



San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association

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August 17, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Please find attached the comments of the San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association regarding the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Idaho-Maryland Mine Project.

A week ago, we requested that the Board of Supervisors extend the 30-day comment period on this project by another 30 days—a practice that is common in NOP comment periods when requested by interested parties to do so for justifiable reasons. In previous requests by a number of people and organizations, the Planning Department inexplicably denied the request for an extension.

As Planning Department staff are well aware, the application for a use permit to re-open and expand the Idaho-Maryland Mine by the Rise Gold Corporation is multi-faceted, extremely complex in nature, involves dozens of studies and supporting documents, would require permits from numerous agencies and zoning changes by the County. It must also be pointed out that there was no public scoping meeting held (which could have been accomplished virtually), but rather a pre-recorded scoping meeting was released by the Planning Department.

The fact that the comment period for scoping also overlaps with the period of comment to California Department of Toxic Substance Control for Rise Gold's Centennial site cleanup puts an even greater burden on those with concerns about the project.

In light of the possible 80-year timeline of this project and its potential major impacts on the environment and health of surrounding communities, extending the comment period by 30 days was a reasonable request. We ask that the Planning Department re-consider its decision not to do so.

The denial for extension of the scoping comment period during these unprecedented times leaves citizens concerned about the negative impacts of this project in a bind. If the NOP comment period is not extended, we ask the county to address in the DEIR concerns of potential impacts that are raised after today's deadline, even if they were not raised during the scoping comment period. This flexibility would go a long way towards alleviating community concerns that we were not provided due process for the scoping phase of the environmental review for the project.

Sincerely,

Sol Henson, President

and board members Sara Greensfelder, Rhea Williamson, Jeff Lauder, Badri Matlock, Daniel Fink

cc: District IV Supervisor Sue Hoek