

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

From: "John Nikoden" <joccomoe@epix.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 8, 2007 2:00 PM
Subject: "Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining"

I will get to the point.

Suction Dredging and Mining within the water of any area of the United States of America is a constitutional right.

It is hard to believe that the same people we elect into office are the ones trying to take these rights away.

If small scale miners had a large origination with large amounts of money to lobby for votes, this would go away in no time.

Why is it, men that sit in offices all day and never spend a day dredging for gold or other minerals, think they know what is best.

There has never been any evidence that dredging affects water quality.

Every time it rains the water is effected more than if all the dredgers in the state could do if they all were in the same river at the same time.

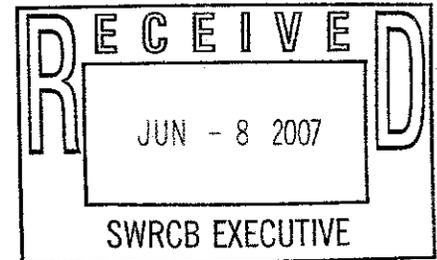
What are you going to do next, make a law that stops Mother-Nature from doing what is natural?

Just because someone says that Suction Dredging is bad, you think it is. Then you decide to make a law to stop us.

When an Oil Tanker went aground in Al., did you make a low to stop all oil tankers from moving oil across the waters, NO!

You used tax payers money to help with the cleanup then found a way to help the oil industry.

Small scale dredgers find a lot of gold that make it into the market place.



There are a lot of small businesses that supply small scale miners and they pay taxes that help this country.

Taxes pay you!

Why do you want to bite the hand that pays you?

I am sure there is a lot of research out there that will prove that dredging has no impact on the environment. I will not offer you this info. Someone else will.

I want to make a statement from the heart here.

There is no reason to stop any small mining. All we want to do is try to work for many hours to find a few specs of gold to make a living or just to have fun.

I have been fishing for over 40 years and I know the water and I know how fish live. When I dredge, fish are feeding all around me. I even named a few.

There is no way that what we do as dredgers has any effect on the waters. For sure, Mother-Nature has a larger impact, but you only want to stop me.

As a Tax Payer of this great country, I oppose any bill that would limit the operations of Small Scale Suction Dredging.

Thank you,

John Nikoden

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