



Environmental Sentinel

Your source for Butte County's environmental news and events

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Council**
Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1975

Butte Environmental Council Newsletter

February 2016



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Dear Robyn,

We appreciate your interest in protecting our local environment and encourage you to support the work we do on behalf of the land, air, and water of Butte County and the surrounding region. Please take a moment to read about the important developments in our environmental community, and [show your support by becoming a valuable member](#) of the Butte Environmental Council.

Sincerely,
Robyn DiFalco

Upcoming BEC Events

Saturday, February 6 9-12 p.m.
[Block Parties with a Purpose](#)
Humboldt Park (near the giant wind chime)

Saturday, March 5 9-12 p.m.
[Block Parties with a Purpose](#)
Lindo Channel, location TBA

Wednesday, March 23 4-6 p.m.
[Community Garden Showcase](#) (TWTS Kick-off)
2161 Humboldt Road, Chico CA

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Quick Links

BEC Website

BEC Event Calendar

Renew BEC Membership

Last Month's E-Sentinel

Friday, March 25 p.m.

[Environmental Coalition Gathering](#)

Chico Women's Club, 592 E. 3rd St, Chico, CA

Saturday, April 9 5-8 p.m.

[Garden Party Fundraiser](#)

ARC Pavilion, 2040 Park Ave, Chico, CA

Saturday, May 7 11-4 p.m.

[Endangered Species Faire](#)

One Mile Picnic Area, Chico, CA

(See articles below for all event details or visit our website at www.becnet.org/events)

Important Hearing: Move the Junkyard

We need your help on **Thursday, February 18th!** Come to the [Chico Planning Commission meeting](#) at 6:30 p.m. and help us speak up for environmental justice.

Chico Scrap Metal was ordered to move 10 years ago by City Council -- but now the City is reconsidering this. The junkyard is an industrial operation that is incompatible within a residential neighborhood.



Chapman Elementary School is located next to this **toxic site**, which no other Chico neighborhood would tolerate. In 2008, the State of CA [Department of Toxic Substance Control](#) (DTSC) fined Chico Scrap Metal \$381,000 for its uncontained toxins and mandated a cleanup. CSM claims to have cleaned up their act and proposes a new facade or fence along 20th St. But these aesthetic changes are not enough.

The City's General Plan and the Neighborhood Plan require that the scrap yard be relocated. Since that time over 2.5 million dollars was invested in the neighborhood by just City and County, not to mention private investments. The junkyard puts all those investments in jeopardy. Six business were told to relocate in 2004 and five of them did the right thing. Those five businesses should be applauded. The junkyard by comparison is not persecuted; they are just obstinate. According to BEC Board President, Mark Stemen, "Those five businesses should be applauded.

By comparison, the Junkyard should be chastised for being obstinate." CSM was given an extension in in 2006 and again in 2011, promising to move if given more time. **The time is up.**

Join us on Thursday, February 18th at 6:30 for a public hearing at the Chico Planning Commission meeting, 421 Main St. We need as much support as possible at this meeting to ensure CSM is no longer able to violate the zoning and neighborhood plans.

Little Chico Creek needs your Help

So far our [Block Parties with a Purpose](#) program has removed **2.81 Tons** of garbage from Lindo Channel and Big Chico Creek at our two previous events. These neighborhood cleanups take place the 1st Saturday of each month. The program has continued to gain momentum through word of mouth, [local news stations](#), and [newspapers](#).



In February we will focus our efforts on Little Chico Creek, arguably the waterway most in need of attention. Please join us on **Saturday, February 6** from 9 AM to 12 noon. We will meet at Humboldt Park (near the giant windchime). [Click here](#) to register.

Save the Date for our March block party: March 5, 2016 on Lindo Channel.

Historic Sycamore Remembrance Day

Save Oroville Trees (SOT) will hold an anniversary commemoration on **Friday, February 5** from 4-5:30 p.m. at the cemetery on Feather River Boulevard remembering the 128-year-old sycamore trees that were cut down this day last year. Oroville Cemetery has accepted five of the sycamore seedlings SOT has grown to plant on the cemetery side of the fence.



This will be a positive, upbeat event starting with music played by Bill Caspers, followed by addresses from Pastor Kevin Thomas, SOT spokesperson Bill Bynum and BEC representatives. Following the speakers will be a ceremonial tree planting in the cemetery where local Pit River and Maidu Tribes will give a tree blessing.

The news media will be reporting on the commemoration and we hope you'll plan to be there, as well.

BEC's Current Advocacy Efforts

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA): Carol Perkins, BEC Water Advocate spoke at the Butte County Water Commission, calling for basin boundaries to be re-drawn based on watersheds and to base the governance structure on these watershed lines. This new statewide law has potential to protect our groundwater but we're carefully watchdogging the implementation process at the local level.



Glenn County Well Moratorium to end in March 2016: This moratorium on

drilling new wells was adopted last fall 2015, pushed by the group [Save Our Water Resources](#) (with BEC's support). This has effectively put on hold plans by Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to install 5 deep water wells to extract massive amounts of groundwater. We're supporting Glenn County citizens in their efforts to call for a continuation of this well moratorium until Glenn County can establish groundwater protection policies. It's critical that we work together to protect our shared water supply.

Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP): BEC supports adoption of this 50-year plan that will strategically set aside thousands of acres of sensitive habitat for permanent protection, targeting 38 endangered or threatened species, while creating streamlined permitting for growth and development that is planned for appropriate locations. More info is found here: www.buttehcp.com

Proposed Waste Facility near Stony Creek: BEC is supporting [Concerned Citizens of Glenn County](#) in opposing this proposed waste facility which would sit right on the banks of Stony Creek, atop the drinking water source for our entire region -- the Tuscan Aquifer. BEC staff spoke at a recent Planning Commission meeting alongside dozens of concerned citizens urging the County to invest in a waste facility at the closed Landfill Site, and abandon plans for the facility on Stony Creek near Orland. For more info or to get involved visit: www.stonycreek32.com

Local Water Issues Have no Boundaries

BEC's water advocate, Carol Perkins is currently working with residents in Glenn & Colusa Counties seeking greater oversight of our shared **groundwater resources** prior to full implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ([SGMA](#)) in 2022.



There is growing concern that **Glenn and Colusa Counties** may not have adequate resources to address the demands of the new groundwater law, known as SGMA while pressures mount due to the drought, the proposed "Twin Tunnels" in the Delta (aka "CA Water Fix"), statewide desires for groundwater banking and the proposed Sites Reservoir; along with dual threats of economic development and property rights as irrigated lands are expanded throughout our communities.

Colusa County has decided to end their moratorium that limited **new well permits** and Glenn County is facing a similar expiration of a moratorium at the end of February. Butte County is considering the consolidation of all internal basin boundaries as management units under SGMA and BEC has requested the County to consider using the significant watersheds within our County to redefine these management boundaries. [Click here to read our comment letter to the Butte County Water Commission.](#)

Growing Funds for our Gardens

Save the date for our Garden Party on **Saturday, April 9, 2016**. Our Annual Garden Party Fundraiser is a gathering in support of **community gardens**. This event helps sustain and provide for our beautiful Humboldt and Oak Way

community gardens. This project teaches participants about our local climate and environment, how to grow their own food and flowers and reap the benefits of their hard work.

The event will be held at [The Arc Pavilion](#) in Chico Saturday evening at 2040 Park Ave. Tickets are \$30 for adults, sliding scale for children and will be on sale soon. This years' event will feature an amazing menu by Donna Garrison, live music and a silent auction.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us April 9!



Finding Common Ground at Chico State

Register for the [This Way to Sustainability](#) Conference at CSU, Chico today through **March 11!**

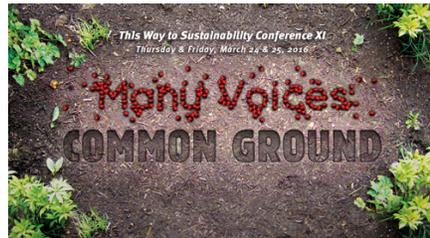
The conference will host over 100 sustainability professionals from across the country with two full conference days. There will also be daily continental breakfast and lunch made from local ingredients, raffles, competitions, a featured film, keynote presentations, awards and more at the Bell Memorial Union on the Chico State campus.

BEC representatives will be presenting at the conference, including Lindsay Wood, our Watershed Program Coordinator, as well as Board President Mark Stemen.

[See the schedule online now](#)

Admission: \$50 for two days, \$35 per day. Also enjoy our daily local lunch, \$13 per day. Student attendance is **free** with valid student ID but you must pre-register.

Volunteers are always needed, if you are interested please [check out the website](#) to register as a volunteer.



Share Your Love for the Environment

Valentine's Day is around the corner! What do you get the person who has everything or wants nothing? Share your love for Mother Earth and give the gift of a [BEC membership](#) for just \$35! A membership with BEC ensures that the environment will have a voice in local matters.

Your loved one will receive a special card notifying them of their new membership and you'll receive a thank you for supporting BEC. All members receive the [BEC newsletter](#) packed full of updates on each of our programs as well as a calendar of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Can't do \$35 just now? BEC offers a variety of ways to donate small



amounts monthly as well as a pick-your-amount option. Just visit [our website](#) for more information!

Community Garden Showcase

BEC, Cultivating Community North Valley & GRUB Education invite you to a pre-conference gathering to visit a demonstration of our projects at Humboldt Community Gardens **Wednesday, March 23** from 4-6pm. The presentation includes a cooking demonstration and samples with the **Edible Pedal Bike Kitchen**, our mobile cooking unit used for on-site preparation of garden and farmers market specialty crops.



We will showcase the [Humboldt Community Garden](#) and offer information on the other 22 community gardens supported by GRUB Ed, which attendees are welcome to visit throughout the conference.

This event is part of the annual [This Way To Sustainability Conference](#) hosted at CSUC on March 24-25

Environmental Coalition Gathering

A coalition group of local environmental organizations will host the [Environmental Community Gathering](#) on **Friday, March 25** at the Chico Women's Club starting at 5:30 p.m.

The reception will provide an opportunity for the organizations of **the Environmental Coalition of Butte County** to reaffirm the importance of working together. This event will take place just following the final keynote speaker of Chico State's [This Way To Sustainability Conference](#). Attendees will gain a fulsome picture of our progress and challenges in environmental work here in Butte County.

Anyone from the public is welcome to attend and in addition we'll have activities for the kids. Participating organizations will provide free appetizers and beverages will be available for purchase at the event (including beer and wine).

The Environmental Coalition was formed as an effort to unite the various local environmental groups around the biggest environmental issues taking place in Chico and Butte County, including the implementation of the General Plans (City and County), the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, climate change issues and water issues.

If any other environmental groups would like to participate please [contact BEC](#).

**EVERY
ONE
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.**

Help with Summer Oak Watering, Get on the List!

With all of our newly planted acorns in the ground it's time to make sure you are on the [Tree People list](#)! Being on this list you will receive updates about summer waterings, activities, dates and way to get involved.



Because of funding from the CA Wildlife Foundation AND volunteers like you, BEC planted over 200 oaks in Upper Bidwell Park. Thank you to all of our long-time and new volunteers for your helping hands with this project, we couldn't do it without you!

Sign up today to be added to BEC's Tree People list [HERE](#).



Go Green and Support BEC in One Step!

Send funds back to BEC by going solar with SolarCity, America's #1 full-service solar provider.

For more information, visit www.becnet.org/solar



Energy Conservation Tip: LED Lighting

One of the simplest ways to save energy and money is to **switch to energy-efficient lights**. When shopping for energy efficient light bulbs **look for lumens rather than watts** (lumens are a measure of the amount of brightness a bulb puts out, while watts are a measure of the energy used.) Checking the lumens, rather than watts, will give you an actual indication of the bulb's **brightness**.

Compared side by side, LEDs stand out as superior lighting.

	Incandescent light	Compact fluorescent lamp (CFL)	Light-emitting diode (LED)
✓ Energy Used	60Watts	13 Watts	6Watts
✓ Lifespan*	42 days	416 days	2.9years
✓ Cost per bulb	\$0.50	\$2.00	\$6.00
✓ Cost per year	\$4.80	\$1.20	\$1.00

*continuous usage

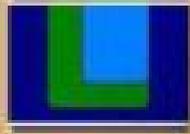
Check out www.energyupgradeca.org with more lighting information.

Recycling Education Tip: Paper

Reminder, paper can be recycled up to 4 times! This is **great news** for our oxygen giving forests. However, once paper is **soiled or wet, it is no longer recyclable**.



To avoid soiling paper you recycle in curbside bins from other materials, such as soup cans and almost empty water bottles, just **collect all of your paper in a paper bag or a cardboard box so it's protected** when you toss it in the bin on pick up day!



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Environmental Events in the Community

For more information about upcoming local events please visit BEC's Environmental Events Calendar:

www.becnet.org/events



Feb 7 What To Do About Climate Change?

John Schaefer of the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) will speak on the use of a Carbon Fee to reduce greenhouse gases at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chico on Sunday morning, February 7, beginning at 10:30am. Schaefer will talk about the economics of carbon taxes, its successful use in other countries, and the CCL movement to educate about its effectiveness in addressing Climate Change. Members of the CCL, a grassroots organization, have visited all congressional offices promoting this policy which offers economic growth without government interference. For more information about this event, contact Marvey Mueller, marveychap@earthlink.net

Feb 14 [Velo-Love Ride \(aka Rice Valley Tandem Rally\)](#)

Take your sweetheart or friends on a 40, 60, or 100 mile adventure around the famous Sutter-Buttes. Starting from Butte County Fairgrounds in Gridley, CA, this mostly flat ride takes you past the Grey Lodge Wildlife Sanctuary, through blossoming orchards and around the great Sutter Buttes! Held rain or shine.



Thurs, Feb 18 [Chico Planning Commission](#), public hearing on Chico Scrap Metal. 6:30pm at 421 Main St.

Mar 12 - [BEC Hosts Citizen Science hike](#) with focus on Native Peoples on the Feather River Watershed. Save the Date; more details coming soon!

Mar 14-18 [Camp Chico WILD](#)
Spring Break at the Chico Creek Nature Center

Mar 20 [Chico Permaculture Guild Monthly Gathering](#)

Permaculture Design Process Overview. 10am - 1pm at the Chico Library meeting room (1108 Sherman Ave.) Free and open to the public. 1-2 hour interactive discussion, potluck and 'Share the Surplus Swap'. For more information, email modcpg@gmail.com or

Wed, Mar 23 [Community Garden Showcase kicks off TWTS Conference](#)

4pm - 6pm, Cultivating Community North Valley & GRUB Education invites you to a pre-conference gathering to visit a demonstration of our projects at Humboldt Gardens Wednesday, March 23 from 4-6pm. The presentation includes a cooking demonstration and samples with the Edible Pedal Bike Kitchen, our mobile cooking unit used for on site preparation of garden and farmers market specialty crops. We will showcase the Humboldt Community Garden and offer information on the other 22 community gardens supported by GRUB Ed which attendees are welcome to visit throughout the conference.

Mar 24-25 [This Way to Sustainability Conference XI](#) , Many Voices ~
Common Ground, registration deadline March 11

Butte Environmental Council, 116 W 2nd Street, Suite 3, Chico, CA 95928

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