



P.O. Box 711
Pasadena, California 91102

January 26, 2017

State Water Resources Control Board
Div. of Water Quality – NPDES Unit
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Water Board,

We support the development and adoption of regulations by the Water Board to protect water quality and other beneficial uses of the state's water from suction dredge mining.

Suction dredge mining mobilizes toxic mercury in the river and sends it downstream, polluting our water supply and fish and wildlife habitat. It also causes chronic disturbance of fish and wildlife habitat. Riverside mining operations also harm Native American cultural and historic sites.

I urge that the Water Board develop and adopt regulations that prohibit suction dredge mining in waters that are mercury or sediment impaired, provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife, designated or declared eligible as federal or state wild and scenic rivers and wild trout streams, possess sensitive Native American and historical resources, or are a critical source of drinking water.

Some of our most treasured rivers, including the West, North, and East forks of the San Gabriel River, Big Tujunga Canyon, Middle Fork Lytle Creek, and Deep Creek should be off limits to suction dredge mining to protect their water quality, wild trout, threatened and endangered species, and other beneficial uses.

Suction dredge mining in California is largely a recreational hobby. It isn't worth degrading our drinking water supply or harming fish and wildlife. Public health as well as the ecological health of our rivers and streams is at stake.

Thank you.

Leigh Ann Swanson
President
Pasadena Casting Club

John Tobin
Conservation Chair
Pasadena Casting Club

cc: recording secretary