

24  
10-6-09

October 6, 2009

Attention: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Regarding: Affects of Suction Dredging in El Dorado County

SB670 was recently passed by the legislature putting a moratorium on suction dredging throughout the state. The purpose of the bill was to stop all dredging in the state to protect the salmon. The bill was submitted by Wiggins of Santa Rosa, who has since retired from the Assembly. Our own Assembly representatives were split. Gainses against the Moratorium, Huber in favor. Huber stated at a recent presentation that she was of the assumption that 11 counties would be excluded from the moratorium. She voted for it to save water. There was an urgency placed on the bill which in effect stopped suction dredging with little or no notice to those of us who participate in this hobby. Hence there was a delay in response by the vast number of residents who enjoy the natural, historical and healthy sport.

Throughout the years our friends and families have come to "the river" to experience the potential of finding a little gold. It is hard, clean fun and lots of work. The results of using a 4" dredge are less than spectacular goldwise, but especially beneficial in establishing bonds and memories. Flour gold from the river, collected over 20 years was used for my grandson's wedding rings.

Every year the Arkansas Mining Company, a group of neighbors along the river who dredge and compete with each other over the summer months and work on our equipment during the winter months, buy four separate dredge permits, so we can legally dredge in our own part of the river. We own the land, pay our property taxes, maintain the river in an environmentally favorable manner and don't harm anyone or anything. We have happy fish. The water is clear and has been called pristine by the Cosumnes River Watershed manager.

Suction dredging of the hobbist type does not use up water. It comes in the suction mouth and goes out the sluice box. It moves stream bed gravels less than 3" in diameter. The larger rocks are moved by brute strength. The fish eat the critters disturbed by the movement of the streambed gravels. There are no

salmon in the Cosumnes.

All of the Arkansas Mining Company members are 65 or older. We are a healthy lot owed partially to the activity provided by suction dredging. We don't cause trouble to the county, we are active in the community, we mind our own business and follow the edict "Do No Harm".

The Arkansas Mining Company requests the El Dorado Board of Supervisors seriously consider a Proclamation declaring El dorado County a Suction Dredging Moratorium Free Zone .

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**Crystal Clear Waters  
of the Cosumnes after  
over 150 years of  
dredging and sluicing**

**Water 6' deep . Note fish**



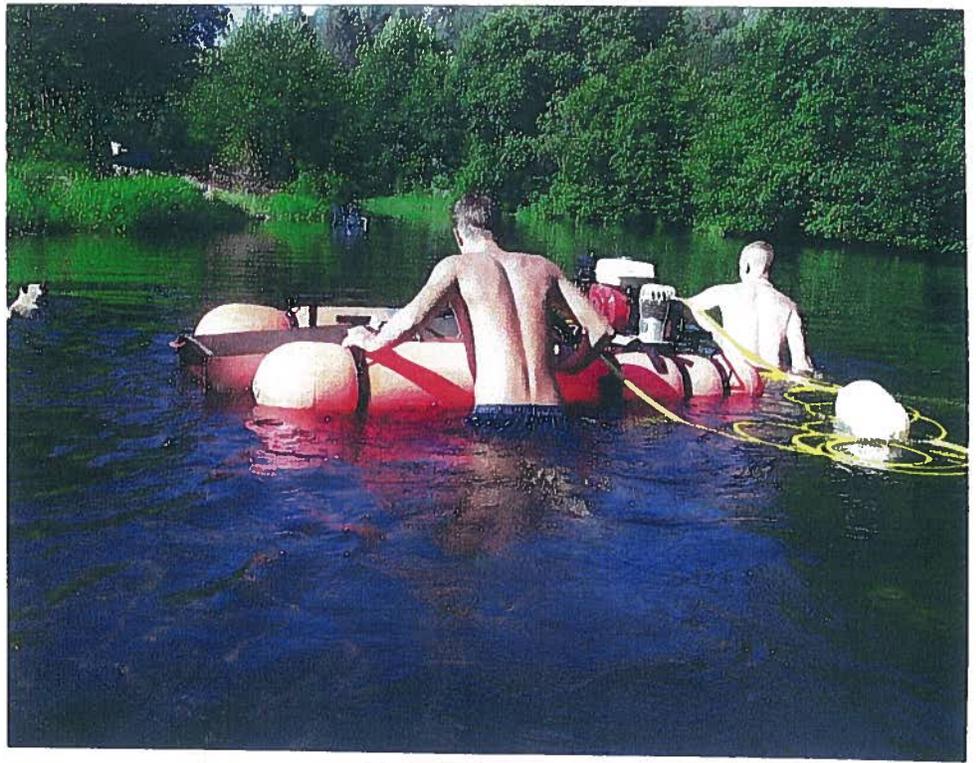
**Can this really require a moratorium????**



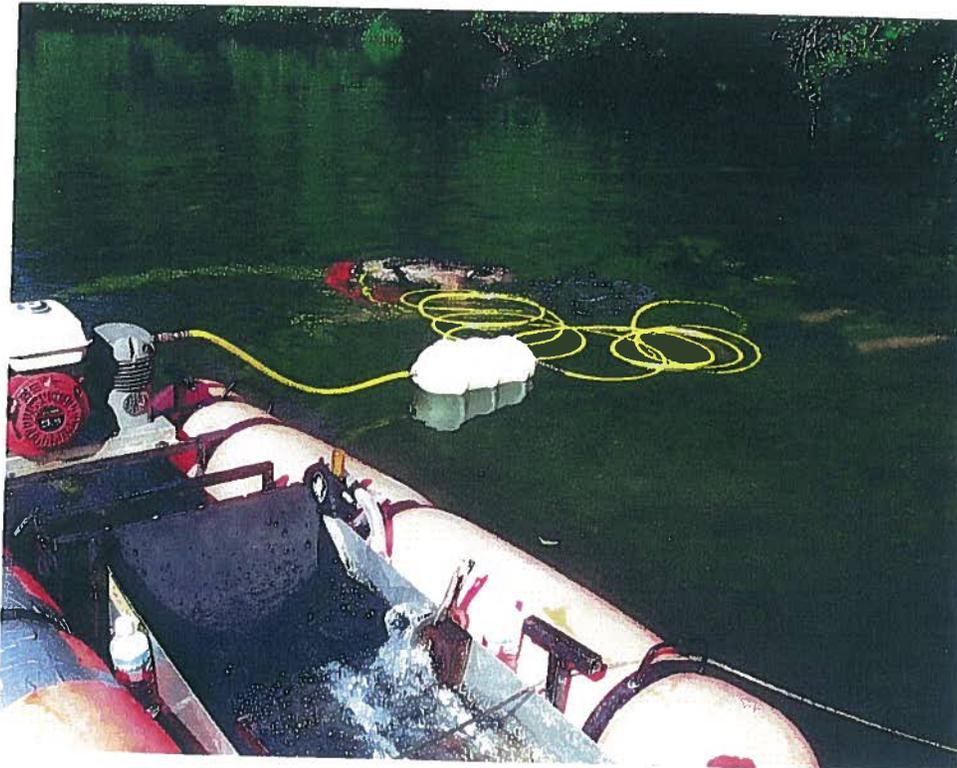
**Arkansas Mining Company  
site Two.**

**Arkansas Mining Company  
Site One**

**4 " Suction Dredge  
with hookah  
air system.**



**Note: Size of dredge  
Clarity of water, 8' deep  
can still see dredger  
Amount of water  
moved through sluice**



## Fruits of our Labor

### Small Glass Vial----Large Established Commraderie



**Grandson's Wedding Rings made by goldsmith's Gallery in Placerville from gold accummulated over 16 years of annual visits to Gramma's. Governments should not be allowed to take this type of tradition away!**

