

Public Comment to the Board of Supervisors, August 9 2022 on Idaho-Maryland Mine reopening by Jim Bair¹

Good morning. I'm Jim Bair, business owner and resident of Nevada County for over 20 years. In my previous comments to you [much appreciation for the opportunities], my objective was to help the Idaho-Maryland Mine decision making process. Today I've expanded my documentation review from the several thousand pages of Rise Mine documents to the County database of "all Draft EIR Comment Letters" up to April 5. This includes a spreadsheet of 2873 commenters often with additional content from the same organization/contact.

Having been an expert witness in software corporation's law suits, I believe this might be evidentiary.

There are 10 categories in the DEIR comments database which contains 2,842 Files [email, letters, and unknown contents]. While reviewing the contents of each of the 10 categories, I have found that many entries are questionable.

Many of the so-called comments are not comments at all -- many are form letters with the same exact content. The most common entry, "Project Support Card" argues "*Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs ... Rise Grass Valley ... [is] creating over 600 new jobs...*". Is this even a fact?

The 1132 "Project Support Cards" were created by Rise Mine. They are from a bulk mailer to thousands of County voters, and a subset were mailed prepaid to the County. They show support for the Mine and have no reference to the DEIR (see Exhibit 1).

Other "comment letters" are called "Form Letters", some with no content and others actually contain unique individual commentary on the DEIR. Form Letters A and B (see my attached exhibits) were not intended to be Comments on the DEIR [as defined by the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)].

A second questionable set of "Form Letters [C]" is labeled "Subject Line Only". Entries contain automatic emails faked to be for the Mine from individuals against the Mine [reported in *The Union* op ed], automatically reused content, duplicates, and emails from an out-of-town contractor "*oneclickpolitics.com*" (Wash. D.C.).

I anticipate I'll find more questionable comments as we continue to review the database [of "all Draft EIR Comment Letters"]. In the meantime, I urge the County to re-organize the database, especially separating DEIR Comments per CEQU from opinion pieces. It might also be prudent to separate legitimate comments from fake, machine generated and content free entries – which Rise Mine is using for PR and investor appeals [available upon request.]

I've given these comments, data, and examples to the County Clerk.

Thanks so much for your attention.

(See Exhibit 4, **example of actual business opposition related to the DEIR**, that might not be counted by the Mine.)

¹ Leader, **Stop the Mine Task Force**, Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains, Grass Valley, CA 95945

TABLE: There are 10 top level files in the County database. Here are the labels for the 10 files -- categories-- and the number of individual files in each.

Files Currently on the Disc (10)











 Agency Comment Letters	15
 Form Letter A (Unitarian) Comment Letters	40
 Form Letter B (Not Unitarian) Comment Letters	319
 Form Letter C (Subject Line Only) Comment Letters	54 see exhibit 2
 Form Letter C Comment Letters	340*
 Form Letter D Comment Letters	14
 Group-Organization Comment Letters	34
 IMM Project Support Cards	1132 see exhibit 1
 Individual Comment Letters	888 see exhibit 2
 Late Comment Letters	6

EXHIBIT 1: Form letter cut-out card from Rise Gold mass mailing and included the DEIR Comment Database

I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

Opportunities like this come along rarely. Rise Grass Valley has a responsible, innovative project for Nevada County. I urge the Board of Supervisors and other county officials to jump start our local economy by strongly supporting the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ **ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS** _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ **111 Bank Street #208** _____

Email Address _____ **Grass Valley, CA 95945** _____

EXHIBIT 2: Examples of Form Letter [C] fake emails, duplicates from Rise Gold in the DEIR Comment

EXAMPLE Form Letter automatic email faked to be from for the Mine from an individual against the Mine [See The Union op ed]

From: [Sharon and Guari Delgado](#)
To: [Matt Kelley](#)
Subject: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, February 11, 2022 8:26:41 AM

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.

Re: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Sincerely,
Sharon and Guari Delgado
sharondelgado@earth-justice.org
11328 Red Dog Road Nevada City, CA 95959 Constituent

EXHIBIT 2 con'd: DUPLICATE Form letter [duplicate content] (Gonzales works for Rise Gold Mine (head of PR))

From: [Jarryd Gonzales](#)
To: [Matt Kelley](#)
Subject: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:59:23 PM

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.

Re: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once in a generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

Re-opening the mine means over 300 new employees in safe and satisfying careers with an average expected annual salary of more than \$90,000 plus benefits. The Mine will also spur an additional 300 jobs through related new business in the area. This project will enhance the pride and confidence of Nevada County workers and their families and help build stable and prosperous lives.

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Sincerely,
Jarryd Gonzales
jarrydgonzales@yahoo.com
17011 Beach blvd. #900 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 Constituent
This contact information has been verified

EXHIBIT 2 con'd: DUPLICATE 2 :

Elijah Bloom

From: Jarryd Gonzales <myvoice@oneclickpolitics.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:59 PM
To: Planning
Subject: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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.

Re: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Planning Commissioners County,

Nevada County is in tremendous need of new, well-paying jobs that can help provide a strong economic future for today and for decades to come. Rise Grass Valley's plan to build a modern and environmentally sensitive mine that respects neighbors and our natural environment while creating over 600 new local jobs is a once in a generation opportunity to revitalize our local economy.

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Sincerely,
Jarryd Gonzales
jarrydgonzales@yahoo.com
17011 Beach blvd. #900 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 Constituent
This contact information has been verified

EXHIBIT 2 con'd: Fake email: Obvious contradiction in “No Mine” source vs. “Yes mine” message:

From: [No Mine!](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, February 11, 2022 8:27:11 AM

Dist 1

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.

Re: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Board of Supervisors County,

Sincerely,
No Mine!
jreynoldsbotany@aol.com
14201 Idaho Maryland Road Nevada City, CA 95959

EXHIBIT 3: Mine support form letters (C), duplicates, & from oneclickpolitics.com, example (Not DEIR relevant):

From: [Emily forman](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine
Date: Friday, February 11, 2022 8:26:40 AM

Dist 1

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.

Re: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Board of Supervisors County,

Sincerely,
Emily forman
egirschi@yahoo.com
12122 Old Wood Road Nevada City, CA 95959

Elijah Bloom

From: Chris Frank <myvoice@oneclickpolitics.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 8:27 AM
To: Planning
Subject: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

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.

Re: I support the re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

Dear Planning Commissioners County,

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Sincerely,
Chris Frank
chri_f2@aceweb.com
PO Box 416 Penn Valley, CA 95946

EXHIBIT 4: "LATE COMMENTS," example of business opposition related to the DEIR

From: [CLAYDON GERIATRIC MEDICINE](#)
To: [Idaho MMEIR](#)
Subject: Opposed to Mine opening
Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 10:19:24 AM

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are not expecting this email or don't recognize the sender, consider deleting.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have more questions search for Cybersecurity Awareness on the County InfoNet.

Dear Matt Kelley,

As business owners, we are very much in favor of free enterprise. We have lived in the county since 1981 and love the rich history.

We also are realistic and recognize that we are in an historic drought. Depleting our ground water seems to be an illogical step to take if we are looking to improve our county's health.

We are very much opposed to the reopening of the mine. This property could have a use that is not harmful to our quality of life.

Respectfully,

Christopher and Susan Claydon

CLAYDON GERIATRIC MEDICINE
Christopher Claydon, MD
Susan Claydon, NP

152 Catherine Lane, Suite A
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone 530-271-0432 fax 530-271-2200

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) secure email.