

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/8/2021 12:36:39 AM

First name: Carol

Last name: Hart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Garcia,

As a fish health biologist, I oppose the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. The proposed mining project and its proximity to Hot Creek threatens the future of our scenic, economically and ecologically important Long Valley area in Mono County.

As a CalTrout supporter and scientist, I understand the grave impacts mining can have on 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 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.

Right now, the need to restore ecosystems rather than degrade them is urgent. As you are aware, California is entering another extreme drought and 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 gold mining effort. At a minimum, a full EIS should be conducted in order to properly assess the full impacts and allow for meaningful public engagement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Carol Hart
Lone Pine