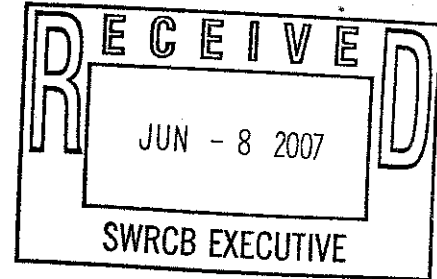


6/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

From: "Mark" <dancinbear1@sbcglobal.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 8, 2007 9:15 AM

Mark McCurry
894 Pine St
Monterey CA 93940



Hello:

I thought I would take a few minutes to address the issue of water quality regarding suction dredging in California. It seems at every chance litigators have, that our great hobby is being threatened. Our hobby is one which should be allowed to carry on within current guidelines.

Regarding water quality, I see no long term damages to stream water. Sand mud and silt in the water flow is a natural occurrence during heavy run off times, and yet nature's creatures find a way to survive. Generally discoloration to water settles out within a few hundred feet along the stream course. Frequently I see fish feeding behind dredges due to food being stirred up by activity moving rocks and gravel. Regarding declining salmon on the Klamath river, there are a number of factors that have affected this, and I feel that dredging is not the likely cause, but rather the Indians taking large numbers of fish, as well as water diversion and over use from the headwaters by the farming industry. Commercial fishing can not be ruled out either, considering hundreds of boats at sea. Dredging is a drop in the bucket of cause, and since a small industry, one that is easy to attack, but one that if stopped is not going to make a noticeable difference anywhere. Then who would we blame next? Frequently during operations, fish are seen lounging in newly made holes in the streambed as shelters. Gas and oil used on engines is of concern, and needs to be carefully stored and added to equipment with care. Operators need to take responsibility to add with care to avoid any spills.

Overall, I hope to see the mining industry continue to thrive as it is. It is a wonderful outdoor experience for the whole family. I suspect those that oppose it have no interest in it, and simply want to do away with it due to "environmental" concerns. There are many who make decisions without knowing what things are really all about.

I hope that those in "charge" will consider all in the public sector !

Best regards,

Mark McCurry