

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

From: Siks <siks_66@yahoo.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sun, May 20, 2007 2:57 PM
Subject: comments concerning water quality as an issue of suction dredging

It has come to my attention that you are requesting comments concerning water quality as an issue of suction dredging. It immediately comes to mind that there is no issue here and that this inquiry is another step of the government to limit/take away another small groups access to public lands/waterways.

The studies concerning suction dredging and water quality are numerous and have never shown that recreational suction dredging can even cause 1% of the quality disturbance that NATURE herself can and does. So what I perceive is happening here is that a pressure group has caused this conference to be convened in the hopes of reducing or eliminating suction dredging from selected waters to future their own self interests. If that is the case then once again there is no issue. If that is not the case then we should consider the elimination of all other recreational uses of these waterways as well. If a pressure group that would like to hike/kayak/float/fish along and upon our public waterways and not see/hear/encounter a recreational dredger, then I say "Learn to share our public waterways"... they MUST share these waterways with citizens of differing interests. We live in an era where the population is growing and thus all natural resources need to be shared/conserved in as healthy a manner as possible.

I must ask a question: where does the water from the lakes go? My answer is into the streams and rivers. So the next question that comes to mind is about the water quality of these lakes. Shall we to eliminate boating in all forms, due to its impact on the envirmment? Fishing in all forms? Swimming in all forms? Septic fields near water bodies? All this to preserve water quality? I doubt very much that this would be considered and would be catagorized as non-issues. I believe that restricting recreational suction dredging fails to preserve the public use of public waterways and serves to furthur the interests of specific pressure groups.

Since you asked to keep these comments related only to water quality then there isn't much to comment on. The studies have been done....look no further than Alaska. The army corp of engineers has gone through extensive testing. Recreational suction dredging is simple not an issue.

Thank you for your consideration of my point of view,
Sean Siks
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