Now Is the Time Make Sure the County is Asking the Right Questions About Idaho Maryland Mine!

**DEADLINE: Comment letters are due to Nevada County by August 17, 2020**

In May, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to authorize the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to study the risks associated with re-opening the Idaho Maryland Mine – a project led by Canadian Company, RISE Gold. On July 17, the County published a Notice of Preparation (NOP) outlining what will be studied in that DEIR – and the community has less than a month to provide input! We are working now to get an extension on that deadline for comments, but as of now, comments are due August 17th.

Now is the time to make sure they’re asking the right questions! Let’s make sure everyone’s voices are heard on this. Here’s how you can help.

- Review the County’s [Notice of Preparation (NOP)](#).
- Identify your own areas of concern.
- Write a comment letter.
- Send your letter to the [Nevada County Planner, Mike Kelley](#), no later than August 17th.

**Why should I send a comment letter to Nevada County about the Mine?**

This project has many potentially significant environmental impacts that are listed in the NOP. It’s up to concerned citizens like you to tell the County’s staff and consultants what you are most concerned about.

**What points should I make in my letter?**

Focus your letter on what concerns you the most. Some people focus on the environmental impacts of the mine on the land, water and wildlife. Others are very concerned about air pollution, traffic impacts and neighborhood safety. Some want to see what impacts there might be to climate change. You want to make your specific requests and questions clear, for example "I’m concerned how this proposal impacts wells in the area. The EIR should analyze the impacts to area wells."

Some tips for writing an effective comment letter:

- Focus your study requests on the environmental process, what you want analyzed, and what environmental impacts you want considered.
- Make sure that your specific requests are clear, concise and singular (bullet points are fine).
• Including your opinion on the mine, or telling your personal connection to the area/Grass Valley is valid and OK but is not a factor for staff in developing the EIR - so make sure that your personal opinions don’t distract from your clear, concise requests to the County.
• Include your name and contact information in case the County needs to contact you to clarify a point.
• NOP comments are divided into various categories. Reviewing these categories may help spark your thinking and may help organize your comments. The comment categories are:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology / Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use / Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population / Housing
- Public Services Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Economic Study

Where do I send my letter?

Send your letter (fax, email or regular mail) to Nevada County by **August 17, 2020** to:

Mr. Matt Kelley  
Senior Planner  
Nevada County Planning Department  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617  
Via email: matt.kelley@co.nevada.ca.us

Do you have a sample letter I can use as a template?

It's always best to use your own words. You can start with your personal experience like how long you've lived in the area, and briefly share your connection to the project. **Most important:** Be specific about your key concerns and questions about the project.

This information sheet is available on line at: [https://www.cea-nc.org/category/the-idaho-maryland-mine/](https://www.cea-nc.org/category/the-idaho-maryland-mine/)

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The mission of the Community Environmental Advocates Foundation (CEA Foundation) is to perform research, education, and advocacy to promote public policy and actions resulting in responsible land use and environmental protection in Nevada County and the Sierra Nevada region. [https://www.cea-nc.org/](https://www.cea-nc.org/)