

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/7/2021 1:44:35 AM

First name: Marina

Last name: Stoilova

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Garcia,

I strongly oppose the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. (Kore Mining). The proposed mining project threatens the future of the scenic, economically and ecologically important Long Valley area in Mono County.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek, one of the region's iconic fisheries. Though this project is only exploratory for now, as a CalTrout supporter, I am all too aware of the grave impacts mining can have on fish and freshwater ecosystems. Mining operations can lead to sulfuric acid and heavy metal contamination when rainwater or surface drainage carries contaminants to nearby streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater harming species who rely on these water sources. Not only is this proposed project just above Hot Creek, but the water from Hot Creek eventually flows into Owens River and Crowley Lake, putting this entire ecosystem at risk.

Right now, the need to restore ecosystems rather than degrade them is urgent. California is entering into another extreme drought, another extreme fire season, and is aiming to protect 30% of our lands by 2030. As such, it is completely inappropriate to approve projects like this that will only cause further risk to our natural resources. Therefore, I strongly oppose even the first exploratory step of this effort to ultimately mine for gold. At a minimum, a full EIS should be conducted in order to properly assess the full impacts and allow for meaningful public engagement.

Sincerely,  
Marina Stoilova

PS: Attached to this letter will be a video from one of the most peaceful and memorable days in my 20 years of life so far. I cherish the time that I get to spend fly fishing with my dad. The places we go hold deep meaning and sentiment to me as they are where I hope to bring my kids one day so they can experience that same sense of peace and beauty. All too many of these beautiful sites have already been destroyed, and the remaining ones are far and few between.

Please do not stand by and watch another one be lost, especially if you have the power to do something. Our legacy lives on in the beauty we choose to preserve, not the resources we let be extracted.