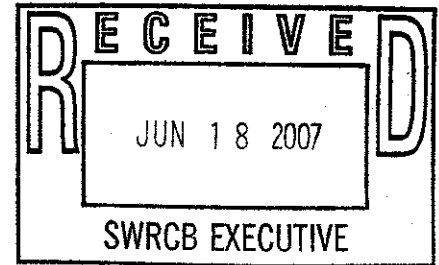


6/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

Randy and Teresa Green
P.O. Box 2447
Redway, CA 95560
530-496-3187
e-mail: rgreen@sisqtel.net



Song Her
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100
Fax: 916-341-5620
email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

June 18, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to share our observations regarding suction dredging. My husband and I have enjoyed dredging for the past six years in Northern California in the Salmon and Klamath rivers. During our dredging season we have enjoyed the clean water and viewing wildlife in addition to finding some gold. In our observations we have noted that most small-scale miners are retired older folks who work limited hours with small equipment (4" or smaller dredge) because it is difficult to move or manage larger equipment in addition to the fuel costs to run larger equipment.

According to California Department of Fish and Game (1997) ..An individual suction dredge operation affects a relatively small portion of a stream or river. A recreational suction dredger (representing 90-percent of all dredgers) may spend a total of four to eight hours per day in the water dredging an area of 1 to 10 square meters." (CDFG, 1997, Draft Environmental Impact Report: Adoption of Amended Regulations for Suction Dredge Mining, State of California, the Resource Agency, Department of Fish and Game)

Most small-scale dredgers work alone in their particular dredging area (usually a 25' radius around their dredge) because the water can become cloudy if dredgers work too closely together. In our observation, dredgers tend to work alone especially when they are finding gold because they don't want the secret spot revealed. Hence, the water stays clear and clean so they can see to work. Furthermore, we have never observed any negative effects nor read any definitive studies that showed significant damage caused by small scale suction dredgers.

California was built by a group of miners (49'ers) and it is an important piece of our history and our economy and provides a great recreational activity for the whole family.

Thank you for listening to our comments.

Sincerely,

Randy & Teresa Green