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First name: Peter

Last name: Steinhart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Colleen Garcia,

I write to oppose the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. which threatens the future of the scenic, economically and ecologically important Long Valley area in Mono County.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek, and its important 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. Contamination of Hot Creek would then threaten the Owens River and Crowley Lake, putting this entire ecosystem at risk.

California aims to protect 30% of our lands by 2030. it is 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,