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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

As a 30 year long term resident of the Eastern Sierra, and previously as a geology student in 1982 visiting Long Valley Caldera, I recognize the outstanding scenic and geological heritage and scenic inspiration values of the Long Valley Caldera, Hot Creek, and Mammoth mountains, San Joaquin Ridge and Devils Postpile woven together to inspire residents and visitors, and students around the world. Putting an eyesore in this spectacular landscape would more harm the awe and grandeur treasured by many.

Exploratory drilling and potential subsequent mining activity would compromise the scenic and air and water quality values, and harm flora and fauna. Additionally, as the California drought continues and water resources decline this project would harm wildlife and flora, and yet another critical resource would be degraded. Migratory corridors of mule deer and other wildlife would be further impacted, and already has many pressures from the airport and highway 395.

For these and other reasons, a Categorical Exclusion is not the appropriate decision document, and likely not legally defensible. In the past, exploratory drilling was not approved in this area. I recommend that the exploratory drilling not be approved, and if the agency is to continue to conduct a full environment assessment or even an EIS, as the specific resource impacts and cumulative impacts would degrade and injure the scenic, geological, air & water, and impact flora and fauna. Thank you for your consideration.