



**From:** "Steve Murray" <goldfinger@citlink.net>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 8, 2007 9:49 PM  
**Subject:** If anything we're cleaning it up

Dear Sirs, my name is Steve Murray, and I have done extensive mining since 1985, and I've worked on dredges from 2.5 inch to 8 inch. The sediment not only settles quickly, but dredging also cleans up a heck of a lot of mercury out of the rivers that the old timers left. I'm no scientist, but I do know that mercury is pure poison to anything that swims, flies, or crawls on the ground. I've taken as much as 30 lbs. of mercury out of the rivers in a single season. For instance, I've found puddles of the stuff in Oroville, Ca. right in front of the fish hatchery, but the government won't let anyone touch it to take it away. As far as dredging goes, there is no way to stir up enough sediment to do any harm. It re-deposits gravel layers for the fish to lay their eggs, and I think they are fairly happy about the way we stir up a little food for them too. If anything, we need to open up more areas to mine. I really feel that the people that are trying to shut us down, have never even had their face in the river, much less spent any time diving in them to see what they are even trying to make their case about. Any-way that's my view on the matter.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Murray