

# WAL-MART on the Skyway? See Page 5

## Out-of-town Developer Attempts to Destroy Gateway to Paradise

### BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S

# Environmental NEWS

Fall 2004

Volume 10 Number 2

## Rushing Water Contracts

### Where Will the Sacramento River Flow?

By BEC with material compiled by Steven L. Evans, Friends of the River

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to renew long term federal water contracts for 140 water districts and companies that are collectively known as the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors. The contract renewals will provide more than 2.2 million acre-feet of publicly subsidized water to the contractors at bargain basement prices. The Settlement Contractors are all located in the Sacramento Valley, from Redding to Sacramento. Some of the largest settlement contractors include the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID), Reclamation District 108, Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID), Sutter Mutual Water Company, and Natomas Central Mutual Water Company. The renewal of the Settlement Contracts has long-term implications for the Sacramento Valley's communities, economy, and environment. These include:

**Water Exports:** The renewed contracts will not limit the ability of the contractors to sell and export water south of the Sacramento Valley. San Joaquin agribusiness and Southern California urban developers have targeted the Valley's water supply as the primary source of water for future development. Renewal of the contracts without any export limitations will increase pressure on Sacramento Valley farmers to sell their water.

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## Lessons from the San Joaquin

By Taylor Samuelson

So here I am, it's late and as I sit at my desk, all that's going through my mind is water. Water, water, everywhere... isn't that how the saying goes? Anyway, it seems to be true. I mean it rains all winter long, there's always water in local Big Chico Creek, and I definitely can't remember the last time my kitchen sink went dry. I find it funny that I've heard water referred to as "liquid gold." It's just water right? The stuff that runs freely out of our faucets at our beck and call?

An incomplete understanding of water in California haloes the majority of its residents. Yesterday I asked a little boy where water came from and he said, "The faucet." Wow, I thought, he's right. For most people that's exactly where water comes from: it starts at the faucet and ends at the drain. Yet even in the futuristic world that we live in today, water does not just come from the faucet. We still get it the old fashioned way: via aquifers, rivers, and lakes. I suppose that water transfer is not as simple as that though, since, over the years we've modified these natural water systems.

Cement river systems longer than a thousand football fields that move, shift, and rush water from one locale to another; towers of cement that hold up more water than I can even fathom; and an ancient desert that is not as dry as it used to be all come to mind.

Californians currently face important decisions regarding water transfer systems. How much water to divert, who to divert it to, how much the water should cost, and if water

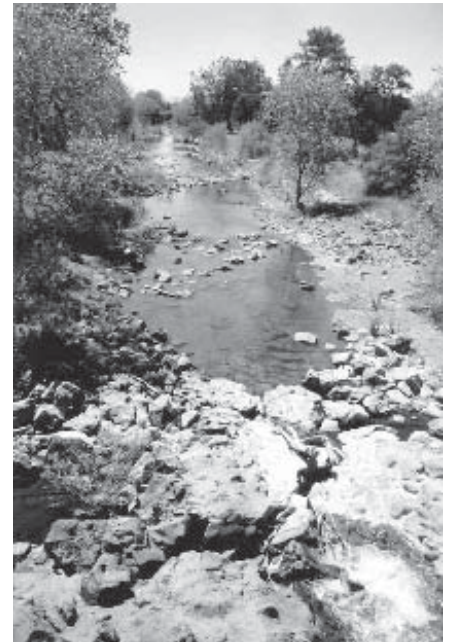
should be set aside for species preservation are all elements of the equation. The situation concerns everything from the electricity running through our homes to the lettuce in our fridge. Northern Californians especially must become aware of the issue because we reside in the water-rich sector of the state. In fact, the southern half of the state bases its economy on the water obtained from the northern half.

How to spend this liquid gold? Ahh, the million dollar question...

A salient event in California agriculture occurred in 1944. The promise of a future to many farming families in the San Joaquin Valley was made by moving water to places it had never been before. The completion and implementation of Friant Dam marked the end of dependence on Mother Nature.

Thanks to diversion systems, farmers could now control the distribution of water on their property, significantly increasing yields. Friant Dam, located east of Fresno, interrupts the flow of the San Joaquin River, which flows from high in the southern

Sierra Mountains through the Central Valley and ends up in the San Francisco Bay. The river's once untamed journey through the valley has been transformed from a lush ecosystem where fauna such as salmon, water fowl, and other creatures flourished, to a priceless agricultural asset.



Chico's Lindo Channel, a tributary to the Sacramento River.  
Photo by Barbara Vlamis.

Throughout the second part of the century farmers eventually withdrew on average about 95% of all the water flowing out of Friant Dam and down the San Joaquin River. Water sold out of the San Joaquin is subsidized by the government, and so has always been sold at an incredibly low rate. The original reasoning was to encourage the economic development of family farms stuck in the rut of the Great Depression and escaping the Dust Bowl of the East. Over the years though, family farms have been transformed into huge corporate agribusiness plots (which are firmly established), resulting in the transformation of farming communities into sub-poverty-line ghettos, inhabited mostly by low income Americans who

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# NEWS FROM THE BEC BOARD

*Environmental News*, a quarterly published paper, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. To submit articles or events for the Environmental Calendar, e-mail Tempa Board at [tempa@wildcalifornia.org](mailto:tempa@wildcalifornia.org). All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via e-mail to [tempa@wildcalifornia.org](mailto:tempa@wildcalifornia.org). Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication and must include the author's name, address, and phone number. BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC. Photos and art work will be returned if requested (include a SASE).

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## About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a non-profit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC is devoted to environmental education and information, referral services, and advocacy.

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**Hours:** Monday through Thursday,  
9:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## How to Join BEC

To join BEC, just fill out the membership form on the back page of this paper. Yearly memberships are:

\$20 Low income   \$100 Wetlands Watch  
\$35 Individual   \$150 Energy Elite  
\$50 Household   \$500 Cougar Cadre

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## Message from the Vice Chair

### Keep the Regional Boards, Don't Privatize the State Water Project

A massive media blitz in early August accompanied release of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's California Performance Review (CPR) report, which proposes to centralize California's regionally-oriented government—especially when it comes to natural resource management, development regulation, and conservation—and to privatize public facilities, transferring their operation (if not divesting the state of their ownership) to private corporations to profit off the public weal.

The 2,500-page CPR report recommends, among much else, eliminating a variety of regional regulatory board structures with power over timber, air, and water quality, and privatizing operation of the State Water Project, the state-owned system moving water from the Feather River region across the Delta to the California Aqueduct for delivery to San Joaquin Valley farmers and urban residents of southern California.

"The regional water boards offer the public an invaluable opportunity to

participate in democracy and to have a voice in water issues throughout the state," said Alisha Deen of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water representing 50 water advocacy groups statewide, at the CPR public hearing in Davis in late September.

Regional boards help state government avoid costly litigation through more open and democratic access

to state decisions, Deen said, adding, "The cost savings to the state in reduced litigation, due to proactive measures taken at the local level, should be incorporated into the financial analysis of the CPR. A dis-

tant mega-agency with no face-to-face communication...is not acceptable" to low-income and minority communities, "especially on such a critical issue as water is to human life."

However, frustration with regulation of water quality and water rights tries the water industry's patience. The rise last October 2003 of Arnold Schwarzenegger to become Governor gave the industry an opening to further



Tim Strohane

advance privatization of the State Water Project.

Contractors to the SWP formed the State Water Contractors Authority (SWCA), a joint powers authority, to contract with the state in anticipation of CPR's recommendations. Major water contractors make up the SWCA, including the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). Together they receive over 80 percent of SWP deliveries year-in and year-out and are major traders in the state's water market. Through the secretly negotiated 1994 Monterey Amendments to SWP contracts they *already* enjoy substantial local control over water storage assets like Lake Perris in the Tehachapis and the Kern Water Bank near Bakersfield.

The CPR report encourages the Governor to cede Californians' sovereign authority over operation of the SWP to the SWCA *without a debate or a fight*, urging Schwarzenegger to issue an Executive Order separating the SWP from DWR as its own administrative authority. CPR's specious pretense—that privatization of the system is necessary to enable it to serve electricity deregulation better—is flimsy and dangerous when we remember that regulation of the state's water supply in the public interest hangs in the balance.

If you care about rivers and landscapes urge Governor Schwarzenegger and your legislator to stop the centralization of government and to stop the privatization of the State Water Project. *It ain't broke, so don't fix it.*



Llano Seco groundwater pump on a preserve west of Chico. Several projects warn of increased ground and surface water transfer south from the North Valley. Photo by Barbara Vlamis



## Federal Water Contracts a Bad Deal for the North Valley

Continued from Page 1

**Less Water For The Valley:** Increased water exports of Sacramento River water could result in the fallowing of productive farm land in the Sacramento Valley. Less water means less farming, which means less farm-related jobs and businesses, and adverse economic impacts to local communities.

**More Groundwater Pumping:** Groundwater is commonly substituted for surface water that is sold and exported. Increased exports of surface water will put more pressure on groundwater. Increased pumping of groundwater will reduce aquifer levels, dry-up shallow wells, concentrate pollutants, and reduce surface flows in streams and springs. When one Settlement Contractor (The Conaway Conservancy in Yolo County) sold its Sacramento River surface water to the State Water Bank, the result was more reliance on groundwater and less farming overall on the Conservancy's land.

**Threat To Endangered Salmon:** To fulfill these and other Central Valley Project water contracts, the Bureau is proposing to change the operation of Shasta dam and reservoir on the Sacramento River. The agency proposes to eliminate the cold water reserved

behind the dam that has been used to sustain the Sacramento River's endangered winter run Chinook salmon. Loss of this cold water pool will eliminate nearly 20 miles of critical habitat for the winter run in the Sacramento River.

**Unused Water:** The Bureau's own needs assessment identified 259,000 acre feet of settlement contract water that has never been put to beneficial use by the Settlement Contractors. Nevertheless, the Bureau is proposing to renew the contracts for virtually all the water that was previously contracted for, including the water that was never previously used by the contractors. It is very likely that this historically unused water will be sold for export.

**Public Subsidies:** The Settlement Contracts are being renewed for the bargain basement price of less than \$25 per acre foot of water. This will not repay the current multi-million dollar public debt incurred to build the Shasta Dam and other Central Valley Project facilities.

**40 Year Contracts:** The Bureau proposes to renew the Settlement Contracts for 40 years, in violation of federal law restricting contract renewals to 25 years. These long-term contracts will set in concrete the Bureau's obligation to provide water, regardless of the potential impacts of global climate change or increased environmental or urban needs.

**New Water Projects:** Section 6 of the Settlement Contracts obligates the Bureau to work with the contractors to develop new surface water storage, including raising Shasta dam and building the Sites offstream storage reservoir. The Shasta dam raise would violate state law protecting the McCloud River and down Winnemem Wintu cultural sites. The Sites project would siphon water from the Sacramento River, increase the use of the fish-killing Red Bluff Diversion Dam, and potentially reduce flows needed to sustain the river's riparian ecosystem and fisheries.

**Fish Doubling Goal:** Renewal of the Settlement Contracts will reduce the Bureau's ability to provide water to meet the federal government's goal of doubling Central Valley salmon and

steelhead populations, and ignores the agency's obligation to provide CVP water for the environment, as required by federal law.

**Water Conservation:** The Settlement Contracts lack any meaningful water conservation incentives, such as establishing a tiered pricing system that would provide a significant economic

incentive for conserving water.

**Colusa Drain Pollution:** Much of the water in the heavily polluted Colusa Drain is run-off water from Settlement Contractor fields. Polluted water from the Colusa Drain flows downstream into the Sacramento River and eventually into the pumps that provide drinking water for the City of Sacramento.

## Bidwell Park & Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2004 a Huge Success!



Thanks to the energetic and dedicated crowd of volunteers that spent Saturday, September 18th at Butte Environmental Council's Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2004, we removed nearly 20,000 lbs. of trash and recyclables from Bidwell Park and Comanche, Little Chico, Big Chico, Lindo, and Sycamore Creeks. We found refrigerators, mattresses, TVs, car batteries, tires, and lots of glass beer bottles in our beautiful park and waterways.

BEC deeply appreciates the numerous sponsors that made the event possible: Butte County Public Works Dept., California Coastal Commission, Chico Community Shelter Partnership, Chico News and Review, City of Chico, DWR Sutter Maintenance Yard, Ed's Printing,

Food Systems Project, Foster's Old Fashioned Freeze, Friends of Bidwell Park, Grilla Bites, KZFR Radio, Little Chico Creek Watershed Group, Madison Bear Garden, Mountain Sports, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Team Chapman, and Upper Crust Bakery.

The volunteers toiled over four hours to make our wildlands healthier places for the community to enjoy and our animal friends to dwell in.

We encourage you to strive to keep Bidwell Park and our all our waterways clean throughout the year, and since it continues to be necessary, to join your neighbors in the fall next year when we return to host the Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2005. Hope to see you there!

### What You Can Do

The Settlement Contractors Draft Environmental Impact Statement is open for review through November 15, 2004. Copies may be obtained by calling Ms. Sammie Cervantes at (916) 978-5104. Comments on should be submitted to:

Mr. Buford Holt  
Bureau of Reclamation,  
Northern California Area Office  
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
(530) 275-2241 fax  
[bholt@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:bholt@mp.usbr.gov)

In addition, a public hearing is scheduled to receive comments on Wednesday, October, 27, 2004, at the *Monday Afternoon Club*, 120 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### We Removed:

**7.85 tons trash**  
**1.67 tons mixed tire/metal**  
**50 lbs mixed plastics**  
**350-400 lbs glass**  
**100 lbs cardboard**  
**44 lbs aluminum**  
**40 lbs tin**

# TRANSPORTATION

## Chico Says Hello to Biodiesel

The Butte County Air Quality Management District has approved funding for biodiesel projects here in Butte County. The \$20,000 award was given to Devin O'Keane, founder of the Chico Biofuel Collective to educate the public about the benefits of using biodiesel.

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel made from vegetable oil. The Chico Biofuel Collective uses recycled grease from local restaurants. Biodiesel is significantly cleaner burning than petroleum diesel. There is no net increase of carbon dioxide, a major



A jar of biodiesel, with a layer of pure glycerin at the bottom, a harmless byproduct of the production process.

greenhouse gas, emitted by biodiesel into the atmosphere because the CO<sub>2</sub> existed in the atmosphere before it was absorbed by the oil producing vegetables. This contrasts with petroleum diesel or "dino-diesel," which is stored carbon being burned in our atmosphere, thereby increasing global CO<sub>2</sub> levels.

In addition to being "carbon neutral," biodiesel has no sulfur, the main cause of acid rain. Perhaps most significant is the 100% reduction in mutagenic compounds and 90% reduction of carcinogenic hydrocarbons.

The exhaust even smells better, like French fries or egg rolls, depending on where the grease comes from. In addition to being much better for the environment, biodiesel is also economical, costing the home-brewer as little as \$0.50/gallon to produce. This renewable fuel can also reduce our dependence on foreign oil while at the same time supporting our farmers.

With the Chico Biofuel Collective, O'Keane hopes to educate the public about the benefits of using biodiesel as well as create a sustainable model of biodiesel production. Many workshops will be held throughout the year. Membership in the Collective is open to the public, with the first meeting being held on Tuesday November 9 at the Peace and Justice Center at 5:00 pm. Contact Devin by email at [devino@care2.com](mailto:devino@care2.com) for more information.



Devin O'Keane at his shop on Park Avenue in Chico, with his dog, and his truck that runs on pure vegetable grease. Photo by Tempra Board.

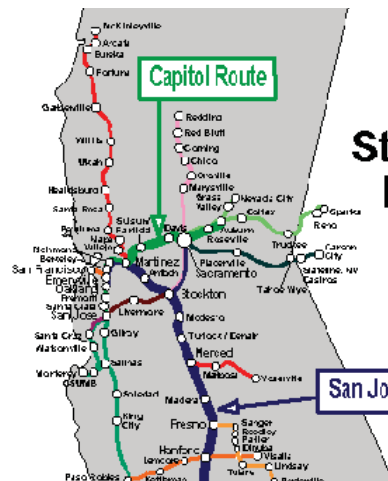
## Leave the Car Behind!

Did you know that you can travel from the Valley to the Bay Area and back by train and you don't have to leave in the middle of the night? It became clear recently that many in our community are not aware of the opportunities to travel by train.

Amtrak serves many communities with clean bus shuttles that then take you to the nearest train station to complete your trip. In the north valley for example, three buses travel to

Sacramento daily from Redding, Red Bluff, Corning, Chico, Oroville and Marysville for connections with the Capitol Corridor train to the Bay Area or the San Joaquin route. The ride is efficient and relaxing, allowing you time for reading, work, or a refreshing nap.

For further information call Amtrak at 1 (800) USA Rail (1-800-872-7245) or find information on their web site at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).



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# FORESTRY

## Fuels Reduction vs Timber Harvest By Jim Brobeck A Case Study in Forest Fire

During the 19th and 20th centuries, timber harvest has changed the structure of western forests by eliminating the large trees, and leaving smaller trees that are within reach of wildfires that normally travel over the ground. As the tree canopy was opened and fire suppression became more effective, surface fuels have become more extensive. Humans continue to create and expand urban settlements into areas dominated by wildland vegetation, making wildland fires a matter of grave public concern.

Wildland fuels are categorized into four groups: ground, surface, ladder, and crown.

Ground fuels are created as trees shed leaves and bark.

These fuels can carry fire across the ground but without surface fuels usually do not contribute to fireline intensity. Ground fires can kill trees when combustion next to stems injure cambium tissues and roots. Ground fuels are recycled into the soil by microbial composting or fire.

Surface fuels are composed of all the dead and down branch wood on the forest floor, herbaceous plants, and short shrubs. These materials are commonly the most hazardous fuels in California ecosystems. Surface fuels can transform a ground fire into a surface fire with much longer flames. Combustion of surface fuels alone can create enough heat to scorch trees to a height of 150 feet and they can produce localized crown fires. According to Dr. Scott Stephens, Professor of Fire Science at UC Berkeley, approximately 60 percent of the current fire behavior hazard occurs in these fuels, and therefore, all fuel management treatments must target this layer. Treatment of surface fuels cannot be an afterthought. It must be the objective of any restoration project in the forests of California. By removing 80 percent of the surface fuels it is almost impossible to initiate a crown fire in western forest types.

Ladder fuels are usually composed of small stemmed conifers or dead limbs on larger trees. Ladder fuels can carry a surface fire into the overstory canopy. Approximately 25 percent of the total fire hazard in most coniferous forests of the Sierra Nevada comes from ladder fuels. Because wildfires have been suppressed, these fuels have increased. The ingrowth of small, shade-tolerant species such as white fir and incense-cedar normally would be reduced by periodic wildfires in some (but not all) of Western forests. These fuels should be reduced by handcrews in the wildland-urban-interface (WUI) areas to meet

fire hazard objectives. Thinning from below can be a very effective method. However, treatments such as "thinning" can severely increase surface fuel loads by the addition of logging activity fuels. If logging "slash" is left on site, this will result in ecosystems that have higher potential for extreme fire behavior than the unthinned forest.

Can society make money from fuel reduction programs? I doubt it....But society will have to invest money into these projects in the same way that we invest money into landscape maintenance.

Crown fuels contribute 10 to 15 percent of the total fire hazard in most coniferous forests in the Sierra. Reduction of crown fuel loads is the least important fuel layer when compared to surface and ladder fuels. In fact, reduction of crown fuels can increase the amount of sunlight (insulation) that reaches the forest

floor, providing more opportunities for shade intolerant grasses and shrubs to grow. Opening the canopy also creates dryer and windier surface microclimates.

The reduction of surface fuels, followed by ladder fuels and the associated slash, and the use of periodic prescribed burns, will result in reduced fire danger. These treatments should be focused on the wildland-urban-interface.

Can society make money from fuel reduction programs? I doubt it. It costs money to mow lawns, to prune orchards and to remove yard waste. Composting yard waste can produce landscape mulch. Trucking wood chips from WUI fuel reduction projects to cogeneration plants can produce electricity and reduce smoke. But society will have to invest money into these projects in the same way that we invest money into landscape maintenance. It is possible to design sound strategies to move the forests of California into lower fire hazard conditions using diverse methods, but they must all target surface fuels.

Shaded fuel breaks should be designed to target surface fuels in all cases, followed by ladder fuels, and then, in some cases, crown fuels. It is possible to design sound strategies to move the forests of the Sierra Nevada into lower fire hazards conditions using diverse methods but they must all target surface fuels.

An excellent example of this principle occurred at the Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest in the summer of 2003. A wildfire burned over several experimental units that had been designed to investigate the impacts of forest harvesting on several ecosystem elements. The two experimental units that were burned by the wildfire were the low diversity and high diversity treatments. Blacks Mountain is primarily a ponderosa pine forest and it is surrounded by the Lassen National Forest. The high diversity treatment consisted

of a thinning from below followed by a prescribed fire. All large overstory trees were retained. The low diversity treatments consisted of an overstory removal followed by lop and scatter of the activity fuels and a whole tree harvesting of the sub-merchantable trees. The overstory removal involved merchantable log harvest that thinned the canopy, creating openings. The whole tree harvest removed the majority of the ladder fuels and left no additional activity fuels.

When the wildfire hit the high diversity unit (no timber harvest, minimal canopy thinning) it moved into the area as a crown fire and then changed to a very low intensity surface fire in about 200 feet. The forest literally stopped the wildfire in this unit. In the low diversity unit (timber harvest used to thin the canopy) the fire moved into the unit as a crown fire and changed to a moderate intensity surface fire that killed approximately 50-60 percent of the trees. Tree mortality was caused by surface fire heat that injured cambium tissues and roots. The wildfire moved in this unit because the activity fuels left after the overstory removal were sufficient to carry the wildfire. If this treatment had also left the sub-merchantable trees on the ground as activity fuels, the whole unit would have experienced very high mortality. This occurred even though crown bulk density and ladder fuels were very low. Trees were widely spaced by the low diversity treatment and almost no crowns were touching after the treatment. It provides more support that the target of all fuel treatments in Sierra Nevada forests must be the surface fuels. Manipulation of crown fuels can provide more opportunities for successful shade intolerant regeneration.

*Information for the Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest portion of this report is gleaned from:*

*Comments on Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment DSEIS  
Dr. Scott Stephens, Assistant Professor of Fire Science  
Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management  
Complete report available: <http://www.sierracampaign.org/Fire/SierraDSEISStephens1.pdf>*

### Butte County Timber Facts

- Ranks fifth in California's leading timber-producing counties
- Produced 92 billion board feet of timber in 2001
- Timber accounts for 11.4 percent of total agricultural value.

*Source: County Agricultural Commissioners' Report, 2001*

# ENERGY

## Group Formed to Promote Renewable Energy

A group of Butte County public and private sector leaders recently formed North State Renewable Energy (NSRE) with the mission of promoting the application of renewable energy and conservation best practices and technology in the region. The group, led by California State University, Chico Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Scott McNall and City Councilmember Dan Nguyen-Tan, envisions a stronger economy and a better environment by transforming the region into a leading center of renewable energy.

NSRE consists of representatives from major public and private entities, including the county of Butte, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Enloe Medical Center, City of Chico, Chico Unified School District, CSU, Chico, and many other private and public sector entities.

"All of us recognize that renewable energy provides both bottom-line economic benefits and savings, as well as helps address increasing environmental health problems," said Nguyen-Tan.

"Our group has several goals-to increase collaboration on renewable energy projects, coordinate and develop local expertise, increase energy self-sufficiency, stimulate the regional market for renewable energy products, potentially create jobs and develop the capacity of the university to support renewable energy efforts," said McNall.

NSRE is partnering with Modesto-based Great Valley Center on a \$50,000-grant application to support the Department of Energy's Million Solar Roofs Initiative Small Grant Program for State and Local Partnerships.

Membership in NSRE is open to community members, organizations and firms interested in promoting the application of photovoltaic, solar thermal, wind, geothermal, biomass, fuel cells and other non-conventional technologies. The group is focusing its efforts in the North State counties of Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, Yuba and Colusa. The Butte Environmental Council is participating in NSRE's monthly meetings.

Nguyen-Tan said, "One of the inspirations with forming the NSRE was recognizing that most organizations and firms do not have the internal expertise to evaluate renewable energy projects. There is a steep learning curve. Now we hope when other individuals want to consider a renewable energy project, they will be able to immediately access a local pool of technical expertise by contacting NSRE."

NSRE is currently forming a technical advisory group made up of university, community and industry specialists. The group is cataloguing recent renewable energy projects and developing ties with larger state-wide groups. In the long term, the group will encourage members to implement renewable energy projects, increase funding from federal, state and foundation

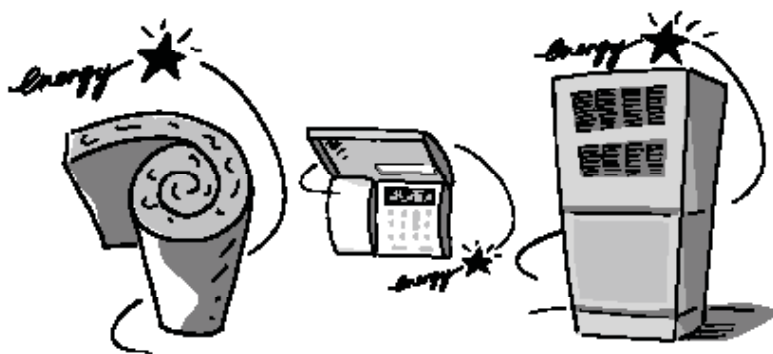
sources into the region, assist renewable energy-related businesses to locate in the region and possibly develop a renewable energy institute at CSU, Chico.

Many projects completed or underway in the region are indicators of strong interest in renewable energy. Butte County and Oroville and Chico city governments have completed or are developing solar energy projects to meet government buildings' energy needs. Our area's thriving agriculture industry can

also benefit from renewable energy. The Butte County Rice Growers Association is now using solar power to run the huge rice dryers that handle about 250 million pounds of rice per year at the Riceton Highway operation. Private businesses in Chico such as Sierra Nevada Brewing Company and Heritage Partners have implemented renewable energy systems as well.

To participate in NSRE, contact Dan Nguyen-Tan at dan\_nt@ci.chico.ca.us or 530-828-3228.

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# NORTH VALLEY & FOOTHILLS WATER

## The Impacts of Water Transfer in California

## A History Lesson

Continued from Page 1

are definitely not profiting from the subsidized water the way agribusiness owners are.

Though it's strange that a water-poor desert area such as the San Joaquin Valley was transformed into water-rich farmland, the plants that are grown in the desert may be even stranger. According to the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the southern region of California's Central Valley sees an average six inches of rain per year, while the Northern region sees closer to an average 20 inches annually. The valley harbors a plethora of cash crops ranging from oranges to grapes to pecans. Though the plantations may not appear overtly out of the ordinary, one's opinion may change when considering the cost and amount of water diverted and used to sustain such agriculture. For example, cotton, which is an incredibly water intensive plant (a single T-shirt made from cotton requires approximately 257 gallons of water), is grown in large amounts in the valley. In Fresno County, farms, which receive water at subsidized prices (which are paid for by the public tax payer), are annually making a total of roughly \$3 billion in profits (Fresno Bee, 1999).

An incredible web of life is connected to the San Joaquin River. In the past, the most recognized branch was that which was devoted to human needs. More recently, though, consequences of water diversion are being recognized. The entire federal Central Valley Water Project, which stretches from the Cascade Mountains south to the Tehachapi Mountains, is directly and indirectly responsible for the loss of roughly 90% of the native salmon population (Katula, 1993).

In Fresno County, as water flows through fields and washes over crops, the runoff eventually makes its way back to the river. The runoff typically contains trace elements and residues such as selenium, ammonia, and other toxins, which have percolated off the crops and back into the river. Waters contaminated with these chemicals hinder wildlife growth and survival in the river. This was seen at the Kesterson Reservoir where waterfowl became

deformed after ingesting waters containing these chemicals (The Impact of Federal Programs on Wetlands, 1996).

Non-native fish species such as the striped bass and blue gill, which feed on salmon and their fry and also compete for food, were introduced in hopes to increase fishing quality. Unfortunately, the added competition, along with the polluted water, and not to mention the absolute reduction in water flows (95%) down the San Joaquin have ruined one of the greatest salmon populations, which was estimated to have reached 50,000, in California (Fresno Bee, 1999). Salmon runs are said to have been reduced by nearly 90%; and today the winter run of the Chinook salmon is only about 200 fish strong (Katula, 1993).

The San Joaquin supplied habitat for more than just fish. Regular flooding of the valley prior to the construction of levees created extensive marsh and swamplands. These areas were prime habitat for terrestrial species such as the Fresno kit fox and valley elk as well as migrating waterfowl. Controlling the river to create agricultural land has significantly contributed to the loss of roughly 93% of California's wetlands (Sierra Club, 2004).

A court decision concerning the Friant Dam's responsibility for the destruction of the fish stocks down stream on the San Joaquin River was issued on August 27, 2004. The National Resource Defense Council along with 12 other organizations filed the case against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Federal Court, for its role in the construction of the dam more than half a century ago. The final ruling found that the Bureau violated California Fish & Game Code regulations, which require any dam builder to maintain the health of fish populations downstream. What this means is that, after decades of manipulation, one of California's

largest rivers finally appears to be getting a break.

Let's reiterate the San Joaquin equation: taxpayers fund the dam at a price tag of \$22 million in 1944 (Fresno Bee, 1999), the diverted water was then

obligations as well as the increased demand on water in general. Northern California houses most of California's water because of the incredible natural water systems that are found there, it would be wise to review past events and current warning signs in our local waterways before considering the sale of local water.

Local water districts have an opportunity to make large, private profits by selling their rights to water to southern California buyers. Currently, buyers have offered to purchase 95,000 acre-feet of water from farmers in Butte County alone. Diversion would not only damage northern rivers the same way the San Joaquin River was damaged, but also cause harm to the local economies which are directly connected to agriculture. Third parties, including laborers, millers, and others connected to the farms will not gain anything, in fact, they will likely lose jobs. A California State University, Chico professor has estimated that the loss of income to Butte County for each acre-foot of water is roughly \$47.

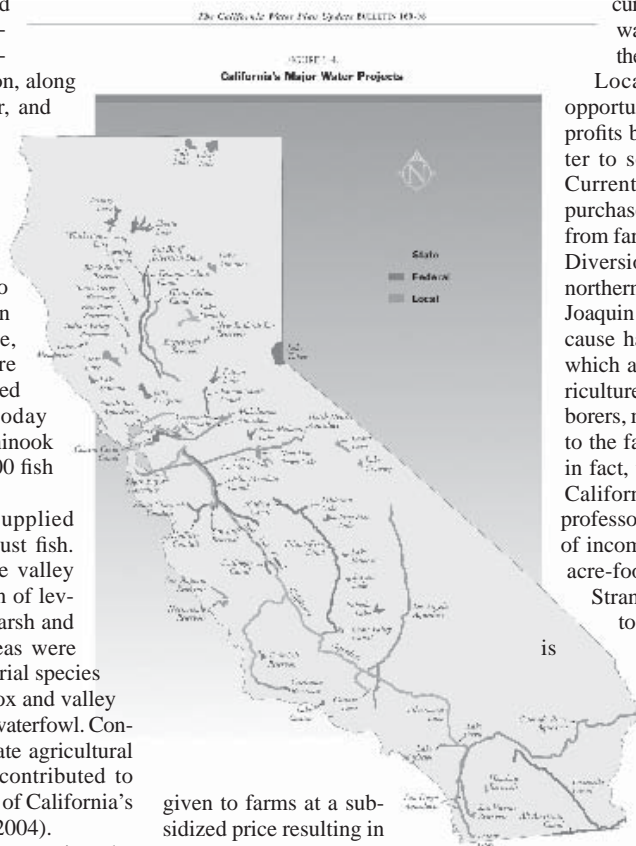
Strangely though, compensation to third parties for lost earnings proposed to be only \$5 per acre-foot. (Gallo, 2004)

There's big money to be gained by endless farmlands that provide food for an enormous population, and there's big money that stands to be lost by the deportation of local farming jobs. And

the question remains: what value do we place on the quality of our environment? How the diversion of local water will affect local quality of life in the form of recreation, income, water quality and quantity, as well as environmental impacts is the essence of the issue. We must consider these costs before making any decision regarding the sale of our precious water supply.

To gain an understanding of just what is at stake, Californians can simply look back in time.

(For a list of citations, contact the author at Butte Environmental Council, 891-6424)



given to farms at a subsidized price resulting in significant private profit; after extensive agricultural growth the quality of the river has become severely damaged, and finally to complete the San Joaquin circle, taxpayers will now pay to restore the degraded river. In the case of the San Joaquin River, private firms profited from an ecological atrocity that was paid for by California citizens.

As we press forward on the issue of water in California, we must consider the total building, environmental, and restoration costs that the San Joaquin has already been put through. Southern California's supply of water has been diminishing due to new environmental



## Riparian Forest Restoration on the Sacramento River

By Daniel Efseaff  
River Partners

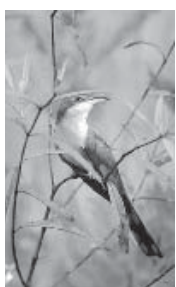
A yellow-billed cuckoo calls out. For a second, it's easy to imagine the mysterious cry emanating out from the towering trees of a South American rainforest. Although the yellow-billed cuckoo I hear makes the 5,000-mile trip annually, this is not the Amazon. This is 20 miles southwest of Chico in one of the last remaining remnants of riparian forest along the Sacramento River.

Riparian areas are California's rainforests. Scores of bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, fish, and invertebrate species depend on riparian habitat, and many of these organisms have evolved specific adaptations for life in the floodplain.

As I step out from the canopy into an open young forest, a covey of California quail disappear under the cover of a native blackberry, and a red-shouldered hawk passes overhead, while dozens of songbirds call out.

The yellow-billed cuckoo provides an example of a dramatic decline of a riparian dependent species. In the late 1800s, cuckoos were considered common throughout the Sacramento Valley. But by 1950, scientists

considered the yellow-billed cuckoo essentially extirpated north of Sacramento (its range once extended to British Columbia). As early as 1910, biologists recognized that habitat destruction was a significant factor in reduced cuckoo numbers. In 1986 and 1987, an extensive survey of the Sacramento Valley found only 33 breeding pairs at isolated sites. Sadly, other riparian-dependent songbirds have experienced similar declines, with the loss of riparian habitat weighing greatly as an important factor.



Yellow-billed cuckoo  
(*Coccyzus americanus*)

Five years ago this 60-acre flood-prone, weedy field on the Beehive Bend Unit began a remarkable transformation through the cooperation of the Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, and River Partners, a non-profit conservation organization based in Chico, California. Since 1998, River Partners has worked with numerous agencies and landowners to restore hundreds of acres in the Sacramento Valley. These restoration projects provide hope that wildlife has a place in California's future.

### Case Study: Beehive Bend Unit

The story of the Beehive Bend Unit reveals a small slice of Sacramento River history, and shows the arc of society's needs from exploitation toward recognizing the intrinsic value and ecological services that these areas provide.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the forest was cut to fuel steam ships carrying cargo and passengers up and down the Sacramento River. At one time, the Sacramento River bordered the northern end of the site, but a new channel was blasted in the 1900s to shorten and straighten the river channel.

After Shasta Dam was built in the 1950's, farmers expanded deep into the floodplain in areas that were considered too risky to farm previously. The Beehive Bend site was partially logged during this time and put into crop production and by the early 1980s, the landowner planted a prune orchard. However, frequent flooding made the property expensive to farm and by the late 1980s, the orchard was abandoned.

In the early 1990s, DFG acquired the 269-acre Beehive Bend Unit, and added it to the Sacramento River Wildlife Area. The unit was purchased principally for the mature riparian forest and the open water of Oxbow Lake. The 60 acres formerly in agricultural production, was a tangle of yellow starthistle, Johnson grass, and black mustard. Scientists now understand that the con-



Riparian area with native vegetation. Photo: River Partners

ditions found on sites like the Beehive Bend Unit, offer slim prospects for forest regeneration and that without intervention, these sites will provide poor habitat, possibly for decades. In 1999, the WCB and the DFG signed an agreement with River Partners to restore native vegetation on the Beehive Bend Unit.

### Restoration begins

Riparian restoration on the Sacramento River was pioneered over 15 years ago to demonstrate the application of agricultural practices to create valuable forest habitat. The approach blends local agricultural practices with cutting-edge science to cost-effectively implement large-scale restoration projects. Riparian restoration today has become a sophisticated endeavor with as many as 16-30 different plant species incorporated into pragmatic designs that consider current site conditions, wildlife needs, and long-term management issues such as addressing neighbor considerations or flood-control needs.

River Partners has developed specialized equipment and techniques to implement these projects. These intensive management practices must translate into self-sustaining wildlife habitat. In the long-term, the restoration project begins to look and function more like a forest than an orchard. The benefits are not just restricted to birds. Scientists are increasingly finding new relationships between healthy riparian forests and healthy salmon populations.

### Project Performance

Two years after planting, over 12,500 native trees and shrubs now thrive where weeds once dominated the site. Some trees reach over 25 feet tall. However, the real performance of the project is the response of wildlife to the restoration.

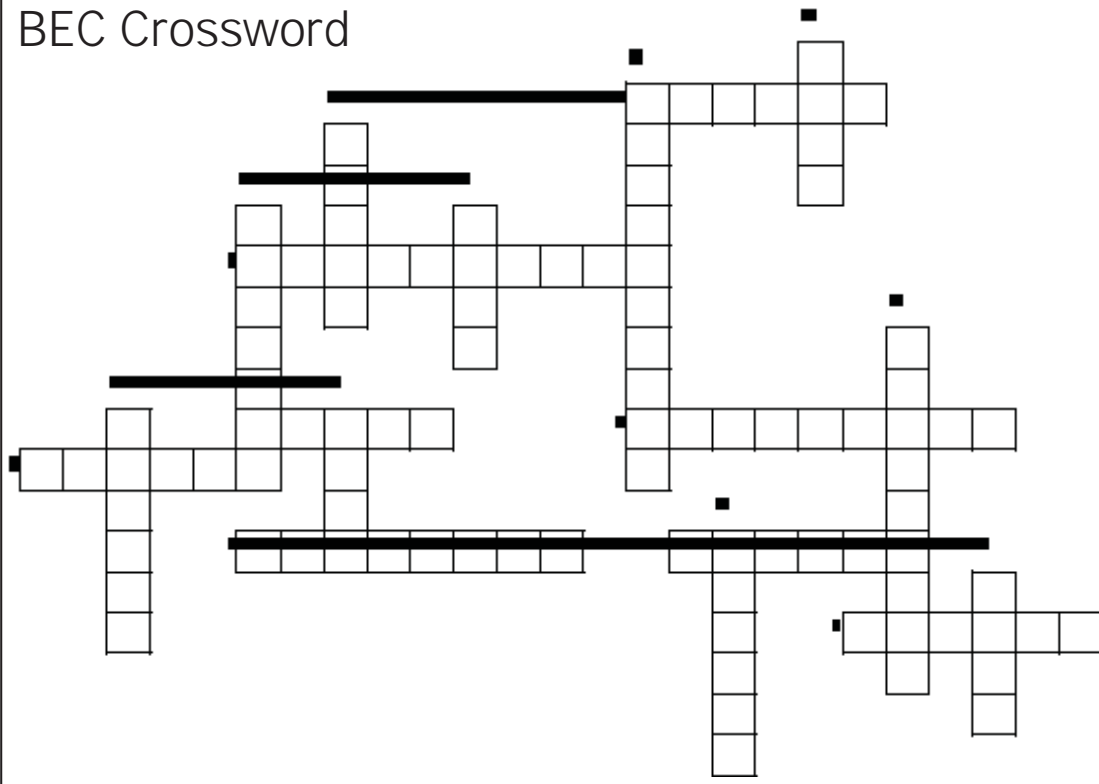
Birds are perhaps the easiest measure of wildlife response. Birds are extremely mobile and take advantage of new resources. By the spring of 2004, the site is noisy with migratory birds, and the number of different bird species actually exceeded the existing riparian forest. As a compelling comparison, researchers observed only one bird species in an adjacent fallow field. The field is in essentially the same condition as the project area was before restoration.

### Conclusions

These projects represent economic, recreational, and educational opportunities for the North State. Local students use these projects as unique outdoor laboratories. These projects have local benefits with over 75 percent of the grant injected into the local economy. Planning efforts with the Department of Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service will allow better access to these properties. The legacy of these projects will mature as the restored forests grow, birds' nest, and North State residents enjoy the enhanced recreational opportunities on these publicly accessible lands.

# KID'S CORNER

## BEC Crossword



### ACROSS

(1.) \_\_\_\_\_ is a last choice action that Butte Environmental Council has used to help protect California's natural (2.) \_\_\_\_\_.

Fairy (3.) \_\_\_\_\_ live in local (4.) \_\_\_\_\_ pools.

Responsible use of land and planning for growth will help to reduce unhealthy (5.) \_\_\_\_\_ (6.) \_\_\_\_\_.

People who pledge a regular (7.) \_\_\_\_\_ amount monthly or quarterly are known as BEC (8.) \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

Butte Environmental Council sponsors a creek (9.) \_\_\_\_\_ every Spring and (10.) \_\_\_\_\_.

You can donate to BEC by (11.) \_\_\_\_\_ your bottles and (12.) \_\_\_\_\_ at the Waste Management center on Scott Avenue.

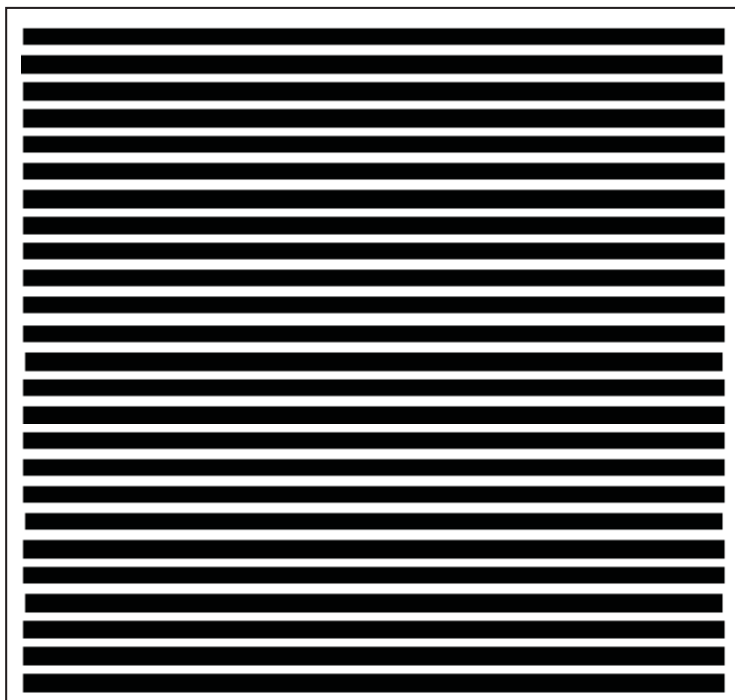
Much of BEC's good work is accomplished through the hard work of (13.) \_\_\_\_\_.

(14.) \_\_\_\_\_ is one concern in cleaning up the Humboldt Road (15.) \_\_\_\_\_ Dump.

Besides making the parks and (16.) \_\_\_\_\_ cleaner BEC hopes to protect (17.) \_\_\_\_\_ and animals by removing the excess (18.) \_\_\_\_\_.


## Wordfind

advocate  
aluminum  
cardboard  
conservation  
contamination  
creek  
critical habitat  
donation  
educate  
emissions  
endangered species  
habitat  
hazardous  
health  
meadow foam  
neighbors  
opportunity  
park  
plastic  
quagmire  
recovery  
threatened  
trash  
waterways  
wild lands



### Answers on Page 13

Home delivery in  
the North Valley since 1989




**Cotton  
Club  
Diaper  
Service**

100% cotton, the natural choice

**893-BABY**  
Baby Wipes, Carrier

2545 - I Zane Way  
Chico, CA 95928

cottonclub@aol.com



# BUTTE COUNTY RECYCLING

See businesses below by number

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>CRV</b>	\$	\$	◆	\$	◆	\$	\$		◆	\$			◆	\$	\$	◆	\$	\$		\$
<b>Glass</b>		\$	◆	\$		\$	◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
<b>Glass</b>																				
Bi-metal cans		\$	◆		◆	◆				◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Tin cans		\$				◆	◆			◆			◆	◆			◆			
Aluminum foil/ pie pans			◆				\$			◆										
Scrap metals		\$		\$		\$					\$									
<b>Plastics</b>														◆						
#1 Plastic		\$	◆	◆	◆		\$		◆	◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#2 Plastic		\$	◆		◆		\$			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#3-7 Plastic		\$	◆				◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆			
<b>Paper</b>																				
Newspaper			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Magazines			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Phone books			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Cardboard			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆
Mixed paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Ledger paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
<b>Hazardous Waste</b>																				
Alkaline batteries			◆						◆					◆						
Car batteries		\$				\$	◆	◆			\$	◆		◆						
Paint								◆						◆						
Pesticides								◆						◆						
Fluorescent lights & ballasts							\$	◆						\$						
Used motor oil							F	◆						◆			\$			
Anti-freeze								◆						◆						
<b>Miscellaneous</b>																				
Appliances (no freon)		◆				F														
Appliances (with freon)														F						
Cars														F						

- ◆ Accepts recyclables listed
- \$ Cash paid for recyclables listed
- F Free charged to accept recyclables listed

1) 20/20 Recycling Centers  
California Department of Conservation  
Albertson's, 1050 Oroville Dam Blvd., Oroville  
Albertson's, 146 W. East Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 1596 Hwy 99, Gridley  
Safeway, 1016 W. Sacramento Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 690 Mangrove Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 1366 East Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 6020 Clark Rd., Paradise  
T-F 11-5, Sa 8:30-5, closed 1:30-2

2) Aldred Scrap Metals/Steel Mill Recyclers  
786 Oroville-Chico Highway, Durham, 342-4930  
M-F 8-5

3) AS Chico Recycling Donation Center  
Corner of W. 4th St & Cherry St., Chico, 898-5033  
Sa 10-2:30, www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle

4) Berry Creek Rental & Recycle  
10 Menzie Lane, Berry Creek, 589-4828, Tu-Su 9-6

5) California Vocations (C.O.V.E.)  
Curbside recycling in Magalia, Paradise,  
Paradise Pines, west side of Skyway to Nimshu  
877-0937, M-F 8-4

6) Chico Scrap Metals, Chico Scrap  
Metal South & Nor-Cal Recyclers  
Auto bodies (call first), 878 E. 20th St., Chico,  
343-7166, M-F 8-12, 1-4, Sa 8-12  
766 Oroville-Chico Hwy., Durham, 345-6241  
M-F 8-4  
1855 Kusel Rd., Oroville, 532-0262  
M 8-4, Tu-F 9-4, Sa 8-12

7) Chico Transfer & Recycling  
2569 Scott Ave., Chico, 893-0333, Tu-Sa 10-4:30  
www.northvalleydisposal.com

8) City of Chico Household Hazardous  
Waste  
Collection Facility /AC Industrial Services  
1101 Marauder St. (at Chico Airport)  
895-4829 or 343-5488, Fri-Sat. 9-1  
Free to City of Chico residents, others should call  
for information about fees.

9) Country Roads Disposal  
Curbside recycling in Bangor, Berry Creek, Feather  
Falls & Palermo, 589-3680, M-F 8-5

10) Fair St. Recycling-Work Training Center  
2300 Fair Street, Chico, 343-8641  
M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-3:30, www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm

11) Joe Verni Recycling  
4980 Lincoln Blvd., Oroville, 534-7402  
M-F 9-3:30, Sa 9-1

12) Neal Road Landfill  
345-4917, Daily 7-4  
www.northvalleydisposal.com

13) NorCal Waste Systems Curbside  
Recycling in Chico  
342-4444

14) NorCal Waste Systems Oroville  
Recycling Center & Household Haz-  
ardous Waste Collection Site  
2720 S. 5th Ave., Oroville, 533-5868  
Recycling Center M-Sa 8:30-3:30  
Hazardous Waste F 1-6  
Free to City of Oroville residents

15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley  
Household Hazardous Waste Recycling  
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley, 846-0810; Transfer Sta-  
tion Sa-Su 9-4; Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of  
month, Gridley residents only 9-4

16) Paradise Elementary School  
588 Pearson Rd., Paradise  
Drop boxes open 24 hours/day

17) Recycle Paradise  
951 American Way, Paradise  
Holiday Mkt, 14001 Lakeridge Cir., Magalia  
(CRV, newspapers only)  
Stratton's Mkt. 5760 Sawmill Rd., Paradise  
(CRV, newspapers only)  
877-2777, M-Sat 10-4

18) TOMRA Pacific  
Collins & Denny Mkt, 434 Plumas Ave., Oroville  
Raley's Supermarket, 2325 Myers St., Oroville  
(916) 381-6861, Tu-Sa 9:30-5, closed 1-1:30

19) Waste Management-North Valley  
Disposal  
Curbside recycling in Chico (893-4777), Biggs,  
Durham (by Appt), & Gridley (846-0810)  
www.northvalleydisposal.com

20) Westside Recycling & Wood  
Products  
2669 Hwy. 32, Chico, 892-2262, M-Sa 10-6, Su 10-4



# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR



**Tuesday, November 2 – Weekly Power Walk** 6:30 pm (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980, Asst. Leader: John, 872-8258. Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Tuesday, November 2 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Thursday, November 4 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Saturday, November 6 -Deer Creek Day Hike** (grade 2, class A). Take an 8-10-mile walk through the reds, yellows and greens of fall as we follow the rush of Deer Creek. We'll begin at the trail just off of Highway 32. Bring water, lunch and carpool \$. Rain cancels. Return at approximately 4 PM; about an 80-mile round-trip drive. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 9 AM. Leader: Michelle 865-9491 or [michelle95963@yahoo.com](mailto:michelle95963@yahoo.com); Asst. Leader: Lynn, 877-1671.

**Saturday, November 6 – Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park.** Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or [shogue@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:shogue@ci.chico.ca.us). Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Saturday, November 6 – Volunteer Trail Maintenance** -- meet at Parking Area E, 8 a.m. - noon. Call Steve Hogue (895-4758), park volunteer coordinator, for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Sunday, November 7 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Sunday, November 7 - Autumn in the Orchards Bike Ride.** A flat leisurely 15 mile ride through orchards and pastures on quiet country roads to Durham Park for lunch, then return to Chico on the Durham Bike Path. Meet at the Glen Oaks Memorial Park Cemetery office, Hegen Lane and the Midway. Bring water and a lunch (or buy one at the Durham Market). Helmets required. Rain cancels. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

**Tuesday, November 9, 6:30PM – Weekly Power Walk** (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980, Asst. Leader: John, 872-8258. Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Tuesday, November 9 – Butte Environmental Council Birthday Celebration.** See box, this page. Join BEC members and friends to celebrate BEC's 29th Anniversary at the Sierra Nevada Brewery, 5:30 p.m. Call BEC at 891-6424 to purchase tickets.

**Tuesday, November 9 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Thursday, November 11 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Thursday, November 11 - “A Conservationist's View of New Zealand.”** 7:30 pm Marvey Mueller will present a talk and slide show. Conference Room of the Chico Branch of the Butte Co. Library on East 1st and Sherman Avenues. Call 343-9277 for information.

**Saturday, November 13 - Shuttle Hike from the South Side of Bidwell Park to Five Mile** (grade 2, class A). Join us as we start from the Green Gate along Hwy 32 and hike one-way, downhill for 6-7 miles along the south side of Bidwell Park to Five Mile below the golf course. Beautiful views along the way of the Sacramento Valley, Big Chico Creek and Upper Bidwell Park. A short car shuttle will be required. Bring lunch, water, \$ for drivers and sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. Meet at 9AM at the Chico Park & Ride. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net). Sierra Club Yahi Group.

## Celebrate Local Environmental Activism



**Tuesday, November 9 – Butte Environmental Council Birthday Celebration.** Join BEC members and friends to celebrate BEC's 29th Anniversary at the Sierra Nevada Brewery, 1075 East 20th Street, Chico. Dinner catered by the Sierra Nevada kitchen and membership meeting to follow. \$25 (low income tickets available) with a no host bar. Please arrive at 5:30 for socializing and a sip of the Brewery's finest! Call BEC at 891-6424 to purchase tickets.

**Sunday, November 14 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Tuesday, November 16 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants

from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Tuesday, November 16 – Weekly Power Walk**, 6:30 pm (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980, Asst. Leader: John, 872-8258. Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Thursday, November 18 – Sierra Club Newsletter Folding.** Join us to help fold and sort the newsletter for mailing. It only takes about an hour, and we always have a lot of fun! Volunteers are always needed: newcomers and old members are both welcome. Call 343-9277 for directions, more info. Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Thursday, November 18 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Friday, November 19 – Games Night and Potluck.** 6:30 pm Bring a dish to share and a favorite game to play. Call for location. Everyone welcome. Leader: Alan/Joy: 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net). Sierra Club Yahi Group.

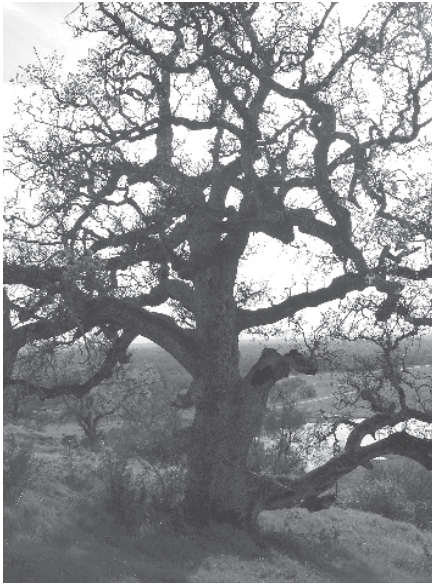
**Saturday, November 20 – Soils of Upper Park** walk led by NRCS soil scientist Andrew Conlin, 9 AM to noon, starting at Parking Area C (Easter Cross). Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Sunday, November 21 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.



# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

## Celebrate the Beauty of Bidwell Park



Upper Bidwell Old-growth. Photo by Tempira Board

Friends of Bidwell Park and the Chico Creek Nature Center celebrate the beauty and wonders of Bidwell Park by sponsoring a year of weekly environmental activities. These include nature walks, volunteer projects, workshops, field trips and hikes. Other participants include Altacal Audubon, Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, Butte Environmental Council, the California Native Plant Society Mt. Lassen Chapter, CAVE (Community Action Volunteers in Education), Chico Park Department, Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium, Kids & Creeks, Save Bidwell Ranch, Sierra Club Yahi Group, Snow Goose Festival Committee and Streaminders. Look for current events in this calendar.

**Tuesday, November 23 – Weekly Power Walk**, 6:30 pm (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980, Asst. Leader: John, 872-8258. Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Tuesday, November 23 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Wednesday, November 24 – Bidwell Park 2005 Centennial** planning meeting, 5:30 PM at the rear conference room of the Chico Chamber of Commerce. The public is encouraged to participate. For more information, call 891-5559, ext 307. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Tuesday, November 30 – Weekly Power Walk**, 6:30 pm (grade 2, class A). Meet at Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear

tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980, Asst. Leader: John, 872-8258. Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Sunday, November 28 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Tuesday, November 30 – Volunteer invasive plant removal project.** Remove Bladder senna pods and plants from the Cedar Grove area from 8 am to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Saturday, December 4 – Volunteer Trail Maintenance** -- meet at Parking Area E, 8 a.m. - noon. Call Steve Hogue (895-4758), park volunteer coordinator, for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Sunday, December 5 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Sunday, December 5 – Winter Conditioning Walk** (grade 2, class A). A flat, fast paced 1 to 1½ hour brisk walk in the park for those who want a workout. Wear your tennies/walking shoes. Meet at bridge near One-Mile at 8AM. Rain cancels. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net). Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Saturday, December 11 – Christmas Caroling/Pot Luck Dinner.** Let's spread some Christmas cheer to our community seniors with our sweet voices and bright smiles. Wear Christmas attire. Song sheets provided. Musical instruments welcome. We'll practice first, carol at a few nursing homes and then return for a pot-luck dinner. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage. Call to sign up and get directions to meeting place and time. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980; Asst. Leader: Peggy, 343-9843. Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Sunday, December 12 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Sunday, December 19 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Sunday, December 26 – Volunteer trash pickup and invasive plant removal** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information. Friends of Bidwell Park.

**Saturday, January 1 – Annual polar bear swim** across One Mile Pool starting at 1 p.m. Friends of Bidwell Park.

## Formerly Homeless in Bidwell Park, Chico Cats Need Your Help!

By Jill Hargrove, Chico Cat Coalition

Since 1998, the Chico Cat Coalition has rescued 688 cats exclusively from Bidwell Park. We can no longer place our new arrivals in the privately-owned BG Barn, so any new kitties must be placed in foster homes.

We need your help! If you have the time and a little extra space in your home, we would appreciate your help as a foster parent.

You decide the length of your commitment, we provide the following ...

- All food, litter, flea medicine, carriers, bowls and other supplies
- Veterinary costs and transportation if needed
- Adoption services including all contact with prospective adopters
- Volunteer support

Annually, the CCC rescues about 70 felines who have been

cruelly dumped in the park. Fostering just one kitty can make a huge difference!

Of course we are always happy to receive help from new volunteers in other ways. Besides fostering, we have a need for people who can help with fundraising, adoption events, veterinary transportation and trapping in the park.

Funding is still needed for the cats we have already rescued and for the ones to come. 100% of your donation goes directly to the care of CCC cats and kittens, as we are an all-volunteer organization. Your tax-deductible donation is always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Contact information  
General Volunteering: 894-1365  
Fostering Coordinator: Jill Hargrove, 864-6197 or email [catcoalition@hotmail.com](mailto:catcoalition@hotmail.com)

**Crossword Answers:** 1. litigation, 2. resources, 3. shrimp, 4. vernal, 5. urban, 6. sprawl, 7. donation, 8. angels, 9. cleanup, 10. fall, 11. recycling, 12. cans, 13. volunteers, 14. lead, 15. burn, 16. creeks, 17. people, 18. waste.

# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

## **A.S. Recycling Program**

BMU 002, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0763  
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978  
[www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle](http://www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle)  
[asrecycle@csuchico.edu](mailto:asrecycle@csuchico.edu)  
Barbara Kopicki

## **A.S. Environmental Affairs Council**

BMU 212, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0750  
530/898-5701 fax: 530/898-6014  
[www.csuchico.edu/eac](http://www.csuchico.edu/eac)  
[asenvironmental@csuchico.edu](mailto:asenvironmental@csuchico.edu)

## **Altacal Audubon Society**

PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927  
530/824-0253  
[www.altacal.org](http://www.altacal.org)  
[Jacksons3@aol.com](mailto:Jacksons3@aol.com)  
Jackson Shedd, Chapter President

## **American Lung Association**

10 Landing Circle, Suite #1  
Chico, CA 95926  
530/345-5864 fax: 530/345-6035  
[www.lungusa.org/superiorbranch/index.html](http://www.lungusa.org/superiorbranch/index.html)  
[patty@alacsb.org](mailto:patty@alacsb.org)  
Kelli Sarti

## **Arboretum Management Club, CSUC**

Big Chico Creek Restoration  
First & Normal Streets  
Chico, CA 95929  
530/345-4542  
[www.csuchico.edu/amc](http://www.csuchico.edu/amc)  
[mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu](mailto:mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu)  
Mike Lennox, President

## **Avenues Neighborhood Association**

1627 Arcadian Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926  
530/343-8334  
[www.theavenues.org](http://www.theavenues.org)  
[avenues@infostations.com](http://avenues@infostations.com)  
Kasey Merrill

## **Bidwell Environmental Institute**

CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0555  
530/898-6317 fax: 530/898-4363

[www.csuchico.edu/beirleder@csuchico.edu](http://www.csuchico.edu/beirleder@csuchico.edu)  
Dr. Roger Lederer, Director

## **Bidwell Park 2005 Centennial Celebration**

PO Box 88  
Chico, CA 95927  
530/891-5559 ext. 307  
[bpcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bpcc@sbcglobal.net)  
Ann Schwab, Chair

## **Bidwell Park Endowment Fund**

PO Box 3223  
Chico, CA 95927-3223  
530/345-7265  
[ptombarrett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ptombarrett@sbcglobal.net)  
Tom Barrett

## **Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**

PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927  
530/343-9004 (Wildlife Help Phone)  
[marilyn\\_gamette@fws.gov](mailto:marilyn_gamette@fws.gov)  
Marilyn Gamette

## **Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance**

PO Box 461  
Chico, CA 95927  
530/894-1308  
[www.bigchicocreek.org](http://www.bigchicocreek.org)  
[bigchicocreek@digitalpath.net](mailto:bigchicocreek@digitalpath.net)  
Susan Strachan, Chair

## **Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy**

PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927  
530/893-5399  
[www.buttecreekwatershed.org](http://www.buttecreekwatershed.org)  
[creek@inreach.com](mailto:creek@inreach.com)  
William Johnson, Coordinator

## **Butte Environmental Council, Inc.**

116 W. Second St. #3, Chico, CA 95928  
530/891-6424 fax: 530/891-6426  
[www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org), [staff@becnet.org](mailto:staff@becnet.org)

## **Butte Humane Society**

2579 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/343-7917 fax: 530/343-3734  
[www.buttehumane.org](http://www.buttehumane.org)  
[shelter@buttehumane.org](mailto:shelter@buttehumane.org)

## **California Conservation Corps**

2345 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/895-4336 pager: 916/592-6500  
[www.ccc.ca.gov](http://www.ccc.ca.gov)  
Bill Reeves

## **California Native Plant Society**

2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916/447-2677  
[cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org)  
[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

## **California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter**

PO Box 3212  
Chico, CA 95927  
530/342-6053  
[woodyelliott@digitalpath.net](mailto:woodyelliott@digitalpath.net)  
Woody Elliott, President

## **California Oak Foundation**

1212 Broadway, Suite 810  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510/763-0282; fax: 510/208-4435  
[www.californiaoaks.org](http://www.californiaoaks.org)  
[oakstaff@californiaoaks.org](mailto:oakstaff@californiaoaks.org)  
Janet Santos Cobb, Executive Director

## **California Sportfishing Protection Alliance**

[users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html](http://users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html)  
[cspa@psln.com](mailto:cspa@psln.com)  
510/526-4049  
Jim Crenshaw

## **California Wilderness Coalition**

1212 Broadway, Suite 1700  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510/451-1450 fax: 510/451-1445  
[www.calwild.org](http://www.calwild.org)  
[info@calwild.org](mailto:info@calwild.org)  
Mary L. Wells, Executive Director

## **Cherokee Preservation Society**

530/534-0400; fax: 530/534-0400  
Ellen Simon & Lee Edwards

## **Chico Creek Nature Center**

*In Bidwell Park*

1968 E. 8th Street  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 891-4671 fax: 530/891-0837  
[www.chico.com/naturecenter](http://www.chico.com/naturecenter)  
[naturecenter@chico.com](mailto:naturecenter@chico.com)

## **Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program**

PO Box 68  
Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530/895-0866  
[rwcole@jps.net](mailto:rwcole@jps.net)  
Roger Cole

## **Chico Velo Cycling Club**

PO Box 2285  
Chico, CA 95927-2285  
530/343-8356 fax: 530/342-4646  
800/482-2453  
[www.chicovelo.org](http://www.chicovelo.org)  
[ed@chicovelo.org](mailto:ed@chicovelo.org)  
Ed McLaughlin

## **Community Legal Information Center, CSUC**

Chico, CA 95926  
530/898-4354 x16 fax: 530/898-4911  
[www.csuchico.edu/clc/ea](http://www.csuchico.edu/clc/ea)  
[clc@csuchico.edu](mailto:clc@csuchico.edu)  
Jeff Furgison

## **Environmental Action & Resource Center**

418 Ivy St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/898-5676  
[www.csuchico.edu/earc](http://www.csuchico.edu/earc)  
[earc@csuchico.edu](mailto:earc@csuchico.edu)

## **The Esplanade League**

PO Box 4868  
Chico, CA 95927-4868  
[www.esplanadeleague.org](http://www.esplanadeleague.org)  
[eleague@shocking.com](mailto:eleague@shocking.com)  
Diana Dwyre, President

## **Farm Sanctuary**

PO Box 1065, Orland, CA 95963  
530/865-4617 fax: 530/865-4622  
[www.farmsanctuary.org](http://www.farmsanctuary.org)  
[west@farmsanctuary.org](mailto:west@farmsanctuary.org)  
Diane Miller

## **Friends of Bidwell Park**

PO Box 3036  
Chico, CA 95927-3036  
530/892-1666



# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

www.friendsofbidwellpark.org  
info@friendsofbidwellpark.org  
Susan Mason, President

## **Friends of Butte Creek**

PO Box 3305  
Chico, CA 95927  
530/879-0887  
www.buttetecreek.org  
friends@buttetecreek.org  
Allen Harthorn

## **Friends of Plumas Wilderness**

PO Box 1749, Quincy, CA 95971-0207  
530/283-1230  
Ruth Jackson

## **Friends of the River**

915 20th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.friendsoftheriver.org  
info@friendsoftheriver.org  
916/442-3155 fax: 916/442-3396  
Russ Sewell, Executive Director

## **Habitat for Humanity**

3880 Benetar Way #1, Chico, CA 95928  
Mailing address: PO Box 3073  
Chico CA 95927  
530/895-1271 fax: 530/895-0432  
www.habitat.org  
Pam Easterly, Director

## **Humanity Rising**

PO Box 528, Chico, CA 95927  
530/899-7719  
jomaha@sunset.net  
John Omaha

## **Kids & Creeks**

113 W. 19th Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/kid-  
screeks.html  
rbaxter@ci.chico.ca.us  
Roxanne Baxter

## **Lassen Forest Preservation Group**

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Paradise, CA 95969-2922  
530/876-1391  
sayhart@infostations.com  
Stephen Sayre

## **Little Chico Creek Watershed Group**

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530/898-5684 fax: 530/898-4363  
jhubbell@csuchico.edu  
Jean Hubbell

## **Middle Mountain Foundation**

Sutter Buttes Naturalists  
PO Box 483, Live Oak, CA 95953  
530/634-6387  
www.middlemountain.org  
middlemountain@yahoo.com  
Janice Schimide

## **Mill Creek Conservancy**

PO Box 188, Los Molinos, CA 96055  
530/595-4470 fax: 530/595-4470  
milcrk1@aol.com

## **The Nature Conservancy, Northern Central Valley**

500 Main Street, Suite B  
Chico, CA 95928  
530/897-6370 fax: 530/342-0257  
Sam LawsonKerry Burke

## **Neighbors for Environmental & Fiscal Responsibility**

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530/345-7590  
mike4pax@aol.com  
Michael Pike

## **Northern California Regional Land Trust**

167 E. Third Ave., Chico, CA 95926  
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www.landconservation.org  
ncrlt@shocking.com

## **Plumas Forest Project**

PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103  
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John Preschutti

## **Protect Our Watershed**

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530/873-6383  
cont103@aol.com; Jean Crist

## **River Partners**

539 Flume St., Chico, CA 95928  
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info@riverpartners.org  
John Carlon, President

## **Sacramento River Preservation Trust**

PO Box 5366, Chico, CA 95927  
530/345-1865 fax: 530/899-5105  
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jmerz@sacriverttrust.org  
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## **Sacramento River Watershed Program**

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ahart@harpos.to  
Allen Harthorn, Education Coord.

## **Sierra Club, Yahi Group**

PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927  
530/824-2588  
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/  
gmradm@aol.com; sierralives@aol.  
com; Grace Marvin; John Hollister

## **Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign**

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814  
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## **South Bidwell Park Neighborhood Association**

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Phil Smith

## **South Campus Neighborhood Association**

1405 West 3rd Street  
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preusser@shocking.com  
Charles Preusser, Chair

## **South Chico Neighborhood Association**

PO Box 3582  
Chico, CA 95927  
dguzzetti@hotmail.com  
David Guzzetti

## **Stop Bidwell Ranch**

49 Forest Creek Cir.  
Chico, CA 95928-4173  
530/345-7205  
Betty Volker

## **Streaminders**

Chapter of Izaak Walton League  
PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530/895-0866  
streamrc@earthlink.net  
Roger Cole

## **TreeAction**

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www.treeaction.org  
LJ1984KL@aol.com  
Karen Laslo

## **Trout Unlimited**

848 Morninghome Ct.  
Chico, CA 95926  
530/893-3116  
ep10@mail.csuchico.edu  
or agroninja@yahoo.com  
Eric Pooler

## **Valley Water Protection**

7399 Hwy. 99, Oroville, CA 95965  
530/343-0916 fax: 530/894-7829  
colefarm@shocking.com  
Linda Cole

## **Vallombrosa Avenue Neighborhood Association**

2096 Vallombrosa Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926  
Dan Cook

## **Young Life Woodleaf**

PO Box 397  
Center Country School  
Challenge, CA 95925  
530/675-2252 fax: 530/675-0458  
www.woodleaf.yl.org  
Woodleaf@Woodleaf.YoungLife.Org  
Shelly Miller

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S  
**Environmental**NEWS

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## Become a BEC Member!

What does BEC do?

- Hosts the Endangered Species Faire
- Participates in public hearings on proposed developments
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- Helps thousands of residents with recycling and toxics questions
- Monitors wetland losses

What BEC membership brings you:

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- Invitations to special BEC events and the Environmental Banquet.
- Most importantly, the opportunity to join more than 800 local environmental activists who help support the movement to preserve and enhance our natural world.

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- ☐ Please don't share my name with other groups.
- ☐ I prefer not to be thanked in the *Membergram* for my donation.

Make checks payable to Butte Environmental Council. Mail this form to BEC, 116 W. Second Street., #3, Chico, CA 95928. Contributions to BEC are tax-deductible (less the cost of any premiums).

## BEC Members Mailing Option

If you would rather pick up the *Environmental News* in town, or if you are receiving more than one and would like us to take you off of the mailing list, please let us know. Send us this page, with your name and address below, send a postcard, or give us a call. Thank you!

Please take me off of the *EN* mailing list: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## Help Row the BEC Boat!

The local environment needs your contribution!

You can make a difference. With the Environmental Banquet, the Endangered Species Faire and the various Creek Cleanups, our small staff and Board of Directors has its hands full. If you can volunteer your time (no matter how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. If you've volunteered in the past, but aren't sure whether we have your name and current phone number on file, you can also submit an updated form. Thank you!

Mail this form to: BEC, 116 W. Second St., #3 Chico, CA 95928

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

- ☐ Weekday mornings ☐ Weekday afternoons
- ☐ Weekday evenings ☐ Weekends

I am interested in helping with the following activities (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)
- ☐ Various Creek Cleanups
- ☐ 26th Annual Endangered Species Fair (Spring 2005)
- ☐ Publicity
- ☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations
- ☐ Booth construction & set-up (the day before the Faire)
- ☐ Clean-Up
- ☐ *Environmental News*, BEC's quarterly newspaper
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Office work
- ☐ Mailings ☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)
- ☐ Phones ☐ Research

- ☐ Photography (taking photos of our events and activities; nature photography)
- ☐ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies