

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/7/2021 7:01:20 PM

First name: Kristen

Last name: Dunkelberger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It Concerns:

This letter is in response to the KORE USA Ltd (KORE Mining) Notice of Intent submitted to the Inyo National Forest for the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project. The proposed Project is to perform exploratory drilling for gold along Forest Service road 3S307 near Antelope Springs Road proximal to Hot Creek, CA.

As a second homeowner in Crowley Lake, I strongly oppose the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project (Project) proposed by KORE Mining for the following reasons:

Proximity to Hot Creek, one of the region's iconic fisheries is particularly concerning. 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. The potential for environmental degradation of the water in the area is high, with unnamed chemicals mentioned in the project outline and also the amount of equipment and petroleum products needed to operate the equipment.

The area is in another severe drought year, and not enough information is provided about where the water will come from for the drilling and dust mitigation, and only a vague estimate of water needed is given. The area is often quite windy, and although it is stated that operations will cease when wind is 25 mph or more, even light winds transport a large amount of the fine pumice. Significant amounts of water will be needed to control the dust, and this dust will significantly contribute to decreased air quality in the area.

The area is very popular with recreational cyclists and fishing enthusiasts, and is quiet with low traffic. The impact of the additional commercial vehicle traffic on the safety and well being of recreationalists cannot be understated.

Additionally, the pre-existing road system the project proposes to use has been significantly rehabilitated in the 1990s. More road infrastructure will need to be constructed than the project proposes, causing more habitat destruction and degradation for native plants and wildlife.

I strongly oppose this first exploratory step to mine for gold. At the very minimum, an EIS should be conducted to better understand the ramifications and environmental impact of the project so that a responsible and informed decision can be made. Our environment is at too great a risk to not study the detrimental effects of this project in advance.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Dunkelberger