



**From:** JIM JIM <jmaxwell95389@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, May 17, 2007 5:17 PM  
**Subject:** Comment letter Suction dredge minning

I am writing with regards to your proposal to stop dredging on our waterways. It has no effect on the quality of our water or on the marine life. The movements that are going forth to stop dredging will have a very negative effect on the communities and will cause a lot of people in the small towns to lose their businesses and the workers to lose their jobs. This would put an added strain on the local governments as the displaced workers go on welfare and must rely on public assistance. Also, many of the areas where we dredge are in economically depressed regions. When we go prospecting we spend money in the local towns on food, supplies, and lodging. Prospecting for gold is part of our history and heritage and is what made California what it is today. This is why it's called "The Golden State". Prospectors respect the beautiful countryside where they search for gold and leave the area in better condition than they found it. In the course of dredging we clean out mercury that's been left in the rivers plus debris if we see it. The rivers and streams belong to the people. Gold prospectors are of the people and we need to have our rights protected also.

jim

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