

Connect with BEC this Holiday Season!



## Butte Environmental Council Protecting Butte County's Land, Air and Water Since 1975

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### **Need a Little Ed-Venture in you Life?!**

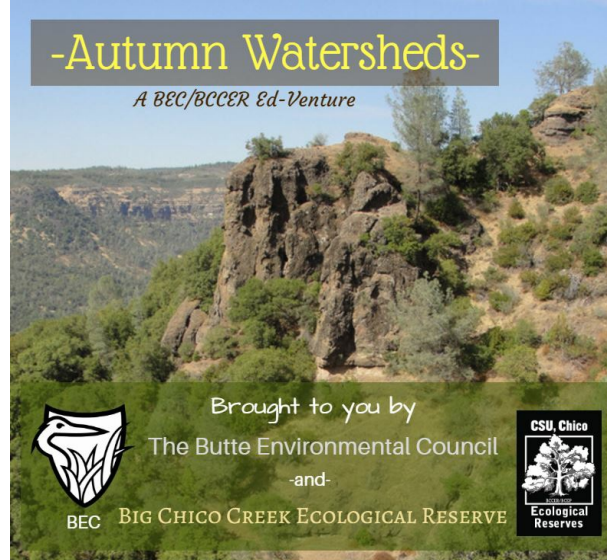
Join BEC and other ed-venturers  
at the Big Chico Creek Ecological  
Reserve on November 19th for  
our Autumn Watersheds Event!  
It's a day of hikes, talks, fun  
games, and more! You can even  
join us a chili lunch!\*

Explorers of all ages are  
encouraged to come and enjoy  
the excitement ay this beautifully

well-kept wilderness area located just a few miles up Highway 32!

The area is sensitive and events have attendee limitations so [click here to reserve your spot](#) as soon as possible!

\*\$5 suggested donation



## Member Meeting & Holiday Party



Come join us for our Annual Member Meeting & Holiday Party **Friday, December 2nd 5-8pm** at the Chico Women's Club! Member Meetings are a great way to learn more about the BEC programs you are supporting, meet our staff and other like-minded members. This year we will be offering a hosted bar, potluck-style hors

d'oeuvres, a holiday cookie contest and upcycled gift wrapping! [Click here](#) to get more information about the holiday cookie contest.

## Does feeling connected with nature make you want to protect it?

We think so, and we're not the only ones!



In 2015, Dr. Liuna Geng and others of Nanjing University published the results of a study designed specifically to answer this question. Here is what she has to say about the experiments results:

"It would be effective to spend more time in the natural world and have direct contact with nature (e.g., camping in the park, hiking in the mountains) to increase connectedness. In doing so, individuals form a bond with nature, thus maintaining a pro-environmental lifestyle that then activates pro-environmental behaviors" (Geng et al 2015).

The Earth Institute at Columbia

University also believes that a connection with nature is important to protecting it. In 2011 they published a blog titled "Why We Must Connect With Nature". In the article they wrote:

"If we want to protect our environment and biodiversity, creating opportunities to reconnect with nature is crucial for both children and adults. We need to spend more time unplugged and find ways to let nature balance our lives" (Cho 2011).

## 29th Annual Bidwell Parks and Chico Creeks Cleanup

**503 volunteers**

**25 miles** of Chico Creeks and Parks

**4.5 tons** of trash, recycling, scrap metal,  
and hazardous materials removed!









see more pictures on [BEC's Facebook page](#)

## Environmental Election Results

**NO Proposition 53** - Prop 53 would have required state funded, owned or managed projects using State revenue bonds to be voted on by CA voters if the project cost was more than \$2 billion. The measure would have required voters to decide on projects with far reaching environmental implications. This includes large water projects like the proposed Sites reservoir and the CA Water Fix. The NO vote means that State revenue bonds can continue to be used without voter approval.

**NO Proposition 65** - Prop 65 would have directed grocers' money from state required charges on carryout bags into a new environmental fund. Without that money, the state ban would have been expensive for grocers in parts of the state not covered by local measures. If Prop 65 had passed with more votes than Prop 67 it would have superseded the Prop 67 bag ban. The NO vote means that revenue from charges on carryout bags now required by state law, can be used for any purpose.

**YES Proposition 67** - The YES on Prop 67 means that most grocery stores, convenience stores, large pharmacies, and liquor stores can not offer single use plastic carryout bags. Stores are also required to charge at least 10 cents for any other bag offered to customers at checkout. This HUGE victory for the environment comes after more than 100 CA cities and counties had passed bans on plastic bags. CA is now united



against single use plastic bags!

**YES** **Measure Z** - CONGRATULATIONS Monterey County! The oil, gas and energy industry spent 30 times more than the proponents of Measure Z, but the people have spoken!. Monterey County is now the sixth in California to ban fracking. In addition Monterey County has banned an oil production technique that uses acid to extract oil and in 2021 bans underground wastewater disposal from oil drilling. There are about 35 wastewater injection wells in Monterey county. Measure Z will continue to allow the roughly 1,200 existing oil wells in the County to remain. To be sure, this is not the end of the fight against fracking, but it is a clear signal to Big Oil that California will not stand idly by and watch its land, air and water be poisoned.

## **Action Alert**

### **Walmart Expansion Hearing**

**Tuesday, November 15th** The Chico City Council will consider the appeal of the Planning Commission's decision to approve the Chico Walmart Expansion. This will be the City Council's final decision. Come make your voice heard!  
**6:00 P.M. at the Council Chambers, 421 Main Street, Chico.**

## **#GivingTuesday is coming...**

It is more important now than ever to support local organizations who fight for what you believe in. This year BEC will be participating in #GivingTuesday. #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving back, a day that celebrates generosity and kindness. It falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving each year. Mark your calendars for this year's #GivingTuesday on Nov. 29 and plan to give back!

Bookmark [this page](#) in your browser and check back on Nov. 29 to make your donation. Every donation to BEC on #GivingTuesday will qualify as an entry into a drawing for a eco-home improvement kit. The drawing results will be announced Nov. 30!

***Can't give money, but still want to get involved?*** Don't sweat it! Volunteering is an amazing way to create lasting memories that will be shared with future generations of environmentalists. You are invited to join us on #GivingTuesday to create an up-cycled masterpiece with a local artist. [Click here](#) to let us know if you will join us!

## **Community Water Forum**

Join us on **December 14** for the last forum of 2016...

**Seeking Solutions:** Solving California's Water Problems with the Drought as the New Normal.

**Community Water Forum**  
A Monthly Discussion Dedicated To Informing Citizens About Water Issues That Affect Them

**Upcoming Dates & Topics:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>September 14th:</b> | <b>H<sub>2</sub>O Origins</b> <i>Where Does Our Water Come From? And Where Does It Go?</i>             |
| <b>October 12th:</b>   | <b>California's Plumbing</b> <i>Moving Water Around California</i>                                     |
| <b>November 9th:</b>   | <b>The Delta</b> <i>What Is It? And How Does It Affect You?</i>  |
| <b>December 14th:</b>  | <b>Seeking Solutions</b> <i>Solving California's Water Shortage With The Drought As The New Normal</i> |

In an effort to provide entry-level water knowledge to the citizens of both the campus and local communities, local environmental groups have come together to host educational water forums where these individuals can learn about California's water issues through informational presentations and collaborative discussions.

Forums Will be Held on the Second Wednesday of Every Month  
In BMCH Room 209  
On the CSU Chico Campus  
From 6:00 to 7:30pm  
\*First-Monday-Only

**Drought To You Do**  
Citizens

ARTS\* Room 111 On the CSU Chico Campus From 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.

Forums are now being recorded, and will soon be made available online! Watch the [BEC video page](#) for the latest Forum!

## keep reading....this is interesting

### Holiday Light Exchange

Did you know the average American household spends an average of \$58 extra per month on their energy bill during the holiday season? Whether you use a pre-lit Christmas tree, or go all out, energy use soars during the holiday season. Americans spend \$233 million extra a year to light up their homes during the holidays. While there are many options to save energy while decking the halls, an easy change is to use energy efficient LED holiday lights. Bring an old strand of incandescent holiday lights to trade it for a new strand of energy efficient LED holiday lights, free! Visit us at these upcoming holiday events:

- 11/20 Christmas Preview, Downtown Chico: 4-8pm
- 12/2 Community Tree Lighting, City Plaza: 6-8pm

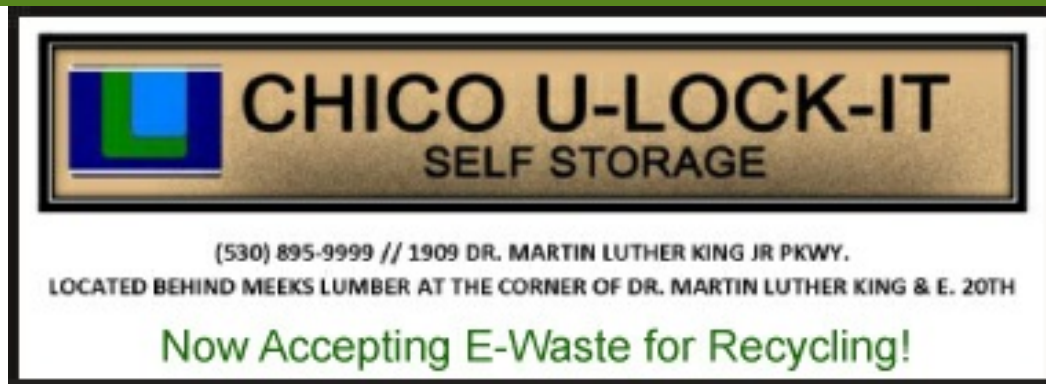
\*Limit one box per person.

For many other ways to save money in your home during any time of the year, visit the Energy Upgrade California website at [www.energyupgradeca.org](http://www.energyupgradeca.org).



### Recycle that old mattress!

DID YOU KNOW? 80% of a used mattress can be recycled! Mattresses and box springs can now be recycled for free for Butte County residents. Got a mattress or box spring you need to recycle? Bring it to the [Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility](#) for no charge.



## Gala Glory

This years 41st Anniversary Gala was truly glorious. Thank you for joining us for a night fun, reflection, and celebration.

Guests were treated to live music by [High Minds Cafe](#), a gourmet meal by local chef Obi Gagne of [ChicObi's Mobile Catering](#), a stunning silent auction, and a LIVE desert auction to remember!







This year we again recognized champions in our community who stood out in the fight to protect our environment. Claire Hutkins Seda & Jake Davis were awarded the Barris Farms Service Award for forming the group [Chico350](#) in an effort to combat climate change locally. Paul Rea was awarded the Colleen Jarvis Environmentalist of the Year Award for directing the Oil Train awareness documentary "[On The Wrong Track](#)". Most memorable of all Kelly Meagher was awarded the Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of commitment and support of BEC. Kelly was the original [BEC Angel](#) and made possible so much of the work BEC has done over the years.

We also want to give a huge thank you to this year's Gala sponsors: [AgMart](#), [Klean Kanteen](#) and [Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.](#) BEC raised over \$6,000 at this year's Anniversary Gala thanks to all of you! We are so grateful to have your continued support. If you didn't get a chance to get in on the fun, we hope you will join us next year!

This year I joined BEC's inner circle. I have never felt more welcomed by, or connected to a community. I found so many familiar faces with BEC. Faces from almost two decades of local education and a lifetime of encounters and connections from community gatherings.

One familiar face is Kelly Meagher's. A legendary defender of our community principles in the name of sustainability, environmental quality and social justice. Kelly is the original [BEC Angel](#). Angels not only keep BEC's doors open but move our cause forward every month. It was a great pleasure to participate in the honoring of Kelly for his support of BEC through the years.

I will forever cherish that small moment of recognition, and the memory of the room filled with my community standing to honor the great Kelly Meagher.

Natalie Carter, Executive Director  
Butte Environmental Council

STAY CONNECTED:

