



From: Mr Dennis lee Hinckley <dhbb@yahoo.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Thu, May 17, 2007 11:49 AM
Subject: Comment letter-Suction Dredge Mining

This Email is my comment on the effects of Suction dredge mining on water quality.

Suction Dredge Mining adds nothing to the water, it only picks up river material from the bottom and redeposits it back in the river. On the good side Suction Dredge mining removes heavy metals, such as Gold, Lead, and Mercury. Gold has no effect on water quality, but Lead and Mercury are toxic and should be removed from the water for best quality. Suction Dredging does this like no other method. I myself with only one 5 inch dredge have removed at least 50 pounds of lead and a couple ounces of mercury not to be returned to the river in the last 10 years of dredging. Imagine how much has been removed by all the suction dredgers put together. All of this done at no cost to the State of California. In fact, we have to pay the State in order to do this by way of the suction dredge permit. So the State gets the rivers cleaned for free and profits from it also. No other water activity in the State of California actually cleans the rivers, yet adds no toxin's back. If I were

wanting to improve the water quality in California waters what better way than to have all the rivers dredged to remove the lead and mercury. However this would cost the State untold millions if not billions of tax payer dollars. Suction dredge miners do this service for free!

The US Army Corps of engineers gave certification in the past after study of Suction Dredge mining. I ask you what has changed since that time except it expiring? The Certification should be renewed as I have explained above. If suction Dredge mining is not to be allowed due to water quality, then I ask you to not allow Boating, (adds exhaust residue to the water that contains many toxins). Fishing should not be allowed as it adds lead to the water. Hunting should be banned as I have found pounds of lead bullets in the water with my dredge. If the small amount of turbidity with Suction Dredging is a problem, which it should not be since it is not toxic, then Swimming should also be banned as I have experienced swimmers above me when I was dredging causing as much turbidity if not more. Swimmers also add sun screen to the water along with tanning oils. This cannot be good for water quality.

I ask you to allow Suction dredge mining in the future as a great way to add wealth to the State and clean our rivers at the same time. Dredging is a win- win situation for all California citizens.

Dennis Hinckley
Concerned Citizen for good water quality.

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