



North Fork American River. Photo Credit: Upper American River Foundation.

State Water Board

Public Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Falls Event Center

4105 W Figarden Drive

Fresno, CA 93722

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Elks Lodge

2055 Elks Drive

San Bernardino, CA 92404

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Karuk Community Room

39051 Highway 96

Orleans, CA 95556

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Redding City Chambers

747 Auditorium Drive

Redding, CA 96001

Monday, February 6, 2017

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA

Headquarters Bldg.

Byron Sher Auditorium

1001 I Street, Second Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

TAKE ACTION To Protect California Rivers

THE PROBLEM:

Suction dredge mining has significant implications for public health and the environment. Suction dredge mining impairs water quality by mobilizing sediment and toxic heavy metals, like mercury left over from historic mining. This re-suspended mercury can become bioavailable to work its way into the food chain and contaminate the fish we eat. Furthermore, the practice degrades fish and wildlife habitat and impacts culturally and historically significant sites.

THE STATE OF AFFAIRS:

Under new state law, Senate Bill 637, suction dredge mining must comply with the federal Clean Water Act, enforced by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB is currently seeking public comments concerning potential actions to protect water quality from suction dredge mining, which could include prohibiting any use of, or method of using, suction dredging equipment.

TAKE ACTION!

Make your voice heard to protect our water! **Attend one of the five Water Board workshops** taking place in January and February across the state. See dates and locations listed to the left.

Submit comments to the State Water Board no later than **February 28, 2017**. Let the Water Board know that they should exercise the authority provided in SB 637 to **prohibit suction dredge mining**. In the Water Board's own words, a moratorium or permanent prohibition of suction dredging is the "only and most cost-effective way to fully mitigate all significant water quality impacts," (SWRCB, March 11, 2013).

For instructions on how to submit comments, and for SWRCB staff contacts, follow this shortened link: goo.gl/Pm2SM9

For more information, contact:
Kelsey Westfall, The Sierra Fund
Kelsey.Westfall@sierrafund.org, (530) 265-8454 x217