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Comments: Dear Ms. Garcia,

I very strongly oppose the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. (Kore Mining). The proposed mining project threatens the economically and ecologically important Long Valley area of Mono County and its great scenic beauty. I am especially concerned because of the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek, a world-renowned fly fishery. Though this project is only exploratory for now, as a CalTrout supporter, I am all too aware of the grave impacts that mining, including exploratory activities, 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 numerous species that rely on these clean water sources. Not only is this proposed project adjacent Hot Creek, but the water from Hot Creek eventually flows into Owens River and Crowley Lake, putting this entire ecosystem at risk and endangering millions of people. Our need to restore ecosystems rather than degrade them is urgent. California continually experiences cycles of drought, extreme fire seasons, and aims to protect 30% of our state lands by 2030. Consequently, it is completely inappropriate to approve projects like this that will only cause further damage to our natural resources. Therefore, I strongly oppose any exploratory step toward developing a mine near Hot Creek. At the very least, a full Environmental Impact Survey should be conducted to properly assess the full impacts and allow for meaningful public engagement.