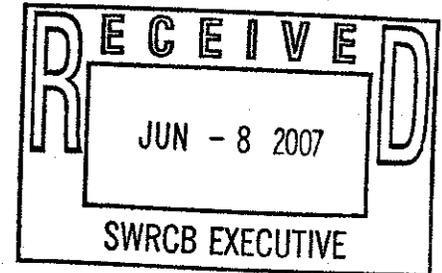


From: "Joe Gonzalez" <legal@blumb.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 8, 2007 7:21 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Mining

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

I've been informed by the New 49'ers gold mining club that The California State Water Resources Board is contemplating changes to the current laws, possibly prohibiting suction gold dredging by private individuals – or curtailing suction dredge gold mining to more and more limited areas. This is genuinely a sad proposition.



I've lived in the New York Metropolitan area for most of my life and dreamed of living out West enjoying the traditional activities that helped build this country's character and fortune. Looking out of my window into a typical city landscape or from the cubicle of my desk at work, I've had many day dreams of some day living an independent life-style earning my own pay as a gold miner.

Some people would say, in fact most people that I talk to here in the City simply scoff at the idea of "taking a burro into the hills searching for gold, it just can't done those days were long ago..." or something to that affect. They think people who pursue that life style are dreamers or losers who can't do anything else. I would venture to guess that most Westerners are used to that type of ridicule.

There will be experts who both oppose any gold suction dredging at all and those individuals who feel they can go dredge to their hearts content anywhere and as much as they want to – we need to find a middle ground. The existing laws seem to be responsible enough. I love the outdoors and hope that our children's children will be able to enjoy seeing a Grizzly bear in the wild or roaming the hills for days without serious restraint...I'm against large scale pollution, favor more green motor vehicles, would like to see our government focus on technologies that would make far less dependent on oil, etc.

Please don't take away my dreams. If there are rules and regulations that need to be followed – most of us would be willing to cooperate. Taking away our privilege to go gold mining seems to me will only allow big business to prospect for gold and we all know how careful and cooperative big business can be. Ah, but money talks especially during election time...

We all need to use gold, lumber, oil and all the other minerals that are necessities to life. Taking away the individuals' prerogative to make a living for his or herself forces us to be part of well-oiled large scale community that serves the basic needs of most people in a neat and proficient way but somehow makes life more stale. We all can't go roaming

the hills looking for adventure and freedom but it's certainly good to know someone out there is...

Responsibility is a shared value for both the individual and the community at large. Making all green spaces into one big park where you are limited to only walking or recreating in certain areas, in specific ways doesn't seem very fulfilling.

Thank you for considering my personal plea to not diminish the ability of us to responsibly enjoy suction gold dredging in this wonderful county of ours.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Gonzalez

766 Church Street

Bayport, NY 11705

631-363-5793

The California State Water Resources Board is requesting comments from the public regarding the effects of suction dredge mining on water quality. Based upon the comments, the Water Board will assess the available information to evaluate a possible further course of action. You can link to the Water Board's Notice

We believe that some of the most productive input prospectors can provide to the Water Board are the conclusions from multiple studies which have already proven that suction dredge activity within existing California regulations does not create any significant negative impact upon water quality.

To help with this, a very qualified fish biologist has taken the time to compile for us many of the important conclusions into a report which you can copy from. Those conclusions can

No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.5.472 / Virus Database: 269.8.11/838 - Release Date: 6/7/2007

2:21 PM