



# 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

June 2016



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### Greetings!

With Summer just around the corner and the Summer heat already here it is hard to forget how important our water is here in the North State. From the relief of cooling off in a local creek, to the urgent need to keep our urban forest alive, we depend on our waterways and groundwater more every day.

It is the constant [support](#) of community members like you that keeps BEC at the forefront of discussions and decisions that are made for our water. Our [members](#) help BEC keep our most valuable resource right here where it belongs!

Sincerely,  
Natalie Carter  
530-891-6424

### Upcoming BEC Events

**Sunday, June 4** 9 a.m. - noon

[Block Party with a Purpose](#)

Location TBA

**Recycling Education Tip: The most important "R"!**

**Environmental Events in the Community**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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#### Quick Links

[BEC Website](#)

[BEC Event Calendar](#)

[Renew BEC Membership](#)

[Last Month's E-Sentinel](#)

**Thursday, August 25** 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
CNR/Ray's Liquor - wine tasting fundraiser  
Bidwell Golf Course

**Saturday, September 17** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
[Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup](#)

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

## Paradise Sewer Stakeholders Group

As many of you know, conversations about introducing a sewer system to the Town of Paradise have been had for decades and BEC has been there every step of the way.

When Paradise received a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board in early 2016 to conduct a Sewer Feasibility Study they called on BEC, along with other community stakeholders to participate in the process. The stakeholder group met for the first time on June 1st, and will continue to meet monthly as the process continues. This study will look at the options for treating and transporting the sewer systems wastewater.

BEC has a seat at the table, and a voice to influence the process. BEC will be there to ensure that all considerations are given to the potential impacts of any project. BEC will be there to help look to the future and create a vision that is sustainable, that provides for growth, and that protects our region's natural resources, habitats and ecosystems. Look forward to more updates on this exciting project!

For more information about the Town of Paradise Sewer Project visit [paradisesewer.com](http://paradisesewer.com).



## Father's Day is Sunday, June 19!

Celebrate your dad and the world he brought you into by giving him a [BEC membership](#).

Rethink the gift, and make a positive impact that lasts!

Learn more at: <http://www.becnet.org/donate>



## BECome a Friend of the Cleanup!!

The time has come to begin preparing for our annual Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup!! Save the Date

**September 17, 2016**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**



Become a [Friend of the Cleanup](#)! Friends of the cleanup love wildlife and want to preserve habitat to endangered species for generations to come.

The Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog (\$25) is listed as a State Threatened, Federally Endangered Species. The Western Pond Turtle (\$50) is listed as a Species of Special Concern in California. Two of the four runs of Wild Chinook Salmon (\$75) that migrate through the Sacramento Valley are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Winter-run Chinook Salmon are listed as both State and Federally Endangered. Spring-run Chinook Salmon are listed as both State and Federally Threatened. The Gray Wolf (\$100) is back from the brink! It is currently listed as State and Federally Endangered and is federally proposed for delisting.

Donations of \$50 or more receive a free t-shirt! Please help our efforts to recover habitat for these species by [donating to the Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup](#) effort.

## VOTING OPEN: BEC Board Election

The official ballots for the 2016-2017 BEC Board of Directors began on Wednesday June 1!

The [BEC Board of Directors](#) determines policies, procedures and regulations for the conduct of the organization, helps in raising funds to finance BEC and its programs, promotes BEC in the community, and monitors its organizational performance.

Both digital and paper ballots have gone out. Check your inbox or your mailbox today!

Only ONE vote per membership. Voting ends at 11:59pm on Wednesday June 15th.





## First Summer Oaks Watering This Month!

Our oak restoration's first day of summer watering will be **Sunday, June 5th!**

Meet us at the Upper Park Parking Lot by Monkey Face at 8 am on Sunday, June 5th to help out.

As it begins to warm up, our 226 oak seedlings will need our help to stay strong and healthy throughout the hot and dry summer. Please remember to bring drinking water for yourself, sunscreen, outdoor clothing, and snacks if you'd like. The watering will be from 8 - noon, the more volunteers the better!

If you'd like to be involved, please show up on June 5th and also add your name to our [Tree People List](#) for weekly updates.

If you have any questions please contact our new Oak Restoration Coordinator, Lexi, at [oaks@becnet.org](mailto:oaks@becnet.org) or give us a call at the office 530.891.6424



## Last Block Party of the season!

Are you tired of trashy creeks? Are you ready to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in our local waterways? Our last [Block Party with a Purpose](#) will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Since December of 2015 our dedicated volunteers have removed over 12 tons of garbage and other refuse from Chico's waterways!! Even though we have been persistent, cleaning the creeks every month, they still need your help. In June, we are targeting Chico's most heavily impacted waterway, Lindo Channel.

Grab some buddies, bring your boots, and we'll see you in the creek!

[Click here](#) to register now!!!



## CALL YOUR CITY COUNCILORS: Fund the Tree Crew!

**June 21 is Budget decision day**

After years of cutting down more trees than we have planted; after years of minimal pruning and planting our urban forest needs maintenance!

[Chico Tree Advocates's](#) have proposed funding for the Tree Crew that is about a half of one percent of the proposed City budget.

**What's it going to be? A city of TREES or STUMPS?**

— CHICO —  
**TREE ADVOCATES**  
For Our Urban Forest

This is an issue that strikes to the very character of our community and of Chico's livability!

The feedback from City Staff is that they are not recommending any new funding for the Tree Division this year. The feedback from City Councilors is that they appreciate how important trees are. Our feedback, and that from citizens is **"TREES ARE A PRIORITY!"**

Call your City Councilors  
ask them to **FUND THE TREE CREW**  
Mark Sorensen 588-0020 Andrew Coolidge 300-5703  
Reanette Fillmer 520-5775 Sean Morgan 321-0861

## Community Garden Plots Available

Are you interested in growing your own food but don't have a suitable garden space? We still have garden **plots available** this season in our [Humboldt Community Garden](#), located on Humboldt Rd and El Monte Ave.



A one-year plot lease for the 2016-17 garden year is \$75 for a 15x15 plot (225 square feet). There is also a refundable \$50 cleaning deposit. The lease includes water, limited liability insurance (a city requirement) and access to community tools and finished compost or bark chips, depending on available supplies.

We have one agency plot available for a nonprofit organization that measures 25x60 feet (1,500 square feet) and is \$375 for the year.

Come join us and grow your garden along with your community in this beautiful and serene location!

**CALL TODAY (530) 891-6424**



**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](http://www.becnet.org/solar)



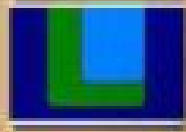
## Protect our land with Frack-Free Butte County

We love Butte County, our home. That's why we're protecting it by voting **yes on E**, a ban on fracking - [and we need your help!](#)



Here in Butte County, we pride ourselves on pristine landscapes, clean water and thriving family farms - we're part of a vibrant, welcoming community. **But fracking in Butte County would threaten everything we love, from our water to our health to our farms to our livelihood.**

On June 7 we're voting Yes On E to ban fracking, and we're looking for [people like you to volunteer](#) and help get the word out about this important measure! [Join us.](#)



# CHICO U-LOCK-IT SELF STORAGE

(530) 895-9999 // 1909 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PKWY.

LOCATED BEHIND MEEKS LUMBER AT THE CORNER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING & E. 20TH

**Now Accepting E-Waste for Recycling!**

## Energy Conservation Tip: No Drought about it

This month we're focusing on saving energy by saving water. Follow these tips to save water, and you will be saving energy at the same time. It takes energy to get water to our homes, and then more to heat the water we use.

Fun Fact: Eighteen percent of the energy we use at home goes to heat water for showers, dishes and washing clothes. Using less hot water, means spending less on energy. More information at [www.energyupgradeca.org](http://www.energyupgradeca.org)



## Recycling Education Tip: The most important "R"!

Though Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot have large positive impacts on waste diversion to the landfill, the most effective "R" you can use

is REFUSE. This means every time you find yourself in a position to accept a single-use product in your daily life, you simply say NO. Single-use products like plastic cutlery, paper plates, plastic bags, plastic wrapping/packaging, water bottles, and styrofoam are having tremendously negative effects to various ecosystems on our planet. Bottled water alone accounts for up to 1.5 million tons of plastic waste every year, 80 percent of which ends up in our landfills and ocean. Every year, countless birds and animals die after ingesting plastic trash. When these plastic particles enter the food chain, they often end up on our own plate. Just imagine how much of these microplastics we are ingesting.



How to fix this? REFUSE! Here are some things that help.

1. Carry reusable bags and water bottles with you as a part of your daily routine. Our friends at [ChicoBag](#), and [Klean Kanteen](#) have everything you need to make this as convenient and stylish as possible.
2. Refuse all plastic straws, styrofoam cups, and plastic wrapping at restaurants and in your home kitchen.
3. When going out to eat, take the time to sit down and eat with family and friends instead of getting your food to go. You can bring own containers for leftovers.
4. Take a look at this extremely useful [Rise Above Plastics Activist Toolkit!](#)

## Environmental Events in the Community

For more information about upcoming local events please visit BEC's Environmental Events Calendar:  
<http://www.becnet.org/events>



### **June 9** [Sustainability Task Force Meeting](#)

5:30 p.m. at City of Chico, Municipal Chambers Conference Room 1.

### **June 12** [Earthshed Solutions HOW \(Hands-on Workshop\)](#)

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at The HUB, 240 Main St., Suite 260, Chico. This workshop will focus on using fundraising as a sustainable revenue stream. Instructor: Laura Cootsona, Executive Director at The Jesus Center, will discuss strategic planning, executive coaching, fundraising and marketing.

### **June 14** [Workshop: Fundraising 365: Developing Effective Annual Giving Campaigns](#)

9:00 am - 10:30 am, [The HUB](#), 240 Main Street, Suite 260 Chico, CA 95928

Description: How do you think about fundraising and build a plan to give you a sustainable revenue stream? This is the million dollar, 365 day a year question that we will explore in this intensive workshop. We will dive into a five part overview of fundraising, and explore the right mix of strategies for your organization. Instructor: Laura Cootsona--Executive Director, The Jesus Center Laura has spent over 20 years as a consultant to nonprofit organizations in strategic planning, executive coaching, fundraising.

### **June 14** [Chico Seed Lending Library 'Lettuce Get Together'](#)

4:30pm to 7:30pm at the Chico Library meeting room. Seed library orientation, timely garden/seed saving discussions and more.