

**From:** "Sarah" <sarah1@redshift.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 18, 2007 10:59 AM  
**Subject:** Comment Letters - Suction Dredge Mining

June 18, 2007

Board Members,

It is well known that suction dredge mining is an environmental disaster for riparian ecosystems, and water quality. Why are the Department of Fish and Game, and the dredgers, exempt from environmental conscience and responsibilities? Are miners a sovereign nation? Is the Department of Fish and Game a separate country? Antiquated mining and mineral rights laws and mentalities, with the Dept. of Fish and Game, must evolve in tandem with new environmental protection laws, and modern society. ALL citizens must accept the responsibilities of protecting OUR water quality, and riparian habitats. NO EXCEPTIONS. Who will pay for costly ecosystems restoration projects? The miners? Fish and Game? The EPA? The miners trashed the Mariposa Creek that flows in front of my home to the wetlands, and the San Joaquin River. Dredge mining in Mariposa County, "Home of Yosemite." How could trashing the waterway be "permitted" anywhere let alone near the most revered National Park in the world? Can we afford the negative headlines?

We all know that water is the real gold in California.

I await your answers to my questions.

Sarah Windsor  
Mariposa

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

