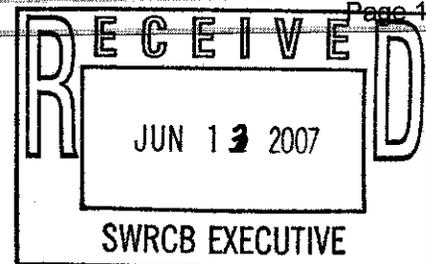


6/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

From: Les Stafford <staffords1234@sbcglobal.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Wed, Jun 13, 2007 6:12 AM
Subject: water quality/small scale mining



dredging is nothing more that moving material on the river or creek bed, the same as when it rains heavily, by comparison in an annually dredging season, material less than 1 percent of what is naturally moved by the river or creek in the same period of time. In addition, the water is being oxygenated)

But unlike the natural process of moving material around, with small scale mining - unwanted material is being removed from river or creek bed (lead shot and bullets from hunters, hooks and sinkers from fishing and rusty metals from other man made objects. As with or Unlike other uses of streams and their banks (Hiking, Fishing, Hunting, four wheelers and dirt bikes) - most miners go out of their way to keep the environment healthy to be able to continue their hobby.

People or business building near these areas do more damage to the environment than any small scale mining would ever do, One of the reason this county is here because the search for minerals, it was one the first things done when explorers arrived. and has been done continually since that time. The mining processes that WERE harmful to the environment are all but gone from the industry (Hydraulic mining, mercury leaching, large diversion of stream beds) Small scale mining has evolved allot over the last hundred years.

The People/Groups that are trying to stop or control small scale mining in this county do more damage to the environment they're supposedly trying to protect - just by driving their vehicle while shopping.