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Comments: I am writing to convey my opposition to the proposed exploratory drilling by KORE Mining in Long Valley and specifically near Hot Creek. My opposition is threefold; environmentally, personally, and legally. Gold mining is proven to be disastrous to the environment. Exploratory drilling - and potentially a full-on mining operation - cannot be allowed to start and harm the environment in the proposed location, especially near Hot Creek.

The impacts of the proposed operations on water have not been addressed and are a significant concern.

Stream degradation in the headwaters of the Owens and Hot Creek are also a concern.

KORE's literature shows proposed "pads" that are tiny postage stamp size. I have worked around heavy construction and the impacts from the proposed exploratory drilling will be far more significant than shown.

Hot Creek and the Upper Owens are special to me personally. I own a second home on the June Lake Loop and have been frequenting the area for over 50 years. I like x-county skiing to get to solitary fly fishing in the winter and soak in the many hot springs. I cannot imagine listening to trucks and equipment from the proposed drilling and potentially mining.

I put my words in action helping to preserve the Eastern Sierra as a member of Friends of Inyo and CalTrout.

At a minimum, a full Environmental Impact Statement for KORE's proposed exploratory drilling must be required - no watered-down environmental document. This legally required process, if not morally required, will clearly show that even this first exploratory step of the effort to ultimately mine for gold cannot be allowed to proceed.

Please ensure that KORE completes a full EIS and allows for meaningful public engagement.