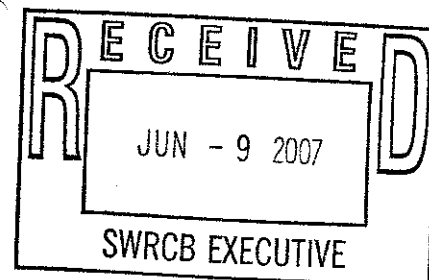


5/12/07 Workshop  
Suction Dredge Mining  
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

**From:** "Lance" <info@sirlantz.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Sat, Jun 9, 2007 8:25 PM  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining



Reference-Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining

I want to submit a comment on Suction Dredging Mining. I personally have never used a suction dredger so I am speaking from the position of a third party. I have seen dredgers used on the rivers and streams of northern California and I have seen hordes of fishing swimming around the dredgers salvaging any bits of food that are kicked up in the process of using the dredger. It appears to me that the quality of the water is not affected at all in the process as I have seen absolutely crystal clear water downstream of the dredging within just a few hundred feet at most. How can that be harmful to anything, it looks to me that they suck up a little of the river bottom and deposit it downstream just a few feet. Seems to me that the natural process of erosion is much more harmful.

The fish don't seem to mind the movement of the bottom of the river. Actually, I think the fish enjoy the extra food they get to eat.

So let the recreational dredgers stay and have the fun of looking for whatever they are looking for in the river.

I have seen the dredgers do lots of good by removing mercury that is in the bottom of the rivers. I think the state should have to pay for the clean up of the toxic material or at least reimburse the dredgers' for the clean-up they do.

It saddens me to think what will happen if the mercury stays and gets into the food chain.

So I think removing the toxic mercury and keeping the water pure and clean is a good thing for everyone. Let the dredgers' stay as long as it isn't any bigger than a 8 inch dredges, have a permit (if applicable) and follow some basic rules.

Lance Snead  
2590 Oak rd #248  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
925-280-0112