

96 MONTELL STREET  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94611

13 May 2021

Colleen Garcia  
Inyo National Forest  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200  
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Comment on Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project #59294

Dear Ms. Garcia—

I am a long-time recreational user of the land to be impacted by the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project # 59294 (“Project”). The Forest Service must not approve the Project without first requiring a robust National Environmental Policy Act analysis, including an environmental impact statement. The Project does not qualify for the proposed categorical exclusion because it may have significant impacts on the environment, including:

- Negatively impacting imperiled bi-state sage grouse and other endangered species, and their habitats;
- Contaminating critical water resources in this arid part of California;
- Damaging cultural resources that are sacred to local tribes;
- Interfering by noise, construction activities and dust, and visual blight, with frequent recreational use of the area, including camping, hiking, wildlife watching, and bathing in natural hot springs.

Further, there is insufficient evidence, as well as contrary indications in the plan of operations, that the Project will be completed within one year. In particular, the construction of the temporary platforms, and the proposed remediation plans following use of those platforms, is unlikely to take less than one year, especially in light of the work necessary to ensure proper remediation of water flows and other hydrological impacts, negative impacts upon endangered and protected species and their habitats, and the regrowth of vegetation. Because it is unlikely the Project will be completed within one year, the NEPA categorical exclusion relied upon by the Project does not apply.

I request that the Forest Service require a robust NEPA review, including an environmental impact statement, before considering approval of this project.

Very truly yours,



Robert B. Martin III