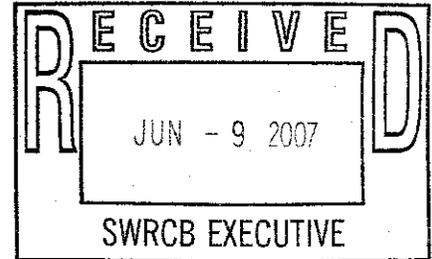


5/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

From: Jim Camenisch <cecinc@sbcglobal.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sat, Jun 9, 2007 10:10 PM
Subject: "Comment Letter - Suction Dredge"



Dear Waterboard

Times are-a-changing, but are they changing for the better? We have become a society of regulators; regulating everything we can sometimes the regulators are just making law just to justify their existence.

Sometimes these regulators are just promoting their special interests and could care less what the masses care or want. Often these regulators have little or no idea of what the real issues are and just go with the pressure that leads them to making decision. Their decisions can have an impact on everyday people that will reach far beyond their original scope of reasoning.

Now I can cite legal case laws and ruling for district courts dealing with the issues at hand, but you will be inundated from many others with such things and I really don't want to waste your time with this material.

I want to hopefully reach you with this message; this country was established by hard working people. People with ideas that would form and forge a land to make it what is today. Everyone is concerned with the environment and the real issue here is, "will dredge for gold cause a impact on our environment". I have been dredging for gold over 30 years. I have used 8", 6" 4" and 2" dredges, both underwater as well as surface dredges. During that time the cost of having a dredge permit has gone from \$0.00 to it's present charges. I have yet seen anything constructive been done with the permit money other than promote more regulators. Sorry got off the point. You are worried about what dredging is doing to our environment and the fish industry, and you very well should be. But what I have seen is that the dredger actually help the fish industry, providing fresh bedding and uncovering stoneflies for food. You might be worried what dredging will do to the river and stream beds.

Yes the dredgers do dig underwater holes and muddy the water for a little distance, but what do you think one major storm does to the river and stream beds, not to leave out the embankments and hillsides. You want mud, go to a river after a massive rain storm or the melting of the winter snows. These storms will move more rocks and tear down more hillsides in a moment then all the California dredgers could do in ten dredging seasons. You need to go out to the rivers and look. Don't take my word for it of any ones else. Get out of your offices and take a day trip to these rivers. Talk to everyone involved and see for yourself.

Don't take away a way of life for some and a get-a-way for others with their family and friends. For so many this is their chance to experience a past of the gold rush and live that golden California dream of finding a bit of that pass. Times are-a-changing, but lets not take away something that brings joy to so many, maybe one of your own.

Thank you for giving me this forum to voice my thoughts

Sincerely

Jim Camenisch
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