

From: vwwhidden@cox.net
To: <Commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Wed, May 30, 2007 8:57 PM
Subject: Comment Letter-Suction Dredge Mining

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

To whom it may concern,

It is sad that taxpayer money is wasted on such a trivial issue. We are talking about a handful of weekend warriors whose cumulative effect on water quality is 1000 orders of magnitude smaller than a single, localized 1/4" rainstorm.

If you think suction dredging is a serious threat to the environment, then you have to be in favor of building dams everywhere to minimize water movement whenever possible. This is ludicrous, of course. A few years ago, Bruce Babbitt was championing violent, water releases from dams in order to create the effect recreational suction dredging simulates on a miniscule scale, namely, scouring of the river gravel and the resulting oxygenation of the water.

In short, I do not know what the agenda of the complainants is, but it has nothing to do with improving water quality. I respectfully submit that no thinking person can take this issue seriously except as a political smokescreen for some other agenda.

Sincerely, Verne W. Whidden

