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First name: Bill

Last name: Uyeki

Organization: Peninsula Fly Fishers

Title: President

Comments: Dear Colleen Garcia:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed drilling project by Kore Mining.

I am president of a flyfishing club on the San Francisco Peninsula with 130+ active members. We value our state's wild trout fisheries like Hot Creek. Even though Hot Creek is ~340 miles and one or more mountain passes from where we live, many of our members travel annually to the Eastern Sierras to fish the area's blue ribbon fisheries like Hot Creek, the Owens River and Crowley Lake.

Outdoor enthusiasts travel from all over the state and other parts of the country and world to fish Hot Creek and surrounding waters, pumping money into the local economy.

This area has evolved over thousands of years to balance the hot water from significant geothermal activity with ice-cold, snow melt water to support one of the state's treasured wild trout fisheries. Allowing Kore Mining to bring in its heavy equipment and creating drilling pads -- even for exploratory purposes -- carries risk of disturbing the area's ecosystem and wildlife. But it's even more unbelievable a longer-term outcome could be approval for Kore to construct a huge, open pit leach mine right next in the middle of this watershed to mine for gold.

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 the water from Hot Creek eventually flows into Owens River and Crowley Lake, putting this entire ecosystem at risk.

Our club joins other organizations like California Trout in strongly opposing Kore's exploratory drilling project. Please reject their proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Bill Uyeki