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First name: William

Last name: Luddy

Organization: Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers

Title: Conservation Chair

Comments: Dear Ms. Garcia,

We are writing on behalf of the more than 300 members of the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers to express our strong opposition to the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore USA Ltd. (Kore Mining). The speculative mining project in Long Valley poses a significant threat to the future of the scenic, economically and ecologically important portion of Mono County. As you review the project before you it is critical you give full weight to the environmental impacts of the entire project as proposed not merely the initial testing phase.??We are deeply concerned with the project's proximity to Hot Creek, one of our country's iconic trout fisheries. We are all aware of the grave impacts mining can have on fish and freshwater ecosystems. "Heap leach gold mine" operations such as are described on Kore Mining's website Koremining.com 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. One need only consider the environmental devastation that occurred in 2015 when polluted water from the abandoned Gold King mine flooded the Animas River in Colorado. "The toxic Colorado river spill and the menace of old hard-rock mines"By David Kelly, Los Angeles Times, August 10, 2015.

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 risk of contamination from this proposed project must be viewed through the lens of the geology of Long Valley with it's history of volcanic activity from its formation to the present. Hot Creek was named for the thermal activity, and the proposed project area is also adjacent to the Mammoth Lakes Geothermal Plant. The mining project will require an as yet undetermined volume of water to process the ore and there is no indication where and how the water will be sourced, or the potential impact on other water users.?

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 cause further risk to our natural resources.

The need for a complete Environmental Impact Report encompassing the entirety of this proposal and the potential for near term, intermediate, and long term environmental impacts is undeniable. And in assessing those potential impacts and any mitigations that the proponent may propose we must also analyze the company's likely ability to deliver on its commitments.

According to Kore Mining Ltd.'s 2019 Annual Information Form for the Year Ended December 31, 2019: "KORE does not own any producing properties and, consequently, has no current operating income or cash flow from the properties it holds, nor has it had any income from operations in the past three financial years. As a consequence, operations of KORE are funded solely by equity financings."

Under the heading of "Financing Risks and Dilution to Shareholder" Kore admits "The Company has limited financial resources, no operations and no revenues."

And finally under the heading "Uninsurable Risks" Kore reports: "Exploration, development and production operations on mineral properties involve numerous risks, including unexpected or unusual geological operating conditions, rock bursts, cave-ins, fires, floods, earthquakes and other environmental occurrences. It is not always possible to obtain insurance against all such risks. Although the Company intends to maintain insurance to protect against certain risks in such amounts as it considers to be reasonable, any such insurance may not cover all the potential risks associated with its operations. The Company may also be unable to maintain insurance to cover these risks at economically feasible premiums. Insurance coverage may not continue to be available or may not be adequate to cover any resulting liability. Moreover, insurance against risks such as environmental pollution or other hazards as a result of exploration and production is not generally available to companies in the mining industry on acceptable terms. The Company might also become subject to liability for pollution or other hazards which may not be insured against or which the Company may elect not to insure against because of premium costs or other reasons. Losses from these events may cause the Company to incur significant costs

that could have a material adverse effect upon its financial performance and results of operations."

We can see by Kore Mining's own financial filings that they are a company with "limited financial resources, no operations and no revenues" requesting permits to operate speculative drilling in an extremely environmental sensitive area where "insurance against risks such as environmental pollution or other hazards as a result of exploration and production is not generally available to companies in the mining industry on acceptable terms". There is a term for this type of operation - Wildcatters.

The lesson of the Animas River and too many other environment disasters that are the legacy of mining carried out without proper protection at the start and resources for remediation at closure must not be ignored in Long Valley.

We 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,

Richard Ress, PresidentBill Luddy, Conservation Chair

Sierra Pacific Fly FishersSierra Pacific Fly Fishers

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