



# Butte Environmental Council

*Educating and advocating for the land, air and water*

## Butte Environmental Council e-News *Your Environmental Sentinel*

February 2013

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## BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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Dear Robyn,

We are a grassroots organization, largely funded through donations from community members. I hope you will consider supporting our important work. [A one time donation is easy](#) with our quick and secure form. Every little bit counts and if everyone gives a little, we can do a lot!

### Countdown to Sustainability

We're getting excited about CSU Chico's annual conference, *This Way to Sustainability!* It's just around the corner, on **March 7th and 8th**. BEC is proud to partner with the campus on a "Let's Talk About Water" grant, which makes possible a **Water Forum Panel at 5pm on Thursday, March 7.**

This forum presents an opportunity to draw together the perspectives expressed throughout the day-long conference track focusing on contemporary water issues. During this panel discussion, conference presenters, participants and other interested individuals can share their ideas and concerns about water availability, quality, priorities of use and policy decisions in an interactive forum focused on raising awareness and seeking potential solutions to the impending water crisis. Panelists include:

- **Heather Coolie**, Co-Director, The Pacific Institute
- **Marty Dunlap**, Lawyer & Water Advocate,
- **Michael Jackson**, Lawyer & Water Advocate,
- **Shalini Kantayya**, Filmmaker, *Drop of Life*,
- **Melody Leppard**, Butte College Student

Come take this opportunity to ask questions and offer opinions as part of the educational process of attending the Water Track Panels that take place all day Thursday.

Community members can register for the Water Track for FREE through the online registration service [www.twts.eventbrite.com](http://www.twts.eventbrite.com) --enter the promotional code "**becwater13**", then select 1 ticket for "**BEC Group Thursday Pass**" to register for free. If you have trouble with registration call the BEC office at 891-6424.

The **deadline** for registration is **March 1st**.

And don't forget that BEC is also presenting a panel on our **dioxin investigation at 10:00 in BMU 210 on Friday, March 8th**. If you've ever wondered why dioxin is dangerous, or how it's created, or if there are any environmental justice issues in Butte County (snort!)--please come and learn the answers to all these questions at the panel.

## STAFF

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## Environmental Coalition Gathering

And don't forget the After-Party... Join local environmental organizations on **Friday, March 8, from 5:30-8pm** at the C.A.R.D. Center at 545 Vallombrosa Ave, Chico. There will be free appetizers and adult beverages for sale. We will be learning about each organization's visions, goals and achievements. By sharing these ideals we hope to build and improve communication between the organizations to develop more viable strategies and alliances for a safer, healthier and more vibrant community.

Below are the groups that make up the Coalition, and you'll get a chance to find out more about all of them as they share their successes and goals throughout the evening:

This event is co-hosted by the following local organizations:

- Butte Environmental Council
- Butte College, Sustainability Resource Center
- Butte Bicycle Coalition
- Citizen's Water Watch
- Chico Creek Nature Center
- Chico VELO
- Friends of Bidwell Park
- Cultivating Community North Valley
- Grid Alternatives
- Sierra Club Yahi Chapter
- Kids & Creeks
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- California Urban Streams Alliance - The Stream Team
- California Native Plant Society, Mt Lassen Chapter
- Institute for Sustainable Development, CSU Chico
- Center for Water & the Environment, CSU Chico
- and others to be confirmed...

...plus, you'll have an opportunity to interact with folks representing these groups, as well as with other community members interested in working together on the important issues these groups address. Join us for a veritable smorgasbord of environmental activism!



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## Breaking Bread, Breaking More Ground

*A gathering in support of community gardens*



On Sunday, **March 24th**, the Butte Environmental Council and Cultivating Community will be hosting Breaking Bread, Breaking Ground: A gathering in support of community gardens.

The meal is a local gourmet Mexican meal prepared by Dona Cook, who coincidentally won the Humboldt Community Garden salsa competition last year. David Guzzetti will be providing a Flan dessert. There will also be a silent

auction, and No-Host Bar. Musical performers include Los Caballitos de la Cancion who will get us into fiesta mood.

The event will take place at the **Arc Pavilion, 2020 Park Ave.** Doors open at 4:30, dinner at 5:00.

Tickets are \$25 each and you can reserve a space by calling the BEC Office at 891 6424. Tickets will be available online soon!

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## Feb 19th Event on the Tuscan Aquifer

*A water event worth checking out*

"The Tuscan Aquifer- How It's Used and What We Know About Our Groundwater Resource" **Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 4-5:30pm**  
Colusa Hall 100B on the CSU, Chico campus (near the rose garden, behind the bell tower)

This event is part of the annual Book in Common series, ***Unquenchable***. The panel will discuss the historical, current and projected uses of the Tuscan Aquifer, the principal groundwater resource of the Sacramento Valley and the source of the City of Chico's drinking water. The panel will discuss the hydrogeology of the aquifer and ongoing studies to better understand the aquifer for its sustainable management.

Panelists Include:

Debbie Spangler - Engineering Geologist, Department of Water Resources, State of California

Christina Buck - Water Resources Scientist, Department of Water and Resource Conservation, Butte County

Peter Bonacich - Assistant District Manager, California Water Service Company, Chico District

Dr. Steffen Mehl - Associate Professor, Civil Engineering Department, CSU, Chico

Dr. Eric Houk - Associate Professor, College of Agriculture, CSU, Chico

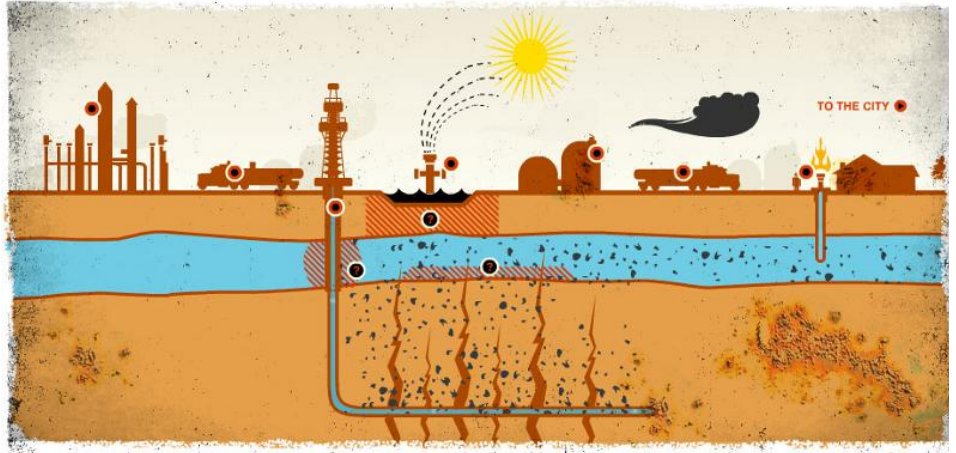
Dr. Todd Greene - Associate Professor, Department of Geological and



## The Fracking Truth

By Dave Garcia

The more you learn about fracking the more terrifying it becomes. Hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking, is the current extreme form of oil and gas extraction. The fossil fuel industry's mantra of "Fracking is safe and has never contaminated groundwater," is a myth they continue to trumpet.



The risk industries of insurance and banking are saying "no" to fracking. Rabobank, the world's largest agricultural bank, no longer sells mortgages to farmers with gas leases. Nationwide Mutual Insurance, the 7th largest company, announced it would not cover damages related to fracking.

The oil industry's own research reveals that an average of 6% of new well casings leak; the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe is the classic example. The same report states after 30 years an average of 50% of well casings leak. No wonder insurance companies and banks are backing away from fracking operations!

**[Follow this link to read more...](#)**

## Did We Mention Our NEW WEBSITE??

It's colorful, informative, fresh, and still *new*... so new, in fact, that we're still soliciting feedback. Tell us what you like, whether you could find what you're looking for, and do tell us if you find anything 'out of order'. It's chock-full of interactive goodness, including a fantastic and comprehensive [calendar](#) that features city and county meetings, events from the University and other Environmental Coalition groups, and of course, BEC committee meetings and events.

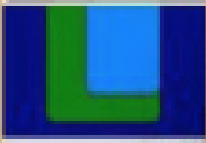
Speaking of committees, check out the [committees](#) link on the website and consider joining us at an Advocacy, Events, or Garden committee meetings. You must be a BEC member to serve on a BEC committee, but guests are welcome to visit and to present topics for consideration upon request. It's a great way to get involved with our work, and to bask in the company of some fantastic, committed folks!

*Thank you again for your continued support of BEC's efforts. Your input or participation is always welcome. Simply reply to this email to tell me what's on your mind.*

*Hope to see you at our upcoming events. Together we can accomplish what is impossible alone.*

**Robyn DiFalco**

Executive Director  
Butte Environmental Council

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