



3-25-2024

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

Dear DRMS,

Over the past several decades, countless hours of work and millions of dollars have been spent on repairing the devastating impacts of historic mining in Lake County on the Upper Arkansas River and its tributaries, particularly in the California Gulch watershed where the Leadville Mill and much of the targeted waste is located. As a result, the Upper Arkansas is now the longest continuous stretch of Gold Medal water in the nation.

AROA is the association representing 90% of the recreational use on the Arkansas downstream of this project. The economic impact of this river is not only felt from rafting outfitters, but also hotels, restaurants and other business reliant on tourism in Lake, Chaffee and Fremont counties. AROA adamantly opposes the opening of this mill. Any risk of a spill, or contamination of the Arkansas would be catastrophic for our industry, and consequently the tourism economies of the counties we operate in.

AROA's position is in absolute opposition to any approval of the permit for CJK Milling Company LLC in Leadville. The reopening of the Leadville Mill is too risky for a river that has worked so hard to return to Gold Medal Status. Please reach out if there are any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Rob Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Williams", written over a white background.

President

Arkansas River Outfitters Association

Arkansas River Outfitters Association • PO Box 1550 • Buena Vista, CO 81211