

APPENDIX F

# Suction Dredge Permit Program

Subsequent Environmental Impact Report

Scoping Meetings

November 16-18, 2009



Welcome & Opening Remarks

## Need for Program

Fish and Game Code Section 5653

- (a) The use of any vacuum or suction dredge equipment by any person in any river, stream, or lake of this state is prohibited, except as authorized under a permit....
  
- (b) ...If the department determines...that the operation will not be deleterious to fish, it shall issue a permit to the applicant.

California Code of Regulations Section 228 et seq.

- ✓ Outlines specific requirements for suction dredging
- ✓ Supported by 1994 EIR

## Need for SEIR

Karuk Tribe of California et al. v. California Department of Fish and Game

Superior Court of Alameda County Case Number RG05211597

- focused on the Salmon, Scott and Salmon River watersheds
- allegations regarding impacts to various fish species
- contended that the program violated CEQA and Fish and Game Code

## Need for SEIR

December 2006 Court Order directed Department to:

- Conduct further environmental review pursuant to CEQA
- Implement, if necessary, mitigation measures to protect Coho salmon and/or other special status fish species in the watershed of the Klamath, Scott, and Salmon Rivers, listed as threatened or endangered after the 1994 EIR

## Need for SEIR

In response, the Department determined:

- more than minor additions or changes to the 1994 EIR would be necessary
- statewide issues would need to be addressed
- a subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR) would be prepared

## Current Moratorium

Senate Bill 670 (Wiggins):

- Signed by Governor on August 5, 2009
- Suspends suction dredge activity under existing permits
- Suspends issuance of new permits
- Remains in effect until environmental review complete

Purpose of Meeting, Agenda  
Review, and Meeting Ground  
Rules

## Meeting Agenda

1. Purpose of Meeting, Agenda Review, and Meeting Ground Rules
2. Highlights of the Suction Dredge Initial Study & How to Comment during Scoping Period
3. Presentation of Public Comments and Questions for Clarification
5. Open House Workshop

## Meeting Groundrules

- Please make sure that all cell phones and pagers are on silent.
- Focus your attention on the presentation or response to questions – having side conversations distracts others in the group.
- Do not interrupt the presenter; there will be plenty of time for discussion.
- Try to focus your index card questions on those for which the response will be beneficial to the whole group. Try to make your questions clear and succinct. For site specific questions that are of personal interest to you, please talk to Department staff during the workshop time.
- Be respectful of each other and of differing points of view, especially during workshop conversations.

## Meeting Groundrules - continued

- Take personal responsibility for observing these ground rules, and honor our time together by keeping the meeting moving forward positively.
- Please understand that not all index cards may be responded to due to lack of time. However, staff are present following presentation for additional conversations.
- This is a workshop, not a formal hearing. No public testimony or oral comments are being recorded. Written comments are desired and will be included in the Scoping Report and used to structure the SEIR.
- The facilitator may ask individuals who do not abide by these rules to leave the workshop.

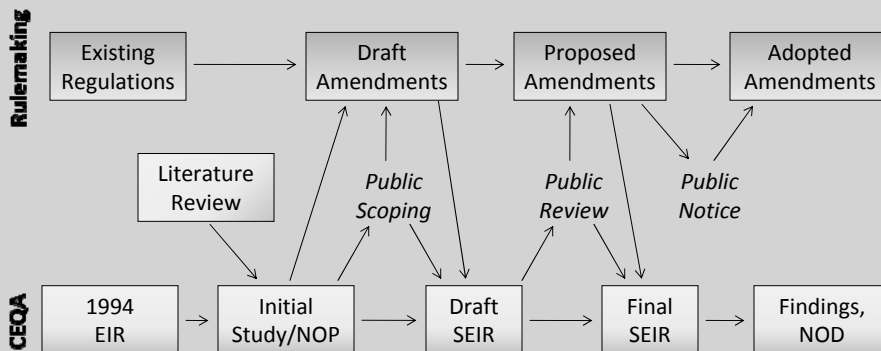
## Highlights of the Suction Dredge Initial Study & How to Comment during Scoping Period

## Purpose of Scoping

Provide the public and agencies an opportunity to provide input into the scope and content of the SEIR, and associated regulatory updates, including:

- ✓ Potential impacts of suction dredging
- ✓ Scope and range of alternatives
- ✓ Types or approaches to the regulatory updates
- ✓ Information regarding deleterious effects to fish, if any; and
- ✓ Types of activities to be regulated under the Department's suction dredge permit program

## CEQA and Rulemaking Process



## Initial Study Findings

- Looked at 17 resource categories
- Impacts to 8 resource categories are considered potentially significant as a result of the program
  - ✓ Aesthetics
  - ✓ Air Quality
  - ✓ Biological Resources
  - ✓ Cultural Resources
  - ✓ Hazardous Materials
  - ✓ Water Quality
  - ✓ Noise
  - ✓ Recreation
- Impacts to other resource categories were not considered to be potentially significant

## How to Comment

- Provide comments no later than **December 3, 2009**
- Send comments to:
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - Attn: Mark Stopher
  - Suction Dredge Program Comments
  - 601 Locust Street
  - Redding, CA 96001
  
  - Email: [dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov)
  - Subject Line: Suction Dredge Program Comments
- Include name, address, and contact number for future correspondence related to the Proposed Program



## Effective Commenting

- Substantive and focused on the SEIR analysis, and the scope and substance of the Department's related regulations under the Fish and Game Code
- Comments or information previously submitted in 2007 do not need to be repeated
- All comments will be considered during preparation of the SEIR

## Next Steps and Timeline

Scoping Period ends	December 3, 2009
Public review of Draft SEIR and regulatory updates (including public hearings)	Late summer/early fall 2010
Final Supplemental EIR and regulatory updates	Spring 2011
File Notice of Determination and CEQA Findings	Late spring 2011

Presentation of Public Comments  
and Questions for Clarification

Open House Workshop

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