

## Taylor Day

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**From:** Joy Waite  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 12:13 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** For tonight! Tuesday April 12 Please distribute and review this public comment  
**Attachments:** DEIR 2022.pdf

Hello - I am glad to see that the City Council is ready to be informed about the Rise Gold proposed extractive industrial activity in the middle of a neighborhood.

The attachment is the public comment I submitted to Matt Kelly Senior Planning Nevada County - the lead agency this time. I hope you will have access to all public comments submitted in writing, as well as the in person comments presented at the Nevada County Planning Commission.

I note the prominently displayed Mandatory Water Conservation tab on the City of Grass Valley website. Navigation to that information is much easier to access than the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

In lieu of the concern for water security, I trust the Grass Valley City Council and staff are vehemently opposed to the evacuation of water, contamination, and NID fresh water requirements of this dirty industry that threaten water security locally, and all the way downstream to the Delta!

Please see the attachment for further comment. Thank you. Joy Waite Grass Valley

Matt Kelly  
Senior Planner  
Nevada County

#### Comments on the Rise Gold DEIR.

I am concentrating on water concerns although there are many other of the at least 83 "issues that cannot be mitigated" that concern me.

Concerns about water fall into several categories:

Water follows the path of least resistance. The miles of mine shafts holding incalculable volumes of water has a (DEIR) reported static level at 260 feet below the surface. This volume of water is significant as an underground reservoir. Pumping this water out creates an open space that serves as a path of least resistance. Rise Gold is proposing that the mine would continue to be pumped out for 80 years. Even if we had no concerns about drought, knowing that water was being pumped out of Nevada County at 2500 gallons per minute per the DEIR flies in the face of residents already being periodically asked to reduce water use.

Related to the above is the water security of neighboring home owners. The DEIR admits the relationship between emptying the mine of water and the failure of local wells. The area the DEIR suggests that NID provide a water supply to is minimal (30 homes along East Bennett St). Well failure could be much more widespread (some suggesting 595 or more wells) When Emgold took us through this process (hasn't our community gone through this same process enough times???), residents as far away as Banner Mountain expressed concern about the viability of their wells. The precautionary principle would put the **onus on Rise Gold** to prove that the evacuation of water from the mine did not cause these failures.

The DEIR claims that the water in the mine is clean and qualifies for a "Limited Threat permit". High levels of iron and manganese are the only issues noted. The description of a 40 acre foot settling pond and water treatment plant are very sketchy and lack details. The minimal information provided leaves more questions than answers. This shows that very little effort and thought has been put into this important issue. All we read about the water treatment plant is that there will be one. Nothing about the design or how it would function is specified. Design and specifications for a water treatment plant must be part of the DEIR. At 2500 gallons per minute, 11.05 acre feet of water would be pumped out per day. A 40 acre foot settling pond would reach capacity in less than 4 days. That volume of water negates its use as a settling pond.

The DEIR includes a section on Stormwater detention ponds. There is no plan mentioned for treating the water in these detention ponds despite the volumes of tailings that will be produced and stored on the surface. What about the quality of water being pumped out of the mine after tailings are used underground for "backfill? In addition to water security, our local geology of fractured rock makes the path of water largely a guessing game, how about probable contamination of wells due to mining activity?

The DEIR indicates that an on site septic field system would contain waste water from toilets, sinks, showers, etc. Again, water follows the path of least resistance. How will this water be

kept out of the mine? Specifications on proposed septic systems need to be included in the DEIR.

NID is being asked to provide 5700 gallons per day of potable water, and an undetermined amount of water for myriad other uses such as dust control. One number offered is 42,000 gallons per day from NID. The DEIR admits squandering a current water supply (de watering) and then also sucking up a significant amount of already limited local water.

Our community's water security is of utmost importance and cannot be compromised by dirty extractive industrial operations. History has proven that the wealth of communities has been taken and a mess left behind. The term coined is "toxic mining legacy" here in Nevada County. **We can't afford one day of mine reopening** let alone 80 years and the DEIR suggests further industrial uses after that. Reclamation according to the DEIR is seeding the surface tailings. There is no requirement that the seeds be able to grow. The mine closed in the 1950's and the site is still contaminated. Those who do not learn from history end up repeating it. Haven't neighbor complaints since Rise Gold has been doing "exploration" been proof enough of the devastation that would be wrought by full mining operations?? Please don't open the door to this destructive exploitation of our beautiful community. How easily the incredible arts and culture so cultivated and prized here, and the lovely foothills environment we love could be wrecked...

Joy Waite  
Grass Valley

## Taylor Day

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**From:** Corey Vanderwouw  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 11:50 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Hello Grass Valley City Council,

My name is Corey Vanderwouw. I am a Grass Valley resident, parent and small business owner of a physical therapy clinic. Our community is of great concern to me. The effects of climate change are already apparent in our community. Every year the wildfires have gotten worse. We need meaningful change in our town. Please update the Grass Valley General Plan to include: climate change acceptance, mitigation, and emission reduction measures.

Sincerely,

Corey Vanderwouw

## Taylor Day

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**From:** Evan Vanderwouw  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 9:45 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Hello Grass Valley City Counsel,

My name is Evan Vanderwouw. I live in, attend high school in, and have my family in Grass Valley. Our community is of great concern to me, and climate change threatens every aspect of a prosperous future for us and future generations. From wildfire to drought, the effects are already evident. Right now the federal, and state governments are failing to make any meaningful level of change. Make our town a climate leader. Update the outdated General Plan to include Climate Change acceptance, mitigation, and emission reduction measures.

Sincerely,  
Evan

## Taylor Day

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**From:** Joyce Hoffman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 9:28 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Strategic Plan 2022

I am writing in support of the letter written by Susan Rogers about the inclusion of fire safety in the Strategic Plan 2022. There has been little leadership from the city or the county in regard to enforcing the rules of clearing, limbing, and cleaning for fire breaks in all of our neighborhoods.

Wildfires are a prominent concern and more needs to be done to address this. The land owned by Rise Mine experienced a vegetation fire last year and the property is very close to downtown. All residents need to clear and clean and control burns. We need help. This is much more important than creating new parks or neighborhoods.

The likelihood of experiencing not only a wildfire but a lack of water cannot be ignored. These threats are possible today and the city needs to get into overdrive and help get prepared for evacuations and tree trimming.

Dr. Joyce Hoffman  
266 North Auburn Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945