

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S

Environmental

NEWS

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The De-watering of Our Valley and Foothills?

Four Damaging Water Transfer Plans

By Jim Brobeck

Illustration by Mike Gomez

A Little History

Northern California was surprised to experience what was considered a drought during the late 80's. Though mild in comparison to the medieval era Western droughts that lasted over 100 years, these periods inspired a round of surface water sales from Sacramento Valley Rice farms to buyers south of the Delta. To make up for the transferred river water diversions, Western Canal and Richvale Irrigation districts tapped groundwater. In 1994, water sales brokered by DWR under the so-called Drought Water Bank coincided with drastic water level drops and pump strandings in numerous Durham area wells.

Affected citizens proposed a ballot initiative that would create ordinances to regulate ground water management. Measure F would have provided regulations with enforcement teeth to protect Butte County ground water from over-use in the county. Measure G provided similar regulations but with no enforcement power. After a hard fought, well financed campaign, Measure G, the weaker of the two competing ground water management plans, beat Measure

F. The Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation was formed and a retired DWR employee was installed to head the department.

Now there are several schemes unfolding to inject our groundwater into the state water supply. While four schemes have surfaced there are undoubtedly others unfolding behind the closed doors of water resource exploiters. But first, a quick primer on the nature of Butte County's ground water...

Hydrogeology and the Threat of Water Sales

Most people do not realize that the Sacramento Valley is primarily a

saline water aquifer system, and that fresh ground water is only found in the upper formations. Marine formations, such as the Great Valley Sequence and the Lower Princeton Submarine Valley Fill deposits are the primary saline water aquifer systems in the northern Sacramento Valley. The groundwater from these aquifer systems is highly saline and unsuitable for either domestic or agricultural use.

Four major freshwater, or non-marine, formations exist in the northern Sacramento Valley. They are the Alluvial deposits, the Tuscan Formation—units A and B, the Tuscan Formation—unit C, and the Tehama Formation. These

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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 Tempra Board at tempragb@sunset.net. All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via e-mail to tempragb@sunset.net. 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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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

Rock Ranch Benefit *For Butte's Ground Water*

On May 20, 2006, BEC held the first ever nature photography art show and benefit at the ranch of Chris and Maria Rock. More than 50 community members attended this inspiring event, and BEC raised \$4,000 to support our campaign to protect Northern California's groundwater supply.

Thanks to local artist and BEC Development Committee member Jim Gregg, five nature photographers were featured at the event, and a portion of the sales of their art work benefited BEC. Featured were Jim Gregg, John Hendrickson, Charlie Osborn, Jeffery Rich, and Mike Simpson. The event also featured incredible food by David Guzzetti, wine, and music by Local World. BEC would like to thank everyone who attended and the volunteers who made the event such a success.

The spring weather was wonderful, and the setting at the Rock Ranch was beautiful. Barbara Vlamis discussed the need for local work to protect our ground water, and Jennifer Oman and Debra Moon, BEC Development Committee members, encouraged the crowd to support this important work. Our deepest thanks to all who attended and committed their support.



Guests enjoyed the beautiful oak woodland setting of Chris and Maria Rock's ranch and supported BEC's ground water protection campaign.

The event not only benefited BEC, but brought exposure to the artists featured. BEC will be holding an expanded event in the spring of 2007, and we hope many of you can attend.

BEC is also thrilled to announce a new grant from the Acorn Foundation to further support our groundwater work this year. This, coupled with support from the community, is helping us

fight current major threats to export additional surface and ground water to fuel Southern California sprawl. BEC has joined with other prominent statewide organizations such as the Environmental Water Caucus, and the Sacramento Valley Environmental Watershed Caucus, which are working collaboratively to help stop these damaging export proposals.

About Our Illustrators...

Mike Gomez

One of Mike Gomez's favorite pastimes and hobbies is drawing. An avid award winning artist, Mike has had published works appear in Videomaker Magazine, Smart TV and Sound Magazine, Star Wars Insider Magazine and also on Starwars.com. Mike looks to someday become a full time illustrator and is always working on various new artistic projects. He can be reached via email at padmetigs@aol.com.



Gregg Payne

Gregg Payne has been involved with art projects that celebrate nature and science for over 25 years in the Chico area. A few examples include the Paradise Butte County Library native wildlife murals, the Camouflage Freeway Pillars in Bidwell Park, the Chico Natural Foods mural and the Butterfly murals on the bike bridge in Lindo Channel. Recent interactive sculptural projects in our community are the Giant Xylophone in Wildwood Park, California's largest wind chimes, the tone poles for our disc golf courses and the Cube Benches for the Boys and Girls Plaza. His most recent creation is the world's largest teleidoscope which will soon be used as community outreach for the Jesus Center. He believes public art is the most effective means to reach the most people in the most positive way.



Casino Location is *All Wrong*

A revised Environmental Assessment (EA) for a casino off Highway 149 is out for public comment. BEC has been following the issue of the Mechoopda Tribe's interest in building a new casino in Butte County since it surfaced in 2002. BEC met with Mechoopda leaders in 2002 and implored them not to attempt to build a casino off of Highway 149 on land zoned for grazing and open space that contain valuable wetlands, creeks, and a direct connection to Butte County's ground water. We were told that their "investors" preferred that site, and the group began putting its energy into seeking permits for that property.

BEC continued to communicate with their representatives and offered to assist in locating another site with fewer impacts. During the last meeting in October 2004, BEC suggested that all interested stakeholders, including Butte County, the City of Chico, BEC, and others hold a joint meeting with planning maps and aerial photographs to review alternative sites with fewer constraints. The investors, consultants, and representatives expressed interest, but BEC was never contacted again.

In 2004, BEC was pleasantly surprised to read the strong comments generated by Butte County in response to the EA (highlights below). Since that time, Butte County appeared to at first decline to pursue a remedy to their concerns, then returned to the positions expressed in their 2004 comments and has been working diligently to protect the heart of the County from the ill-conceived placement of a casino, housing, and support facilities on this open space and vernal pool habitat south of Chico. This area is fraught with environmental and planning problems since it is an aquifer recharge area, provides significant acreage for plant and animal species found in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon*, and would induce sprawl.

The County has demonstrated its concerns about the proposed project site in writing ever since it first commented on the first EA in January 2004. They have held meetings with

the Mechoopda since that date to try to address the County's concerns and the Mechoopda's desires. As documented via e-mails obtained by BEC through a Public Records Act request, it appears that Mechoopda representatives began trying to speak with department heads instead of the designated County representative, Chief Administrator, Paul McIntosh. The County quite rightly objected to that procedure.

The investors in the casino project, who have a troubled past according to the local daily newspaper (*Enterprise Record*, March 29, 2005), have made it clear to the Mechoopda and BEC that the Hwy. 149 site is their preferred location, but, as mentioned above, this is fraught with serious and significant impacts that could alter the middle of Butte County forever.

1. This area is a highly sensitive portion of the Butte Basin aquifer recharge area and the surface waterways are tributaries to salmon streams.

2. The entire 630 acres are part of the crucial lands for the 30 species that are depending on the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon*.

3. Placing a casino between two communities on land that is zoned grazing and open space is *highly* growth inducing. The ill-conceived plan includes not only a casino, but future plans for housing, hotels, and health facilities (this is *not* disclosed in either the 2004 or 2006 EA).

The 2006 EA is still focused on the Hwy 149 site. Fortunately, not only BEC has documented the serious consequences to this proposal through comments on the 2004 EA (see below) and in public. Stay tuned for the comments on the 2006 EA. BEC remains willing to meet with a larger group of interested parties to discuss other locations for a possible casino.

This area is fraught with environmental and planning problems since it is an aquifer recharge area, provides **significant acreage** for plant and animal species, and would induce sprawl.

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 money has 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.

What Can the Public Do?

Thank the Board of Supervisors for tackling this highly charged political issue and thinking of the future health and well being of the entire County.

District 1, Bill Connelly - 538-6834, BConnelly@buttecounty.net

District 2, Jane Dolan - 891-2830, JDolan@buttecounty.net

District 3, Mary Anne Houx - 891-2800, MAHoux@buttecounty.net

District 4, Curt Josiassen - 882-4447, CJosiassen@buttecounty.net

District 5, Kim Yamaguchi - 872-6303, KYamaguchi@buttecounty.net

EDUCATION

Chico USA Makes a Splash

By Jennifer Oman

With City Murals, T.V. Ads, and Outreach to Businesses

Clean Water Business Partnerships, murals, TV commercials and city wide storm drain marking are the next steps in the collaborative runoff pollution prevention program, Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA), *Clean Creeks Project*. BEC, the City of Chico and Butte County Public Works are holding two breakfast meetings in August for Landscape Contractors and Carpet Cleaners who are interested in partnering with Chico USA.

The Clean Water Business Partner program is part of a team effort to prevent runoff pollution through our storm drainage system. Runoff water, from lawns, driveways and streets, which collects in our gutters, drains directly into our creeks and streams untreated. This causes pollution of our waterways. Urban runoff pollution can be prevented through using best management practices in both the private and business sectors.

Clean Water Business Partners make a commitment to properly dispose of their wastewater, reduce the amount of pollutants and chemicals that enter the storm drain system, and educate customers about how they can help. By doing this, they help to ensure that future generations can use and enjoy our most valuable natural resource...water! Clean Water Business Partners receive promotional benefits as incentives for employing Best Management Practices.

Other types of businesses are encouraged to attend either of the August breakfast meetings. For example: Nurseries, Power Washers, etc. may qualify to become Chico USA Clean Water Business Partners.

Who: Landscape Contractor Businesses

Who: Carpet Cleaner Businesses

When: August 22, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. & August 24, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Where: City of Chico, Conference Room 1, 411 Main St., Chico CA
Coffee and pastries provided.



"The Storm Drain Gang" will warn Chicoans not to pollute our creeks and their habitat from the walls of downtown Chico buildings. Mural by Gregg Payne.

Visit www.becnet.org and click on the Chico USA logo to learn more about the program, and download the Clean Water Business Partnership Application; or call 891-6424.

Art as a Water Quality Tool

Local public artist, Gregg Payne, has designed two different murals for the project, both of which he is painting in downtown Chico this week, one on the Ital Imports wall facing City Hall at 4th and Main Streets, and the other on the Antique Gallery wall on Third Street between Broadway and Main. The murals are designed to create public awareness of our storm drain system that flows from our gutters directly into our creeks. The runoff water from our streets, driveways and lawns that drains into the gutters, flows into our creeks

without first being treated.

The two murals are also a thank you to all those Chico residents who are already aware of the issue, and do their part to make sure that pollutants, like fertilizers, pesticides, soaps and detergents, cigarette butts, used oil, pet waste, and litter do not make their way into our creeks through our storm drain system.

The Butte Environmental Council, in partnership with Chico USA, and Gregg Payne offer these two murals as a gift to Chico; to beautify our downtown area with public art, to promote the educational message that "What's in your Gutter, is in your Creek," and to thank those people who are doing their part to keep our waterways clean. Both mural designs are eye-catching, with bright colors overlaid on muted dry

grass and creek water gradient colors. The creek critters, who are the "stars" of the artistic message, are entertaining with their innocent, silly expressions. These murals feature the "Storm Drain Gang," the whimsical caricatures of native critters in their riparian habitats down stream from our urban runoff. "Oil in the gutter can ruin your whole day!" said Joe Toad. "Definitely," said Floyd the Frog. "We want to thank the people of Chico that know the message and are careful not to pollute our creeks!"

Local business owners Doug Roberts, Kelly Meagher, who own the building at 4th and Main Streets, and the Stephens Family, who own Attic Antiques on 3rd Street, are providing the public space for the murals free of

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Chico Urban Streams Alliance

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charge. Scott Hodgkinson, owner of Ital Imports on 4th St., is in full support of the project and has said that he is glad that Roberts and Meagher are allowing use of the space for public art in our community, and that he especially supports the cause of the environmental message. Ellen Stephens did not “bat an eye” when artist, Payne, asked for permission to paint on her wall. She is in full support of public art, and education through the arts. These business and building owners are committed to promoting the arts and providing environmental education for the public. Their generosity and dedication to their community is to be commended.

Have you seen Chico USA on TV?

Watch for three “hip” TV commercials on Fox 30, UPN 21, Univision 27 and Telemundo this August. California State University Chico students Erick McLain and Lindsay Buckley produced three 30-second TV spots for the *Clean Creeks Project*, as well two longer documentary style productions. Check them out online too at www.becnet.org (Click on the Chico USA logo and then the media tab.)

Thank you Chico!

Sixty volunteers helped out on April 29. People from all walks of life (including CAVE volunteers, CSUC students, Girl Scout troops and families) showed up at the City of Chico parking lot, on one of the few sunny days in April, and marked more than 450 storm drains in our city!

Remember that Creek Watch information is available 24 hours a day on our Hotline (530) 891-6459 and online, on the BEC website, www.becnet.org (just click on the Chico USA logo) If you see anyone dumping illegally in our creeks, streams or gutters, please call the Hotline!



The Chico USA booth at the Endangered Species Faire in May.

It's never too late to become a Citizen Monitor

Do you like leaf races, methodical measuring, and science? If you answered “Yes” to any of those three questions, then Citizen Monitoring is for you! The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (BCCWA) has 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.

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 BCCWA, says, “People love 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.”

Message from Timmarie Hamill, Citizen Monitoring Coordinator:

The 2006 season is going to be a great monitoring year. We have new equipment and have expanded our monitoring activities to include aquatic insect monitoring and have also added a few more monitoring sites. This work is very important to the health of our creek, and your volunteer hours are greatly

appreciated! Bring your family and friends! Contact me if you are interested in becoming a Citizen Monitor in the new year.

Timmarie Hamill, BCCWA,
Monitoring Coordinator
thamill@bigchicocreek.org, 342-6620

What is the Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA)?

The Chico USA Clean Creeks Project is a collaborative effort of the City of Chico, the Butte Environmental Council, the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. The project includes a public awareness campaign on urban runoff pollution, citizen monitoring of our local creeks and streams, and a study of urban runoff pollution control structures for the City of Chico.

Chico USA formed with funding from a grant under the Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant Program. Funding has been provided by the California Bay-Delta Program (CALFED). The State Water Resources Control Board awarded the grant to the City of Chico.

10 Things you can do to make a difference

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads
- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- If you smoke, use ashtrays
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in your driveway
- Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Hire a Clean Water Business Partner to landscape your yard and clean your carpets.

WATER

The De-watering of Our Valley and Foothills...

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deposits overlie the marine, or saline, formations and are the major source of fresh groundwater to wells.

Freshwater Aquifer Systems

The Alluvial aquifer system is the uppermost ground water bearing unit, reaching from ground surface to maximum depth of about 200 feet. Many domestic wells draw water from this aquifer system.

The Upper Tuscan aquifer system is exposed on the east side of the valley along the foothills and is found at a depth of about 800 feet in the central portion of the valley. This aquifer system extends west past the Sacramento River under the surface, and underlies the Alluvial aquifer system.

The Lower Tuscan aquifer system is also exposed on the east side of the valley. In the central portion of the valley, it is found at a depth of about 1,000 feet below ground surface. It lies beneath the Upper Tuscan aquifer system beginning at the eastern foothills and extends westward past the Sacramento River approaching Interstate 5. Most of the attention from water purveyors is focused on the Lower Tuscan Aquifer.

Butte Water District Conjunctive Use/Replenishment

On Nov 1, 2005 the Butte Water District proposed to the Butte County Water Commission a plan to evacuate ground water during the first weeks of rice irrigation and to artificially recharge the evacuated aquifer. This appears to be a scenario that has environmental and legal implications as the Tuscan is converted from a naturally recharged public asset to an artificially recharged water bank. By creating a replenishment

district to operate the recharge facilities the Butte Water District could legally maneuver ownership of the water in the aquifer as has been done extensively in most metropolitan areas of Southern California.

The Butte Water District conjunctive use plans to install two production wells with the combined estimated pumping capacity of 8,000 gallons per minute (gpm).

Rice farms have historically used publicly funded surface water entitlements to irrigate their fields. This unconventional use of ground water indicates a plan by surface water districts

to extend their entitlement reach into the ground water.

The Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

The Northern California Water Association represents the interests of Water Districts in the Sacramento Valley. Water Districts represent about 2% of the population and members hold entitlements to publicly funded surface water projects that divert water primarily from the Feather River and the Sacramento River.

Northern California Water Association (NCWA, norcalwater.org) is applying for a taxpayer financed planning grant to fund the planning and implementation of this effort to link surface and groundwater use.



The agencies participating in the regional planning process include about 75 water purveyors but no environmental groups, watershed groups or municipalities located on the up-gradient eastern margin of the aquifer system

While the plan explains that Cities such as Willows, Williams, Orland, and other small communities are growing, there is no mention of Chico and Oroville, both located on the up-gradient portion of the Tuscan aquifer.

The NCWA plan explains that they want to improve the reliability of water supply in the Sacramento Valley. But the main thrust of the plan is to provide a strategy to export water through the Delta to southern California.

Western Canal Water District/ Palmdale Water District Water Sale

Western Canal WD, which straddles Butte and Glenn County, has given notice that they will be testing the Measure G water sales ordinance by applying for a permit to sell some of their surface water entitlement to the Palmdale Water District in Los Angeles County.

Western Canal expects to replace their marketed surface water with

groundwater. The 10 year contract will allow a maximum of 15,000 acre-feet a year to be sold. The sale price is \$135 an acre-foot. Western Canal pays about \$3/af. Palmdale Water District wants the water to facilitate the growth of Palmdale, a sprawling suburb in the high desert northeast of Los Angeles.

Regional Integration of the Lower Tuscan Formation Using Conjunctive Water Management in the Sacramento Valley

Another project that has surfaced is the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) plan to wed the lower Tuscan aquifer to the State Water supply.

This is a proposal for a taxpayer funded grant that will facilitate the DWR objective to incorporate our groundwater into the State Water Supply.

GCID has hired a consultant, the Natural heritage Institute (NHI) to guide them through the grant process. The NHI plan is to evaluate strategies to address the full array of risks and uncertainties that impede the full utilization of the Tuscan Formation today, especially risks to current users of the Lower Tuscan Formation groundwater system.

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Four Damaging Water Transfer Plans

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Surprisingly the proposal is rather frank in touching on the potential impacts to us and to the environment that has sustained humans in this area for thousands of years.

"If the aquifer was depressurized in the deeper zones of the aquifer system due to the extraction of large volumes of groundwater from deep wells, then eventually the water would come out of storage in the recharge area, thereby reducing ground water levels. This would result in an increased cost for lifting ground water in the recharge area or a reduction in ground water levels to the point where existing wells might become stranded."

Clearly even the proponents recognize that users (including creeks and the vegetation) located on the recharge area of the down-sloping aquifer may be de-watered if the aquifer is evacuated by the irrigation districts.

The proposal lures the rest of the state into considering grabbing our ground water by stating, “The Lower Tuscan Formation, if integrated into California’s water supply system, could provide major water supply reliability benefits.”

While they recognize there are risks, they urge the state to fund their approach. The plan states:

“It will take decades before we know enough about the aquifer dynamics to devise a risk-free regime, and yet it would be foolish to require that the aquifer remain an underperforming asset in the interim.”

The proponents are proposing to begin the evacuation without investigation of the Tuscan's recharge capacity and are willing to risk damage

to the eastern edge of the valley to proceed with sales of their surface water entitlements.

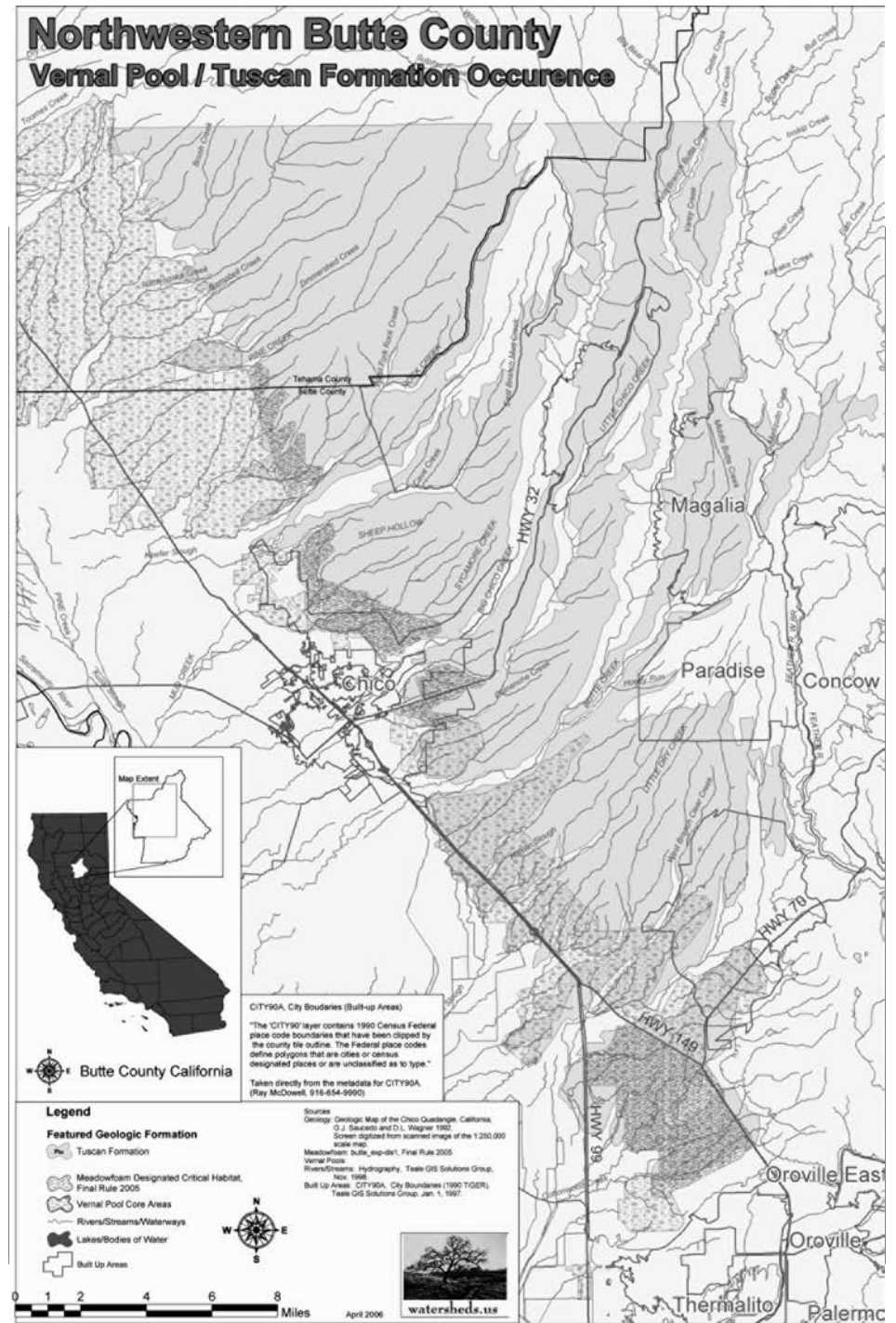
While recognizing the risk of impacting existing wells, the NHI proposal comes up with a ridiculous bargain:

“Fortunately, there is an approach that can permit more aggressive use of the Lower Tuscan Formation while we improve our understanding of how best to manage it. We can do that by

providing current Lower Tuscan ground water users a risk-free water supply alternative in the form of a supplemental surface water supply out of Lake Oroville amounting approximately 70,000 acre feet per year, which is the amount of water needed to replace

existing ground water usage in the recharge area. This would, in effect, make existing ground water users independent from the Lower Tuscan Formation aquifer system. Because they now would be on surface water, response of the aquifer system to program recovery stresses would not be problematic and in fact would be *transparent* to the water users.”

This is a highly unconventional use of the term “transparent.” Response of the aquifer system to drought and overdraft would be hidden, not transparent. The substitute surface water might be made available by DWR through operating Oroville reservoir more aggressively. Given Butte County’s ongoing battle with DWR over the failed promise to turn the Oroville Reservoir into a recreational paradise, this scheme is unlikely to get much support if the public and their elected representatives stay informed about the impacts.



Water purveyors see the Tuscan Aquifer as an “underdeveloped asset.” This map, created by watersheds.us, shows the aquifer overlaid with critical vernal pool habitat in Butte and Tehama Counties. This habitat, as well as aquifer recharge zones, oak woodlands, and our area’s creeks and rivers, could be harmed by a lowering of ground water from the aquifer.

Dewatering streams, dropping well levels, drying out root zones for valley oaks and sycamores, accelerating the movement of toxic ground water plumes, and perpetuating the destruction of the Sacramento River Delta are the logical results of allowing the State of California to integrate our ground

water into the state water supply. Proactive education of and advocacy by the citizens of Butte, Tehama and Plumas County are required if we are to maintain and restore our environment and robust economy in the next few years.

From Computer Database to Nesting Bell's Vireo...

By Tempra Board

In the mid 1990s, a cutting-edge approach to habitat restoration involved designing plant clusters based on wildlife and structural needs, hydrology and soil types. Unfortunately, such designs were extremely complicated to implement for large scale projects, even though they produced more ecologically valuable habitat.

Barney Flynn, farmer and River Partners co-founder, helped solve the implementation problem for this more complex plant-mosaic approach in 1998. Using his experience in computer programming, he developed a database capable of translating intricate restoration designs into a labeling system. The labels allowed any trained lay person to plant a field according to the design. Many biologists were excited about the new opportunities this program would offer for project development. Yet Barney saw this database as a communication tool. "Finally," he said, "landowners could see the restoration

process and understand what was about to happen to their land."

This database technology gave River Partners the unique ability to execute the most ecologically-sound restoration plans. Furthermore, in combination with the application of agricultural techniques, also introduced by Barney, this database allowed the organization to develop its most innovative product: large scale restoration that provides small-scale wildlife habitat features. According to Barney, "We took restoration projects to a new level of scale. We were unique in that we owned tractors, we hired farmers and we knew how to regenerate large tracts of fallow land into viable habitat. We resolved the tension between biology and farming by making them work together." Thanks in part to Barney Flynn's early work, River Partners is now a leader in restoration ecology, and a successful organization capable of delivering on-the-ground projects of significant acreage.



A computer model can create a series of tile groupings by plant species, based on soil type, available water, and the wildlife habitat needs of the restoration site.



Established riparian vegetation along the Sacramento River. Photo by Dan Efsaaff.

According to Tamara Sperber, Restoration Ecologist at River Partners' San Joaquin office, the difference between River Partners and many other restoration organizations is that "we integrate structural elements for wildlife into our project designs through our computer database and can actually implement these designs in the field—and not just on paper."

The database enables a restoration ecologist to develop the composition of plant species that will be planted on a given site through the use of tiles, which are five rows wide and ten plants

long. Within each tile, different plant species are added and arranged, often in clusters, with an eye towards the needs of wildlife. Each site plan is made up of these tiles. From the computer, each plant species is given a number and a label, and field crews can follow the labels, implementing the restoration planting much like a "paint by numbers" set. This also assists River Partners in monitoring the growth and survival rates of each project, making the group smarter each time it plants, as it can determine survival trends and make modifications on the next project.

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River Partners Restoration Design Goes High Tech

Continued from previous page.

Using the tiles, River Partners can easily change the types of plants and their arrangement depending on the target wildlife species for a particular project. For example, the "Valley Oak association" tile differs from the "Fremont Cottonwood association" tile. Within tiles, complementary plant species can be grouped to mimic what is found in nature. For River Partners' projects on the San Joaquin, this means planting roses together with blackberries to form clusters, or briar patches,

which are needed by the endangered riparian brush rabbit, which is being introduced onto the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. Similarly, the endangered Least Bell's Vireo likes willow clusters with a mugwort understory, a composition that has been achieved at the Refuge, resulting in the first nesting Vireo in the Central Valley in 60 years.

The first project in which River Partners used this approach was on the Beehive Bend Unit of the Sacramento

River in Glenn County, in cooperation with the California Department of Fish & Game. Now, five years later, the organization can see that its restoration design, focusing on the needs of particular species, is working. In year one of the project, data showed that wildlife use of the area proposed for restoration was extremely low, with only one species documented. By year three of the restoration, 22 species were using the site, including a host of migratory songbirds.

Perhaps the most important on the ground impact of the use of this technology is that River Partners is able to create quality habitat over a short period of time. A twist on the corporate phrase might sound something like "plant smarter, not harder." River Partners has taken this theme to heart, and it has paid off for the benefit of people and wildlife in the Central Valley.

Canoe Tour with River Partners **Saturday, August 12, 2006**

What: Bring your own canoe and go down the Sacramento River with Dr. Tom Griggs, River Partners' Senior Restoration Ecologist. Explore the longest river in California! We'll enjoy short walks on the gravel bars and see one of River Partners' ecological restoration sites along the way.

When: August 12, 2006
Saturday, 8 am to 11 am

Where: Sacramento River
Put in at Irvine Finch Boat Launch
Take out at "The Wash Out"
(Big Chico Creek Day Use Area)

What You Need: Your own canoe, life jackets, and relevant equipment
Sunscreen, Water, Snacks, Good Walking Shoes
A friend to help you paddle and car shuttle between sites

Reservations: Call 530.894.5401 ext 22
Email: jpokrandt@riverpartners.org



Victories! *For Community and Environment*

By Rex Stromness

Among other things, I am a cyclist: town, road and mountain. For me, riding bikes is a way of commuting around town (I love the months that I only fill up my tank once) and getting up and out of town to the surrounding mountains and countryside. Two of my favorite rides are climbing up Honey Run to Paradise and the ascent to Cohasset. It was on a recent ride to Cohasset that I had an epiphany about how much open space there is in Butte County.

Just past the airport, I noticed (even though I've passed it many times) the large chunk of open space to the right of the road. I wondered who owned it and when it would be developed, it being just out of town. I thought of a recent trip to Southern California where this kind of space just doesn't exist any more.... It is city after city of development and sprawl everywhere.

It reaffirmed my appreciation of where we live and my commitment to preserving it.

As a new member of the BEC Board of Directors, I am learning about BEC's achievements and success stories in our non-stop effort to preserve the local natural world. It turns out that the open space I was appreciating on my bike ride is 800 acres of beautiful annual grasses, vernal pools and swales, and intermittent creeks that is forever preserved thanks to the work of BEC and others. The acquisition of this land was finalized in March of this year, and is part of almost 5,000 acres that will remain open and natural, with some controlled cattle grazing.

"This property is valuable wildlife habitat that connects the Cascade Range to the Sacramento Valley" says Sandra Morey of the Department of Fish and Game. "The tremendous habitat value of the area called for permanent protection and groups such as BEC helped make it happen."

In a time when raising the funds to simply exist is a necessary, but at times a dominant part of a small organization like BEC, it is good to remember the great work that is taking place... the "victories." There are a small number of folks making a lot happen, both those actively working on issues and those contributing the much needed dollars.

Some of the victories are annual events. This year's Endangered Species Fair was attended by over 6,000 people

and raised funds while providing an entertaining and educational event. The annual Fall Cleanup drew over 100 volunteers who picked up tons of trash from the Big Chico Creek watershed. These are two victories that happen every year.

A major focus for BEC recently has been water: keeping water from the Tuscan aquifer from being shipped south and educating residents about urban runoff pollution and its prevention.

Jennifer Oman, BEC's water quality program director, oversees the latter, a large collaborative project called the Chico Urban Streams Alliance, Clear Creeks Project. Teaming up with the City of Chico, The Big Chico Creek

Watershed Alliance and Kennedy/Jenks consultants, BEC's focus is informing residents of where our urban runoff water goes (into the creeks!) and the importance of stopping pollution through storm drains. Carpet cleaners and landscapers have been a focus.

BEC's ground water work began in 1995, in the face of a 400,000 acre-foot water grab by the Department of Water Resources. The Tuscan aquifer, underneath Butte County, holds approximately 30 million acre-feet of water and when fully charged, helps keep the creeks flowing and riparian vegetation alive and vibrant in our area. Massive proposed ground water extractions would drain the aquifer resulting in lower stream flows, a lowered water table and damage to local habitat.

Los Angeles Metropolitan Water district is currently looking for 300,000 acre feet from the Sacramento Valley that they anticipate needing by 2010 and 550,000 acre-feet by 2020. BEC is working with local, regional and statewide organizations to protect our water resources. BEC is represented on the steering committee of the Sacramento Valley Environmental Watershed Caucus and is monitoring, advocating and educating the public about the attempt to export the water. While not yet a victory, we are working on it.

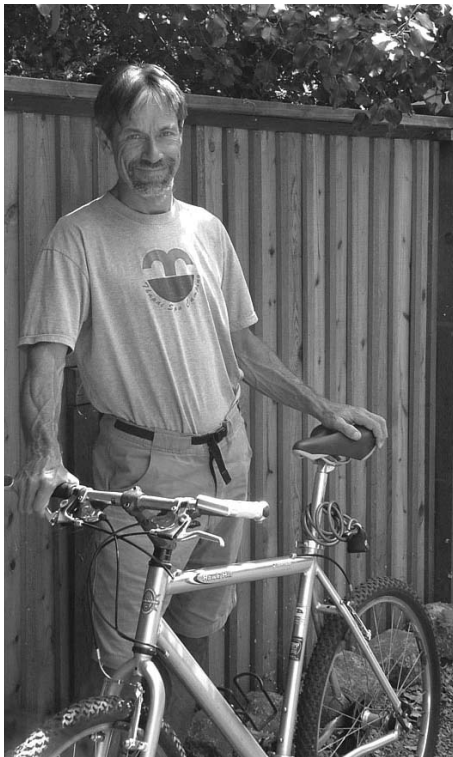
A recovery plan for many species dependent on vernal pools is done thanks to BEC's exclusive litigation with the federal government. This simply wouldn't have happened without BEC challenging an agency that has a mandate to write these documents and implement them to bring species toward stability...species like our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. Thirty five

counties in California and Oregon will have significant lands protected from urban sprawl thanks to this document. A real victory!

Finally, the March conference "The Vernal Pool Complexes of the Northstate: Biology, Conservation and Management," hosted by BEC, was a great success. Over 200 people attended to gain significant new scientific and practical information.

The small organization based in downtown Chico is making a difference. BEC's 850 members are helping make sure that Butte County

will remain a great place to live for generations to come. So, take a bike ride out of town and enjoy the open space. When you do, consider becoming a BEC Angel by increasing your yearly donation to an affordable monthly amount. Members, particularly Angels, are what make BEC possible.



A man and his bike. Rex Stromness is the newest member of BEC's Board of Directors, and has been a regular contributor to the *Environmental News*.

PULLINS CYCLERY



Steve & Katy O'Bryan

801 Main St.
Chico, CA 95928
Ph.: (530) 342-1055
Fax: (530) 342-8224
E-mail: pullinsusa@aol.com

Wal-Mart Update *Call to Action*

By Heather Schlaff

Photos by Stephanie Bird

The battle to stop Wal-Mart from constructing "bookends" at both ends of Chico continues.

In the last issue of Environmental News we said the public comment period should begin mid-spring. However, planning issues requiring Environmental Impact Reports move slowly, sometimes glacially. Such is the case with the two proposed WM super centers.

Despite a recent article in the Enterprise Record giving the impression that Wal-Mart's expansion plans for both north and south Chico Super Centers are accomplished facts, this is not so. **No decision has been made on either site, and will not be made until hearings by the City Council and the Planning Commission.** Those

hearings will likely take place this fall. You can tell the Council and the Commission to "just say NO!"

The Planning Dept. now believes the draft EIR for the north site (at the intersection of Highway 99 and Garner Lane) will be available for a 45 day public comment period at the end of July. The draft EIR for the south site (at the existing Forest Avenue Wal-Mart) should be published approximately one month later. The Public Comment period is the time to contact the Planning Department to make your opposition part of the official record.

A brief summary of our opposition and the facts supporting it:

We do not oppose the existing Wal-Mart remaining as it is. We believe in

consumer choice.

Wal-Mart wants to build two super centers in Chico, just seven miles apart. There are currently five Wal-Mart super centers approved or proposed within 31 miles of Chico!

Both Chico super centers would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each would be over 240,000 square feet (the size of five football fields)!

If approved, these super centers would force existing stores to close, reduce consumer choice and cause blight.

We need your support!

Right now through August 31st, Chico Advocates for a Responsible Economy (C.A.R.E.) will be tabling

Get involved!

Learn more and help us with our tabling efforts throughout July and August.



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 & 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



Site of the proposed new Wal-Mart supercenter.

at every Thursday Night Market and on Saturday mornings at grocery stores, asking for signatures opposing both proposals. We will present these petitions to the City Council and Planning Commission at the hearings.

Go to www.chicocares.org, and join us. Or, write to us at P.O. Box 7647, Chico CA 95927.

The preservation of our community's unique character depends on making our voices heard.

BEC's Opinion Sought on Wetland Case U.S. Supreme Court Favors Wetlands

BEC was contacted immediately following the Supreme Court ruling on a pivotal wetland case, *Rapanos vs. the United States*. This ruling has not clarified the confusion that remains for developers about what constitutes a wetland. Ducks, toads, and environmentalists know what wetlands are, but developers of all kinds have been seeking new definitions that would weaken the Clean Water Act's protection of the nation's remaining wetlands. California has only 5% of its natural wetlands!

A reporter for Congressional Quarterly was referred to our office for a local view. Here is an excerpt from his article that appeared in the California Planning and Development Report (July 2006).

In his opinion, Scalia said the corps' definition went "beyond parody" to cover everything from storm drains and ditches to topographical features dry most of the time. As a narrower test, Scalia said a wetland should be covered only if [it] has a "continuous surface connection" to a "relatively permanent standing or continuously flowing body of water.

In his opinion, Kennedy faulted Scalia for adding new tests not found in the statute, but chided Stevens for failing to limit the definition of "navigable waters" at all. Kennedy said his "significant nexus" test would be met "if the wetlands, either alone or in combination with similarly situated lands in the region, significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of other covered waters more readily understood as navigable."

Significantly, Kennedy suggested that the wetlands in both the Michigan cases met his test. In his opinion, Stevens noted the possibility that a wetland could be covered if it met either Kennedy's or Scalia's test.

Barbara Vlamis, who has worked on California vernal pool issues extensively as executive director of the Butte Environmental Council, called Kennedy's test "reasonable" while sharply criticizing Scalia's definition as "narrow and myopic." Protecting "ephemeral wetlands" is necessary to



6-21-06 BY REX BABIN. ILLUSTRATION: UNIVERSAL PRESS SYND.

Courtesy of Rex Babin and the Sacramento Bee, June 21, 2006

avoid "severely degraded watersheds and tributaries," she said.

Proactive legislation by Congress could finally clear this up, once and

for all. Surely the nation has learned something from Katrina: destroying wetlands leads to flooding.

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% donation, you must mention BEC when you shop in-store.

If you shop online, you must access the Greenfeet website through the icon link on the BEC home page at www.becnet.org.

Thank Your Greenfeet!

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Fax: (530) 342-1641
E-mail: cohasset@shocking.com



Chico Cat Coalition Seeking New Property

By Jill Hargrove,
Chico Cat Coalition

As a surprise to everyone, the Chico Cat Coalition volunteers and supporters were shocked to learn that the future of the sanctuary's current facility would soon be in question.

Board members of the CCC signed a legally binding lease agreement that does not expire until July of 2009, but because of the landlord's desire to sell the property that our sanctuary is on, we are being pressured to break our lease and find an alternate facility. We are asking members of our community to assist us in finding a new sanctuary for our felines who were once cruelly abandoned by their heartless owners in Bidwell Park.

Do you know of a secure property in the Chico area that could be rented, leased or donated for either short or long term use? Some possibilities include:

- Barn, warehouse or garage
- Old house or office building
- Portable building that could be purchased
- Property upon which a structure or portable building could be put

The safety of our felines is our main concern, so a rural or inconspicuous site would best suit us. We are offering to pay rent, improve the property and even offer a tax write-off to the prospective landlord! Please send an email to catcoalition@hotmail.com or call us at (530) 894-1365 if you can help or even offer us ideas. We will return all calls and emails.

Donations for building and kennel supplies are also needed to subsidize our move as well as for our continuing day-to-day expenses. 100% of monies donated go directly toward providing a high quality of



"Lightning" enjoys the view from one of the open-air pens at the Chico Cat Coalition's current sanctuary.

life to our felines. We are an all-volunteer organization and 75% funded by generous individuals from our community and even a few out of town and state donors. Other funding is provided by Paw Prints Thrift Store and the City of Chico.

Many of our felines are highly adoptable and would love a family to call their own. Take a visit to our website, www.ChicoCatCoalition.org to see photos and descriptions of our adoptable cats and kittens. You may also call us to speak with an Adoption Specialist.

The "BG Barn" (named for one of the first cats rescued from Bidwell Park by CCC volunteers) has been home to over 800 cats and kittens since 1998. Some have only stayed a few days before they were adopted or placed into foster homes. More than 60 continue to reside since arriving three to eight years ago after leaving behind their lonely days in the park. Many modifications have been made to the facility over the years - outdoor pens constructed for the cats to enjoy the fresh air, garage doors removed and replaced with large windows for extra sunbathing space, cabinets and countertops installed to create the all-important kitchen area. It will be sad to leave such a lovely home, but we are optimistic to what the future holds for us. We know there are even more good things to come for our organization - we just need a little help!

From the Endangered Species Faire

The 27th annual Butte Environmental Council Endangered Species Faire was another resounding success. Now the longest running environmental Faire in the country a great day was had by all. This year's theme, Hidden Waters in Danger, reflected the growing threats to our incredible Tuscan aquifer underlying much of our North Valley.

As always the emphasis at the faire was to educate the public, especially youth, about our cool, clean, colorful North State. Dozens of environmental groups, schools, government agencies and friends filled Cedar Grove with lively booths full of information and

fun. Clean Chico Creeks Project had a hands on water display to demonstrate water pollution sources for the kids.

The day wouldn't have been complete without "Wild Things," bringing live animals for children and adults to marvel at. The food was yummy and abundant, massage and face painting were popular, and the music from our loyal local musicians was wonderful. It was a perfect May day in Bidwell Park under the towering oaks!

Butte Environmental Council thanks everyone for coming and special thanks to all those who helped and sponsored the event. We'll see you next year!



(left) A hands-on activity for kids at the US Fish & Wildlife Service booth.



(below) Up close and personal with local wildlife - from porcupines to turtles.

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
417 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, M-F 8-4, closed
12-1 for lunch. www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 8) Butte Co. Household Hazardous Waste
Collection Facility /AC Industrial Services
1101 Marauder St. (at Chico Airport) 343-5488, Fri-
Sat. 9-1 Free to Butte County 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 Haz-
ardous Waste Collection Site
2720 S. 5th Ave., Oroville, 533-5868; Recycling
Center M-Sa 8:30-3:30; Hazardous Waste F 1-6
Free to City of Oroville residents.
- 15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley
Household Hazardous Waste Recycling
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley, 846-0810; Transfer Sta-
tion Sa-Su 9-4; Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of
month, Gridley residents only 9-4
- 16) Paradise Elementary School
588 Pearson Rd., Paradise; Drop boxes open 24 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 CALENDAR

Weekly

Sierra Club Power Walk (grade 2, class A). Meet at the Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1 1/2 hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

Tuesdays (On-Going)

Sierra Club Volleyball. Join Yahi Group members and friends for friendly, co-ed volleyball every Tuesday night at 7PM at the Chapman Center (corner of E. 16th Street and B Street in Chico). Cost: \$4 per night. Free lessons included. Call Karen, 899-8305 or Betty, 345-7205.

Saturday, August 12

Canoe Tour with River Partners. 8am to noon. Bring your canoe and go down the river with Dr. Tom Griggs, River Partners' senior ecologist. See ad page 9 for details, or call River Partners at 530.894.5401, ext. 22.

Paradise Flume Hike. Come enjoy a hike along the flume in Paradise followed by a descent into a beautiful, refreshing swimming hole where we will enjoy lunch. Swimming is optional. Bring hiking shoes, money for drivers, a swim suit if desired. Meet at Albertsons in Paradise at 9am. For more info call Lynn, 864-7826.

Friday - Sunday, August 18 - 20

Lassen Park Campout. Sierra Club. This is a car camping trip with hikes on Saturday and Sunday. Camp site at Manzanita Lake or Lost Creek, near Manzanita. Day hikes will vary on grade and class with at least one 6 to 10 mile hike. All levels of hikers and camp lizards are welcome. Price will vary between \$10 and \$15 per person for the weekend depending on the number of campers. Individual commissary. Tents are recommended. Bring your own camping gear, sturdy boots, carpool \$, musical instruments. Campsite available Friday afternoon. Contact leader, John, at (530) 872-8258 or hubollister@yahoo.com.

Friday-Sunday, August 25-27

Juniper Lake/Lassen National Park Car Camp. Sierra Club. Spend a relaxing summer weekend away from the valley heat at cool 7000' Juniper Lake. The Yahi Group has reserved a group campsite for two nights close to the lake. Individual commissary. Optional hikes are planned to Inspiration Point, the top of Mt. Harkness and Snag and Horseshoe Lakes. A canoe will be available or you can bring your own watercraft to use on the lake. Cost: \$15 per person and park entrance fee of \$10. Call leader to make reservation and to get more info on costs and carpooling. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980; Asst. Leader: Teresa, 899-7331.

Saturday, August 19

"Meet the Animals" at the Chico Creek Nature Center Map from 11 am to noon. For all ages. Limited to 35 people and children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Pre-register at 891-4671.

Tuesday, August 22

Butte Humane Society is holding a public meeting to get community feedback over the news the City of Chico will be handing over control of the animal shelter to the Chico Police Department. Held at City Hall.

Thursday, August 24

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

Monday, August 25

Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting in Council Chambers Map starting at 7 pm. See City of Chico for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

Monday, August 28

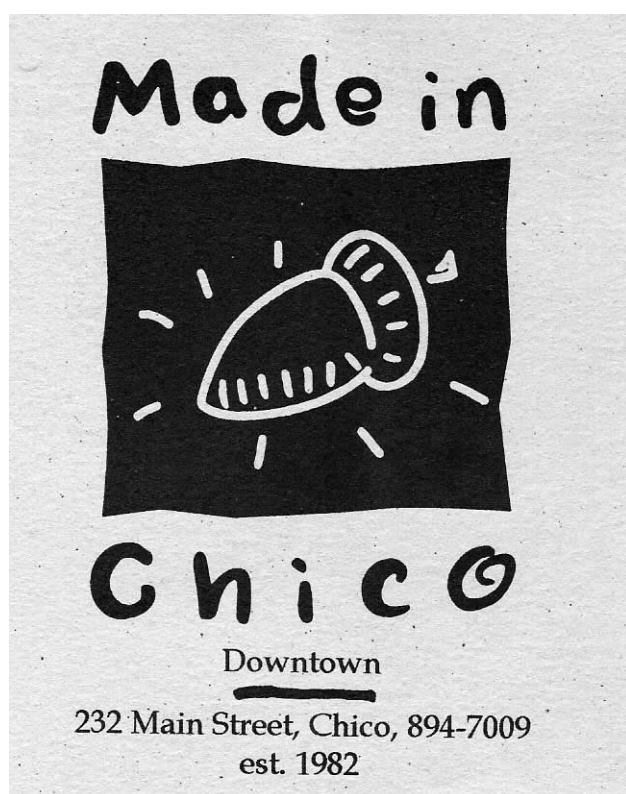
Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting in Council Chambers Map starting at 7 pm. See City of Chico for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

Saturday, September 2

Water Quality Monitoring Help monitor the health of Big Chico Creek. Meet at Five Mile Recreation Area (south side off Centennial Dr.) Map from 9 am to noon. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620.

Saturday, September 16

Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2006 will be held Saturday, September 16th from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join the Butte Environmental Council on this annual event to clean up our creeks and parks and reduce water pollution resulting from trash that is flowing into our creeks. We need your help! This is the only major clean up day of the year! See ad next page for details.



BEC T-Shirts for Sale

Get your beautiful 2006 Endangered Species Faire T-shirts from Made in Chico for only \$9.75!

These T-shirts make great gifts and are printed locally by the Printed Image.

Buy a t-shirt to support BEC and support local business!

“Along the Banks of Chulamsewi” presentation by Mechoopda tribal members about pre-European life along Big Chico Creek. At the Chico Creek Nature Center Map from 10 am to noon. Space limited to 35 people. Pre-register by calling 891-4671.

Saturday, September 23
Introduction to Keying the Sunflowers (Asteraceae) workshop sponsored by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. For more information, see Herbarium.

Monday, September 25
Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting in Council Chambers Map starting at 7 pm. See City of Chico for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

Saturday, September 30
Maidu Medicine Walk in Upper Bidwell Park from 9 am to noon. Join Wes Dempsey for an informative hike, leaving from Parking Lot E Map. Appropriate for teens and adult, space limited to 35 people. Call the Chico Creek Nature Center at 891-4671 to pre-register.

October 4 - 7, 2006 **California Invasive Plant Council Symposium**

Every year, Cal-IPC hosts a three-day Symposium to bring together weed scientists, land managers, federal, state, and local agencies, and concerned citizens to share the latest information about invasive plants, their impacts on California's ecosystems, control and management strategies, and other relevant topics. Each symposium includes presentations, research posters, working and discussion groups, and field trips. This year's Symposium explores commonalities and conflicts at the interface of research and management, with invited speakers

from both realms. A panel discussion will allow attendees to interact with the speakers. We are also honored to have Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks, as this year's keynote speaker.

For more info: California Invasive Plant Council, 1442-A Walnut St. #462, Berkeley, CA 94709, dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org, www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index.php

Saturday, October 7
Water Quality Monitoring Help monitor the health of Big Chico Creek. Meet at Five Mile Recreation

Area (south side off Centennial Dr.) Map from 9 am to noon. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620.

Saturday, October 14
Introduction to Wetland Delineation workshop sponsored by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. For more information, see Herbarium.

Saturday, October 21
Oak Woodland Ecology and Management Workshop sponsored by the Friends of the Biological

Sciences Herbarium. From 9 am to 5 pm, with a morning session at the Herbarium and an afternoon field trip in Upper Bidwell Park. For more information, see Herbarium.

Saturday, October 28
Make a Difference Day project in Bidwell Park from 9 am to noon.

Monday, October 30
Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting in Council Chambers Map starting at 7 pm. See City of Chico for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup September 16

The Fall Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2006 will be held Saturday, September 16th from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Cleanup will focus on heavily impacted areas of Bidwell Park, Lindo Channel, Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, and Comanche Creek. This annual cleanup clears thousands of pounds of trash from Chico's park and creeks.

Please meet at 9 a.m. at the Hooker Oak Recreation Area overflow parking (off Manzanita) for park cleaning or at Foster's Old Fashioned Freeze at the corner of 9th Street and Broadway for the creeks cleaning. Please bring sturdy gloves and shoes.

BEC hosts this event on California Coastal Cleanup Day, the premier volunteer event focused on state waters. The Guinness Book of Records hailed this event as "the largest garbage collection" (1993), and each year more than 40,000 volunteers turn out to over 400 cleanup sites statewide.

Refreshments will be available to start and end the day. There will also be a chance for all participants to win prizes from local merchants in a drawing that will occur at the picnic (volunteers need not be present to win). For more information please call BEC at 891-6424 or visit its web site at www.becnet.org.



ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

A.S. Recycling Program

BMU 005, CSU Chico, Chico 95929
Drop off center: 417 Cherry St., Chico
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978
www.aschico.com/recycle

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

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

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

Bidwell Environmental Institute

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

CSU Chico launches new sustainable future website.
Go to www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture

Bidwell Park Endowment Fund

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

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. 2nd 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 Bat Conservancy

530.642.2731
californiabats@savebats.org
inquiry@savebats.org
www.savebats.org

California Conservation Corps

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

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

California Oak Foundation

1212 Broadway, Suite 810
Oakland, CA 94612
510/763-0282; fax: 510/208-4435
www.californiaoaks.org
oakstaff@californiaoaks.org

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html; cspa@psln.com
510/526-4049

California Wilderness Coalition

1212 Broadway, Suite 1700
Oakland, CA 94612
510/451-1450 fax: 510/451-1445
www.calwild.org; info@calwild.org

Cherokee Preservation Society

530/534-0400; fax: 530/534-0400
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

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

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

Community Legal Information Center, CSUC

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

Farm Sanctuary

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

Friends of Bidwell Park

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

Friends of Butte Creek

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

Friends of Plumas Wilderness

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

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

Humanity Rising

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

Kids & Creeks

113 W. 19th Street, Chico, CA 95928
www.kidsandcreeks.org
roxannebaxter@sbcglobal.net

Lassen Forest Preservation Group

6802 Rexdale Ln.
Paradise, CA 95969-2922
530/876-1391
sayhart@infostations.com

Little Chico Creek Watershed Group

Dept. of Biological Sciences, CSUC
Chico, CA 95929-0515
530/898-5684 fax: 530/898-4363
jhubbell@csuchico.edu

Middle Mountain Foundation

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

Mill Creek Conservancy

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

The Nature Conservancy, Northern Central Valley

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

Neighbors for Environmental & Fiscal Responsibility

2300 B Estes Road, Chico, CA 95928
530/345-7590; mike4pax@aol.com

Northern California Regional Land Trust

167 E. Third Ave., Chico, CA 95926
530/894-7738 fax: 530/894-7738
www.landconservation.org
ncrlt@shocking.com

Plumas Forest Project

PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103
530/836-0461; John Preschutti

Protect Our Watershed

PO Box 1223, Paradise, CA 95967
530/873-6383; cont103@aol.com

River Partners

580 Vallombrosa Ave.
Chico, CA 95926
530/894-5401 ext 22,
www.riverpartners.org
info@riverpartners.org

Sacramento River Preservation Trust

631 Flume St., Box 5366, Chico 95927
530/345-1865 fax: 530/899-5105
www.sacrivetrust.org
jmerz@sacrivetrust.org

Sacramento River Watershed Program

500 Orange Street
Chico, CA 95928
530/879-0887
www.sacrivetrust.org

Sierra Club, Yahi Group

PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927
530/824-2588
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/

Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814
916/442-3155 x206 fax: 916/442-3396
Sierra_Campaign@friendsoftheriver.org

South Bidwell Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2057, Chico CA 95927
530/879-5339, www.sbpnassoc.com
sbpna00@yahoo.com

So. Campus Neighborhood Assn

1405 West 3rd St., Chico, CA 95928
898-2623, southcampusneighborhood.org

So. Chico Neighborhood Assn

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

The Bidwell Conservancy

49 Forest Creek Cir.
Chico, CA 95928; 530/345-7205

Streaminders

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

TreeAction

530/896-1168; www.treeaction.org
laz@chiconet.com

Trout Unlimited

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

Valley Water Protection

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

Vallombrosa Ave. Neighborhood Assn.

2096 Vallombrosa Ave. Chico, 95926

Young Life Woodleaf

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



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- 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
 - Protects California's wetlands
- 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.

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Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

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☐ Weekday afternoons

☐ Weekday evenings

☐ Weekends

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

☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)

☐ Various Creek Cleanups

☐ Annual Endangered Species Fair

☐ Publicity

☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations

☐ Booth construction & set-up (the day before the Faire)

☐ Clean-Up

☐ *Environmental News*, BEC's quarterly newspaper

☐ Fundraising

☐ Office work

☐ Mailings

☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)

☐ Phones

☐ Research

☐ Photography (taking photos of our events and activities; nature photography)

☐ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies