

August 11, 2025

FROM:

AMARGOSA VALLEY TOWN BOARD

1640 E. Amargosa Farm Road
Amargosa Valley, NV 89020

TO:

BLM California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1623
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Concerns About the Approved St. Cloud Mining Ash Meadows Mine Exploration Project (DOI-BLM-CA-D080-2022-0010-EA)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Carolyn Allen, and I serve as Chair of the Amargosa Valley Town Board. I'm writing on behalf of our board and our community to express serious concerns about the recent approval of St. Cloud Mining's exploratory drilling project near Ash Meadows.

Although the project is technically in California, it's only a few miles from the homes, farms, and springs of Amargosa Valley. We're deeply connected to this landscape, and especially to its water. Our livelihoods and way of life depend on a delicate groundwater system that spans state lines and feeds both human and ecological communities. Any disruption to that system, even from something like exploratory drilling, could have lasting consequences for our valley.

What's most troubling is that this project was approved without solid groundwater data, without hydrologic modeling, and without coordination with Nevada agencies that manage and protect our water resources. That feels reckless to us. We know how interconnected things are here. If something happens on one part of the river, it doesn't stay there: it impacts everything and everyone else connected to it.

Our board and community have opposed exploratory drilling in Amargosa Valley and supported the proposed mineral withdrawal around Ash Meadows because we believe this region is too important to risk. While this particular project falls just outside that boundary, the issues are the same: the risk to groundwater, springs, wildlife, and the people who rely on them.

We're asking BLM to take a step back. This project needs a much more thorough review; specifically, a full Environmental Impact Statement that looks at potential cumulative effects and the broader hydrologic connections. Until that happens, we believe exploration should be put on hold.

Amargosa Valley is a small town, but we care deeply about this place and the future of our water. We'd welcome a chance to talk more with BLM and other agencies about how we can better protect the shared resources that make our community and this whole region so special.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Allen
Chair, Amargosa Valley Town Board

cc:

Nye County Board of County Commissioners

Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Council

Bureau of Land Management – Barstow Field Office

Bureau of Land Management – California Desert District Office

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Palm Springs Office

National Park Service – Death Valley National Park

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Inland Deserts Region (6)

Nevada State Engineer's Office

Beatty Town Advisory Board