

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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February 28, 2012

Mr. Ted Hadzi-Antich
The Pacific Legal Foundation
National Litigation Center
930 G Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Hadzi-Antich,

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors fully supports the Western Mining Alliance's (WMA) effort to obtain the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) as their counsel in challenging the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) findings of the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) as it pertains to the severely restrictive regulations on gold mining in the State of California.

WMA alleges that the CDFG was remiss in its findings of the SEIR because significant evidence was presented, and had it not been discounted a completely different finding would have been concluded. It is unfortunate the evidence presented to the CDFG was not considered when evaluating the SEIR, as it concluded that a variety of published studies have shown suction dredge mining has an insignificant negative effect on fisheries, and in fact, demonstrates a positive rehabilitative effect in the restoration of spawning gravels.

At issue is the ability of a State agency to set regulations that will impact private property rights and economic freedoms. To ignore these unsubstantiated findings would be far reaching and will affect rule making in California for years into the future. WMA believes their only recourse is for this matter to be settled before the court system and is therefore requesting fair and legal representation through the PLF.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors appreciates Pacific Legal Foundation's favorable consideration of the Western Mining Alliance's petition.

Sincerely,
County of El Dorado

John R. Knight, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc. Assemblyman Dan Logue
Senator Ted Gaines
Herb Miller, Western Mining Alliance