

Bill to reimburse miners given OK

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SACRAMENTO — A bill to allow miners to get refunds of fees they paid for permits last year passed a Senate committee Tuesday.

The measure, Senate Bill 889, is being carried by state Sen. Sam Aanestad, R-Grass Valley.

According to his office, nearly 4,000 suction dredge mining permits were purchased in 2009. California miners paid \$47.50, and out-of-state miners paid \$186.75.

Later in 2009, suction dredge mining was banned in California.

Aanestad said refunding the permit fees is "a matter of fairness," according to a news release from his office.

On Tuesday, the bill passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.