

SUTTER COUNTY

Superintendent
of Schools

Bill Cornelius, Superintendent



970 Klamath Lane
Yuba City, CA 95993
PHONE: (530) 822-2900
FAX: (530) 671-3422

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December 3, 2012

County of Nevada
Community Development Agency
Planning Department
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Attention: Tod Herman, Senior Planner
email: tod.herman@co.nevada.ca.us
Phone: 530-265-1257

Subject: Letter of Concern for the San Juan Ridge Mine Project

Dear Mr. Herman:

We are in receipt of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Juan Ridge Mine (Mine) Project (Project) dated November 9, 2012. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, please accept this letter as our formal comment of concern for the subject project. As noted in the NOP, the comment period closes on December 10, 2012.

The Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office operates the Shady Creek Outdoor School (School) located in Nevada County, at the end of Pathfinder Way, approximately five miles southwest of the San Juan Ridge Mine Project along Tyler Foote Road. Shady Creek Outdoor School provides an in-residence outdoor education program for 150-180 students per week between September and May. During the off season months, the School is also available as a conference center. As a public school entity, our primary concern is the well-being of the students involved in our program and request that the following items be studied specifically as the impacts relate to our School. We insist that the School not be negatively impacted because of the Project.

- 1. Drinking Water:** We are concerned of the potential impacts the San Juan Ridge Mine Project may have on the School's drinking water. The School sits at an elevation approximately 800 feet lower than the Project. Many discussions have taken place regarding the Mine's previous impact on the area's drinking water supply, more specifically drinking water contamination at Grizzly Hill School and many neighboring wells having gone dry. We request that a drinking water study be prepared analyzing local geological formations, aquifer(s) travel direction and capacity, and the impact the Project may have on the School's ability to provide drinking water to its students. Since the School is at a much lower elevation than the Mine, we are concerned

that the aquifer(s) providing water to the School may be contaminated by the Project's proposed mining operation. A Health Risk Assessment should also be prepared to analyze the impacts.

2. **Storm Water Runoff:** We are concerned of the potential impacts the San Juan Ridge Mine Project may have on the School by potentially contaminating storm water runoff that eventually reaches the School, and how this potentially contaminated storm water may reach drinking water aquifers through known fractured rock geological formations. We request that a detailed area-wide hydrology report be prepared analyzing storm water quantity and direction of flow. In addition, we request that a separate report be prepared analyzing potential storm water contamination through mining operations.
3. **Traffic:** We are concerned of the potential impacts the San Juan Ridge Mine Project may have on traffic on Tyler Foote Road near our School. We request that a traffic report be prepared analyzing the amount and type of new traffic that will be present near the School due to the Project. We insist that our students are not subjected to potential harm due to increased traffic from the proposed Project.
4. **Noise:** We are concerned of the potential impacts the San Juan Ridge Mine Project may have on noise near our School. Our School is dedicated to provide a high level of education to our students and we are concerned that the Project may produce increased noise, causing a disturbance to the way we teach our students. We request that a detailed noise study be prepared analyzing the Project's increased noise due to mining operations and increased traffic near the School.
5. **Air Quality:** We are concerned of the potential impacts the San Juan Ridge Mine Project may have on air quality near our School. Since our core offer to our students is an outdoor education, we insist that the air our students breathe is not impacted with the Project. We request that a detailed air quality study be prepared indicating the potential impact on air quality near our School due to the Project, mining operations and increased traffic.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter, as we are very concerned how the Project may impact our School. Please copy me with all future public correspondence regarding this project. I can be reached by phone at 530-822-2900 or by email at BillC@sutter.k12.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Bill Cornelius
Superintendent