

Dear Mr. Last,

After reading the DEIR and related documents, I am gravely concerned about the negative impacts the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine would have on our community. Mining is necessary to extract minerals that our human society processes into useful goods, but mining belongs away from human population centers. An intensive industrial mining operation simply has no place so close within a community such as ours.

I am concerned about pollution:

NOISE POLLUTION

Blasting, industrial motors, exhaust fans, compressors, heavy diesel trucks, backup beepers, diesel generators -- all combine to a stress-inducing level of non-stop noise.

AIR POLLUTION

Particulates, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons -- serious impacts to fragile human health already threatened by ozone-induced asthma and other respiratory problems. Grass Valley will be known for high greenhouse gas emissions and high ozone levels instead of for natural beauty and a high-tech workforce.

WATER POLLUTION

Massive de-watering plans will impact creeks and groundwater with unknown impacts of toxicity and availability of clean fresh water.

SOIL POLLUTION

Mine tailings are inevitably toxic, and cannot just disappear. Our county is already struggling with land rendered unusable from our history of mining.

POLLUTION OF QUALITY OF LIFE

Traffic, noise, dust, potholed roads from heavy truck traffic, huge ugly industrial buildings, increased air problems. Night and day heavy truck traffic in the heart of downtown near Safeway! This overall decline in the quality of life will far outweigh any job creation benefits. People move here to raise their families or to retire, or to start small technology companies, because of the beauty, peace, and high quality of life. A 24-hour, 7 days per week, major industrial operation with serious pollution impacts can only serve to make our community less desirable. As fewer people choose to move here, and others move away, property values will decline and our collective wealth will erode.

Please keep in mind that when the DEIR says a negative impact may be mitigated, it does not mean the impact goes away -- it only means the impact is reduced. Collectively, all of the negative impacts of this mine add up to a seriously flawed plan in the wrong place, at the wrong time. Reopening this mine does not restore our cultural heritage, it threatens the thriving community we have built since the mines closed more than fifty years ago.

Thank you for your consideration, and please reject this DEIR, and reject the mine.

Sincerely,

Clifton Brown
271-1485