

Suction Dredge Mining Topics of Discussion

August 3, 2018 Meeting

To draft a proposed permit and fee schedule (for State Water Board consideration) that allows mining activities while protecting water quality, Board staff would like to hold robust discussion of the following items:

Associations' mining claims:

- What type of claims do associations own (multiple small claims or few large claims) and are these claims identified geographically on both sides of the waterbody?
- What is the average size of your association's claims (acres)?
- Are these claims localized or spread throughout the state?
- Can mining take place all year round on each claim?

Associations' membership:

- How many members do you and other associations have on average?
- Is the use of equipment for suction dredge mining and high banking provided as part of membership, or must members obtain their own equipment?
- Can non-members mine under the Associations' claim?
- How are claims assigned to members for suction dredge mining?
- Is there a limit on the number of days a member is allowed to mine in a specified area?
- Is there a tracking mechanism of how mining is performed on a certain claim (how many times on a specified area)?
- How does the Associations ensure that only members conduct suction dredge mining within their claims?

Associations' Requirements:

- Do associations provide required training on environmentally friendly mining techniques? What is the average frequency of the training?
- Have associations established best management practices (BMPs) for suction dredge mining?
 - Does your association require members to use BMPs before, during and after mining events?
 - How do association ensure miners use BMPs or any other standard practices?
- How do associations address local Native Tribal concerns regarding tribal uses of downstream waterbodies?

How do you suggest Water Board staff hold continued productive discussions with the mining community?