

1975 - 2005

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BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S

Environmental NEWS

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Volume 11 Number 3

Critical Habitat Designated *Analysis Terribly Flawed*

Editor's Note: This important story has received incredible press across the state. To read some of the articles, visit BEC's website at www.becnet.org

The Interior Department (Interior) released their second, final Vernal Pool Critical Habitat (VPCH) Rule for 15 vernal pool species found in California and southern Oregon. This Rule (www.becnet.org) is a result of litigation filed by Butte Environmental Council, the California Native Plant Society, and Defenders of Wildlife over the elimination of more than one million acres of VPCH in 2003 for the 15 endangered and threatened vernal pool plants and animals.

In this Rule, some acreage was restored to counties indiscriminately omitted in the 2003 rule. For example:

"We are pleased that Interior was able to include some lands in counties

previously excluded in the 2003 rule, yet their analysis leaves them vulnerable to further legal challenges," stated Barbara Vlamis, Executive Director of Butte Environmental Council. For example, it was estimated in the Economic Analysis that the proposed VPCH would cost \$152 million over 20 years in Butte County. This translates into only \$13 million per year at the 7 percent discount rate used in the analysis, a microscopic 0.17% when compared with the annual economic output of the county, \$7.36 billion (IMPLAN 2001). "Excluding any of the proposed VPCH in Butte County is still not justified by the economic analysis that led to this Rule," contends Vlamis.



The new decision designates the shaded areas as vernal pool Critical Habitat. Many vernal pools in high growth areas in and around Chico, however, have not been protected.

While acreage was added to the five counties previously excluded, other counties have lost the valuable VPCH designation in the 2005 Rule.

Designating critical habitat is the precursor to recovery for federally listed species. Habitat necessary for recovery must be mapped in order

to inform statewide and local conservation planning efforts. "Removing such significant acreage from Fresno, Placer, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, and Tehama counties may very well prevent the recovery of the 15 species," Vlamis asserted, "And it further calls into question the validity of the Economic Analysis that failed to provide any benefits associated with the protection of vernal pool grasslands, such as providing educational and recreational opportunities, infrastructure support services, ranching, tourism, and economy of scale by covering 15 species in one rule. The analysis also arbitrarily grouped certain census tracks to elevate costs, even though they are minimal as demonstrated above, to utilize an illogical formula to eliminate 80% of the costs of the VPCH.

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Bidwell Ranch Protected!

The No Way San Jose campaign, Butte Environmental Council, Stop Bidwell Ranch, and the Chico community prevailed on May 17, 2005 with the City Council voting 4-3 to rezone the 750 acre Bidwell Ranch property to open space. After more than two decades trying to protect the sensitive vernal pool savanna adjacent to Bidwell Park, the Council majority opted to rezone it and rejected last minute offers from developers. The City plans to seek proposals later in 2005 to guide management of the valuable wetland and grassland ecosystem. While there is a small element in the area that believes that any publicly held land must be treated as a park with unlimited public access, cooler heads realize that this is folly and is not even allowed in parks.

The land is not a controlled urban park (e.g. 20th Street park) or a wild park such as Bidwell Park that both have a City department and a recreation district to try to manage them. Both entities certainly control access to and enforce limitations in parks! Bidwell Park is a handful to manage with a City department and recreation district and has required community cleanups, initiated and still coordinated by BEC, to remove the thousands of pounds of trash that the public litters every year. Overuse of certain areas has also degraded some valuable habitat, requiring restricted access. A lack of awareness for the powers of nature have led to deaths in the creek traversing Bidwell Park, which

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County	Proposed Acreage	2003 Rule Acreage	2005 Rule Acreage
Fresno	32,218	32,228	19,200
Placer	58,849	32,134	2,580
San Luis Obispo	64,171	64,378	48,134
Stanislaus	132,708	128,035	67,462
Tehama	130,752	130,691	102,837
Butte	58,849	0	24,247
Madera	95,802	0	48,359
Merced	194,335	0	147,638
Sacramento	68,820	0	37,098
Solano	67,961	0	13,415

An example of counties that lost and gained acreage with the new designation.

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 Temptra Board at temptra@wildcalifornia.org. All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via e-mail to temptra@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 not-for-profit public benefit 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 a.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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FROM THE BEC BOARD

26th Annual Endangered Species Faire Wrap Up

Wide eyed in the face of a snake, questions when you learn what a barn owl eats, butterfly masks to wave when you dance with the Banana Slug String Band, and the smell of vittles cooking in a solar oven that is juiced up on a bright May 7th in Cedar Grove. Yup, Butte Environmental Council and our amazing community co-created the Endangered Species Faire for the 26th year in a row.

A diverse group of non-profit organizations, government agencies, and school groups participated this year to educate the community about the environment and network with environmentalists from all over the north state. Some of the presenters included the Big Brother's Big Sister's planting booth, AS Recycling from CSUC, Lassen National Park with an impressive live snake display, and California Native Plant Society with a microscope to view plants. The buzz in the Grove was that the presenters had some of the best booths in years. The theme for the year was *Grassland Wonders* but the booths spanned a much broader range of ecological niches. While most of the booth activities were geared towards children and families, there were plenty of booths of interest for adults, including a booth from the Sugar Pine Foundation about the white pine blister rust attacking conifer forests.

Laurel Blankenship and Randy Larsen ushered the crowd through an amazing lineup of family entertainment. The featured group was the Banana Slug String Band from Santa Cruz. Local World, Checkers the live Owl and Allen the live Alligator and many others also delighted spectators. Many faces in the crowd, young and old alike, were painted with the striking colors of lizards, frogs, flowers, and birds. Volunteer face painters helped raise funds for the Faire.

The weather couldn't have been better. After the Pioneer Days Parade was over the Grove filled up with people. We estimated more than 6,000. Board



Raisin' the roof with the Banana Slug String Band.

members Karen Goodwin and Peter Hollingsworth dished up delicious plates of *Today's Tostadas*, to help feed the hungry crowd and contribute to funding the Faire

Thank You to everyone who had a part in this wonderful event. It is a classic day of celebrating this earth, and reconnecting each person to our need to leave a lighter footprint across our path in life. If you are interested in helping to organize next year's Faire, call the BEC office and get involved!

Thank You Faire Sponsors!

Sierra Nevada Brewery, Friends to Restore Earth's Environment, Soroptomist International of Bidwell Rancho, Chico News & Review, Durham Electric, Ed's Printing, Greenfeet, KZFR Radio 90.1 FM, Printed Image, Pullins Cyclery, R.W. Knudsen Family Juices, SunGard Bi-Tech Software Inc., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Worldfest, Barris Farms, Nora Burnham, Tom Okerlund, Jennifer Oman, Woodwright Construction, Robert Seals, Katie Gonser.

Letter to the E-R Praises BEC's Solution

We at New Urban Builders appreciate the recognition for our effort to work out a win-win solution on the former Pleasant Valley Assembly of God property along Humboldt Road (E-R editorial, July 25). However, the full story must rightly include the vital role of the Butte Environmental Council (BEC) and its executive director Barbara Vlamis. It was more than a year ago that we first discussed a creative solution for our need to mitigate some loss of wetlands in our Meriam Park project and BEC's objective of preserving in perpetuity the valuable wetlands on the adjacent Pleasant Valley Assembly of God. Those initial conversations and the many meetings, plans and discussions that followed have lead to the successful

result which was detailed in the pages of the E-R last week.

BEC's advocates have worked consistently over the years for sustainable urban growth and preservation of the natural environment in and around Chico and Butte County. They also remain both creative and pragmatic in seeking ways to pursue these values. I hope the solution on the Pleasant Valley Assembly of God parcel is seen as evidence of how productive dialogue and collaboration can advance the values of the natural environment as well as respond to the need for good long-term planning and development.

- Tom DiGiovanni, Chico
July 30, 2005

Chico City Council Votes for Open Space

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also requires greater enforcement and restrictions.

Bidwell Ranch will need cattle to graze it and fire treatment to keep the grasslands healthy, leaving room for the native plants. These management needs are not compatible with unlimited public access. Certain types of interaction are very appropriate when timed, monitored, and financially supported by the community. The demand to open all land to human activity is based on a philosophy that places humans above all else, yet neglects the insight that recognizes the potential and actual destructive nature of homo sapiens. Trespassing by off-road vehicles that prefer no bounds have already damaged parts of the property and has necessitated aggressive enforcement. While individuals would never allow unlimited public access to or think of polluting, littering, or spinning broodies in their own backyard, there is a temptation to permit it elsewhere and have it subsidized by the public.

Bidwell Ranch is a remnant of a valuable native ecosystem that has been devastated in California from urban expansion and agriculture (95% of California's natural wetlands have been destroyed). It is now owned by a public entity because of its values, so just as a parent must nurture and protect the precious family jewels, the next generation, so must we protect our treasured lands for ourselves and future generations.

Bidwell Ranch Historical Primer

- 1982** The Rancho Arroyo (a.k.a. Bidwell Ranch) specific plan adopted by the City Council and the environmental impact report (EIR) is certified for 4,668 housing units and 180,000 square feet of commercial development.
- 1987** The specific plan was amended to 2,994 residential units.
- 1988** BEC leaders Michael McGinnis, Kelly Meagher and Steve Evans led a successful referendum with the *No Way San Jose* campaign where 58 percent of Chico voters overturned the adopted specific plan in a referendum, even though the *project proponents outspent the project opponents \$275,000 to \$10,000*.
- 1989** The City and developer reached a settlement to reduce densities to no more than 1,500 housing units.
- 1991** A new specific plan was presented with 1,500 residential units and 14 acres of commercial development.
- 1992** The developer halted processing of the specific plan.
- 1994** A revised specific plan and a draft EIR surfaced and moved slowly through the review process, even as the out-of-town developer partnership collapsed from bankruptcy.
- 1995** BEC approached the City with a plan to acquire the site, and received approval from the City Council to collaborate with City staff on seeking funding sources. The *Acquiring Bidwell Ranch: A Status Report* was created and presented to the City Council.
- 1996** The City began negotiations with the bankruptcy court to purchase the site.
- 1997** The Bidwell Ranch parcel was purchased by the City in February.
- 1998 to present** BEC, Sierra Club, and Stop Bidwell Ranch hosted tours for the public and schools.
- 2003 to present** BEC led agency tour of local wetlands including Bidwell Ranch. Requested that the City obstruct or halt illegal off road vehicle destruction on the property. Management discussions and activities began.
- 2005** June 7, 2005 City Council voted to rezone to open space!

Act Now

To Keep Sprawl Out of Butte County

What do Butte County residents want their county to look like in one or two generations? Does Sacramento County have the look or maybe Yuba County that is even closer to us? How much urban sprawl is acceptable? Does the cost of housing persuade you to envision sprawl as the only solution? Would degraded air pollution and traffic jams like Sacramento cause you to flee Butte County?

These are some of the hard questions that Butte County residents must ask themselves immediately, for without clear thinking and action, it will soon be too late to stop trends such as the ones just south of us. Unfortunately, the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), one of the most neglected government entities by the public in Butte County, is the driving force preparing the County for unbridled growth.

With BCAG's growth projections for Butte County suggesting that the County will expand from 220,000 residents in 2005 to 314,000 in 2025 (www.bcag.org), they are preparing the transportation infrastructure to allow an explosion in houses, cars, and big box retail. The ensuing complications will be dealt with just like the counties all over California that use antiquated engineering and ideas. For example, motorists and local officials clamor for more lanes when congestion occurs and then when roads can't handle any more lanes, they want more roads. An analogy to this would be to seek a credit increase when you have used up your credit card debt limit. It might get you through the holidays, but there's a disaster looming just ahead that has been repeated and later regretted all over the United States.

For some background, Butte County is presently operating with

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New Vernal Pool Critical Habitat Ruling

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If recovery is to occur, the remaining range of the 15 vernal pool species must not only be protected, it must expand. Vernal pools are unique wetlands that fill and dry every year. The eight endangered and seven threatened species are currently listed due to the severity of vernal pool destruction in California and Oregon. As the Proposed Rule indicated, Holland estimates that close to 75% of the Central Valley's

vernal pool habitat was lost by 1997; the central coast has lost at a minimum 90%; southern California's losses exceed 95%; and Oregon has had 60% destroyed with 18% of the extant habitat considered intact (2002). More recent estimates place the habitat losses at over 90% throughout the historic range of vernal pools (Wright 2002).

As a leader in vernal pool preservation for over 15 years, BEC initiated the

critical habitat designation through litigation in April 2000. The feeble attempt at economic science and the capricious policy behind the Rule will certainly lead to another challenge of the Bush Administration, allowing the courts to again shame them into following the Endangered Species Act signed by another Republican, President Richard Nixon in 1973.

WATER

Water Diversions Result in Delta Species Crash

By Jim Brobeck

Fed by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, the Bay-Delta is the largest estuary in the western United States. More than 60 percent of California's fresh water formerly flowed through the Delta. Massive federal and state pumps divert much of this water for export to the San Joaquin Valley agribusiness and to Southern California urban areas. In the past four years, four species of Delta fish have severely declined, along with the complex food web that sustains them. Threatened Delta smelt, small fish native only to the Delta, fell last fall to their lowest number ever.

Biologists are alarmed at what appears to be a collapse of the Delta ecosystem. There are three suspected causes of the Delta collapse, including degraded water quality, exotic species, and massive fresh water diversions. The collapse of the Delta ecosystem has in fact coincided with the highest annual rates of water diversions from the Bay-Delta. Increased pumping will make the ecosystem collapse even worse, and plans to increase pumping out of the Delta are in the works.

Central to the scheme is increasing the amount of water by incorporating groundwater into the state water system. The aquifer targeted for exploitation is the Lower Tuscan Formation. The lower Tuscan is located under Butte, Tehama and Glenn County. Chico's municipal water system draws from the Lower Tuscan. Our local creeks are directly connected to the same aquifer. The Natural Heritage Institute and the Dept. of Water Resources are unveiling a plan that would "utilize the Lower Tuscan Formation as a major new water supply...."

As the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) takes shape, the objective will be to persuade as many entities as possible to become signatories and partners to the plan. But this will be a tough sell if the impacted communities are informed of the economic, social and environmental consequences. The Tuscan

formation intersects the surface at the lower quarters of the foothills. A fully charged Tuscan aquifer helps to keep the creeks flowing and the riparian vegetation vibrant. Butte Creek, Big and Little Chico Creek, Mud Creek, Rock Creek, Deer Creek and Mill Creek are all part of the system. There is a distinct probability that increased groundwater extractions from the Lower Tuscan Formation could increase stream seepage into the drained aquifer. The plan practically promises to decrease or even de-water local stream flows when the Tuscan is being exploited during the summer and fall.

As the increased Delta water exports create ecological collapse in the lower Sacramento-Feather River, the increased drafting of water out of the Lower Tuscan Aquifer threatens to dry out our local creeks. Clearly we need to devise other strategies to deal with California's demand for water.

Please write a letter TODAY to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Urge him to stop the Delta pumping plan. Be sure to mention the following points in your letter: It makes no sense that the State is planning to increase pumping when the Delta is so stressed and so many species are in serious decline. We have faster, better, cheaper ways to provide water for California's future. These are outlined clearly in the just released California Water Plan. Investments in water use efficiency and recycling will make available four times more water than the Delta pumping plan will provide. Tell the Governor that California needs a sensible and sustainable water policy that conserves the Delta and our rivers, and keeps our state beautiful, vibrant, and strong.

Please mail your letter TODAY to:
The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: www.govmail.ca.gov
For more information:
Visit www.friendsoftheriver.org or
call Jim Brobeck at (530) 891-6424,
Steve Evans at (916) 442-3155 x221.

By the Sacramento River
Preservation Trust

Sacramento River Faces Challenges

From its source, a bountiful spring at the base of Mt. Shasta, the Sacramento River meanders south passing through deep canyons before encountering its major obstacle, Lake Shasta. From there, now joined by the Pit and McCloud Rivers and a host of creeks, the expanding river runs down the heart of the Sacramento Valley. After absorbing the Feather and American Rivers the Sac heads southwest to form (along with the San Joaquin River) the massive Delta before ending its journey in San Pablo Bay.

At 382 miles, the Sacramento is the longest, largest and most important river in California, one that has, since the arrival of Europeans, been a major source of transportation, agriculture and controversy. Over millennia in its unbridled, wild state, the river changed its course countless times flooding the valley, creating habitat for one of the largest migratory bird populations on the planet while depositing deep, rich layers of soil.

Chinook salmon use the river as their main artery on their amazing return to their ancestral spawning grounds after two to four years at sea. Native Americans honored the river's tumultuous way and didn't reside near the shores, choosing instead to occupy higher ground along tributaries. They did hunt and fish the abundant wildlife in the vast riparian area created by the river. It is thought that in earlier times there existed over one-half million acres of riparian habitat and associated oak woodlands along the river and tributaries.

Things quickly began to change shortly after the arrival of the early gold-seeking Europeans in the mid 1800's. Soon wetlands were drained for agriculture, levees were built to

contain the river's natural tendency to flood and dams were built on the Sacramento and its tributaries to capture the Sierra and Coast Range runoff and to generate electricity. The once wild, free-flowing river was reduced to a canal in some stretches -- no longer existing on its own terms.

These days the river and its inhabitants face challenges from several fronts, not the least of which is the Bush administration's regressive environmental policies. Although the

Over millennia in its unbridled, wild state, the river changed its course countless times, flooding the valley, creating habitat for one of the largest migratory bird populations on the planet....

Chinook population has recovered from a low point less than 200 winter-run fish in 1991 (measured at the Red Bluff Diversion

Dam), they remain at the mercy of humans and their politics. Dams, water temperature fluctuations, reduced flows, pollution and other human made conditions make for a tenuous existence for salmon. But, according to John Merz of the Sacramento River Preservation Trust, there is some good news regarding Salmon and the river in general.

"On a purely natural level, ocean conditions have been great for Salmon the past few years," says Merz. "Salmon are cold water fish and in non El Nino years (El Nino creates warmer ocean temperatures) there seems to be more food available at sea. As far as human improvements for the fish, there have been a few dams taken down, fish ladders have been improved, there is a better diversion schedule and fish screens at canal intakes are much improved. It's been teamwork between the fishing industry, government and environmentalists that has improved things...unfortunately, the agricultural community hasn't been real cooperative."

Since salmon need cold water new

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Bell's Vireo Returns to the Central Valley

By River Partners Staff

Endangered Songbird Reappears After 60 Years at River Restoration Site

One of the greatest affirmations that the restoration work done at River Partners is having an impact came in the form of a distinctive “cheetle, jeew” call, heard at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, a call that hasn’t been heard anywhere in the Central Valley for more than 60 years. The call came from a pair of nesting least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), who are raising their young in a three-year-old restoration site at the Refuge, designed and implemented by River Partners. The birds were first discovered by Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) bird monitor Lynette Lina in the Refuge in early June.

The least Bell’s vireo is a state and federally-listed endangered species that was once common throughout California’s Central Valley. They had

disappeared from the area due to a 90% decline in the riparian habitat used by the birds. The restoration site is in a former, non-productive farm field that was planted by River Partners to match the original valley riparian habitat of willows, blackberry, wild rose thickets and mugwort. After three years, the plantings have grown together to form these thick brambles, which is where the vireo nest was found.

“Hearing the least Bell’s vireo again demonstrates that a good recovery plan, committed partners and resources to carry it out, can bring many species back to life in areas where they seemed lost forever,” said Steve Thompson, manager of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s California-Nevada Operations Office.

Geoffrey Geupel, Terrestrial Ecology

Division Director of PRBO Conservation Science, which conducts bird monitoring throughout California, called it a “superb success story” and an example of how the restoration project, which included patch work design and planting herbaceous under story, supports native bird species.

Says River Partners Senior Restoration Ecologist, Tom Griggs, “The recent news of the least Bell’s Vireo nesting and successfully fledging two young in our restoration project at the San Joaquin River NWR is a very significant milestone in the evolution of riparian restoration planting.”

The project has been funded by CALFED, which provided key funds to purchase an 800-acre farm on flood-prone land, which was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS). Other agencies also contributed, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USFWS, the California Resources Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Audubon Society. The restoration was conducted by River Partners, with input, consultation and monitoring by PRBO conservation Science, the USFWS and the Endangered Species Restoration Program at CSU-Stanislaus.

Although the area immediately around the vireo nest has been temporarily closed to the public, check the River Partners and Refuge websites for updates on the status of the birds and additional sightings, at www.riverpartners.org and www.fws.gov/pacific/sanluis.

Riparian Forest & Oak Savannah Habitat Tour



You’ll be amazed at what you’ll see on this guided walking tour of the natural habitat at Turtle Bay!

**Saturday, October 1, 2005
8:30 am - 10:30 am**

Join our guides Tom Griggs Ph. D., Senior Ecologist and Dan Efseaff, Restoration Ecologist

for this unique tour of a riparian forest and oak savannah restoration project implemented by River Partners at the McConnell Arboretum in the Sacramento River floodplain. Your guides will explain the process of restoration with plantings of native species for wildlife habitat and eradication of invasive exotic

species. This gentle walking tour offers something for everyone, as we guide you through the restoration project. We request a tour donation of \$5 for adults. Children under 12 are free and must be accompanied by an adult.

Complimentary with this tour, you’ll receive a discount coupon toward the admission for a self-guided tour at the Arboretum and Exhibits of Turtle Bay. Come join our tour and spend an enjoyable day at the Turtle Bay Exploration Park.

To make reservations or for questions call River Partners (530) 894-5401 or stop by our office at 580 Vallombrosa Avenue, Chico CA 95926. Space is limited, so sign up today!



SACRAMENTO VALLEY & FOOTHILLS WATER

The Chico Urban Streams Alliance Clean Creeks Project Begins!

By Jennifer Oman

The Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA) held its official kick-off for the Clean Creeks Project on Thursday, July 21, 2005, at the 5-Mile Recreation Area. The press and public were invited to this kick-off event to learn about the scope of the two-year project, observe Citizen Monitoring, and obtain information on how the public can be a part of keeping our creeks clean.

The Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA) is a coalition of the City and local environmental and professional groups concerned with the water quality of Chico's creeks. The coalition has formed with funding from a grant under the Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant Program. Funding support has been provided by the California Bay-Delta Program (CALFED), which has an objective to restore ecological health and improve water management by working with the community at a watershed level. The State Water Resources Control Board awarded the grant to the City of Chico. The Chico USA partners include:

The City of Chico – Project Sponsor: The City is the grant recipient and will provide the fiscal management of the grant, overseeing the project components and providing project support through their Storm Water Management Program.

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) – Public Education and Community Outreach: BEC will be conducting a public survey in the fall of 2005 to find out what the public knows about local urban runoff water quality issues. Based on the results of this survey a multi-media outreach campaign will be organized for the purposes of public education and community outreach. One-on-one outreach to potentially polluting businesses will be part of the overall outreach and education campaign.

The public can look forward to brochures, a creek-watch hotline, public presentations, radio and television ads and other media products to learn more about how to keep our streams and creeks clean.

The Big Chico Creek Watershed



A citizen monitoring crew receives training on Big Chico Creek through the Chico USA project. If you would like to become involved, contact Chico USA's watershed coordinator at 342-6623, thamill@bigchicocreek.org, or by visiting the website: www.bigchicocreek.org.

Alliance – Project Management and Citizen Monitoring: The Alliance will provide the project manager for the grant and will be expanding its citizen monitoring program that was begun in 2004 for the upper portions of Big Chico Creek. Citizen monitoring applies user-friendly, scientific methods to assess stream health. These methods are specifically intended for use by volunteers and they measure water chemistry, flows, stream channel shape and aquatic insect populations. Training is provided for the volunteers, who commit six weekend mornings a year (May to October) to conduct the monitoring.

This new grant will expand the monitoring program in Big Chico creek from its present four upper stream sites to include the entire length of the creek. Current monitors include classrooms, college students, families and individuals. All are welcome to participate.

Kennedy/Jenks Consultants – Best Management Practices Performance Evaluation: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants will be conducting a two-year study to evaluate the effectiveness of the City's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for storm water. Storm-water is the runoff from rainfall. BMPs are structures or ways of doing things that

control, prevent, remove or reduce pollution. The BMPs that will be evaluated in this study are the structural technologies that are installed in new development (e.g. detention basins). The US Environmental Protection Agency requires the City to treat storm water with BMPs and remove pollutants before they can contaminate Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, and Lindo Channel. The City will use the results of the study to site and design future storm water BMPs, which will be installed as Chico continues to grow.

History of Chico USA

The Chico Urban Streams Alliance began over coffee at Upper Crust when Suzanne Gibbs, past coordinator for the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, and Jim Graydon, Regional Manager for Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, talked about California's new program to protect streams from urban runoff pollution in small and medium sized cities. Large cities (100,000 population and larger) have been required under the Clean Water Act to have programs to

reduce pollution in their storm drains since 1987, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board extended that requirement to smaller cities in 2003, requiring them to obtain a permit to discharge urban runoff (or "stormwater") to surface streams.

Gibbs and Graydon both wanted to help the City by developing a grant-funded project that would help the City to educate its citizens, improve the way new development projects handle urban runoff and involve the public in tracking stream health. Streaminders became a partner and Butte Environmental Council joined the effort, bringing its expertise in environmental education to the team. The group brought the proposal to the City, who became the project sponsor and the partners—now the Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA)—unsuccessfully applied to the State Water Resources Control Board for a grant in 2002.

Chico USA tried again in 2003, with the Alliance taking over Streaminders' role, and was awarded over \$400,000 for a public education program, a volunteer citizen stream monitoring program, and a study to test the structures that are used to treat urban runoff in new development. Susan Strachan, current Watershed Coordinator for the Alliance reflected on the uniqueness of the effort. "What's really wonderful about this project is the way the community came together to support our City in its efforts to keep Chico's creeks clean."

The City also went the extra mile in response, donating its staff time to help oversee the project and provide fiscal management. It is a true collaboration. With funding from CALFED, we are able to provide education and citizen participation that is way beyond what the City could have done with City resources under its permit for its storm drain system."

**"...the community came together to support our City in its efforts to keep Chico's creeks clean."
-Susan Strachan,
Big Chico Creek
Watershed Alliance.**

How You Can be a Part of Chico USA

The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (the Alliance) has recently established the Big Chico Creek Citizen Monitoring Program, and has been providing watershed education and training to citizen volunteers interested in participating in monitoring activities. Phase One began last year in the foothill zone of the watershed, funded by the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Phase Two has just recently been funded by CALFED and will expand the monitoring to include the mountain and valley zones of the watershed as well.

Citizens commit one morning a month from May to October and sample water quality chemistry and measure flows in Big Chico Creek. Twice a year, they sample aquatic insects in the stream bottom. The monitoring sites range from the Highway 32 crossing down to the mouth of Big Chico Creek. The Alliance provides training in methods that are specifically intended for citizen volunteers. Current volunteers include high school classes, university classes, families and individuals.

The information that is gathered takes a snapshot of creek health from the mountains to the River on one day each month. Over time, this information will be used to observe changes resulting from natural trends and

human activities, including both land use changes and restoration projects. Timmarie Hamill, Citizen Monitoring Coordinator for the Alliance, says, "People enjoy not only getting out and enjoying the creek, but knowing that they are helping to track its condition and make sure that Big Chico Creek continues to stay healthy."

One of the key parameters that are being measured is the temperature of pools where spring run salmon hold over the summer before spawning in the fall. Big Chico Creek's spring run has been severely diminished, since the 1950s when a fish ladder was installed in Iron Canyon just upstream of Salmon Hole, to help the spring run navigate the basalt boulders in the stream channel during times of low flow. Numbers of fish have decreased from 1,000 in 1958 to 46 in 2003. The Iron Canyon fish ladder is currently in disrepair and doesn't help the fish get to the cooler pools up on the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, often leaving them trapped in Salmon Hole. The Alliance has installed temperature recording devices in Salmon Hole and four pools upstream of Iron Canyon to track high summer temperatures, which can cause disease in spring run salmon if they get too high. Volunteers also measure stream temperature at each monitoring site.

The North Central Valley's "Mother River"

Continued from page 4

mandatory minimum levels (at least 900,000 acre feet) at Lake Shasta have been a factor in keeping water temperatures in the river down and the population up. It has also helped that fishing in the main stem of the Sacramento is banned between mid January and mid July.

The restoration of riparian habitat along the river has been another area where positive things have been occurring. Acquisitions by state and federal agencies along with environmental organizations and private entities has meant good news for the health of the River and surrounding areas.

Merz points to the 1994 Bay/Delta Accord and the establishment of CALFED funding as a landmark event in the acquisition and restoration of riparian habitat. Along with land purchases, CALFED funded independent studies of the River and bought new, state-of-the-art fish screens for canal

intakes. Groups such as The Nature Conservancy, River Partners, the state park system and even BLM have been purchasing marginal farmlands and allowing and encouraging them to return to a more natural state.

"There is more habitat and better environmental practices along the entire watershed," Merz explains. "this has meant a resurgence in salmon as well as other threatened species such as the Bank Swallow, the Swainson's hawk and even the infamous Valley Elderberry beetle. Our group has played a role in education and calling people on their stuff.... We are a watchdog organization."

To experience the wild river and riparian habitat first-hand, Chico and Butte County residents can simply take West Sacramento or Highway 32 to River Road to the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park and Indian Fishery. Here you will see the former river channel now a beautiful lagoon that is home to Herons, Ducks and other waterfowl as well as Beaver, Otter and other native creatures. There is short trail through grassland and huge, ancient Valley Oaks. Just south of the fishery you can experience more native habitat with Oaks, Sycamores, Willow, and Black Walnut. Wild grapes weave their way around the trees creating a lush riparian jungle. Finally, at the "washout," you get a full view of the majestic river where, during big storms, it still floods every year.

Today, despite its many human caused challenges, the great mother river endures.

For information regarding the river, contact the Sacramento River Preservation Trust at 345-1865

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BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE

Disc Golf and the Future of Bidwell Park

By Randy Abbott, Friends of Bidwell Park

Not everyone is happy about the City of Chico's plans to permanently develop 40 acres of Tuscan ridge-top wilderness for Chico's disc golf community in the city's historic Upper Bidwell Park. Friends of Bidwell Park, Citizens Advisory Committee representatives from the local Sierra Club and Altacal Audubon and others have voiced their concerns about the project. The proposed development is subject to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which should be released after the update of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan is completed and approved.

As with any project that significantly affects the quality of our local environment, the public should understand the issues. While the local weekly and the daily paper have covered the issue to some degree, an equal or greater amount of press has been given over to fanning the flames of controversy. Letters to the editor have referred to those who prefer not to allow the multi-course development as "extremists," "obstructionists" or "enviro-nazis," among other explicative characterizations.

Concerned citizens point to several issues relating not only to the environment at the fragile site, but to the inconsistencies with the proposed project and the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan and City's General Plan, which were overlooked when the project was first proposed. In addition, some critics are saying the mere fact that the project was allowed to be constructed before the environmental review process was complete, before the City had formally addressed the land in question in a park-wide management plan, raises a red flag as to how effectively the City of Chico manages Bidwell Park.

"I don't think anyone realized at the time [how much use the facility would receive]."

**- Park Director
Dennis Beardsley**

The 40-acre site of the proposed project was purchased by the City as a formal addition to Bidwell Park in 1994 through a land trust, which had shortly before acquired the ex-rangeland from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Although the land came with a history of human impact, there was no development of any type. The ancient Blue Oak forests, spectacular wildflowers (including rare Butte County Checkerbloom, and Bidwell's Knotweed), ridge-top wetlands, fantastic views of Upper Park and the Sacramento Valley as well as the presence of the historic Humboldt Wagon Road, all make this site something very special, even unique.

The disc golf courses (there are two 18 hole courses and 4 additional holes) first appeared in 1997, without any formal planning or city authorization. This, critics have charged, amounts to

nothing more than a bootleg abuse of the Park.

In October of 1999, after two years of deliberation, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) voted to formulate a plan and arrange an environmental review of the proposal. The environmental review document was discussed at the Sept. 30, 2002 BPPC meeting, but no action was taken, nor was there any formal acceptance of any of the revised versions of this document at subsequent BPPC meetings.

In November of 2002, the City published a third version of its attempts at



The view from the short course in Upper Bidwell Park.

a successful environmental document, a "proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration". This document pointed to the fact that Butte County Checkerbloom grew directly adjacent to some of the proposed fairways. A letter from environmental attorney Keith Wagner dated February 27, 2003 pointed out that because there could be no reasonable expectation that these plants would not suffer direct impacts as a result of disc play, a complete EIR would be the only legally allowable environmental review for the project.

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration also pointed out that ridge top vernal pools would require protection of some degree, however disc golfing continues at the site to this day with no mitigation.

According to Park Director Dennis Beardsley, "I don't think anyone realized at the time [how much use the facility would receive]." That might explain why the City staff and the BPPC never stopped to check the park wide goals of the Master Management Plan adopted in 1990. That plan clearly sets limits on the type of recreation (passive vs. active) and the degree of impact to the environment that should

be appropriately allowed as a result of recreation in the Park. The plan also emphasizes the need to encourage developed recreational opportunities outside of Bidwell Park lest the Park be unnecessarily impacted.

The City has agreed to produce an EIR, which according to Beardsley, will be presented after the draft updated MMP is approved by the BPPC. Impacts that should be addressed in the EIR include projected impacts to the thin soils at the site (compaction and erosion), impacts to special status plant and animal species, habitat fragmentation, impacts to Blue Oaks, impacts to wetlands, impacts to wildlife, impacts to aesthetics and impacts to the recreational opportunities of other park user groups.

Citizens of Chico await the draft EIR, which will be available from the City, for a public comment period of 45 days.

Perhaps what has environmentalists most on edge is the potential this project has to open the doors to further recreational developments in Bidwell Park.

"... We are uncomfortable with the trend of continuing to replace native

Continued on next page

Bidwell Park Master Management Plan *Needs Your Participation*

By Josephine Guardino,
Friends of Bidwell Park

Bidwell Park is the heart of Chico. Not only does the park provide natural beauty for enjoyment and educational opportunities, it also makes Chico a great city to live in and visit. Proper planning and wise management of Bidwell Park is essential if we intend to meet the needs of an ever-increasing number of park visitors and ensure the preservation of this incredible natural resource.

The City of Chico is currently in the process of updating its Master Management Plan (MMP) for Bidwell Park. This plan will clearly outline the framework for resource stewardship as well as the short and long-term goals for the park. In the MMP, the City should state specifically how it intends to protect Mechoopda Maidu Indian cultural areas, special-status plant and animal species and native biodiversity. It should also describe the threats of invasive non-native species, soil erosion, habitat fragmentation, park user

impacts, and encroachment of urban development, and how these can affect the natural setting of Bidwell Park.

The City has been given our collective trust and the responsibility of preserving the amazing natural resources of Bidwell Park, and at the same time providing recreational opportunities that are compatible with protecting Chico's valued natural heritage. Development and implementation of the MMP is a necessary step for the City on their path towards fulfillment of their responsibilities. Similarly, the citizens of Chico are responsible as well. The public's participation in development of the MMP is essential so that all interests and points of view are represented during the decision-making process, and no surprises arise in the future. Public input of concerned citizens through this interaction is essential for the long-term viability of our park's natural ecosystem.

The City is scheduled to present an outline of recommendations for the

MMP to the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) at an upcoming meeting. One or two meetings to specifically discuss the important details of the MMP will be scheduled for September, and it is projected to go to the BPPC for approval on September 26, 2005. Once the MMP is approved, the consulting firm (EDAW) will begin preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The draft EIR is projected to be available for comment by December. After a brief public comment phase (45 days) the City will rewrite the draft EIR to address all comments submitted during that time frame. The final EIR is proposed to go before the City Council in early spring (March or April).

For exact meeting dates and times, agendas and information pertaining to the development of the MMP, please visit the City Website at www.ci.chico.ca.us or the Friends of Bidwell Park website at www.FriendsOfBidwellPark.org.

Keep Sprawl Out of Butte County

Continued from Page 3

an illegal General Plan, so there is a void in comprehensive planning for all the major issues that impact all the cultural, community, natural, and working environments: agriculture, air quality, economy, education, habitats, health, housing, noise, recreation, open space, safety, transportation, water quality, water quantity, and wildlife. Transportation is usually the precursor to other impacts, so breaking the cycle perpetuated by BCAG (see article on page 13) requires looking beyond one's own windshield and considering where the region's going in 10, 25, or even 50 years. It requires thinking about the quality of life for our children and grandchildren. Will they thank us for failing to learn from our neighbors' mistakes to the south? I think not.

This is where a robust imagination comes in. Instead of focusing on moving more cars along ever more pavement, what if we focused on constructing better communities — extraordinary ones, even? How would we start this and where would it take us? It's entirely possible not only to imagine, but also to build the County's small and large towns into lively centers where most needs are met with a single car or bus or bicycle trip — or walk — between compact locations. Imagine a place that's all about its people — young, old, wealthy or working class — having lots of transportation, job, housing, and entertainment choices in order to lead more fulfilling and independent lives. This region can be a place whose air and water grow cleaner every year, with less traffic and noise and light pollution.

Butte Environmental Council is embarking on a project to challenge Butte County residents to not only imagine what their dream community and county would like, but how to make it happen. People interested in participating can watch our web site for more details: www.becnet.org.

Continued on Page 13

Disc Golf Impacts on Bidwell Park

Continued from previous page

vegetation and wildlife with manicured fields and courses," states Josephine Guardino of Friends of Bidwell Park.

Impacts to the site are already visible now, but the bigger threat is likely the long term, cumulative impacts; especially as the city grows and the sport becomes more popular. Disc golf courses in large cities are often so popular that they are packed with players from morning till sunset. Other communities in the U.S. are now experiencing significant damage to trees and shrubs from the much denser, narrower and hard thrown descendents of the original Frisbee as well as soil erosion and compaction along fairways and targets.

Bellingham, WA, San Francisco, CA and Bozeman, MT are as embroiled in the controversy over disc golf as we are

here in Chico. The lead urban foresters in those cities have acknowledged the damage to the bark, leaf canopy and overall health of their trees as a result of the sport. A visit to the Chico courses reveals impacts to our own ancient Blue Oaks as leaf-bearing small stems facing the tee are completely missing on the fairway trees.

In a letter dated December 8, 2004 to Dennis Beardsley from Andrew Conlin, a soil scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conlin states, "What I observed at the site is widespread erosion of the thin topsoil and the compaction of the remaining subsoil." He also states, "These shallow soils have a very limited capacity to withstand intense use over a large proportion of the site."

Friends of Bidwell Park have ex-

pressed other concerns with the project, including identifying the cost and sources of funding for maintenance, threat of wildfire resulting from cigarette smoking, unauthorized expansion of the courses, and mitigation enforcement.

It remains to be seen whether or not members of the environmental community can convince the City of Chico to reconsider the idea of opening Upper Bidwell Park to developed recreation. Publication of and subsequent commentary on the draft EIR should provide more information on this subject.

The results of the project proposal will eventually be voted on by the BPPC, and the Chico City council in turn. Agendas for public meetings are posted on the City's website at www.chico.ca.us.

Butte Environmental Council

Celebrating 30

What would Butte County look like without BEC?

Imagine 4,500 homes next to Bidwell Park on Rancho Arroyo, which was defeated in a referendum.

Think what the air quality would be like if the coal plant had been built in the late 1970s. BEC's newspaper was instrumental in the effort to galvanize public opposition to a plant that would have added 40 tons per day of sulfur dioxide pollutants to our air!

Visualize two decades of litter in Bidwell Park and Chico's creek if we hadn't held community cleanups.

Consider what Butte County might have turned into if the Board of Supervisors weren't sued when Dan Kohrdt broke state law ripping out trees and grading to build as he pleased and three Supervisors supported the illegal activity!

Imagine Chico sprawling down to Durham Pentz Road.

BEC has been here for 30 years as a watchdog and advocate for clean air, water and land in Butte, Glenn and Tehama Counties. BEC has led the annual Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanups for 20 years. We continue to educate the community through the events such as the annual Endangered Species Faire, the longest-running environmental fair in northern California.

Join us in a celebration of our success and spirit as we continue to work for sustainable communities, responsible growth, clean water, clean air, and healthy wildlands.



(above) BEC was formed as a cooperative in 1975. In 1977 BEC opened a multi-use recycling service, which it ran until the late 1980s, when it was sold to North Valley Disposal. (left) Since 1979, BEC has hosted the Endangered Species Faire, which educates and entertains thousands of Butte County residents every year in Bidwell Park.



(left) BEC's annual Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanups engage hundreds of volunteers in removing trash and recyclables from our waterways.



Years of Success

BEC



The Ranch That Will Change Chico

Slow Growth Movement Tested

By George Tharlow



Help us Celebrate!

In October - Eco-Art Opening at the 24hr Drive By Gallery (Dates TBA)

View environmentally-themed art and decide what you will bid on as part of the birthday bash. Proceeds benefit BEC.

October 20, 2005 - BEC's 30th Birthday Bash! at the Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room. Tickets \$30 (low-income available)

- Anniversary Art Auction
- Local Music and Children's Theater
- Great food
- Inspirational voices from our community

Don't miss this event! For more information, and to submit artwork for consideration, contact BEC at (530) 891-6424; becaccounting@sbcglobal.net



(above left) BEC continues to be at the forefront of advocating for land use decisions that promote open space and responsible growth. An example is Bidwell Ranch, an ongoing issue that is finally coming to a close in 2005 (see front page of this newsletter). (above) Executive Director Barbara Vlamis and webmaster Chuck Lundgren at BEC's 29th Birthday Party. (left) Diane Suzuki performing at the Endangered Species Faire.

1988



1986

LAND USE

Keeping an Eye on the Butte County Association of Governments

By Bill Pascale

What is BCAG? BCAG stands for the Butte County Association of Governments with offices located in Chico. After attending several monthly meetings, to figure out what they do, I can say I THINK I understand. BCAG is the overseer for all of Butte County transportation needs, including the Bus services. The bulk of the money for BCAG is obtained from the Federal funds that are given to the California Highway funds, and works off the trickle down theory for road projects

in our county. Of course, being that the state is not in the best of financial health at the present, this highway money does not trickle down to the local projects like it is suppose to. The biggest projects being the Highway 70/149 project and Highway 70/Ophir Road at present. BCAG reports to the Board of Supervisors and other members appointed to the board at a monthly meeting. These meetings last no longer than 45 minutes, and some less than 15 minutes. There is little or no public input at these

meetings. Of course like a lot of public meetings this one is held at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, so it is difficult for the general public to attend

The Highway 70/149 project started out at \$67 million dollars and as of June, 2005 has ballooned to 128 million, caused by delays, price of material increases and other factors. The project at the April meeting did have a green light to move the vernal pools, which should start in late summer. Then again, this could change. What has been brought up before and boggles the mind, why can't a signal be installed in the interim at the intersection while the project goes through the hoops? If one death is prevented, it was money well spent. Supervisor Yamaguchi brought up a good point at a recent meeting asking why cement barriers could not be placed on Hwy 149 until the project is finished. There never was an answer to this question.

Please consider attending BCAG to make your voice heard on important transportation projects in the County.

Chico Wal-Mart Update

By Heather Schlaff

Both the Forest Ave. expansion and the proposed SuperCenter for north Chico (at Garner and Highway 99) are still in the midst of preliminary studies and preparation of EIRs. We anticipate some kind of report to the Chico Planning Commission and a request for public comment by Sept. However, the last estimate for completion of EIRs was March, and that date has long passed.

In the meantime, a mailing was sent to registered voters living within a short radius of the proposed north Chico site, and there has been a great response. Approximately 100 people responded in opposition to that site, agreeing to allow their names to be used as supporters of the opposition.

In addition, Chico Advocates for a Responsible Economy (CARE) has set up a website, chicocares.org, to keep those opposed to Wal-Mart informed about both Wal-Mart locations.

Anyone interested in opposing Wal-Mart's growth in Chico also can email CARE at Chicocares@nella.net. We urge everyone interested in responsible growth and preservation of the unique character of Chico to join us in opposing the "Wal-martization" of our city.

Contact Your Representatives

Federal	
Senator Barbara Boxer 112 Hart Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3553 fax (202) 228-1338 1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240 San Francisco, CA 94111 415-403-0100 415-956-6701 fax	Senator Dianne Feinstein 331 Hart Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3841 (202) 228-3954 fax San Francisco (415) 393-0707 (415) 393-0710 fax (916) 442-3396 http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html

State			
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916-445-4633 http://www.govmail.ca.gov	Senator Sam Anastadt, 4th Senate District State Capitol, Room 2054 Sacramento, CA 95814 895-6088, (916) 651-4004 Senator.aanestad@sen.ca.gov	Assemblyman Rick Keene, District 3 State Capitol, Room 6027 P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0003 Phone: (916) 319-2003, Fax: (916) 319-2103 Local Office: 1550 Humboldt Road, Suite 4, Chico, CA 95928 Phone: (530) 895-4217, Fax: (530) 895-4219 Assemblymember.keene@assembly.ca.gov	Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa, District 2 State Capitol, Room 4177 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002 Phone: (916) 319-2002, Redding 223-6300 Yuba City 751-8351, Fax: (916) 319-2102 Assemblymember.lamalfa@assembly.ca.gov

Local		
Butte County Supervisors Dist 1: Bill Connelly – 538-6834 BConnelly@buttecounty.net Dist 2: Jane Dolan - 891-2830/895-6508 fax JDolan@buttecounty.net Dist 3: Mary Anne Houx - 891-2800/895-6508 fax MAHoux@buttecounty.net Dist 4 : Curt Josiassen - 882-4447 CJosiassen@buttecounty.net Dist 5: Kim Yamaguchi – 872-6303 KYamaguchi@buttecounty.net	Glenn County Supervisors District 1, Tom McGowan 934-6418 gboard@countyofglenn.net District 2, Gary Freeman 934-6418 gfreeman@countyofglenn.net District 3, John Amaro 934-6418 gboard@countyofglenn.net District 4, Denny Bungarz 934-7342 dbungarz@countyofglenn.net District 5, Keith Hansen 934-6418 gboard@countyofglenn.net	Tehama County Supervisors District 1 Gregg Avilla: 527-4655 ext 3015 District 2 George Russell 527-4655 ext 3014 District 3 Charles Willard 527-4655 ext 3017 District 4 Ross Turner 527-4655 ext 3018 District 5 Ron Warner 527-4655 ext 3016

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Mechoopda Casino Projects Bad Location with Dangerous Consequences

Why are the Mechoopda people proposing a casino in the middle of grazing land off Highway 149? Location. The investors in the casino project who have a troubled past (Enterprise Record March 29, 2005), have made it clear to the Mechoopda and BEC that that it is their preferred location even though it is fraught with serious and significant impacts that could alter the middle of Butte County forever. Fortunately, BEC was not the only group to point out the serious consequences of this scheme through comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) that was prepared for the casino (future plans for expansion beyond a casino were not addressed though this is legally required).

Concerns Raised by Butte County, January 26, 2004

1. The casino and parking lot (and future expansion projects) (Casino Projects) are not consistent with the Butte County General Plan and zoning.

2. The Casino Projects did not adequately assess endangered species in the EA.

3. The Casino Projects have the potential to lead to cumulative impacts by converting agricultural land to a "highly intensive commercial use" and creating growth inducing impacts that could lead to development pressure in the communities of Durham and Dayton as well as "discontinuous patterns of urban development and significant impacts to the agricultural resources of the County."

4. The EA contains "NO mitigation measures" (emphasis in the original) for traffic or transportation impacts.

5. The Casino Projects raise deep concerns regarding flooding, hydrology, and wastewater impacts.

6. "...the EA estimates thirty-one (31) fire related incidents annually. The EA does not present any empirical analysis to support this estimate. Based upon known incident loads from two existing tribal casinos in operation in Butte County, this figure appears to

be significantly underestimated. There is not a fire station close enough to realistically provide the medical or fire services needed in a time of critical life-threatening emergency."

Concerns Raised by the City of Chico, April 19, 2004

1. The City of Chico would be impacted by approximately 1,300 to 1,880 additional vehicle trips per day and suggest that the EA provide a much more accurate analysis of the expected traffic impacts by reviewing the actual changes that have occurred with existing northstate casinos.

2. The Casino Projects have not adequately analyzed the air quality impacts and should actually prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to provide a more in-depth review.

3. "There is no water service for the proposed casino site... The proposed well is in a FEMA-designated floodplain, and the interaction between surface and groundwater at this location is unclear. This is especially important as year-round groundwater pumping in an area that exhibits a strong groundwater/surface water interface could result in significant impacts to riparian habitat downstream along Dry Creek, as well as the fragile vernal pool complexes located adjacent to the proposed project site." The pumping could also adversely affect flows to Dry Creek, a tributary of Butte Creek where millions of public dollars have been invested to restore its native fish population.

4. The visual impact analysis is inadequate. "The fact that a 41,600 square-foot casino building with signage and a 288,500 square-foot parking lot filled with lights will be placed on a [sic] undeveloped rural setting adjacent to a highly traveled highway that connects SR 99 and SR 70 is itself noteworthy evidence of a substantial change to visual resources."

5. An Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared.

We are so pleased that local government entities have taken such a responsible role in commenting on the Casino



Aerial view of current habitat and land use with the proposed site of the casino superimposed.

Projects, however, the County has withdrawn its objections after private meetings with the proponents. A July 23, 2004 letter refers to a Memorandum of Understanding where the Mechoopda have agreed to mitigate for all of their impacts, an impossibility with this site in the middle of grazing land and a hydrologically sensitive area. Money doesn't cover everything. In an attempt

to avoid a legal confrontation over the many issues mentioned above, BEC has organized many meetings with the tribe to discuss other possible locations, but the tribe has declined to continue the conversation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has recently stated that additional environmental review is required for this project, so hopefully an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for

Keep Sprawl Out of Butte County An Urban Sprawl Example

Continued from Page 9

The looming project that epitomizes this exhausting and unhealthy lifestyle is the highway 149 expansion that is expected to start in 2006, even though a major requirement for the project is to create a Habitat and Conservation Plan for Butte County. The project as planned will turn a 4.6 mile highway between highway/freeway 70 and highway/freeway 99 into a four-lane freeway with two clover-leaf intersections. All this is occurring in the middle of grazing land that is mostly zoned Unclassified or Grazing and Open Land in the County's old General Plan. Oroville, the county seat and nearby city is four miles south of the highway. Current operating capacity is Level of Service C. The main traffic pattern on Hwy 149 is from Oroville to Chico and vice versa (DEIR/S May 2002). The DEIR/S projects that the LOS will drop from level C to E by 2020.

Many alternatives obviously exist to handle the majority of this internally generated traffic covering the total 20 mile stretch between Oroville and Chico.

Below are some ideas for the expansion corridor that we have presented to all the jurisdictional agencies over the last four years, yet they are dismissed as quaint when the \$133.1 million boondoggle with four lanes and two clover leaf interchanges is crowding the discussion.

- Signalize both intersections at a cost of approximately \$250,000 each or use a fly over ramp.
- Diminish traffic speed from Oroville to 55.
- Lengthen turn lanes on Hwys 99 and 70.
- Advocate for more funding for more CHP personnel in the area.
- Prioritize Butte County Transit by increasing buses during peak commute hours.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

All Year! - Friends of Bidwell Park Weekly Volunteer Opportunities: Friends of Bidwell Park sponsors volunteer invasive plant removal and trash pickup sessions 3-4 mornings a week. To find out more, to schedule a special group session, or to sign up for weekly park activity email updates, call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org.

January-December - 100 Years of Gratitude. Bidwell Park Centennial exhibit encompassing the cultural history, community impact, and natural history of the first 100 years of Bidwell Park. At Chico Museum, 141 Salem St., Jennifer Oman, 521-2260, joman@neteze.com.

May-November - California Wildlife Festival. Wildlife events, exhibits, celebrations throughout Northern Cal. See www.cawatchablewildlife.org/festivals

March – September - “Bidwell Park In Winter” Beautiful photography of Bidwell Park, by local artist, Marion Bronson. This exhibit is a photographic exploration of the special beauty of Lower Bidwell Park when it is at its bleakest. Open to the public during Chico Creek Nature Center’s regular business hours, 11am-4pm, Tuesday through Friday. 891-4671.

Every Tuesday – Power Walk Along the Creek. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1 ½ hour brisk walk. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Thursdays September 1, October 6 and November 3 - Monthly meeting for Chico Cat Coalition current or prospective volunteers. Come to discuss our progress and lend new ideas for fundraising, adoptions, publicity and networking. 7 p.m., City Council Building, 4th and Main. For more information: 894-1365, catcoalition@hotmail.com, www.ChicoCatCoalition.org.

Saturday, August 20 - “Skulldugger” Join local naturalist Scott Torricelli, to “bone-up” on your knowledge of the natural world around us. During

this program participants will look at skeletal remains of different animals to discuss the similarities and differences between carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores. This is a great event for all ages. This free program meets inside the Chico Creek Nature Center, at 1pm. Space is limited to 35 people. Please call us at 891-4671 to pre-register for this event.

Saturday, August 20 – Grammy Award winner Richie Haven performing in Cedar Grove (1968 East 8th St). See www.chicotickets.com for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, August 20-21 - Lassen National Park. Beat the heat and head for the high country. We will meet at the Park & Ride (west lot nearest freeway) at 7:30 AM on Saturday and carpool. We will get a group campsite and take short hikes in various Park locations. You can join us on the hikes, or lounge in camp and let the birds come to you. Contact Phil Johnson pjohnsonhardwood@sunset.net or 893-3222 to coordinate camping.

Sunday, August 21 - Indian Spring Trail to Butte Creek (grade 1, class A). Enjoy an afternoon hike and swim at the south end of the 1,987-acre Forks of Butte Recreation Area, at its most car-friendly access point off De Sabla Powerhouse Road. You may meet at Chico Park & Ride at 12:30 for an informal carpooling or at Paradise Albertsons at 1:00 PM for a short caravan to the trailhead. This stretch of Butte Creek is eligible for Wild & Scenic status. Leader: Stephen, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com.

Wednesday, August 24 - BPCC Volunteer meeting. Chico Chamber of Commerce conference room, 300 Salem St. The Bidwell Park Centennial Celebration Committee will hold its monthly volunteer meeting in the Chico Chamber conference room from 5:30 to 7 PM. If you’re interested in learning more about the celebration and would like to volunteer, please join us. For more info: Call 530.891.5559 ext 307, or email bpcc@sbcglobal.net. 5K Fun Run/Walk in Bidwell Park

Saturday, August 27 - 5K Fun Run/Walk in Bidwell Park to celebrate the

Bidwell Park Centennial and the 30th anniversary of the Chico Running Club. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Bidwell Park Centennial Committee. The event starts at 8:00 am and finishes at the One-Mile Recreation Area in Lower Bidwell Park. The course is flat, paved, and free of traffic. Entry forms will be available soon from the Chico Running Club web site at www.chicorunningclub.org. For more info info@chicorunningclub.org

Saturday, August 27, 2005 – Sacramento River Preservation Trust’s Annual Member Picnic at Tehama Park at Woodson Bridge. Come and celebrate with us as we enjoy interpretative hikes, boat tours, catered lunch, and enjoyment of others. The cost is \$10 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Contact us for more information at 345-1865.

Saturday, August 27- Curtain Falls Gorge Scramble (grade 2, class B). Hike down the Bald Rock Dome Trail to the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Feather River (about 1,500 ft elevation loss on a well-engineered trail.) Then wade, swim and scramble 1/2 mile upstream to Curtain Falls. Limited to 15 participants. Call leaders for more information. Leaders: Doug, 345-0296 and Dave, 342-4118.

Sunday, August 28 - Turner Mountain Hike (grade 2, class B). A pretty climb of 5-6 miles and about 2,000’ in the Lassen National Forest south of Mineral to the top of 6,900’ Turner Mountain for views of the surrounding area, including Lake Almanor, Butt Mountain, Mount Lassen and Brokeoff Mountain. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:00AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Saturday, September 3 – Riparian Plants of Upper Park Walk Join botanist John Dittes along the Yahi Trail to learn more about the park’s creekside plants. Meet at Parking Area E, 10 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org for more information.

Thursday, September 8, Sierra Club, Yahi Group, Program Meeting. Valerie Spencer, a representative from Mendon’s Nursery, will be our guest speaker, discussing landscaping with

native plants and water conservation. The public meeting starts at 7.00 p.m. at Oak Knoll Senior Living (activity room) at 1007 Buschmann Road in Paradise.

Saturday, September 10 - Friends of Bidwell Park Presentation. The presentation takes place at the Chico Museum from 1-2:30 pm. For more info: Call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org. <http://friendsofbidwellpark.org/calendar.html#m9-2005>

Saturday, September 10 – Maidu Medicine Walk Wes Dempsey will lead a hike from 9:30-noon identifying the many species of native plants and discussing how the Maidu Indians used them in their daily lives. Meet at Parking Area E in Upper Park. Wear good walking shoes and bring water. Rain cancels. Call the Chico Creek Nature Center at 891-4671 to pre-register for this event.

Saturday, September 10 – Big Chico Creek Watershed Monitoring Meet at Five Mile Recreation Area on Centennial Ave. From 9 am to noon. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620.

Wednesday, September 14 – Grammy Award winner Ani Difranco with special guest Toshi Reagon, performing in Cedar Grove (1968 East 8th St). Doors open 5 PM, show begins at 7 PM. Tickets \$35 in advance, \$37 at door, students \$30 (show ID at gate). See www.chicotickets.com for more information.

Saturday, September 17 – Annual Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico cleanup. Sponsored by Butte Environmental Council. 9 AM to 1 PM, followed by a lunch for the volunteers. Meet at Parking Area E in Upper Park for park cleanup and Foster’s Old Fashioned Freeze for creeks cleanup. This is also National Public Lands Day—help to make the public lands of Chico ready for the winter rains.

Saturday, September 17, 2005 - Sacramento River Float. Sponsored by the Sacramento River Preservation Trust (Trust) and AS Adventure Outings (AO). Transportation provided

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

from Chico. Boating equipment and river guides will be provided by AO. Must be 18 or older to participate. Go to www.sacrivertrust.org to find out more. This trip will fill up quickly, and there is a limited amount of space, so call the Trust at (530) 345-1865 soon!

Saturday, October 1 - Riparian & Oak Savannah Habitat Tour at Turtle Bay. Join River Partners for a guided walking tour of the natural habitat at Turtle Bay (see page five for more info). 8:30 - 10:30 am. \$5 donation for adults and children under 12 are free. Call River Partners to make a reservation at 894-5401.

Saturday, October 1 - Scour and Devour CSU, Chico's annual student volunteer cleanup of downtown Chico and Bidwell Park. Help to co-ordinate this event by volunteering to be one of the team leaders.

Thursday, Saturday, October 6-8 - The California Invasive Plant Council's Annual Symposium. For the first time, this event will be held at CSU, Chico! Seminars and workshops will be on Thursday and Friday and field trips on Saturday. For more information, see the Cal-IPC web site www.cal-ipc.org.

Saturday, October 8, 2005 - The Sacramento River Preservation Trust (Trust) and AS Adventure Outings (AO) are co-sponsoring a Sacramento River float. Transportation is provided from

Chico. Boating equipment and river guides will be provided by AO. Go to www.sacrivertrust.org to find out more. This trip will fill up quickly, and there is a limited amount of space, so call the Trust at (530) 345-1865 soon!

Sunday, October 9- Mechoopda Indian Tribe Presentation. Chico Museum. View the Mechoopda Indian Tribe presentation at the Chico Museum from 1 PM to 3 PM.

Sunday, October 9 - Relationship with Nature: Traditional and Modern Day Presentation by the Mechoopda Indian Tribe at the Chico Museum at 1 PM. For more information, see Bidwell Park Centennial 1905-2005 (www.bidwellpark.org)

Saturday, October 15 - Trace the Upper Park flume route from Horse-shoe Lake to Diversion Dam. Learn more about the history of this project and see new areas of the park. 9 am to 2 pm, about a 4 mile hike. Limited to 10 participants because it's partly off-trail. Bring water and lunch. For more information or to sign up, email info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org or call 892-1666.

Saturday, October 15 - Grand Opening Celebration of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges. This complex of refuges will now be open to the public. Come celebrate with tours and other events. For more information, call Denise Dachner at (530) 934-2801

or visit <http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov>.

Sunday, October 16 - The Bidwells and Early Chico Join amateur historian Dave Nopel on a walk through CSUC & downtown Chico, to learn more about the Bidwells, the establishment of CSUC, Big Chico Creek and Bidwell Park. From 9 AM to 1 PM, starting at Bidwell Mansion. Bring water and lunch. Steady rain cancels. Sierra Club Yahli Group. For more info, call Dave Nopel at 342-4118.

Sunday, October 16, 2005 - Sacramento River Float. Sacramento River Preservation Trust and Friends of the River event. Boating equipment and river guides will be provided by FOR. A deli style lunch is included with the float. Additional donations are appreciated. Kids 12 and older are especially welcome. Go to www.sacrivertrust.org to find out more. This trip will fill up quickly. Call the Trust at (530) 345-1865 soon!

Thursday, October 20 - BEC's 30th Birthday! at Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room, Chico. See center spread in this newsletter for more information.

New Book on Bidwell Park Amphibians

Bidwell Park's 3,670 acres encompass a range of natural habitats and an abundance of wildlife. At night, underground, and beneath debris exists a world all its own, where much of the Park's inhabitants - among them salamanders, frogs and toads, turtles, lizards, and snakes - remain hidden and unseen.

Amphibians and Reptiles of Bidwell Park by local naturalist and artist Jackson D. Shedd is a comprehensive field guide that includes: detailed species accounts of all amphibians and reptiles within Bidwell Park; full color illustrations of all species covered; line drawings depicting characteristics of amphibians and reptiles discussed within; and two maps illustrating both Bidwell Park's varied habitats and its most prominent trails.

The books are available at the Chico Creek Nature Center, Bidwell Mansion, and Mountain Sports.

Chico Cat Coalition Seeking New Volunteers

Volunteers are especially needed right now to temporarily foster kittens in their home. Annually, the CCC rescues about 90 felines who have been cruelly dumped in the park and currently several need fostering.

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 all food, supplies, veterinary costs and transportation if needed, and adoption services.

A variety of shifts are also unfilled at our BG Barn Sanctuary (a.k.a. the "Taj Mahal"). We also have a need for people who can help with fundraising,

adoption events, veterinary transportation and trapping in the park.

Since 1998, the Chico Cat Coalition has rescued 742 cats and kittens from exclusively from the park. 581 of them have been placed in good homes. We are a no-kill, all-volunteer 501c(3) organization. Your tax-deductible donation is always welcome and greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to join our cause, please contact us! Volunteer applications and other information can be found at our website at www.ChicoCatCoalition.org. You may also call us at 894-1365 or email catcoalition@hotmail.com.

Greenfeet
Natural Home Store

Thank You
Greenfeet!!!

Greenfeet
1360 E. 1st Ave.
Chico, CA
894-5255
www.greenfeet.com

Now when you shop at Greenfeet and mention BEC, BEC will receive 15% of your purchase! You can shop in-store or online. In order for BEC to receive the generous 15% of your purchase you must mention BEC when you shop in-store or if you shop online, you must access Greenfeet website through the icon link on the BEC home page www.becnet.org

Sustainable, ecological
and recycled items to create
healthy, non-toxic homes:

Bed & Bath, Kitchen, Yard & Garden,
Gifts, Home Decor

Living with Fire for Forest Health in the Sierra Nevada

By Jim Brobeck

During the past decade western forest scientists have been delivering the message that fire suppression has contributed to the decrease in forest health. Even before the aboriginal occupants of our region began using fire as a vegetation management tool, Western forested ecosystems have evolved with wildfire as a mechanism of disturbance, rejuvenation and nutrient recycling. The consequences of fire exclusion for sequoia groves are beginning to show; almost no new giant sequoias have begun to grow in the last 130 years because sequoia seedling establishment depends on fire to expose bare mineral soil and to create clearings, which with their extra sunlight and soil moisture, are especially favorable for the growth of new trees.

Lightning fires have unique spatial and temporal distribution patterns in relation to topography and vegetation. The ecological role of fire is a manifestation of those patterns. The simultaneous occurrence of a lightning strike, flammable fuel, and conducive weather determines the frequency, size, and intensity of a fire. The prevalence of lightning strikes and fires shows conclusively that fire is an integral and pervasive part of Sierra Nevada ecosystems rather than an external disturbance (van Wagtenonk 1994).

Nearly a century of fire control in the Sierra Nevada has led to conditions that now threaten the very forests they were designed to protect. Suppression of naturally occurring surface fires has allowed the forest floor to become a tangle of understory vegetation and accumulated debris. Open forests and meadows have been invaded by trees and chaparral. Thickets of shade-tolerant incense-cedar and white fir have increased and have deflected succession away from the less shade-tolerant ponderosa and sugar pines.

If natural conditions and processes are to be restored and perpetuated in the Sierra Nevada, fire must be reintroduced. In large wilderness areas and parks, naturally occurring lightning

feel safe when the land surrounding them -- the community protection zone is treated to reduce hazardous fuels through strategic thinning, brush removal, and prescribed burning. Cohen and colleagues found that even high

400 Sierra communities at risk from wildfire. We need the Forest Service to restore its promise to protect Sierra communities instead of logging the large, fire-resistant trees in the remote backcountry.

The Sierra Nevada economy is growing dramatically, but this growth isn't coming from the timber industry. Since logging accounts for less than three percent of the economy of the Sierra region, the federal government's plan to reopen the door to widespread commercial logging doesn't add up. Recreation, tourism, small diameter wood production, and other industries are and should continue to replace the boom and bust cycle of large timber mills. Such forward thinking economic strategies can preserve the scenic values that draw visitors and new residents to our region, while creating sustainable job opportunities that perpetuate those values.



fires should be allowed to burn under prescribed conditions. It is important that naturally managed ecosystems not be denied ecologically significant processes such as fire.

The question becomes how to better manage wildland fire so that people and communities are safe, while ecosystems are allowed to benefit from the annual seasons of flame? Most important, the only way fire will ever be successfully reintroduced is for the rural communities on the front lines to feel safe.

Federal fire scientists have determined that it is the home and its immediate surroundings (30m-60m) that principally determine the potential for home ignition during fires (Cohen, 2000). Even so, communities will only

intensity crown fires will not directly ignite homes at distances beyond approximately 60 meters (200 feet).

Fire scientists have determined that mechanical thinning without prescribed fire (including fuel breaks) does not effectively reduce fire behavior under extreme conditions (Stephens, 1998). They have also concluded that thinning or other mechanical treatments alone will not restore forest ecosystems (Conservation Biology, Vol. 18, no. 4, August 2004).

In 2001, the Forest Service promised to prioritize the reduction of hazardous fuels near our homes and communities. Now, the agency has shifted more of its focus to logging in remote forest areas far from our homes, and significantly decreased funding for fuel reduction projects in our communities. While we can clear fire hazards from our properties, we need the Forest Service to do its part by removing fuels on near-by public lands. According to the California Forest Alliance, there are more than

Federal fire scientists have determined that it is the home and its immediate surroundings (30m-60m) that principally determine the potential for home ignition during fires.

Keep Your Home Fire Safe

1. Create a **DEFENSIBLE SPACE** of 100' around your home. The area closest to your home is the most important.
2. Do not have any combustible fuel within three feet of your home.
3. Clear all vegetation and other flammable materials from beneath your deck.
4. Clean all needles and leaves from the roof, eaves, and rain gutters.
5. Landscape vegetation should be spaced so that fire can not be carried to the structure or surrounding vegetation.
6. Remove branches from trees to height of 15 feet.

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
CRV	\$	\$	◆	\$	◆	\$	\$		◆	\$			◆	\$	\$	◆	\$	\$		\$
Glass		\$	◆	\$		\$	◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Metal																				
Bi-metal cans		\$	◆		◆	◆				◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Tin cans		\$				◆	◆			◆			◆	◆			◆			
Aluminum foil/ pie pans			◆				\$			◆										
Scrap metals		\$		\$		\$					\$									
Plastics														◆						
#1 Plastic		\$	◆	◆	◆		\$		◆	◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#2 Plastic		\$	◆		◆		\$			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#3-7 Plastic		\$	◆				◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆			
Paper																				
Newspaper			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Magazines			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Phone books			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Cardboard			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆
Mixed paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Ledger paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Hazardous Waste																				
Alkaline batteries			◆						◆						◆					
Car batteries		\$				\$	◆	◆			\$	◆		◆						
Paint								◆						◆						
Pesticides								◆						◆						
Fluorescent lights & ballasts							\$	◆						\$						
Used motor oil							F	◆						◆			\$			
Anti-freeze								◆						◆						
Miscellaneous																				
Appliances (no freon)		◆				F														
Appliances (with freon)														F						
Cars														F						

- ◆ Accepts recyclables listed
- \$ Cash paid for recyclables listed
- F Fee 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) Butte Co. 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.
- 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 Hazardous 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 hrs.
- 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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Yard Waste: Compost Facility
Cohasset Rd (west headed toward airport),
624-3529, 8-4 Tu-Sa, \$19 per cubic yard.

Septic Problems: Butte County
Environmental Health Dept.
Chico: 891-2727; Oroville: 538-7282

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

A.S. Recycling Program

BMU 002, CSU Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0763
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978
www.aschico.org; 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
asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

Altacal Audubon Society

PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927
530/824-0253
www.altacal.org; 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; 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
mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu
Mike Lennox, President

Bidwell Environmental Institute

CSU Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0555
530/898-6317 fax: 530/898-4363
www.csuchico.edu/bei
rlederer@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
Ann Schwab, Chair

Bidwell Park Endowment Fund

PO Box 3223, Chico, CA 95927-3223
530/345-7265
ptombarrett@sbcglobal.net
Tom Barrett

Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927
530/343-9004 (Wildlife Help Phone)

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

PO Box 461, Chico, CA 95927
530/894-1308; www.bigchicocreek.org
coordinator@bigchicocreek.org
Susan Strachan, Chair

Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy

PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927
530/893-5399
www.buttecreekwatershed.org
creek@inreach.com
Chuck Kutz

Butte Environmental Council, Inc.

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

Butte Humane Society

2579 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
530/343-7917 fax: 530/343-3734
www.buttehumane.org
shelter@buttehumane.org

California Conservation Corps

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

California Native Plant Society

2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
916/447-2677; cnps@cnps.org
www.cnps.org

California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter

PO Box 3212, Chico, CA 95927
530/342-6053
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
oakstaff@californiaoaks.org
Janet Santos Cobb, Executive Director

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html; 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; info@calwild.org
Mary L. Wells, Executive Director

Cherokee Preservation Society

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

Chico Certified Farmer's Market

305 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928
530/893-3276
Terry Givens, Market Manager

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
naturecenter@chico.com
Tom Haithcock, Director

Chico Avenues Neighborhood Association

1627 Arcadian Ave.
Chico, CA 95926
530/343-8334; www.theavenues.org

avenues@infostations.com
Kasey Merrill

Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program

PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942
530/895-0866; streamrc@earthlink.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
ed@chicovelo.org; Ed McLaughlin

Community Legal Information Center, CSUC

Chico, CA 95926
530/898-4354 x16 fax: 530/898-4911
www.csuchico.edu/clic/ea
cllc@csuchico.edu

Environmental Action & Resource Center

418 Ivy St., Chico, CA 95928
530/898-5676
www.csuchico.edu/earc
earc@csuchico.edu

The Esplanade League

PO Box 4868
Chico, CA 95927-4868
www.esplanadeleague.org
eleague@shocking.com
Diana Dwyre, President

Farm Sanctuary

PO Box 1065, Orland, CA 95963
530/865-4617 fax: 530/865-4622
www.farmsanctuary.org
west@farmsanctuary.org
Diane Miller

Friends of Bidwell Park

PO Box 3036
Chico, CA 95927-3036
530/892-1666
www.friendsofbidwellpark.org
info@friendsofbidwellpark.org
Susan Mason, President

Friends of Butte Creek

PO Box 3305
Chico, CA 95927
530/879-0887

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

www.buttetecreek.org
friends@buttecreek.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

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

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Shelly Miller

Become a BEC Member!

What does BEC do?

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

What BEC membership brings you:

- A subscription to the quarterly *Membergrams*.
- The right to serve on and vote for BEC's Board of Directors.
- 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.

Sign me up for a BEC membership!

- ☐ \$500
- Cougar Cadre (Receives 4 tickets to the Environmental Banquet)
- ☐ \$150
- Energy Elite
- ☐ \$35
- Individual
- ☐ \$100
- Wetlands Watch
- ☐ \$20
- Low income
- ☐ \$50
- Household

Become a BEC Angel!

I would like to become a "BEC Angel" by pledging \$ _____
per ☐ month or ☐ quarter to BEC. Enclosed is my first payment.

Method of payment

- ☐ Electronic Funds Transfer now available. Call BEC at 891-6424 for details.
- ☐ Check, made payable to BEC.
- ☐ Credit card (circle one) Visa Mastercard Amex Discover

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- ☐ 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).

A Call to Artists

BEC is accepting environmentally-themed artwork submissions from local artists for its 30th Anniversary Art Auction (see center spread of this newsletter). Deadline for submission is October 5th. Up to three submissions per artist; no fee for submission. All levels of talent and experience are encouraged to submit for consideration. We also invite youth ages 2 to 18 to submit artwork for our special "Kids on the Environment" display. Selected submissions will be displayed at the 24hr Drive By Gallery in October, and may be auctioned as part of BEC's 30th Anniversary Birthday celebration. Proceeds benefit BEC. Artists will receive 30% of each sale on sales of \$10 or more. For submission details and further information, contact BEC at (530) 891-6424 or becaccounting@sbcglobal.net.

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 _____

A Gift that Works for You!

Did you know that your gift to Butte Environmental Council can provide you with income for life, reduce capital gains taxes, and leave a powerful legacy of environmental protection and education?

Why Make a Bequest?

The bequests our members make leave an ongoing legacy to the Butte Environmental Council. A growing number of members understand the benefits of including BEC in their estate plans. There are a variety of methods available for providing financial support:

Planned Giving

- A bequest from your Will or Living Trust
- IRAs and Qualified Retirement Plans

Other Donations

- Commemorative or Memorial Gifts
- Monthly Giving (BEC Angels)

If you are interested, please contact your personal financial planner or attorney. For basic information, please contact Butte Environmental Council.

*Phone: (530) 891-6424
Email: legacy@becnet.org*

