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First name: A. Matthew

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Colleen Garcia,

I vehemently oppose the 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 crucially 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 and environmentalist, 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.

Right now, the need to restore ecosystems rather than degrade them is of paramount importance. California is entering into another extreme drought, another extreme fire season, which last year alone burned more than 4 million acres. California is aiming to protect 30% of our lands by 2030, so is the rest of United States as part of a global commitment. As such, it is completely inappropriate and irresponsible to approve projects like this that will only cause further risk to our precious natural resources. For these reasons, I strongly oppose even the first exploratory step of this effort to potentially mine for gold. At a minimum, a full EIS should be conducted in order to properly assess the full impacts and possible dangers while allowing for meaningful public engagement.

Sincerely,

A. Matthew "Bear" Jacobs