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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. We vacation in the area, which we fear we will not be able to return to due to the mining activity.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek, one of the region's iconic fisheries. 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.

We should be protecting the environment rather than allowing companies to speculatively mine for a metal which has no actual practical value.

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.

Thank you for your help in stopping this project. We need to protect the land, not destroy it so a few people can get rich.

Yours,

David Kostiner