

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/29/2021 4:08:14 AM

First name: Sean

Last name: Lema

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Colleen Garcia,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. (Kore Mining).

This proposed mining project threatens the future of one of the most scenic and environmentally important areas in Eastern California. The Long Valley area in Mono County is a remarkable area for human recreation, as well as for fish and wildlife, and it is truly absurd that this mining project is even being entertained as an option. This proposed project should be rejected unequivocally, so as to never be considered in any future form.

I say this from the perspective of being pragmatic. I recognize the importance of resource extraction and use. But the environmental significance of Long Valley is simply too much to risk. This region is geologically remarkable and ecologically important. It contains Hot Creek, one of the region's iconic fisheries. It also contains the upper Owens River basin, which offers abundant recreation opportunities for California's families. Long Valley is also home to what is likely a new taxon of speckled dace that appears to have evolved in isolation from other populations of this species in the Owens Valley region.

I know that there is very little that I can say to provide new information about why this project should be opposed. Rather, let me say that myself, my children, and many of my friends in California travel 6+ hours just to visit and recreate in the Long Valley region each year. I consider this region intrinsically valuable not only to myself, my family, and my friends...but to all Californians, and to future generations.

I strongly oppose even the first exploratory step of this effort to ultimately mine for gold. At a very minimum, a full EIS should be conducted in order to properly assess the full impacts and allow for meaningful public engagement.

Thank you.