

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

From: "Janis" <wedig4gold@com-pair.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sun, Jun 10, 2007 5:10 PM
Subject: suction dredging

My name is Robert Lanphear. I am a 74 year old who enjoys my summer hobby of dredging, using a 2 ½" dredge. I am only able to dredge for a couple of hours a day. When I am dredging the fish fry come around the nozzle of my dredge and also around the end of the dredge getting a fresh supply of food. If we are working in muddy sediment we do notice a change in the water clarity for probably 50 feet. In the mean time it rapidly clears. We find gold that is coated with mercury and loads of lead. We always bring home all of the trash that we find that has been left by fisherman and swimmers. We have found aluminum cans as deep as deep as 10' and always remove it from the stream bed and take it home. Dredgers are doing a lot to clean up California Rivers and streams.

Having to purchase another permit to dredge in California would be a huge financial burden and I am sure the State of California is not prepared to issue all these permits that will be necessary. Fish and Game monitors our activities and issues a permit to dredge with all of the rules and regulations that have changed over the preceding year. There are very few people in the State of California that dredge for a living. Most of us are recreational miners who only dredge for a few months each year. What will the financial loss to California be if all of these dredgers are forced to give up their hobby? Also how long will the producers of dredging equipment continue to do business in California if no one purchases their equipment.

Please allow us to continue to dredge without the water quality permit as it has been for as long as I have been dredging.

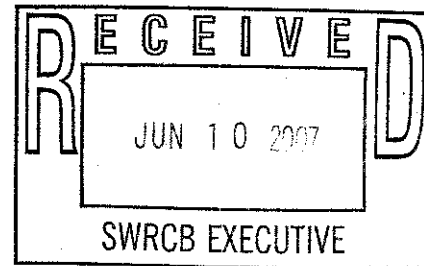
Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Lanphear

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