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To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Wed, Jun 13, 2007 5:03 PM
Subject: Comment Letter-Suction Dredge Mining

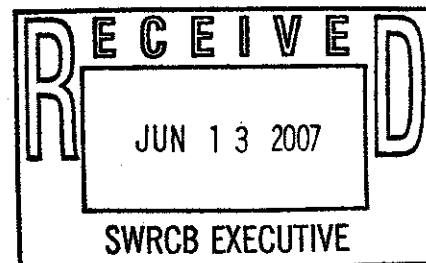
6/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

To: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

From: Bob Wilson

Subject: Effects of suction dredge mining on water quality

Date: June 13,2007



Dear SWRCB

I have been a resident of California since 1945. I started recreational gold mining and dredging around 1980. This has always been for about 1 to 3 weeks per year. During this time I have witnessed all sorts of mining activities. The ugliest visual impact was usually someone using a highbanker and making a cloudy mess in the water. Most actual underwater dredging activity resulted in minimal turbidity that only lasts for a short time. See (1)

Similar situations arise when I'm out in the Parks or National Forest fishing and camping. Some people will keep the water and camp ground clean and others are slob.

The California Department of Fish and Game and other agencies regulate suction dredging today. Adding an additional permit requirement will not change those people who do not follow best practices when camping, fishing, hunting, boating or gold dredging!

Please don't overly burden one outdoor recreational group over another when there are sufficient existing regulations that, when enforced, can do the job.

Thanks for listening!

Bob Wilson

Part time gold dredger

(1)

Badali, Paul, 1988. Prepared Statement to the State of Idaho, Department of Water Resources, Recreational Dredging Seminar.

Harvey, Bret, 1986. Effects of Suction Gold Dredging on Fish and Invertebrates in Two California Streams, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, Volume 6, pp. 401-409

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, 2001. Suction Dredging

Activities Operating Plan Terms and Conditions for Programmatic Approval of
Suction Dredge Plans of Operation. Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
Siskiyou National Forest.