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

From: Dean Hanshew <thndrbltone@yahoo.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Mon, Jun 11, 2007 10:43 PM
Subject: Comment Letter- Suction Dredge Mining

The present position advocated by the Department of Fish & Game regarding their continued attempts to restrict suction dredge mining is totally unsupported by the facts. Many studies have been made concerning this issue including those by the DFG itself. Witness the following public information confirming this:

"No additive effects were detected on the Yuba River from 40 active dredges on a 6.8 mile (11 km) stretch. The area most impacted was from the dredge to about 98 feet (30 meters) downstream, for most turbidity and settelable solids (Harvey, B.C., K. McCleneghan, J.D. Linn, and C.L. Langley, 1982). In another study, "Six small dredges (<6 inch dredge nozzle) on a 1.2 mile (2 km) stretch had no additive effect (Harvey, B.C., 1986). Water quality was typically temporally and spatially restricted to the time and immediate vicinity of the dredge (North, P.A., 1993).
A report on the water quality cumulative effects of placer mining on the Chugach National Forest, Alaska found that, "The results from water quality sampling do not indicate any strong cumulative effects from multiple placer mining operations within the sampled drainages."
"Several suction dredges probably operated simultaneously on the same drainage, but did not affect water quality as evidenced by above and below water sample results. In the recreational mining area of Resurrection Creek, five and six dredges would be operating and not produce any water quality changes (Huber and Blanchet, 1992).

The California Department of Fish and Game stated in its Draft Environmental Impact Report that "Department regulations do not currently limit dredger densities but the activity itself is somewhat self-regulating. Suction dredge operators must space themselves apart from each other to avoid working in the turbidity plume of the next operator working upstream. Suction Dredging requires relatively clear water to successfully harvest gold " (CDFG, 1997).

I submit that this result in itself is proof that this action has no merit.

Dean Hanshew
632 Estes Avenue
Corcoran, Ca. 93212