

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

FOREST  
SERVICE

Downieville  
Ranger  
District 95922-9707

15924 Highway 49  
Camptonville, California

File Code: 2810

Date: JUN 07 1995

received  
7-3-95

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Dear

This letter will confirm our telephone conversation during which I told you how Steven N. Taylor, Senior Fishery Biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game Regulations Program, responded to my question as to why the California Department of Fish and Game was once again proposing to amend Sections 228 and 228.5 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Re: Suction Dredge Mining.

I asked Mr. Taylor this question on April 26 or 27 at the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 Minerals Officers Meeting at the Expo Inn in Sacramento after he stated that he did not know very much about mining, but knew a lot about writing Regulations.

Mr. Taylor stated that the reason for the proposed Regulations was "because the Department (of Fish and Game) is getting a lot of pressure from influential special interest groups that don't believe miners should be working in the rivers". He then went on to say that the proposed regulations would be a good starting point to get this situation under control even though the Department had little scientific evidence that dredging in the rivers and streams really has a long term negative impact on the fish and other aquatic life.

*Richard S. Zembiec*

Richard S. Zembiec  
Minerals Officer

A026173

REPRESENTING THE COUNTIES OF  
COLUSA, GLENN, SHASTA, SISKIYOU,  
SOLANO (EXCEPT VALLEJO), SUTTER,  
TEHAMA, TRINITY, YOLO,  
PORTIONS OF BUTTE AND  
SACRAMENTO

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WILDLIFE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS



July 26, 1995

Kassandra Fletcher, Deputy Director  
Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Kassandra:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter on United States Department of Agriculture letterhead, signed by Richard S. Zembiec. I have received many letters of complaint and inquiry to this letter. It brings to my mind several questions as well.

First, just last year, the Department imposed many new rules and regulations on the suction miners. Why is the Department looking to modify these regulations again so soon?

Second, why were the attempts to make further changes done by another division within the Department instead of those who were already familiar with the situation?

Third, many complaints have been expressed by miners of the notification process of public hearings in regard to proposed changes. Specifically, were all those groups and individuals involved in last year's process notified of the hearings surrounding these most recent changes?

Fourth, if the Department determined that new regulations were possibly needed, why did it stop pursuit of these new changes?

Fifth, what Department personnel were specifically involved in last year's efforts and this year's process?

PLEASE REPLY TO

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