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

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SWRCB EXECUTIVE

From: "Carolyn & Herb Duerr" <aunuts@sisqtel.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sun, Jun 10, 2007 3:13 PM
Subject: SUCTION DREDGE MINING!

Dear Board Members,

My husband and I have been small miners on the N. Fork of the Salmon River in Northern California for more than 35 years and although the number of small miners has increased in our area over the past 3-4 years, we have seen little or no damage to the water quality. We own mining claims and private property on the river and restrict the use of these. We also follow the regulations as set forth by the Department of Fish and Game and feel that these are a sufficient safe-guard for the water quality of our river.

We strongly urge both the State and ACOE to recertify suction dredge mining.

There have been studies on the effects of small scale suction dredging on the water quality and vegetation along the rivers. The DFG described typical dredging activities as follows: "An individual suction dredge operation affects a relatively small portion of a stream or river. 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." A summer storm will put more suspended sediment into the river than we can generate in the entire dredge season.

For these reasons we urge the board not to consider any further restriction of our rights.

We area aware that there are groups who would like to see an end to "suction dredging" however, we feel that they should respect our rights and we will do the same for them.

Sincerely,

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