



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

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## Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

March 2, 2011

Ms. Celia Chen, Ph.D.  
Research Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences, HB 6044  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, NH 03755

Dear Dr. Chen:

## **PEER REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY IMPACTS OF SUCTION DREDGING FOR GOLD**

Thank you for agreeing to perform an the external scientific peer review of the water quality impacts of suction dredging for gold presented in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). Dr. Bowes informed me that you will be leaving on a field trip in a few days. Consequently, I am sending you the review materials directly.

The purpose of this letter is to initiate external review. Included with this letter are the following key documents:

- The request for external reviewers and five attachments;
- Attachment 4: a CD containing the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) on suction dredging for gold, the SEIR's appendices, and references for Chapter 4.2 which will be the subject of your review (note: we are also arranging to have these materials posted on an ftp site); and
- January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines.

Attachment 2 to the request letter provides focus for the review. **Please address all topics, as expertise allows, in the order listed.**

The January 7, 2009 Supplement provides guidance to ensure the review is kept confidential through its course. Reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third parties after reviews have been submitted. All outside parties are

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*California Environmental Protection Agency*

provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined regulatory process.

For now, I am your primary contact. Questions about the review or review material that cannot be answered over the telephone should be sent (email is preferred) to me until further notice. All reviews and reviewers' CVs will be posted at the appropriate SWRCB program web site and provided to the Department of Fish and Game.

I would appreciate it if your review could be completed within 30 days after receipt of this material and I would like to receive your review no later than April 18, 2011.

Your acceptance of this review assignment is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Humphreys, Abandoned Mine Clean up Coordinator, PG #4304,  
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