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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms Garcia,

I oppose most strongly 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. ? ?Most particularly I am concerned about the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek, one of the region's iconic catch and release fisheries. Though this project is only exploratory for now, as a CalTrout supporter, I am all too aware of the grave impacts mining can have on fish and freshwater ecosystems. 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 also the water from Hot Creek eventually flows into Owens River and Crowley Lake, putting this entire ecosystem at risk. ?

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 for the proposed exploratory project in order to properly assess the full impacts of eventual mine development, which EIS would allow for meaningful public engagement early on in the process.

Sincerely,

Gordon Dow