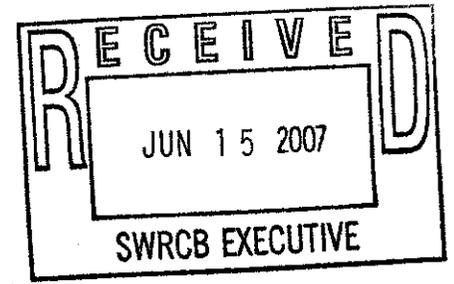


6/12/07 Workshop  
Suction Dredge Mining  
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

**From:** <iamgman@gmail.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 15, 2007 7:36 AM  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining



From a scientific point of view, the impacts of suction dredge mining improves water quality. I have a unique perspective in this issue. I have enjoyed suction dredging for gold since I was a child in the 1970's. I am also a registered Civil Engineer and work for the State of California. Not only does my common sense tell me what is good for our waters, I also can rely on my education and work experience. As a result of suction dredging, the miners literally capture pounds of heavy lead from the streambed; lost from fisherman and shooters. Mercury is also heavy; it stays in our sluice box stuck to our gold. I associate and work with many other miners and it is common knowledge that these materials need to be recycled or discarded appropriately, and we actively do this. Please don't let the personal agenda of the opposition influence your decision on this issue. Suction dredging is not to blame for this fisheries and water quality issues. Let's concentrate on the real issues at hand and preserve California's rich heritage.

Gerald Kracher, P.E.  
CA Registration #56675