

Agenda 5/3/11 - Item #23/Legistar #11-0500 - Suggested Additional Information to Include in Suction Dredging Comment Letter

Another issue of great concern to those in El Dorado County is the proposed rule changes affecting mining on the Cosumnes River Watershed. Changes to seasonal restrictions already in place since 1994, should not be imposed without irrefutable, science based, peer-review studies supporting such changes. These proposed changes negatively impact the economic viability of many small-scale mining businesses on private property as well as Federal Mining Claims. The regulation, which only allows work between September 1 through January 31 annually, is effectively a complete prohibition of mining on affected streams. Mining becomes progressively more difficult due to extreme low water flows that occur by early fall, on the streams zoned E, that render equipment virtually inoperative. As well, rapidly cooling seasonal temperatures make it physically impossible to work in a wet environment while in the upper reaches of the Cosumnes River. ie; Camp Creek and Middle Fork Cosumnes near Pi Pi Valley. Also, valuable equipment and lives will be put in peril by the ever-present threat of flash floods which occur often in the fall at these higher elevation streams. This questionable, proposed new zoning, which imposes a fall and winter "season of operation", is not acceptable, justified or practical. This unwarranted rule change is downright hazardous to physical lives as well as the economic well being of the productive miners in El Dorado County.

LATE DISTRIBUTION

DATE 5-3-11

2011 MAY -3 AM 9:13

FILED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY