

# California Budget: Suction Dredge Gold Miners Targeted – Foes Provide Erroneous \$1.8M Deficit to State Legislature to Kill Industry, says Gold Pan California

CONCORD, Calif., June 14, 2011 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – Gold Pan California ([www.goldpancalifornia.com](http://www.goldpancalifornia.com)), a gold mining supply shop located in the Bay Area, has recently become the California headquarters for suction dredge gold miners whose industry faces permanent closure if 2 paragraphs of erroneous language are not deleted during the current Budget battle. “We are trying to alert the Legislators and Governor Jerry Brown about this erroneous budget information before a death blow is dealt to the miners,” says Gold Pan owner Mike Dunn.

What the gold miners and Dunn are in upheaval about is a proposed budget “cut” of a non-existent \$1.8 million deficit in the suction dredging gold mining program.

Dunn says that the California Tribal Business Alliance (CTBA) and Friends Of The River (FOTR) provided outdated financial information to the consultant preparing this year’s budget for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), in order to show a “deficit” which could be offered as a “budget cut” to the suction dredge gold mining program.

The CTBA and FOTR were also backers of the 2009 legislation SB670, which caused a temporary moratorium to be placed on the practice of suction dredge mining until an Environmental Impact Report was conducted.

In February 2011, the draft EIR was released by the DFG, who is on track to re-instate the program this November.

Not happy with the EIR outcome, the CTBA and FOTR went to Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and suggested a “budget cut” to the suction dredging program. They supplied the old budget analysis from SB670 which was drafted using estimates of costs of the program. The Program was later formally determined to be solvent, with declarations provided by Attorney General Jerry Brown’s office.

According to legal correspondence to the Superior Court of California from then-Attorney General Jerry Brown, “As we informed the Court at the hearing, issuance of suction dredge permits is supported chiefly, if not exclusively, by funds received from permit fees.”

A second, more precise communication to the Court from Jerry Brown’s office states “In no uncertain terms, General Fund Monies have not been expended on

suction dredge permitting”.

“At a time when California has a budget deficit of over \$10 billion dollars, why are environmentalists and a few Indian tribes trying to further damage California’s economy, especially in the rural areas which have been so hard hit by the economic downturn?” Dunn asks.

If the legislation passes, the consequences would be sweeping: 4,000 miners will be out of work, 15,000 inter-related jobs will be affected, and the suction dredge gold mining industry will be killed.

Additionally, California will lose \$23 million annually, and will incur new litigation expenses, since Federal mining rights would be infringed upon. Last week, the first federal lawsuit was filed against the State by a miner who believes he is standing on firm ground.

Trying to alert the Legislators and Governor during the final hours of budget negotiations is a daunting task, “but the disaster awaiting is even worse,” says Dunn.

Hopefully, former Attorney General Jerry Brown’s legal findings will be seen in time to avert a disastrous end to the industry that put California on the map.

**About Gold Pan California:**

The company was founded in 2008 by Mike Dunn, an international gold mining specialist who has been suction gold dredge mining for 33 years.

More information: <http://www.goldpancalifornia.com> .

News issued by: Gold Pan California



Send2Press® Newswire

Original Image: [https://send2pressnewswire.com/image/11-0531-goldpan\\_72dpi.jpg](https://send2pressnewswire.com/image/11-0531-goldpan_72dpi.jpg)

# # #

Original Story ID: 2011-06-0614-009 (7049) :: 2011-06-0614-009-California-Budget-Suction-Dredge

Original Keywords: international gold mining specialist, suction gold dredge mining, Mike Dunn, Proline, California Tribal Business Alliance, Friends Of The River, suction dredging gold mining program Gold Pan California Concord California CONCORD, Calif.

Alternate Headline: Suction Dredge Gold Miners Targeted – Foes Provide Erroneous \$1.8 Million Deficit to State Legislature, says Calif. Mining Industry Companies

**NEWS ARCHIVE NOTE:** this archival news content, issued by the news source via Send2Press Newswire, was originally located in the Send2Press® 2004-2015 2.0 news platform and has been permanently converted/moved (and redirected) into our 3.0 platform. Also note the story “reads” counter (bottom of page) does not include any data prior to Oct. 30, 2016. This press release was originally published/issued: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 21:24:16 +0000