

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/2/2021 8:13:21 PM

First name: Tim

Last name: Quirante

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Colleen Garcia,

I strongly oppose the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. (Kore Mining). The proposed mining project threatens the sustainability of the Long Valley area in Mono County.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek, one of the region's iconic fisheries. Though this project is only exploratory for now, as a lifelong outdoorsperson, I am all too aware of the grave impacts mining can have on drinking water, 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 humans and other species who rely on these water sources. Too many times mining companies have used public land to "explore" or "utilize" for maximum profits only to declare bankruptcy and leave behind superfund sites of toxic Waste that the taxpayers are on the hook to clean up. And Since this proposed project just above Hot Creek, and the water from Hot Creek eventually flows into Owens River and Crowley Lake, the long term risk to all is extreme.

Right now, 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 in order to properly assess the full impacts and allow for meaningful public engagement.

Sincerely,

Tim