



Butte Environmental Council

Educating and advocating for the land, air and water

Butte Environmental Council e-News

Your Environmental Sentinel

May 2013

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Dear Robyn,

Thank you for your ongoing support of BEC. It is because of you that we can do this important work to protect our local resources.

Tonight: Tuesday, May 14 Code Blue Water Education Event

BEC's Code Blue Water Education series continues, with [Water Export: Everyone's Business](#). The event is tonight, **Tuesday, May 14, 5:30-8:00 pm**, at the **Chico Branch Library, 1103 Sherman Ave.**

In an effort to further the conversation about water in our area between farmers and environmentalists, and explore how we can support local farming and at the same time protect the environment, Butte Environmental Council is hosting this community event, which promises respectful and interesting discussion on timely water issues that face the north state. These include water export, the Twin Tunnels, and balancing water rights with maintaining sustainable water supplies.

The presenters will be:

Ashley Indrieri, Executive Director of the Family Water Alliance.

FWA is a coalition of people who are concerned about the future of agriculture, private property rights, rural communities, and the balance between man and nature;

and **Carol Perkins, Water Advocate for Butte Environmental Council.** BEC's mission is to protect and defend the land, air and water of Butte County and the surrounding region. Carol recently completed her Master's program in Hydrogeology.

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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California Aqueduct, Owens Valley

Then on **Saturday, June 8th**, we'll meet at **8:00am** to carpool **from the Highway 32 Park & Ride in Chico** for a [Roadtrip to the Delta](#).

We'll see where the proposed tunnels will be located, where the water will be diverted from the river, and where the muck dumps will be sited. We'll explore historic Walnut Grove, tour the levees, see what subsided lands look like, and get a deeper understanding of the project from **Jane Wagner-Tyack** with the group [Restore the Delta](#).

We invite you to join us on this adventure to learn more about the Twin Tunnels project. For many of us, being able to see what we are talking about can really help to put the puzzle pieces together. This event is free to the public; [please sign up by emailing Nani Teves](#) or call the BEC office at **(530) 891-6424**.

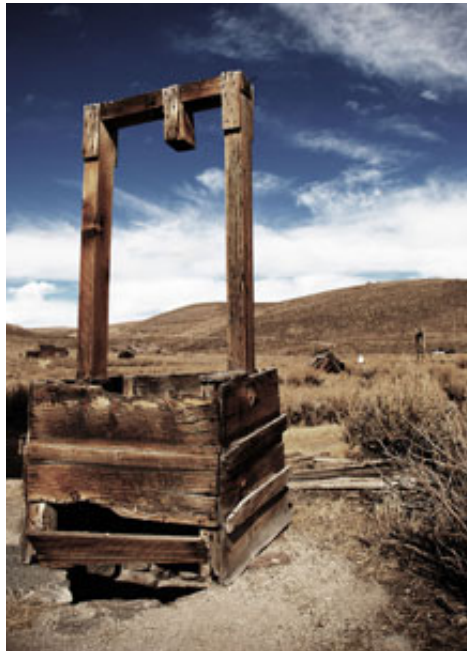
Water Transfer Moratorium: Sign On to the Letter

Two North State irrigation districts are planning water transfers out of the region this year without any coordination with their neighbors, and without any coordination with the emerging regional water management plan. That would be foolhardy after such a dry winter. If an irrigation district substitutes 5,000 acre feet of groundwater to replace transferred surface water, and that groundwater is connected to the same aquifer that supplies municipal water, then what impact will that have in the middle of summer when demand is highest?

Tony St. Amant, longtime North State water advocate, has drafted a [proposal](#) calling for a moratorium on out-of-region water transfers. The proposal calls for a halt to water transfers until July 1, 2014 and a commitment to developing regional water transfer guidelines by April 1, 2014. It is addressed to the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Plan Board ([NSV IRWMP](#)), which represents six counties working together to address water issues regionally.

BEC supports the voluntary moratorium, which would give the NSVIRWMP time to create a sound policy framework for future proposed water transfers.

Individual irrigation districts must not act in the interest of their own short-term benefit without regard to the region's long-term health. If this happens, North State



waters may be devastated by the time a protective structure is in place.

Getting the moratorium on the agenda is the goal.

Your voice is needed now to show decision makers that the public is concerned. We urge you to **[send an email today](#)** and add your voice of support to this proposed moratorium on water transfers.

Sample language is provided on the BEC website as well as email links to the NSVIRWM Executive Committee. Request that the moratorium be added to the June 3 agenda.

Dialogue on this issue is key, even if the moratorium stalls; **proponents of out-of-area exports should have an opportunity to fully explain their logic and motives.**

BEC Board Elections in June 2013



The Butte Environmental Council Board of Directors election is coming up in June 2013. BEC members are eligible to serve on the board and all members will receive a ballot by June 3. **[Now's a good time to join BEC or renew your membership!](#)**

Seven board members are in the middle of their current terms. They include John Scott, Mark Stemen, Michael McGinnis, Amanda Freeman, Grace Marvin, Skye Li, and Mark Herrera. The six Board members appointed since the last election will need to stand for election this June. They include Steve Handy, John Howlett, Tom Haithcock, Kevin Killion, Melody Leppard, and Luann Manss. Not all of the appointed members are planning to run for re-election.

If you are interested in joining the **[BEC Board](#)**, this election may be the opportunity you've been waiting for. The deadline to **[submit an application](#)** and bio is **Monday, May 27**. Applications are available on the website on the **[Board page](#)**, or by calling the BEC office. Voting will take place over two weeks between June 3 - 14.

Members, this is an opportunity for you to use your vote to let us know how we're doing. **In a member-based organization, your passions fuel our policies and help us determine where to put our**



resources and time. We look forward to this election as an opportunity to check in with you!

Other Upcoming Events

May seems pretty relaxed from the first Sunday on forward. There are still a few things we want to let you know about that are happening in May and beyond...

Butte County Climate Action Plan Open House Tuesday, May 14, 6pm-8pm

Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 Lakeside Village Commons, Chico
Department of Development Services invites the public to an evening open house to learn more about the strategy of drafting a Climate Action Plan. Find out more [here](#).



BIONEERS

California Student Sustainability Coalition is presenting **video lectures** from the **Bioneers Conference** on **Thursday, May 16** at the **Chico Women's Club**, at **Third & Pine St** in **Chico**. The presentation is from 7:00-9:30 pm and donations are welcome. You'll hear lectures from **Paul Hawken, Gretchen**

Daly and **Nikki Henderson** for **"Roots & Shoots of Sustainability,"** the theme of the lecture.

The **Chico Bike Music Festival** is picking up speed, rolling gently along, a little faster each day, *faster, faster*...to break the sound barrier on **Saturday, June 1st**. The event begins at **Camellia Way Park** (across from Morning Thunder restaurant) and, while Sammey is about as event-ninja skillful as a human bean can

be, she's looking for volunteers because, you know, the *more the merrier*.

Volunteers are the grease in the chain--it just all seizes up and falls apart without **you**.

[Volunteers can sign up online](#) and let her know you want to help everything go on smooth like **chamois butter**.



On **Monday, May 27** the **Sacramento River Preservation Trust** is throwing a **Memorial Day On-River Cleanup**. There's space on rafts for 20 folks to sign up if you don't have your own boat; otherwise, bring it, or clean on the shore.



From the SRPT [website](#):

(Irvine Finch on-river clean-up) We'll get on the water around **10am** and pick up as much trash as we can find, on our way down to Bidwell-Sacramento State Park parking lot and Scotty's Landing. We'll take out around **2pm** and head over to **Scotty's Landing** for an unofficial late lunch and informal social gathering from **2-5pm**.

Or:

(Bank Clean Up) Meet us at **9am** in the parking lot just south of Scotty's Landing, part of the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park unit, look for event signs and excited volunteers. There are bathrooms and plenty of parking spaces there. We will provide bags and gloves to volunteers and be picking up trash along the river bank from the parking lot to Scotty's Landing. We will also be assisting boaters unload their craft as they land at the confluence of Pine Creek and the Sacramento River.



Such a beautiful and powerful (yet achingly fragile) river! Such good company! And it's definitely time to get yourself to Scotty's, for sure...If you love the Mighty Sacramento, then show it with deeds as well as words.

Unifying the Issues: Citizen Engagement

Have you noticed that several issues, which could be taken separately, are actually all intersecting? Yeah, you've noticed, huh. If you're interested in connecting the dots between **water, fracking, health care and GMOs** (to name a few of the key issues) then join this meeting of citizen activists at the **Upper Crust, 11am on Tuesday, May 21.**



The Lower Tuscan Aquifer Project

is holding its final workshop on **May 23, 6-8pm**, at the **Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Ave. in Chico**. The Project is the result of seven years' work and research by the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation.

Anyone seeking to gain a better understanding of groundwater in Butte County and what's known (and, perhaps more importantly, what's *unknown*) about the Tuscan Aquifer, should make time to attend this County workshop.

To find out more, see Paul Gosselin's article "Lower Tuscan Aquifer Project Final Workshop" in this month's "[Water Solutions](#)", the Department's newsletter.

The Chico Sustainability Task Force is looking for seven new members.

Or, *How Sausage Is Made, Part Deux*. Applicants must be city residents, qualified voters and at least **18** years old. The deadline to apply is **5 p.m. May 24**. More information and applications are available on the [City of Chico website](#).





BEC Board Member John Scott Elected to Water Commission

Congratulations to **John Scott**, newest member of the **Butte County Water Commission**! Read about it in this recent [Enterprise-Record article](#).



John at last year's Angel Social. The man makes some tasty wine!

What does the Water Commission do? They weigh in on water issues affecting the county. Now you've got a man on the inside who can tell you (*pun alert*) "in depth" what's going on at the Water Commission.

We're proud of you, John Scott, and mighty grateful for your hard work and generous heart. Go Team!

Who Takes Pictures Out There??



You know, one could spend a lot of time trolling the interwebs for pretty pictures; but one tells you what-- one would love to get some reader pictures to put in the left column to help keep your reader eyeballs all jazzed up and happy. (*See picture*)

Send the Sentinel pictures at juliamurphy247@gmail.com with "ES PIX" in the heading. Let us know if you want credit and we'll make that happen. *One knows there's beautiful pictures of Butte County lurking on a thousand hard drives out there. Share them with us!*

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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