

Mono County

Local Agency Formation Commission

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May 12, 2021

To: Colleen Garcia
Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514
(electronically submitted)

From: Gerry LeFrancois, Executive Officer Local Agency Formation Commission

Re: KORE Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project #59294

Dear Colleen Garcia,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project (LVEDP). The Mono County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) statutory authority is derived from the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Section 56000, et seq.). Among LAFCO's purposes are: discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open space and prime agricultural lands, efficiently providing government services, and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon local conditions and circumstances (Government Code Section 56301).

Generally, LAFCOs were created to identify the most logical service providers for municipal services, including but not limited to water, sewer, and fire. Such determinations can be accomplished through various changes of organizations such as annexations, consolidations, and approvals of service agreements. These governance options allow cities, special districts, and county governments to provide municipal services to landowners and/or communities throughout the county, but special district services are generally provided within their district boundaries.

The Draft Exploration Plan of Operations for the KORE Long Valley Project dated April 2021, states on page 14 under Dust Control and Water Use:

"KORE will negotiate an agreement with a private party to obtain all water for the Project or purchase that water from the town of Mammoth Lakes. No groundwater wells will be installed by the Project. Water troughs for cattle are present and water is relayed to the troughs by a subsurface water pipe. Any damage to that water pipe, or the troughs, caused by project activity will be repaired immediately by KORE."

Please clarify if KORE intends to purchase water from the Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) which is a special district and the water and sewer provider in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The purchase of water may be subject to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, (Government Code Section 56133) since the project area is outside of the MCWD district boundary and may require approval by

Mono County LAFCO. There is an exception for "*nonpotable or nontreated water*" under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (Government Code section 56133(e)(2)). Please contact either Kelly Karl or myself at 760.924.1800 or kkarl@mono.ca.gov and glefrancois@mono.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gerry LeFrancois
Executive Officer

cc: Mammoth Community Water District
LAFCO Commissioners
Mono County Board of Supervisors
