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To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sat, Jun 9, 2007 7:05 AM
Subject: Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining

5/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

The California Department of Fish and Game (1997) described typical dredging activities as follows' "An individual suction dredge operation affects a relatively small portion of a stream or river. A recreational suction dredger (representing 90-percent of all dredgers) may spend a total of four to eight hours per day in the water dredging an area of 1 to 10 square meters. The average number of hours is 5.6 hours per day. The remaining time is spent working on equipment and processing dredged material. The area or length of river or streambed worked by a single suction dredger, as compared to total river length, is relatively small compared to the total available area."

"Suction dredges, powered by internal combustion engines of various sizes, operate while floating on the surface of streams and rivers. As such, oil and gas may leak or spill onto the water's surface. There have not been any observed or reported cases of harm to plant or wildlife as a result of oil or gas spills associated with suction dredging" (CDFG, 1997).

I also would like to add that I have removed various amounts of Mercury from the Rivers on the Western Slopes of the Sierra Nevadas and many other dredgers have done the same over the years.

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