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First name: Dennis

Last name: Precourt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms Garcia:

I view many risks of Kore's exploratory drilling and possibility of an open pit mine above Hot Creek as unacceptable.

Allowing the project to proceed would constitute blatant negligence in our responsibility to protect such a priceless resource. And if Hot Creek and the waters downstream were irreparably harmed, it would also stand as one of most disastrous business decisions ever, especially during these times. The year-long pandemic has made public enjoyment of outdoor activities in nature more important than ever, with the economies of the area that serve us tourists anticipating a much-needed recovery as the coronavirus is brought under control.

Moreover, the Eastern Sierra is currently facing the prospect of another period of drought, exacerbated by climate change. Warnings of a "megadrought" have been recently publicized by researchers, who cite effects of climate change as increasing its severity. Allowing local water resources to be allocated to support mining, and in particular the leaching process, is simply untenable and immoral.

The valuable resource of water must be conserved to support the existing tourism and hospitality industries, which depend on maintaining the natural beauty of the Mammoth area and most importantly healthy flows in the creeks and sustainable lake levels. Water cannot be spared for this private venture that will enrich only a few, namely a foreign-owned corporation that has no stake in the region or its citizens.

This is not right . . . it is egregious profiteering that gambles with one of California's most revered natural areas as well as with the livelihood of all the people connected by its waters. Please object to this project. Please do not wait for litigation to begin. Please do the right thing today and protect the interests of us all, tourists and citizens who love the Mammoth area.

Thank you,  
Dennis P.