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Organization:

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Comments: Ms Garcia,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the permit requested by the Canadian firm, Kore Mining, for speculative exploratory drilling adjacent to Hot Creek in the environmental sensitive and geologically active Long Valley region of the Eastern Sierra. Given that the Kore Mining firm has not submitted and detailed information on its proposed exploratory drilling, and have no factual evidence of deposits, and more importantly no resources to fund the proposal, the permit application should have been rejected out of hand.

The value to California and the nation from the grandeur of the Eastern Sierras, its wildlife, and the natural wonders that draw visitors from all over the globe and tourist economy that supports the economy of the region is clearly of higher value than the private financial benefit that might go to Kore Mining or whoever they might sell their claim too, should we be so shortsided as to grant the permit.

On environmental grounds there are a range of reasons to reject this proposal. I will focus on one as an example. Water supply and geothermal activity. The type of open pit mining that would be utilized is an intensive consumer of water. We are in what appears to be an historic drought of the type that have effected the west over the millennia. This is not the time to add new users for private benefit, at the same time that water supplies throughout the area are under threat of reduced flows.

The geothermal activity of the region must also be considered and protected. The town of Mammoth has developed a geothermal energy source that borders the proposed drilling area, and the thermal hot spring on Hot Creek at the other end of the area.

It is not possible to know without significant study, how the Kore proposal might effect the underground system. I served as a Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Water District when we were presented with a proposal by a private company to pump water from an aquifer underlying the Mohave desert. We rejected this proposal because we could not be sure how it would negatively effect the springs and seeps essential to the wildlife of the Mohave.

Again, I urge you to act in the best interest of the region and protect it from the speculative interests of foreign corporations and reject this proposal.

Your

William Luddy

Conservation Chair, Sierra Pacific Flyfishers