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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Garcia,

I am in opposition to wasting more of California's remaining natural resources by the poorly planned Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. (Kore Mining). The proposed mining project threatens the future of the scenic, economically and ecologically important Long Valley area in Mono County.

I am very concerned about the proposed project's proximity to Hot Creek, one of the region's iconic fisheries. Though this project is only exploratory for now, as a CalTrout supporter, I am all too aware of 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.

I review grant requests for federal funding for restoration efforts in California to "repair" degraded stream systems and waterways that were caused by previous mining and dredging activities. It makes no sense to spend so much money to restore damaged waterway ecosystems and then let speculative efforts, that are not well documented or evaluated, degrade already functioning ecosystems that support an existing economy and that is an increasingly rare natural resource.

California is entering into another extreme drought, another extreme 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 squander the dwindling remaining natural resources that have not been impacted. Therefore, I strongly oppose even the first exploratory step of this effort to ultimately mine for gold. At a minimum, a full EIS should be conducted in order to properly assess the full impacts and allow for meaningful public engagement.

Sincerely, A Concerned California Resident