

24

REGISTRY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY

**Fw: Resolution to SB670**  
**The BOSTWO to: Kathryn L Tyler**  
**Sent by: Kitty J. Miller**

OCT -5 PM 4:24

10/05/2009 03:46 PM

Dredging

----- Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 10/05/2009 03:45 PM -----



"Ron Swenson"

<rgswenson@comcast.net>

To <bostwo@co.el-dorado.ca.us>

10/02/2009 11:09 AM

cc

Subject Resolution to SB670

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to pass the Resolution to eliminate or amend SB 670 when it comes before you on Oct 6th, 2009. I had planned on attending this meeting but have been called out of state on business. Please let my voice be heard via this email.

I am writing to you about a matter that is of great concern to me, my family, and thousands of other small miners in the State of California. My children who are 12 and 10 have always enjoyed when Dad takes them up to "the claim" as they call it, to look for gold with his dredge and enjoy Mother Nature just as the Forty-Niners did. Where else can kids enjoy true entertainment vs. the Nintendo's and the X-Boxes that tend to dominate our children's lives these days. I have always enjoyed looking for gold with my dredge in the CA streams and I have spent a lot of money looking for a few dollars worth of gold. But the time I have enjoyed with my kids looking for gold with my dredge has been priceless.

SB 670 circumvents a court ruling (Karuk Tribe of California v. California Department of Fish & Game (DFG), Alameda Superior Court of California) which directed DFG to update its previous Environmental Impact Review (EIR) of existing suction gold dredging regulations in California.

Rather than complete the EIR as instructed by the court, DFG arbitrarily eliminated suction dredging from California through legislative designated closures of over 20,000 miles of waterways. SB670 needs to be taken off the books as it has eliminated mining rights of thousands in California. The Order of the court was for DFG to update its EIR on the impacts caused from suction dredging. That is all that is needed to make certain that existing regulations are not allowing harm to the important aquatic resources of this State - and to amend existing regulations where necessary. It is bad policy to allow DFG to skirt around its responsibilities; and rather, with SB 670, eliminate small-scale gold miners entirely from California!

This is unfair to me, my kids, and to the thousands of others like me who do this for a profession or hobby. In addition, it is eliminating jobs and is hurting the CA economy in excess of \$100 Million dollars

I believe that this harmful bill was put together for the express purpose of destroying the existing and future small-scale gold mining industry in California, which is an important part of our State's heritage and economy that has been in existence since before California became a State. I look

forward to next season and taking my dredge and taking my family back into the hills of CA and into the streams and rivers to create some more memories for my family.

Please vote "YES" on this Resolution to eliminate or amend SB670 when it comes before the Board of Supervisors on October 6th. SB 670 is not good for the state of California and I appreciate the EDC Board of Supervisors support of this issue.

Thank you very much,

Respectfully

Ron Swenson  
3114 Birmingham Way  
El Dorado Hills CA 95762