached letter opposing the Rise Gold Idaho-Maryland Project and thanking the Board for seeking an Economic Impact Report.

September 22, 2021

To: Nevada County Board of Supervisors

From: Gary Balch and Laura Wagner Balch: [REDACTED]

As citizens of Nevada County, we are very concerned about the prospect of Rise Gold's Idaho-Maryland proposal and hope that you will not approve it. We support economic development in Nevada County but feel that the environmental degradation caused by Rise Gold's I-M project would be a long term negative.

Thank you for seeking an independent economic impact report. We look forward to the results. We hope you will not take action on the Rise Gold project until the request for proposals have yielded a contractor, who has in turn yielded a full report. It will be important for the provider to look at:

- Impact on water, which is currently in short supply in Nevada County
- Impact on the environment, particularly Wolf Creek, where millions of gallons of water will be directed downstream.
- Impact on traffic with large trucks moving on our county roads, which are already sometimes congested
- Impact on air quality, where historic fires are already contributing to poor air quality.

Nevada County is a lovely place to live. We support light industry, education, high-tech operations, community and the arts. Continued tourism is essential to the life of our county. This shouldn't be complicated. We do not need or support heavy industry which our 19th century forbearers demonstrated as harsh on the environment and on people.

We look forward to the outcome of the Economic Impact Report. Thank you for your continued attention to this matter.

Gary Balch and Laura Wagner Balch

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]