

Appendix G
FORM LETTER 5 AND VARIANTS

Form Letter 5

Dear Mr. Stopher:

Please consider this letter an official comment letter on the draft SEIR prepared for the draft amended regulations that have been circulated.

The North Fork American River, like other California rivers and streams, must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. The proposed regulations do not provide sufficient protection for the fish, wildlife, and water quality of our rivers. DFG must analyze each individual river, and its tributaries, for adverse impacts from proposed regulations. A statewide basis for evaluation is inadequate and will lead to major adverse impacts on some streams.

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 the North Fork American, a state and federal Wild & Scenic River and a Wild Trout Stream, are fully protected. Suction Dredge mining is incompatible with such designations and was prohibited in the W&S North Fork American under previous regulations. Mechanized or motorized equipment does not belong in a W & S River. In addition, portions of the North Fork and Middle Fork are proposed Wilderness and their wilderness qualities must not be compromised. You cannot put obstacles in the way of the land managers (Forest Service, BLM) nor add to their enforcement load as a result of your regulations. Rivers and streams should be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Suction dredge mining will harm the North Fork American River's exceptional water quality and clarity, as well as its extraordinary scenic, recreation, and fishery values. In addition, experience shows that the miners bring lots of equipment and supplies down to the river but leave behind piles of trash (including batteries and fuel containers) that leach into the river. Even with a 14 day limit on camping, many miners stay much longer. Due to the narrow canyon, disposal of human waste is a problem; it accumulates in a few spots and leaches into the river. Trash and human waste does impact water quality, the fisheries, and human health.

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. Suction dredge mining is completely inappropriate in the North Fork American River.

Thank you for your consideration.

Form Letter 5
VARIANTS

Subject: Please stop the Suction Dredging!

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2011 8:48:16 AM PT

From: Lauren Lonsdale

To: mstopher@dfg.ca.gov

Mark Stopher
California Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

Regarding: Suction Dredge Program Draft SEIR Comments

Dear Mr. Stopher:

Please consider this letter an official comment letter on the draft SEIR prepared for the draft amended regulations that have been circulated. **I realize this is in part a form letter, but I am completely in agreement with these comments.**

The North Fork American River, like other California rivers and streams, must be protected from the adverse impacts of suction dredge mining. **The proposed regulations do not provide sufficient protection for the fish, wildlife, and water quality of our rivers.** DFG must analyze each individual river, and its tributaries, for adverse impacts from proposed regulations. A statewide basis for evaluation is inadequate and will lead to major adverse impacts on some streams.

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 the North Fork American, a state and federal Wild & Scenic River and a Wild Trout Stream, are fully protected. Suction Dredge mining is incompatible with such designations and was prohibited in the W&S North Fork American under previous regulations. Mechanized or motorized equipment do not belong in a W & S River. In addition, portions of the North Fork and Middle Fork are proposed Wilderness and their wilderness qualities must not be compromised. You cannot put obstacles in the way of the land managers (Forest Service, BLM) nor add to their enforcement load as a result of your regulations. Rivers and streams should be closed to mining if budget cuts result in insufficient wardens in the field to enforce the new regulations.

Suction dredge mining will harm the North Fork American River's exceptional water quality and clarity, as well as its extraordinary scenic, recreation, and fishery values. In addition, experience shows that the miners bring lots of equipment and supplies down to the river but leave behind piles of trash (including batteries and fuel containers) that leach into the river. Even with a 14 day limit on camping, many miners stay much longer. Due to the narrow canyon, disposal of human waste is a problem; it accumulates in a few spots and leaches into the river. Trash and human waste does impact water quality, the fisheries, and human health.

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. Suction dredge mining is completely inappropriate in the

North Fork American River.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauren Spitz
PO Box 321