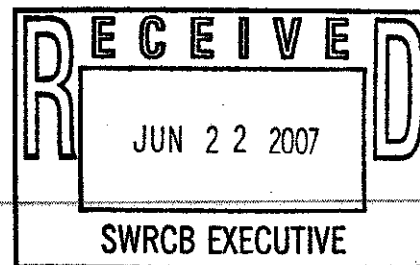


commentletters - suction dredging

From: <Tlittledogmax@aol.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 6/22/2007 7:01:43 AM
Subject: suction dredging



AB 1032

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing this in concern for being cut off from my public lands for the purpose of dredging. I understand that The key issues revolved around mercury. the activists who contended that dredging causes the elemental mercury to "flower", ie, to break up into tiny particles and that this flowered mercury then is turned into methyl mercury by bacteria already in the water. Vague reference was made to "studies" that demonstrated this phenomenon.] The algae then absorbs the methyl mercury, so goes the argument, which in turn is eaten by creatures and thus works its way up the food chain. They argue, even if dredgers do remove some elemental mercury, they cause far more damage than good. Also, they alleged that miners can not be trusted to follow the laws and, because the mining is done in remote areas, the laws are too difficult to enforce. So the suggested solution was either to ban dredging completely or to force miners to spell out every detail of what, where, when and how they plan to dredge when applying for a dredge permit so that observers could oversee everything to insure compliance.

My agument is they can sit there and say miners cannot be trusted. We are not the ones sitting there making these false claims, we are out there and they would actually think we would be out there polluting our own land? It is impossible to create any ionized, ethylized or methylized mercury without starting at some point with elemental mercury. The mercury is there and if the dredgers don't take it out, who will. The suction dredge is the only known practical and currently utilized tool capable of removing substantial amounts of elemental mercury from the bedrock cracks and crevices and gravels of California's rivers. Not only do the dredgers take out the mercury but they take out the lead.

The movement of sediments in California's rivers is a natural process that occurs in varying degrees whenever waterflow exists. Natural precipitation carries enormous volumes of silt run-off and discharges it into the rivers. The scale of natural waterflow volume dwarfs any artificial flows created by small scale portable suction dredges. Artificial disturbance of of rivers occurs on a huge scale every year and at various times of the year whenever dams release stored water. These releases cause huge plumes of silt and turbidity up to a hundred or more miles long. These volumes are measured in terms of thousands of acre feet and they significantly increase the velocity of the water moving down the river. None of the small scale suction dredges for which California permits [NOT ILLEGALLY by what was said at the meeting] are issued are physically and mathematically incapable of moving even a small fraction of that amount. Not even if every one of them operated simultaneously. And The release of water by dams does not result in the removal of a single molecule of elemental mercury from the river, whereas the operation of suction dredges does result in the removal of elemental mercury from the rivers. In other words WHO is going to remove this mercury from the rivers if the dredgers don't? Last year, dredgers removed how many tons of mercury from California waters. I'm sure they removed enough to kill a whole lot of people. and that is not even counting all that lead. There is how many tons of mercury in California waters and the so called environmentalists think it is a good idea to keep it there.

My thought on it is The problem will be that the environmentalists always seem to come up with the money to run their own slanted ads and my feeling is the bureaucrats will be all too eager to ban it so their jobs are easier.

Well I hope this sways the thought that you can just sweep the dredgers under the carpet and take a real thought on what is really happening here. Keep The Dredgers Dredging!
 Thank You for Your Time for reading this and I hope my vote counts.

Thomas Parker
 P.O. Box 2203

Grass Valley, CA 95945
tlittledogmax@aol.com

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