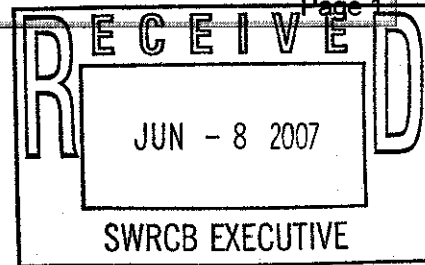


6/12/07 Workshop  
Suction Dredge Mining  
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon



**From:** WARREN CURRIE <warnie40@msn.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 8, 2007 6:24 AM  
**Subject:** "Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining"

State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Quality P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, California  
95812-0100

To whom it may concern

Studies have been conducted in Oregon to show that there are no negative effects from using a suction dredge in our streams and rivers. For the most part, dredging displaces 99% the gravels from approx 15 ft. in front of the dredge, to a couple of feet behind the dredge, with the fines settling out within 100 ft. or less, farther downstream.....

Studies have also been made as to fish, wildlife, clams/ crawfish, ect. going through the dredge, with no injury to any!

Turbidity below a 2.5 inch suction dredge in two Idaho streams was nearly undetectable even though fine sediment, less than 0.5 mm in diameter, made up 13 to 18 percent, by weight, of substrate in the two streams (Griffith and Andrews, 1981).

"During a dredging test carried out by the California Department of Fish and Game on the north fork of American River, it was concluded that turbidity was greatest immediately downstream, returning to ambient levels within 100 feet. Referring to 52 dredges studied, Harvey (1982) stated "...generally rapid recovery to control levels in both turbidity and settable solids occurred below dredging activity."

A report from the U.S. Forest Service, Siskiyou National Forest (Cooley, 1995) answered the frequently asked question, "How much material is moved by annual mining suction dredge activities and how much does this figure compare with the natural movement of such materials by surface erosion and mass movement?" The answer was that suction dredges moved a total of 2,413 cubic yards for the season. Cooley (1995) used the most conservative values and estimated that the Siskiyou National Forest would move 331,000 cubic yards of material each year from natural causes. Compared to the 2413 (in-stream) cubic yards re-located by suction mining operations the movement rate by suction dredge mining would equal about 0.7% of natural rates.

Thank you  
Warren Currie  
Winston Oregon 97496

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