


WHEREAS, according to the September 2009, ICMJ'S Prospecting and Mining Journal, suction dredge mining is a verifiable revenue generating industry in California of greater than \$65 million dollars, a portion of which is generated in El Dorado County; and

79, Number 1
September 2009
\$3.75
\$4.75/CANADA

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DRIVE UNDERWAY TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF SUCTION DREDGERS

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DRIVE UNDER WAY TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF SUCTION DREDGERS

by Scott Harn

California Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 670 on August 6, 2009, which temporarily halts suction dredging in California until a new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is completed. This was despite a request from his staff for a report on the economic harm this bill will cause.

The governor's office specifically requested a report to substantiate claims made by miners that the bill would cause in excess of \$60 million harm to the economy of California. We were participants in this study, and the results presented to the governor's staff were rock solid.

The proven contribution of suction dredgers to the economy of California amounted to \$65.47 million per year. When additional estimated contributions were included for items such as commercial retail rents, payroll taxes and property taxes, the economic

harm to California was approaching \$100 million per year. Despite this evidence, and other scientific evidence showing dredging is harmless, Governor Schwarzenegger still signed SB 670.

Miners convicted of violating the ban face fines of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail.

What's Next

Public Lands for the People (PLP) had already begun preparations for a lawsuit against the State to restore the rights of suction dredge miners. (It may already be filed by the time you receive this issue.)

Mining is a right that has been argued in court on many occasions, and there is plenty of precedence addressing this topic.

What You Need To Do Right Now
Public Lands for the People is in

need of funds. They already have several lawsuits in progress against state and federal agencies, and want to be sure they can adequately fund this lawsuit against the State of California in federal court to restore the rights of suction dredge miners as soon as possible.

PLP is a non-profit organization

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Send pictures or very small sample (Samples will be returned)

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