

Appendix C
FORM LETTER 1 AND VARIANTS

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Form Letter 1
VARIANTS

From: "Cynthia Adams"
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 04/24/2011 3:26:28 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Apr 24, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

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When you float down a river and take in the beauty of canyons and wildlife and then realize that what you are seeing could be gone and drowned away simply for a little more energy that can be obtained in a much more environmentally friendly way, there's no doubt in my mind that the dam project should not happen.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cynthia Adams
15 Beulah Park Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-1552
(831) 469-9589

From: "David Adams"
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 8:25:04 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

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Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

I am particularly concerned about the popular, local South Yuba River, which under the proposed new regulations will be open to suction dredge mining from Jul. 1 to Jan. 31. The river gravels are impregnated with mercury, which was used to process gold during the Gold Rush. Dredging will release this toxic material into the water, potentially threatening the health of people and wildlife alike. In addition, mining will be allowed in a segment of the South Yuba that provides critical habitat for the threatened California red-legged frog. Mining will also conflict with the extraordinary scenic and recreational values of this state-designated Wild & Scenic River.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Adams
11478 Burlington Parkway
Penn Valley, CA 95946

From: ["Jeff Ball"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/24/2011 1:25:32 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 24, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

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I just read the new proposed suction dredge regulations for California rivers. I am appalled that you would propose less restrictive regulations than those that existed before. I thought the main reason there was a moratorium imposed on dredging is that the miners were getting out of hand and would not compromise on their position. I spend a lot of time down at the rivers and have done so for 40 years. The last year and a half has been wonderful without the dredgers scumming up the rivers. I noticed a lot of trout fingerlings where there were none before. To allow them to now dredge wild & scenic rivers such as the North Fork of the American is crazy. And National Parks? With larger diameter hoses? The miners do so much environmental damage along the river - they have no respect for anything or anyone else. They trash out their campsites and defecate way to close to the streams. They rip out streamside bushes. They overturn rocks & leave them teetering so that the next person walking thru stumbles on the rubble they have created. It is not safe. They kill off snakes and other wildlife. They spill oil & gas into the water. Many think they own the land that their claim is on, and they all seem to carry fire arms. I have been threatened by them because they are so paranoid, they think I'm trying to pan their claim. Some have built illegal structures. Some even use explosives when they think they can get away with it. Miners tend to have a rogue mentality and with all the budget cuts, who will police them? - and believe me, they need to be checked up on. Please protect the rivers for all of the people and not allow a very small segment of the population, many of which come from out of state, to dergrade the river habitat. I would like to see the moratorium on dredging extended for the next 20 years to let the rivers recuperate from all the degradation the miners have caused. Thank you.

Jeff Ball

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeff Ball
2436 Park Estates Dr
Sacramento, CA 95825-0354

rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. P. A. Burnes
PO Box 60235
Palo Alto, CA 94306-0235

From: [Ray Binner](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov;
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments
Date: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:00:01 PM

Mar 25, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Thank for your time looking in to this matter.
Ray Binner

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ray Binner
PO Box 813
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924-0813
(530) 575-8385

From: ["P. A. Burnes"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/27/2011 1:34:52 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 27, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Suction dredge mining does not provide economic value. The economic impact is tiny or probably negative compared to the recreational economies it diminishes. The recreational value of suction dredge mining accrues only to a tiny number individuals who disturb the inherent recreational and ecological values that benefit and are highly valued by millions of Californians who seek the peace and solace of the outdoors, especially our beautiful and precious rivers.

The reason suction dredge mining is pursued is that gold is perceived to have intrinsic value, which it no longer does. The value it now accrues is due to clever marketing and greedy financial speculators. The supposed noble activity of suction dredge mining for gold is of no greater value than "investing" in a paper mortgage, a valueless option, or fleeting home equity. Suction dredge miners as a group would ultimately be better off financially doing nothing and by doing nothing would be providing great value to society.

Setting aside the small, or more likely net negative, economic value of suction dredge mining, there is no industrial need for the materials acquired. There is plenty of gold and other materials already available and in circulation to satisfy society's requirements through recycling and alternative materials or sources. There is a technological alternative to or lower environmental impact means of acquiring any dredged material. The only reason these activities appear necessary is that they are allowed to continue and therefore the readily available technological alternatives are not pursued.

Therefore, since it is both destructive and valueless, like vandalism, there is no reason that suction dredge mining should occur anywhere, let alone in these sensitive ecologically and socially valuable resources, our great rivers and streams. Suction dredge mining, like other activities that deface and diminish private and public property for the valueless aggrandizement of a few, should be prohibited.

Fish and Game as a lead agency charged with the public's interest in the environment should be working with cooperating legislators to aggressively pursue the modification of mining statutes at the State and Federal levels to assure a long lasting solution to the outdated and now absurd notion that all other values should be set aside in the interest of unnecessary, and singularly destructive, extractive activities like suction dredge mining.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our

rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. P. A. Burnes
PO Box 60235
Palo Alto, CA 94306-0235

From: "Susan Chandler"
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 9:55:14 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

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AARGH!! What is wrong with the world? We don't need this kind of awful environmentally irresponsible raping of the land. We had this fight in Utah in the 70's...I don't want my grandchildren to not even have an experience of our wonderful world unsullied by this horrible practice. Gold mining is a crap shoot at best unless there is a huge deposit underground somewhere, looking for it in the gravel bed of a stream is the most inefficient way to get it...let the people do it as a fun way to pass their time with gold pans not power hoses!!!

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan Chandler
1193 17th St
Los Osos, CA 93402-1425

From: "Alison Clement"
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/24/2011 10:57:26 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 24, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

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Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

We are still regretting some of the mining practices that were allowed in earlier generations. Don't let us allow something else that we will regret! Your grandchildren will thank you, if you consider this carefully.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Ms. Alison Clement
3166 Cedar Ravine Rd
Placerville, CA 95667-6506

From: ["Judith Collas"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 6:24:55 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

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Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

There is no social value in the minerals to be extracted by this destructive practice. Why should the health and beauty of our fragile river system and the joy it offers to our citizens be sacrifice for industrial greed.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Dr. Judith Collas
760 Swarthmore Ave
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-4355

From: ["Rachael Denny"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 6:54:59 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
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I am counting on you to ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. With this in mind, I urge you to prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations. Our rivers are much too precious and valuable to be recklessly abused for short-term profits.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rachael Denny
4082 Interlake Rd
Bradley, CA 93426-6933

From: ["Linnea Fronce & Thomas Hall"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/24/2011 9:56:28 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 24, 2011

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Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations.
PLEASE DO NOT LET MINING HAPPEN IN NATIONAL OR STATE PARKS.

SUCTION DREDGE MINING WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR OUR FISH, INSECTS, BIRDS, MAMMALS, AND WATER PLANTS THAT NEED CLEAR WATER. JUST LOOK AT WHAT SUCTION AND HYDROLIC MINING HAS DONE IN THE PAST!!!!

Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linnea Fronce & Thomas Hall
991 Sagamore Way
Sacramento, CA 95822-1712

From: ["Henry Gutierrez"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 11:55:24 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

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These types of mining practices have shown time and again that dredging causes more harm than good reintroducing silt and other mercury locked up in the riverbed back into the river choking and killing fish. And the type of gold mined from this is in the form of a fine grit which can't be recovered without the introduction of harmful chemicals. We need to do all we can to make sure these endangered fish and river systems remain for years to come and can be enjoyed by future generations.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Henry Gutierrez
1311 Hollowood Ct
Perris, CA 92571-4940
(951) 943-6546

From: ["Mae Harms"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 04/20/2011 10:46:14 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Apr 20, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

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I was appalled that this is has come up again. Last week I attended the El Dorado County Supervisors Meeting and with discussion they voted to support Gaines bill to reintroduce this destructive mining practice. It destroy the area and then they walk away with all the left over loose rocks and sedimate to to wash down the river destroying everything in its path.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Mae Harms
5941 Garden Park Dr
Garden Valley, CA 95633-9514

From: "[Dale M. Heckman](#)"
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 04/20/2011 7:17:49 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Apr 20, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

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We must ensure that our extraordinary Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fisheries of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. We (you, on our behalf) must prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. In fact, WHEREVER TOXIC MERCURY WOULD BE STIRRED UP, our rivers and streams should be closed to dredging.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dale M. Heckman
2045 Humboldt Ave
Davis, CA 95616-3000

From: [Ross Heckmann](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov;
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:55:01 PM

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
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(Note: this letter is based on information provided to me by the organizations "Friends of the River.")

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ross Heckmann
1214 Valencia Way
Arcadia, CA 91006-2406
(626) 256-4664

From: ["Robert J. Heilman"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 04/20/2011 1:46:30 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Apr 20, 2011

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Our property line goes half-way into the North Fork of the Cosumnes, and our neighbor across the river has the other side. They love to dredge with their 8 inch suction dredge all the way across the river, and disrupt the entire channel with their dredging deposits. And then they tell me, "that's what the river is for,-- the gold miners!". I have called F&G more than once to tell him to leave our half of the river undredged, but mostly they won't quit.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert J. Heilman
5461 Hanks Exchange Rd
Placerville, CA 95667-8573
(530) 626-4240

From: ["Barbara Lawson"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 6:24:56 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
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This sounds like a perfectly dreadful idea. Please see that the above mentioned protections of fish, wildlife and streams is put into any legislation that allows suction dredging.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara Lawson
501 Portola Rd Apt 8041
Portola Valley, CA 94028-7601
(650) 424-4366

From: ["Peggy Lindsay"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 6:24:57 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

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In addition, I am deeply concerned about the North Fork of American. How can a Federal designation of Wild and Scenic be respected if there is suction dredging allowed? This type of dredging is extremely damaging to streams and rivers. The amount of sediment disturbed and moved is enormous. I have witnessed this type of dredging on California rivers for over 30 years and have seen tremendous disturbance of the local habitats. The overall, long term health of a stream far outweighs the short term gain of a few people.

Thank you,
Peggy Lindsay

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Peggy Lindsay
10539 Foxmead Ln
Truckee, CA 96161-0347
(530) 587-0843

From: ["Brad Martin"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 5:24:53 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

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Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations. Please Prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife. Ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers are protected. Make sure that the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams are fully protected in the new regulations. Close rivers and streams to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations. Suction dredge gold mining in California will threaten fish, frogs, water quality and people. This form of mining uses a powerful motor and pump, attached to a hose that is used to suction up gravel from the stream bottom. Gold is then sorted out from the gravel and the remaining sediment filled water is flushed back into the stream. The adverse impacts of this type of mining are well documented by scientists. Suction dredging can harm habitat for sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish and frogs, as well as release toxic mercury left over from the Gold Rush into the stream.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brad Martin
PO Box 12225
Fresno, CA 93777-2225

Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 3:20:55 PM PT

From: Sherrod Osborne (sent by Friends of the River <info@friendsoftheriver.org>)

To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov

May 9, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Dear Fish & Game,

I was unable to attend any of the public hearings for the proposed regulations regarding suction dredging but have strong feelings about this issue and would like my voice to be heard.

My primary concern is for wild & scenic rivers. Suction dredging is wholly incompatible with the values enshrined in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (W&SRA). It is inconceivable to me that you could even be considering regulations that would permit this activity. The tiny fraction of America's riparian heritage included in the W&S System belong to all of us--it should not be within the purview of any state to allow any special user group, no matter how vocal, to engage in activities so contrary to the spirit of the W&SRA.

While I fervently believe that dredging should not be permitted on any wild & scenic river, I am adamant that it not occur on the Merced River. This river is the heart and soul of Yosemite National Park. The 20 miles of the river along Highway 140 outside the Park is the pathway a great many people travel to the temple of Yosemite Valley. I speak for literally hundreds of thousands of Yosemite visitors who would be appalled by the sight and sound of dredging on Yosemite's doorstep. Inappropriate is too mild a condemnation--desecration is more the correct flavor. The wild & scenic river segment below Highway 140, between Briceburg and Lake McClure, while not usually seen by Yosemite tourists, has two campgrounds and is an important swimming, hiking, rafting, and fishing area used by Mariposa County residents and I would not like to see dredging on this segment either. In addition

to wild & scenic rivers, dredging also has no place on wild trout streams or in rivers with critical fish and wildlife habitat or other significant ecological resources or values.

Your "Review of Available Suction Dredging Studies" seems to conclude that the conflicts between dredgers and other users are simply a reflection of differing values. While the values are certainly different, it is much more than that. I understand that there are competing values between different user groups--anglers can be disrupted by rafts and canoes, photographers may prefer not to have picnickers or birdwatchers in their photos, hikers and equestrians don't always see eye-to-eye, etc. But dredgers occupy and possess a stretch of river in ways that preclude the activities of most other users. Whether through intimidation or by such complete contrast with the values of other river users, dredgers effectively exclude other users from the section of the river that they work. No group or individual should control so exclusively any federally protected wild & scenic river. There may be no "scientific" studies quantifying the nature and degree of hazardous materials, fuel spills, garbage and sanitation issues, or conflicts between dredgers and others--and the definition of "junk" may be in the eyes of the beholder--but hiding behind the paucity of "scientific proof" in this case is a cop-out. I suspect that your own field personnel know this very well. There are problems here and they do not belong on a wild & scenic river. Dredgers are not just another recreation group. In fact, the definition of "recreation" needs to be stretched significantly to include the extraction of gold to make money. There is ample evidence in this "Review" that restricting suction dredging activities to more appropriate locations is an entirely reasonable course of action.

All but one of the ten sections on the "Impacts of Suction Dredging" in the "Review of Available Suction Dredging Studies" concludes with the known gaps in information. Is this the knowledge base upon which to grant carte blanche to the dredging lobby? Of all the troubling potential damages to aquatic and riparian resources listed in the "Review" none is more disturbing than the unknown dangers of mobilizing mercury--which, by the way, is a current hazard only because of unregulated past mining. Known mercury "hotspots" should also be excluded from any future permitted suction dredging. I am also particularly concerned about the encampments associated with some dredging operations. The intensive impacts of these camps, especially on wild & scenic rivers, are unacceptable.

As a law enforcement ranger and special agent in Yosemite for 30 years I am well aware of the compliance issues involved when perceived individual liberties intersect the use of public resources. While members in some of the dredging clubs mentioned in the "Review" may be model citizens, others are not. All user groups of public resources should be monitored for the protection of the resources utilized and adherence to the regulations governing the uses of those resources. Groups with higher proportions of individuals who seemingly do not

support the regulations or care about the values of other groups who depend upon those same resources need to be monitored even more closely and violations must be addressed. I would not support the resumption of suction dredging anywhere, even in rivers where this activity may be justified, without adequate agency personnel and resources to supervise operations and enforce regulations.

Sincerely,

Sherrod H. Osborne
P.O. Box 735
Yosemite, CA 95389

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sherrod Osborne
PO Box 735
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-0735

From: ["Tim Ragan"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/28/2011 11:37:00 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 28, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

This legislation would allow further degradation of our wild and scenic rivers, and take away from the public use and enjoyment of our rivers. Please prohibit suction dredge mining!

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tim Ragan
4716 Della Robia Ct
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-6142
(916) 363-2846

From: [Mark Reback](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov;
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:54:50 PM

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

I urge you to ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal wild & scenic rivers, as well as the fishery values of state wild trout streams, are fully protected in the new regulations.

Additionally, please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Reback
1606 N Avenue 55
Los Angeles, CA 90042-1107

From: [Nicolas Romero](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov;
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:25:05 PM

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please protect our wildlife treasures for all to enjoy, rather than a few who will profit from gold dredging.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nicolas Romero
10608 Chardonay Dr
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-3812

From: ["Judy Schriebman"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 9:25:10 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

The biggest nugget in the river is the river itself, with all the wildlife it contains. Mining destroys these values. Enough greed. Protect the wild rivers.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Judy Schriebman
3 Poco Paso
San Rafael, CA 94903-3866
(415) 472-3345

From: ["Jay Shuttleworth"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/24/2011 11:56:38 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 24, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please prohibit suction dredging in the North Fork American River. Aside from the legal problems of allowing such dredging in a Wild and Scenic River corridor, my past experience with dredgers has been that they destroy the natural habitat through their mining efforts and through their ad hoc camps stewn with garbage, oil, and machinery.

Also, I resent that a few individuals are allowed to "make a living" on the taxpayer's dime. These wild areas are sources of recreation dollars for our local communities. Why should I be subsidizing the jobs of just a few large-scale polluters?

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jay Shuttleworth
PO Box 342
Colfax, CA 95713-0342
(530) 400-6990

From: ["Harold Sloane"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 9:25:10 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Yes, this is a form letter. You will get many more just like it. I leave it intact because it says what I would say far better than I could. Please understand that my commitment to and passion for this issue is in no way compromised or mitigated by that fact. This is something I feel deeply about, and hope you will consider the issues and revise the regulations accordingly. Thank you.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Harold Sloane
24 Ross St
San Rafael, CA 94901-3804

From: [Jan Summers](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov;
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:26:27 AM

Mar 24, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

It's vital to our environment and to the public who enjoys our forests & rivers to prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks.

Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

The public must count on Fish & Game to ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are FULLY PROTECTED in the new regulations.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Summers
2311 River Plaza Dr Apt 15
Sacramento, CA 95833-3240

(916) 927-5570

From: ["David Urman"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/24/2011 7:56:14 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 24, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Since the days of Teddy Roosevelt a century ago, Americans have expressed a strong desire to preserve our precious heritage of natural habitat. Bit by bit it has been stripped away, sacrificed sometimes to what was considered progress, and oftentimes to nothing more than greed. In the case of suction dredge mining, it is the greed for gold that is the motive. Please don't allow greedy developers to destroy the little that is left of our precious national heritage, which by rights belongs to all Americans.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Urman
2330 Donner Way
Sacramento, CA 95818-3929

From: ["Jeff Wasielewski"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 04/20/2011 12:44:27 AM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Apr 20, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

I kayak many rivers and streams and I have seen firsthand the destructive effects of suction dredging. As you pass by an operating suction dredge it is easy to see the resulting damage to the water clarity.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeff Wasielewski
8634 Gunner Way
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-5347

From: [melanie watson](mailto:melanie.watson@dfg.ca.gov)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov;
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:55:11 PM

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Our children need our rivers

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Ms. melanie watson
29190 Stonewood Rd Apt 30
Temecula, CA 92591-3793
(951) 541-3638

From: ["David Wikander"](#)
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 5:54:54 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

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Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

I know this is an old law from the late 1800's. Lets protect our rivers and not add to the challenges we are facing.

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Wikander
4040 Cherryvale Ave
Soquel, CA 95073-9560

From: "Laura Williams"
To: dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov
CC:
Date: 03/23/2011 9:25:09 PM
Subject: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Mar 23, 2011

Department of Fish and Game
CA

California's rivers, streams, fish, wildlife and water quality must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations simply do not provide sufficient protection for these sensitive resources

Please revise the regulations to prohibit suction dredge mining in all rivers and streams that provide critical habitat and future recovery areas for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Please close all mercury-impaired rivers and streams to suction dredge mining to protect water quality, human health, fish and wildlife.

Please ensure that the extraordinary and outstanding values of state and federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, as well as the fishery values of state Wild Trout Streams, are fully protected in the new regulations. Please prohibit mining in rivers and streams in National Parks. Rivers and streams should also be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

It is a shame that California is considering a return to the 80's - Not the 1980's - but the 1880's. Stop the rampant destruction of our natural resources NOW!

Recreational and commercial mining is not a legitimate activity in California if it is done at the expense of the state's fish, wildlife, water quality, human health and state-protected beneficial uses of our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Ms. Laura Williams
627 N Glendora Ave
Glendora, CA 91741-2007
(626) 335-0613