

From: Garrett Robinson [genghisrobinson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 3:01 PM
To: Tom Last
Subject: Response to proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project

Attachments: letter.doc

Dear Mr. Last,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Grass Valley in regards to the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine Project. This afternoon I took some time to peruse the Draft Environmental Impact Report posted on the Grass Valley community website. Of particular concern to me are the proposed energy requirements for the mine and associated ceramics plant.

Despite the DEIR's insistence that the proposed project's energy consumption is in its various forms a Class II impact at worst, I would question the value of building yet another fossil fuel dependent, energy intensive project in the first place. As Barack Obama is about to be inaugurated as our nation's president, I feel it is important for me to remind you that he has repeatedly stated that energy policy will be one of the top priorities in his administration, and that he has promised to invest over \$150 billion in alternative energy in the next ten years.

I also feel that it is extremely important for me to call to your attention the results of the EPA's recent **Renewable Energy on Contaminated Land and Mining Sites** assessment (you can read more about it on their website, at <http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/>). According to their assessment, the Idaho-Maryland mine site rates "Outstanding" for biomass and biorefinery potential, and "Very Good" for utility-scale solar potential. Consider the choice you have between investing in a long-term policy of massive energy consumption, versus exploring the possibilities of developing alternative energy sources on the *very same land*.

In my mind, going ahead with the proposed mine project would be the worst kind of short-sighted political policy, trading the health and long-term sustainable future of this community for a pittance of short-term and by no means guaranteed economic benefits.

Please consider my position,

Garrett Robinson

Nevada City, CA 95959