



Butte Environmental Council

Educating and advocating for the land, air and water

Butte Environmental Council e-News

Your Environmental Sentinel

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Dear Robyn,

Thank you for your ongoing support of BEC. There are lots of fun ways for you to support BEC in the next few weeks. Hope to see you there!

Water Ethics Forum: Feb 5th An *Interfaith dialog about the spiritual and stewardship issues surrounding water*

How a society allocates and uses water illustrates the priorities of that society. And differences within a society between disparate faiths can result in misunderstandings or conflicts relating to water equity and ethics.



Join us **Tuesday, Feb. 5th from 4:30-6:00 pm**, at CSU, Chico's Colusa Hall, Room 100B.

Presenters span a range of religious and experiential backgrounds:

- **Bruce Grelle**, CSU, Chico, Professor of Comparative Religion
- **Ali Sarsour**, Water in Islam
- **Lin Jensen**, Buddhist, and author of *Deep Down Things: The Earth in Celebration and Dismay*
- **Shirley Adams**, Christian and founder of 'Bridging the Gap'
- **Marty Dunlap**, Attorney and Water Issue Mediator

This event is co-hosted by the Butte Environmental Council, and CSU, Chico's Book in Common group. For more information see the [Facebook Event page](#) or to download the event flier or news release, [visit BEC's](#)

Skye Li
Grace Marvin
John Scott

STAFF

Robyn DiFalco
Executive Director
Maggi Barry
*Office Coordinator/
E&O Assistant*
Julia Murphy
Project & Admin. Assistant

CONSULTANTS

Carol Perkins
Water
Nani Teves
Land Use/Planning

116 W. 2nd St.
Chico CA 95928
Phone (530) 891-6424
Fax: (530) 891-6426

www.becprotects.org

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This Way to (Water) Sustainability

The annual ***This Way To Sustainability Conference*** held at CSU, Chico on **March 7 & 8, 2013** will feature an all-day Water Track with a variety of local and international



speakers. **Community members are invited to attend the Thursday water track for FREE** as part of a campus-community partnership between BEC and CSU Chico made possible by a grant from ([CUAHSI](#)).

A limited number of free passes are available now so we encourage you to register soon to ensure your space.

These free passes are for Thursday only, so to attend Friday you must purchase the additional day before checkout. (Students attend both days free but still need to register in advance online.) **Deadline is March 1st.**

You must register individually at:

www.twts.eventbrite.com

- Click on "Enter Promotional Code" and enter "**becwater13**" then click **apply**
- A new ticket will pop up titled **BEC Group Thursday Pass**.
- Select quantity "**1**".
- Click **Register**.
- A new screen will pop up: **Enter your personal information** to register.
- Click **Complete Registration**. An email confirmation will be sent to you.

BEC's partnership with CSU, Chico on this matching grant enables us to advance our goals of academic and citizen understanding of (and consequent involvement in) water issues and policies.

The line-up for the water track is as follows:

9 AM Jesse Dizzard, Water in Northern California: Past & Present

10 AM Heather Cooley, Pacific Institute - California Water: From Local

to Global

11 AM Vickie Newlin, North Sac Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update

1 PM Eric Houk, The Economics of Water Transfers for the Environment

2 PM Barbara Vlamis, The Next Great California Water Battle Is Underway and It's at Our Doorstep

3 - 3:30 PM Featured Film: "A Drop of Life", BMU Auditorium

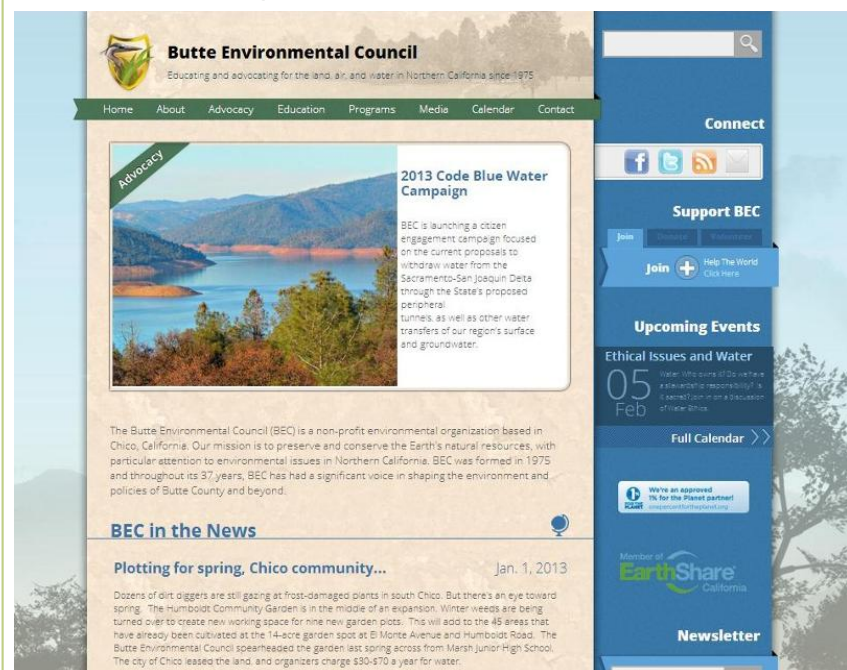
3:30 - 5 PM Keynote Speaker, filmmaker Shalini Kantayya, BMU Auditorium

5-6pm Panel Discussion, coordinated by BEC, seeking to "tie it all together" at the end of the day

6-8pm Reception in BMU Auditorium

BEC will also present a panel on the ongoing dioxin issue in Oroville and beyond--**The Story of Butte County's Biggest Polluter & How You May Be Exposed to Dioxins** at 10:00 am on Friday, March 8.

Announcing: BEC's New Website



Please take a moment to [visit BEC's exciting new website](#). This new site features timely updates about our current actions and what you can do to help. You can also now [find us on Twitter](#), subscribe to our RSS feed or our news feed of local environmental news stories.

Chico Environmental Coalition: Networking Mixer - Friday, March 8

BEC has initiated a coalition group of local environmental organizations and our first action will be to host a Networking Mixer on the final evening of the *This Way to Sustainability Conference* on **Friday, March 8th at the CARD Center, at 545 Vallombrosa Ave in Chico.**



This Coalition has come together not only to maintain and improve

communication but to identify opportunities for strategic collaboration on the most important environmental issues facing our community. The Coalition is meeting monthly with a representative from a range of local groups including:

- AquAlliance
- Butte Bicycle Coalition
- Citizen's Water Watch
- Chico Creek Nature Center
- Chico Velo
- Friends of Bidwell Park
- Grid Alternatives
- Sierra Club Yahi Chapter
- GRUB Cooperative
- Chico Grange
- Kids & Creeks
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- Sustainability Task Force
- Stream Team
- California Native Plant Society, Mt Lassen Chapter
- Butte College's Sustainability Resource Center
- Chico State's Institute for Sustainable Development
- Chico State's Center for Water & the Environment

Participating organizations are providing appetizers and adult beverages will be available for sale at the event.

The focus of this event is **to celebrate our organizational and collective achievements**, present our goals for the coming year, and get to know each other better, professionally and personally.

We'd like to welcome all interested community members, however space is limited. An **online registration will soon be available through the [BEC website](#)** to reserve your space at this event.

Who Wants to Get Fracked?!?

By Dave Garcia

Hydraulic fracturing, better known as **fracking**, is the current extreme form of oil and gas extraction. Voluntary reporting has documented 628 wells fracked last year (2011) in California. They are drilling in Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Kern, Ventura and Los Angeles counties, with mineral rights being purchased in Glenn and Colusa counties by drilling companies.

The process of fracking involves injecting millions of gallons of fresh water typically mixed with toxic industrial chemicals and sand. This mixture is placed at a high enough well pressure to fracture underground shale to release trapped oil or gas. Depending on the depth and lateral length of the well, one million to 15 million gallons of water maybe required and then the well is fracked numerous times possibly using up to 60 million gallons or 20 acre feet of freshwater. This is enough water for 20 families of 4 people to use for an entire year. ***This is a tremendous water-intensive extraction process for a state with a current water shortage problem.***

So why is fracking so controversial, causing an uproar in over 32 states and around the world? Maybe it is the two separate studies by the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Geological Survey that found toxic carcinogenic chemicals used in fracking had contaminated the town of Pavillion, Wyoming's drinking water.

To continue reading, click [here](#); or go to the [BEC website](#).

BEC recently submitted public comments to the State Department of Conservation, 1/24/13, click [here](#) to read.

"Celebrate the Jewel" With the Chico Creek Nature Center

Chico Creek Nature Center is now accepting applications for
Volunteers, Exhibitors, and Vendors for

"Celebrate the Jewel,"

Saturday, April 20, 2013



**11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Chico Creek Nature Center,
1968 E. 8th Street, Chico CA 95928.**

"Celebrate the Jewel" is a sustainable event that highlights the many recreational activities offered at the ever-changing, always gorgeous **Bidwell Park**, recently recognized by the State as a "regional treasure," see [here](#).

Featured events include a **Bicycling Valet** and **Youth Bike Rodeo**, **Lunch BBQ** and **Chico Creek Nature Center Open House**. Come say "Hi" to us at the BEC table--we'll be there, celebrating the jewel!

For more information contact Kelsey at kelsey.ccnc@gmail.com or call **530-891-4671**.

For a Good Time... Check the BEC Calendar!

Because we respect your limited time and inbox size, we try to keep our emails from gumming up your works. But we are really excited about our online [Calendar](#), which **features environmental and local government meetings throughout the region**.

If you're looking to get involved, informed, or for something to do on a weekend with the wee peas, or you just feel like remembering how lucky we are to live in a place where there's so much interesting stuff going on... [check out BEC's Environmental Event Calendar online](#).



Have an environmental event you want help promoting? Provide us all the details and we'll post it on our calendar and maybe even feature it in this newsletter.

Helena Chemical Plant Approved

At the last Board of Supervisors meeting, the Helena Chemical storage and distribution center got approval on a vote of 4-1. **Thank you to Supervisor Teeter**, who was the sole "no" vote; he did not see the social or economic benefits to the community of Nelson.

It was a win for the US-Japanese owned multinational corporation (no surprise there), and a very sad day for the small community of Nelson and the neighboring organic Lundberg Family Farms, who just had the future of their town traded for corporate profit.



We know that poor communities are disproportionately saddled with environmental burdens and the negative social effects of projects like these; we work hard to keep it from happening in our own county.

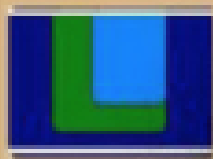
BEC worked alongside the citizens of Nelson, who stood against this project; and were honored to stand with them in their efforts to protect their community and their lands.

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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