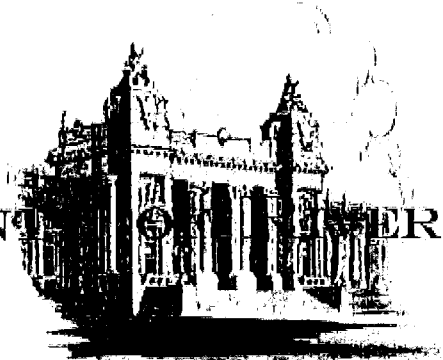


# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



## Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020
District 3 <i>Chairman</i>	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

March 29, 2018

The Honorable Bob Hertzberg, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1222 (Stone): Use of vacuum or suction dredge equipment  
As introduced 2/15/18 – SUPPORT  
Per Board Action  
Set for hearing 4/16/18 – Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 1222, Senator Jeff Stone's measure that would clarify existing law to ensure that low-impact mining activities that are inadvertently captured in the current prohibition on suction dredge mining activities are permitted.

Miners have raised concerns about the enforcement of the statute that bans suction dredge mining activities without a permit. The definition of suction dredge mining includes the terms "mechanized or motorized system of removing or assisting in the removal of minerals", which has been misconstrued to include the use of low-impact mining methods including use of a dry wash or rock box. The clarifying language in SB 1222 ensures that actual suction dredge mining equipment is banned without a permit.

There are 868 active mining claims in Riverside County and the County supports efforts to ensure that miners using low-impact mining methods can continue to do so. For these reasons, the County supports SB 1222. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Brian Nestande, Deputy County Executive Officer, at [bnestande@rivco.org](mailto:bnestande@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Chuck Washington  
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
The Honorable Jeff Stone, California State Senate  
Riverside County Legislative Delegation