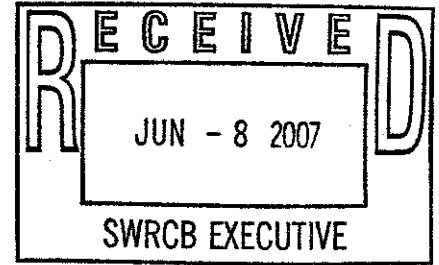


6/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

From: <Digforgold@aol.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 8, 2007 4:52 PM
Subject: Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining



Regarding the impact of suction dredging on water quality:

May I point out that suction dredging does not import any material into a river or stream. Instead it works with material that is already there. The gravels are redistributed and aerated which provides a choice place for fish to lay eggs. In addition suction dredging aerates the water which is good for the fish and other marine life, if any are present.

This is my sixth year of suction dredging in California. On average I capture and remove 35 pounds of lead from the river in which I dredge. (Buckshot, bullets, fishing sinkers, wheel weights, lead from leaded glass windows, lead from pre 20th century cans, and other pieces of lead.) I also have removed beer and soda cans, deflated rubber rafts, coffee pots, fishing rods, chairs, guard rails from the highway, a bed spring, cables, oars, ropes and even some mercury. All materials of this nature are removed and recycled or disposed of in a proper, legal manner. If anything the net result is much cleaner water with less toxic materials present. It would cost uncounted millions for the government to clean up the waters to the same extent that dredgers do.

Finally, I beg to point out that when I am dredging fish gather downstream to gobble up bits of food that I dredge up. The fish love dredgers and I think all Californians should love us too!

John Devine
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Sierra City, CA 96125

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