

Regarding Sb 401 and sb 838 these are bad bills that will cause economic hardships, the loss of value of property surrounding the inclusion.

IN 2009 I read a detailed study done by the university of Oregon on the effects of suction dredging on the wild and scenic rivers. Before you consider the legislation you have before you, a thorough reading of this study should be done. Do not rely on what the environmentalists tell you. The decision should be based on science and not “feeling” or words of highly uninformed people who have heard it from someone who heard it from someone else who heard it from someone else. Or some who read it on the internet so it must be true.

Part of this study detailed the financial impact that results as a byproduct of mining and suction dredging. It said “ the average suction dredger spends between \$7500 and \$8000 per year pursuing the search for gold. This study was done in the 1990s. These figures are much higher today due to the increases in goods and fuel.

I personally spend nearly \$1250 per year in the pursuit of gold. Where does all of this money go?

Everyone who vacations, or gold mines has what could be called recreational dollars to be spent.

From personal experience and experiences of other miners here is where the roughly \$1200 goes.

1: Fuel for my vehicle to get to and from the mining area and to drive into the nearest town for supplies.

2: Fuel to power my mining equipment.

3: Food. Most food needs to be bought locally.

4: Restaurants and Cafes. We often go into town to buy supplies and will eat breakfast lunch or dinner there.

5: Hotels motels paid campgrounds. Some miners prefer to stay in comfort of one of these establishments rather than roughing it in a tent. These miners will also purchase more meals at the local eateries.

6: Clothing, we always need new items whether they be tourist shirts tennis shoes or boots. Things get ruined at inconvenient times and need replacement.

7: Supplies and tools.

8: Repairs to vehicles and mining equipment. These repairs can sometimes exceed the annual \$1200 figure.

9: Medical assistance. Mining can be somewhat hazardous. I have spent a number of days in ER or at a hospital getting fixed up for something that happened, cuts broken bones sprains.

10: Entertainment. We may take in a movie or go to a bar to socialize.

11: The biggest amount of money spent is not part of the \$1200. When I go mining my wife, kids grandchildren and sometimes friends or relatives also come. They are all not interested in mining so they spend time in the local towns shopping. Most of these towns have curio shops and other stores. My wife may spend \$100 to 200 hundred on items and new clothes or shoes for the grandchildren. Not to mention taking them out to lunch treats and ice cream.

So where does all of this money go?

I spend \$25 at the local grocery store. (A store located in a town near where I am mining. The Grocer takes my \$25 he/she pays the employees, themselves, some goes into retirement plans and medical. Some goes to pay rent utilities and taxes. They purchase new products to re stock the shelves.

Each employee takes their portion of the \$25 and provides food clothing shelter and entertainment for their families.

The city, county and states benefit from the taxes.

By enacting these bills you are taking a big bite out of the incomes of your small towns and the state budget. Having the dredging moratorium here I have seen over the last three years more businesses boarded up and their landlords desperately looking for new tenants. Many small towns have greatly suffered due to the lack of outside money coming into their businesses.

Gold dredging does not destroy the environment as those environmentalists claim. The holes are filled back in over the winter months. Part of a report done by the California state water board said that the winter storms are responsible for 97% of the river gravel movement this means the dredgers only account for a mere 3%. The areas we dredge give the fish cooler locations to live in. The top water is much hotter and it also causes the fish to have a more unpleasant odor when we eat them. Cold water fish are much better to eat. We unclog gravel beds for the fish to spawn in.

This brings up another point to your bills, you are trying to create more wild and scenic rivers meaning more city slickers doing rafting trips. The rafting industry which attracts a lot of city slickers and Pseudo environmentalists is not a environmentally friendly industry. Rafters do quite bit of environmental damage and fish kills. The rafting industry seems to be pretty much unregulated. They enter the rivers unrestricted as to the time of year. One particular issue is during the spawning season. I have personally

observed rafters coming ashore in areas where there were gravel beds. They do not seem to care when I told them that they should pull their rafts downstream.

Property owners in the areas affected by this inclusion are going to be quite disturbed by the new restrictions that will be forced on them. What the legislature is doing is stepping on their some of their constitutional rights. If these bills pass I sincerely hope that the property owners file a lawsuit against the state. I have friends who live in Oregon and they are mortified that the legislature has taken such draconian measures without completely understanding their actions. I therefore would urge you to vote no on these two bills as they create more economic destruction to the state. We all are in a stage right now where we are trying to recover economically. House and land prices have taken a drastic down turn. Our businesses and communities need the recreational dollars that the vacationers and miners provide. I for one feel that should these bills pass I will not have any reason to bring my recreational dollars north of the California border. I will also be flying to Washington state to visit friends and relatives instead of driving through Oregon buying gas, motels and eating. I am a gold miner but so far I have not had the time to travel to Oregon to dredge for gold I would enjoy doing so but babysitting two grandchildren and family responsibilities currently keep me busy. I support the miners who do travel and spend their recreational dollars in Oregon.

James Madden

2361 Rosewood dr

San Bruno, Ca.

94066

650-868-5574