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Comments: Hello Colleen 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 important and ecologically sensitive Long Valley area in Mono County.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek. Though this project is only exploratory for now, I am all too aware of the grave impacts mining can have on fish and freshwater ecosystems. Mining operations regularly lead to sulfuric acid and heavy metal contamination of nearby streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater harming threatened animals and area residents 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,

Keith Purdy