

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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June 14, 2011

Honorable Darrell Steinberg President Pro Tem  
Honorable John Perez Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Honorable President Pro Tem Steinberg and Assembly Speaker Perez,

The County of El Dorado **OPPOSES AB 120** proposing to modify an existing moratorium prohibiting suction dredging by extending the moratorium an additional five years expiring in June 2016.

The proposed extension through the 2011/12 California Budget circumvents a greater public good of allowing the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) to conclude its environmental review process and promulgate necessary regulations.

AB 120 continues to frustrate the very economic sector that built California, gold mining. The County of El Dorado is home to the Marshall Gold Discovery Site and home to many modern day gold miners who are stewards to our rivers and water ways.

We encourage your support of California's well established environmental review process often referred to as CEQA. And it is through the CEQA process where the public discussion of whether or not to continue a suction dredging moratorium belongs. In its current form AB 120 obscures the public review process that must be vetted in this matter. Please vote no on AB 120.

Sincerely,

Raymond J Nutting, Chairman  
County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors

cc / Senator Ted Gaines  
Assemblywoman Alyson Huber  
Assemblywoman Beth Gaines