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Printed on 100% tree-free paper

September 23, 2019

Deputy District Ranger Dionne Uzes
11380 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238

Dear Ranger Uzes,

RE: Lone Star and Waterhole Mines Reclamation Project

Thank you for sending the project description and the opportunity to provide written comments.

We would appreciate considerations for wildlife be incorporated into the implementation of this worthwhile project.

We would appreciate assurance that surveys for Townsend's Big Eared bat have been conducted. Also, as winter approaches and many mines are hibernacula for various area bats, we would appreciate knowing that the operating window for this project will not disturb hibernating bats.

Another consideration is that surveys and translocation of any fossorial animals that may be living in the attle should be conducted and onsite biological monitors should be present to ensure the safety of bats and other native wildlife.

Lastly, any hazardous wastes from the mine operation encountered need to be processed to a hazardous waste facility not buried onsite as those wastes could enter the aquifer of the Piute watershed.

We appreciate staff efforts to conserve the environment and want to express our approval of this project with the above considerations.

Sincerely,

Alison Sheehey, Programs Director Sequoia ForestKeeper
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