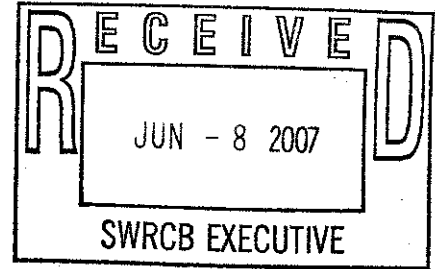


Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

From: "v wilhite" <vjwilhite@volcano.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 8, 2007 12:08 PM
Subject: comment letter Suction Dredge Mining



Hello

I hold a Bachelor of Science(with Graduate Studies) In Wildlife Management, with minors in Forestry, Fish Management, Environmental Science, and Recreation. I, and my family friends and acquaintances, have many years of Suction Dredge Mining experience.

We have experienced Beneficial Water and Environmental effects from Suction Dredge activity. Trout and other fish often gather near the outflow of the Dredge to enjoy the feeding opportunities. Classified gravel beds are created which benefit spawning activity in areas where siltation has covered spawning beds.

Turbidity(the primary "harmful" effect complained of) is localized, minimal, and rapidly returns to ambient stream levels. Further-more, it has NOT BEEN SHOWN that turbidity is harmful! Turbidity created is certainly a very small percentage of the turbidity resulting from One rain storm!

There have been MANY previous studies and reports directly on Suction Dredge Mining activity and they have repeatedly emphasized No harmful effects from this activity and even minimal turbidity. Several Studies indicate beneficial results to the steam environment and wildlife.(see submitted reports by The New 49er's, The GPAA, and others). These are Valid Scientific Studies, not unsupported statements of people with private agendas!

Attacks on Suction Dredge Mining seem to be only from special interest groups that wish to restrict stream activity to only Their interests.

Suction Dredge Mining contributes to cleaning and improving the stream environment by opening stagnant stream bed areas, removing lead, mercury, and other contaminants. In fact, Suction Dredge Mining seems to be the ONLY activity that is Improving the environment in this manner!

Suction Dredge Mining contributes Significantly to the economics of the State, creating income, employment, and benefiting commerce.

SUCTION DREDGE MINING IS BENEFICIAL, NOT HARMFUL, AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED!

Thankyou

Van Wilhite, B.S. CSU '66

CC: <new49ers@goldgold.com>