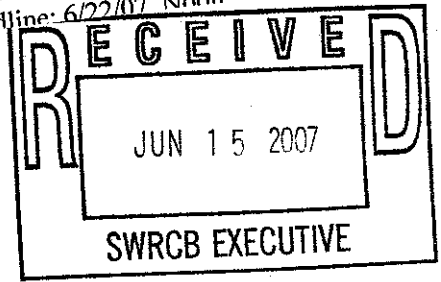


**From:** "JAMES" <GRIZZWAG@CHARTER.NET>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 15, 2007 11:45 AM  
**Subject:** "Comment Letter -- Suction Dredge Mining"



My name is: James D. Yerby Jr. 2240 Gardendal Cr., Medford, Oregon 97504

I have been a recreational gold dredger since 1967. In all of those years I have seen no negative impact on water quality from dredging for gold. Dredging creates deep and very cool pools of water that encourages fish to spawn and creates loose gravel beds that fish need to lay there eggs. I have also recovered and removed quantities of harmful mercury from the water ways.

This attempt by the State of California to close the rivers to gold dredging is WRONG!!!

Dredge mining had little, if any, impact on water temperature (Hassler, T.J., W.L. Somer and G.R. Stern, 1986).

Please take this information very serious.  
Best Regards, -- James D. Yerby Jr.