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Comments: Hello. I vehemently oppose this proposed mining exploration because it threatens the future of the scenic, economically, and ecologically important Long Valley area in Mono County. I am a long time resident of the Owens Valley and I recreate in the Eastern Sierra, so I must speak up.

Kore Mining proposes to construct a total of fourteen drilling pads, measuring 30 feet by 50 feet each. Access to these drill pads will require re-opening roughly a third of a mile of road for the duration of the project. Impacts of this proposed project include: local quality of life, tourism, air quality, noise pollution, decimated habitat of local flora and fauna (including endangered sage grouse and local deer). The impacts of the exploration might be only the beginning, however. If the company finds a sufficient quantity of gold to mine, that activity could affect important habitats, create long lasting water pollution issues, and forever scar Long Valley.

Royal Gold drilled in this same place in the 1990s and others before Royal Gold did so in the 1980s. Companies searching for gold when the price of gold is high will plague us indefinitely. That is why it is time to amend the 1872 mining law to allow the U.S. Forest Service to deny a project when the harm outweighs the benefits.

As I have said, I live, work, and recreate in the Eastern Sierra and have grave concerns about the impact of this proposed project, or the prospects of larger scale mining in this scenic and important landscape. I would like to let the Inyo National Forest know I oppose categorical exclusion and request that Kore Mining provide an environmental assessment. This may finally be the exploration that turns into an industrial-scale open pit mining operation that permanently scars this important landscape.

Respectfully submitted.