



*Environmental News*, a quarterly published paper, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. To submit articles or events for the *Environmental News* and Calendar, e-mail [maggib@becnet.org](mailto:maggib@becnet.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.

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## About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC protects the land, air, and water of Butte County through advocacy, environmental education, and information and referral services.

**BEC**  
116 W. Second St, #3, Chico, CA 95928  
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*Office 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.

## BEC Board of Directors

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# FROM THE BEC BOARD

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE

### Rethinking Board Roles and Goals

Determined to be the best board possible, the Board of Directors has turned its focus to development of its responsibilities and goals. On July 26th board members participated in a daylong retreat designed to increase the board's effectiveness, to articulate specific goals, and to develop strategies to meet those goals.

The retreat was underwritten by a grant specifically for board development and was facilitated by Barrie Hathaway, Executive Director of the Stride Center in the Bay Area. Mr. Hathaway is also president of two non-profit boards and provides board consulting services.

Hathaway led discussions including the board responsibility for governance and oversight of BEC, recruitment of new board members, the importance of ambassadorship to the community, fundraising skills and more. By the end of the day specific goals and timetables were set regarding growth of general membership, increased funding from new sources, enlarging board membership and increasing diversity within the board. It was a day well spent, resulting in renewed commitment by the board to BEC and to the community it serves.

## BEC Donations Come From Many People, Far and Near. Have You Made a Donation?

BEC's Angel program gives the organization sustained, regular income to pay staff and purchase materials that enable us to protect the environment. BEC Angels commit to donating regularly on a monthly or quarterly basis. These Angels are not just local, but some are as far away as Alexandria, Virginia and Santa Monica, California.

During the year, BEC will receive one-time donations that give us a much-needed boost in financial crunches, helping us to pay attorney fees and for additional staff. One such donation came in early August from an unlikely source: a car donation from the Bay Area. The San Jose couple, Cleo and Cadja, donated their Prius to CARS-4-US x 1865, and after looking extensively on the Web to find which organization should receive the car sale profits, chose BEC. From the \$15,000 sale of the car, BEC received \$12,000! We'd like to thank Cleo and Cadja for their extremely generous donation.

BEC continues to incur costs in its multiple lawsuits, its participation with multiple government meetings, and its commentary on multiple projects and legal actions for groundwater pumping, general plans, land use, and so on. If Cleo and Cadja can make a donation, can you make a donation? If you're a BEC Angel, can you increase your Angel amount, and if you're not an Angel, can you become one? BEC desperately needs more resources to help an overworked and dedicated staff. Please join with others, far and near, and donate today!

## Leave a Legacy

### For the Land, Air, Water, and Future Generations

A legacy gift to the Butte Environmental Council will not only ensure that some of our most beautiful and important resources in the northern Sacramento Valley and foothills are protected and preserved, but could also provide you with income for life, a reduction in capital gains taxes, and other benefits.

There are many ways that you can be a part of our environmental legacy:

- Remember BEC in your will or living trust
- Name BEC as a beneficiary of your IRA or Qualified Retirement Plan
- Name BEC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy

If you currently have a will, you can easily add a codicil (an amendment) to include a bequest (a gift in your will) to BEC. An example of appropriate language for inclusion in your will or living trust is:

"I give, devise and bequeath to Butte Environmental Council, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation with the mailing address of 116 West Second Street, Suite 3, Chico, California, 95928, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ dollars [or otherwise describe the gift or asset] for its general purposes and use at the discretion of Butte Environmental Council's Board of Directors."

If you are interested, please contact your personal financial planner or attorney. For basic information, please contact Butte Environmental Council at 530.891.6424.



## Brief History

**1982** - Permit to allow “mom and pop” mining operation granted.

**1991-92** - Owner informs Mine Safety and Health Administration and State Regional Water Quality Control Board he is no longer mining on property and he will come back to them for permits if he starts back up.

**March 2007** - County Staff tells property owner that the 1982 permit has lapsed.

**May 2007** - County Staff is informed by concerned neighbors that the mine is working and muddying up Dry Creek.

**October 2007** - County code enforcement first visits the site reporting back an “extensive operation.”

**December 2007** - County Staff and State Regional Water Quality Control Board inspect the site and issue a Cleanup and Abatement Order R5-2007-0731 (SRWQCB) and Notice of Violation (Butte County).

**April 2008** - Planning Commission issues Resolution 08-24.

**August 2008** - Board of Supervisors Resolution 08-104.

# SAVE OUR CREEK!

By Richard Meyer

In 1982 when the owner of the so-called “New Era Mine” applied for a mining permit the neighbors downstream from him asked Butte County to require an Environmental Impact Report before they allowed him to operate his mine. After much discussion and negotiation he scaled back his proposed operation so that the county was convinced no environmental impact report was required. This small operation was limited to 20 cubic yards of material processed per day, with the agreement that the operator would return to the county with proof he could operate cleanly at that level before any review to possibly increase his operating level. Ms. Nina Lambert, Ms. Jane Dolan, and Mr.



2006 aerial photo of New Era Mine with no disturbance.



2008 New Era Mine.

Steven Streeter were all there at the time. All recently spoke to the issue at either the Planning Commission Hearings or the Board of Supervisors Hearings. The proposed mine was described as a “small-mom and pop” operation. The owner said at the time, trying to get out of posting the \$3000 reclamation bond “... contractors had estimated that the entire 20 cubic yards per day could be replaced for \$500 to \$1000.” The present agreed upon reclamation bond for this project is \$267,000.

Here we are, 27 years later, with a new project that has already denuded 12 acres and constructed a “state of the art” plant able to process 100 tons of gravel per hour. They are mining right now at whatever rate of extraction they wish. The only limit placed on the operation is an unenforceable 20 yards of “concentrated fines” per day. It could require anywhere from 50 to 100,000 tons of native material to end up with this 20 yard figure. There is actually no upper figure in place, thus no ability to quantify its effects, and no way to review it for CEQA regulations. Somehow the gentlemen who form the majority in the Board of Supervisors were convinced that the 1982 permit and reclamation plan were written to cover the huge operation which has sprung up with no oversight on the property, despite the obvious incongruity between the original small operation and the new 12 acre mine.

The downstream neighbors are still trying to get Butte County to require an Environmental Impact Report. We do not concede that the 1982 project didn’t require one and we are positive that in any sane person’s judgment the present operation does require one. We are dependant on springs for our domestic water supply and there has been no investigation into the effect this mining activity could have on them, other than a questionable 1982

study by a mining geologist, and a study commissioned by us recently which concludes there may be some harmful effects. Our creek is a tributary to Butte Creek, Northern California’s preeminent success story for the return of the salmon population. When the original owner operated the mine in the early years of his permit, he was never able to operate without dirtying up the creek. We called numerous agencies many times about the problems. What guarantees do the citizens of Butte County have that the present operators will do any better? None, without an Environmental Impact Report.

As concerned citizens we have had to invest thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of personal time trying to get Butte County to do the right thing. The thing that County staff told the new operators they needed to do before they did anything on the property in March, 2007- apply for a new permit and submit a new reclamation plan. We are now embarking on the most costly and time-consuming part of this project, litigation in the courts. This may seem like a small canyon’s problem with no effect on people other than those of us who live near it, but there is a much larger problem here. The problem was pointed out very well in the CNR’s Op Ed piece on August 14, 2008. Some members of the Butte County Board of Supervisors have the lack of judgment to ignore the facts presented to them by concerned citizens, their own staff, or even those members of the Board with personal knowledge of what actually transpired in the original process. These same players are now involved in a County General Plan Update which will have far reaching effects for years to come.

Please help us overturn this egregious decision. Please visit the Dry Creek Coalition of Butte County at [www.saveourcreek.com](http://www.saveourcreek.com); or email [info@saveourcreek.com](mailto:info@saveourcreek.com); or write to PO Box 1194, Chico, CA 95927.



## General Plan Updates

### PROGRESS SUMMARY 1 – BUTTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2030

By Tony St. Amant

**BACKGROUND:** On March 13, 2008, the Development Services Department produced the Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report. This one and one-half inch thick document analyzed 31 potential development study areas against 22 potential development issues, or constraints. On July 29 and 30 the Board of Supervisors selected preliminary land uses for the 31 study areas.

This paper summarizes some of the more interesting results. Details of this analysis are available in "Comparison: Board of Supervisors' Study Area Decisions vs. Selected Non-economics and Non-public Service Constraints."

**SUMMARY:** Preliminary decisions by the Board of Supervisors will allow more than 45,500 new houses in 23 study areas over the 20-year perspective of the new general plan. Based on the planning factor used by the state Department of Finance (2.508 persons per household), the projected housing would accommodate a population of over 114,000.

The water supply constraint applied to study areas does not actually deal with water supplies. It deals with water purveyors—specifically, whether an established vendor is within or near each potential development area. There is no consideration whatsoever of whether there is sufficient water in the ground or from surface sources to support the proposed development.

**ADDITIONALLY:** South Feather Water & Power Agency is identified as the supplier for all or parts of seven study areas, about 31,900 houses and a potential population of over 80,000, without any assessment of actual water supply availability.

Three study areas of about 5,600 houses would draw on the already over-drafted aquifer used by California Water Service Co. in the Chico area.

Five study areas of about 2,100 houses list "no identified water supply."

Eight study areas of about 2,300 houses "cannot be effectively served by septic or sewer."

Five study areas, about 9,600 houses with a potential population of over 24,000, are located in FEMA floodplains.

All or portions of 14 study areas—about 37,000 houses with a potential population of over 93,000—are located in fire hazard areas. Nine of the study areas are high or very high fire hazard zones.

All or portions of 17 study areas, almost 41,000 houses, may have a moderate to high groundwater recharge potential.

The detailed analysis also highlights habitat issues, geologic hazards, cultural resource issues, and vernal pool recovery issues.

**BOTTOM LINE:** The next phase of the general plan update process will develop goals, objectives, and policies or programs. If the disconnects woven throughout the current preliminary development decisions are not effectively dealt with then, the options will narrow greatly. In my view, pretty much all that will be left will be the CEQA process and interaction with the Attorney General's review.

On August 19, 2008 the Board of Supervisors approved the following organizational outline recommended by the Development Services Department for the general plan update:

1. Executive Summary (including discussions of sustainability and youth development as part of the County's Vision Statement)
2. Introduction & Overview
3. Land Use Element
4. Housing Element
5. Economic Development Element
6. Agricultural Element
7. Water Element
8. Circulation Element
9. County Character Element
10. Conservation, Open Space, & Recreation Element
11. Health & Safety Element (including Noise Element)
12. Public Facilities & Services Element
13. Action Plan

The next milestone is meeting series 5, during which the plan elements will be fleshed out with goals, policies, and programs. Tim Snellings announced to the Board that the starting point for this phase will be the Policy Alternatives document approved by the Board of Supervisors last November. It can be found at: [http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/ebinder/2007/2007-11-27/Attachment\\_A.5\\_Policy\\_Alternatives.pdf](http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/ebinder/2007/2007-11-27/Attachment_A.5_Policy_Alternatives.pdf)

If you have strong feelings about the goals, policies, and programs that ought to be part of the new general plan, this is the time to put on a full court press. It will be very difficult—and probably impossible from a practical perspective—to insert anything new after this phase. The meetings planned for this phase are:

1. November 7, 2008 – Planning Commission Session (9-5pm)
2. November 14, 2008 – Planning Commission Study Session (9-5pm)
3. January 20, 2009 – Board of Supervisors Study Session (9-5pm)
4. January 21, 2009 – Board of Supervisors Study Session (9-5pm)

It's a marathon, not a sprint.

## ON THE STUMP

By Alan Gair, MBA, MBIM, FIIM, MIM (retired)

TreeAction ([www.treeaction.org](http://www.treeaction.org)) is once again working with the City of Chico to upgrade the city's tree ordinance into a tool that will actually protect trees and expand their replacement, by mitigation for loss and planting of more trees. Saving trees is inextricably linked in my mind to the development in the city and how it allows space for them amid the roofs, concrete drives, parking lots and roads. As the city expands, available land is covered with streets, new subdivisions, new shopping malls and concrete, and development continues to dominate what is popularly known as planning.

The possibility of our developing a sustainable environment in the city recedes daily. Heat gain, air pollution, particulate matter build up, and carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide levels intensify. At the same time, we use up places to plant trees to absorb some of these pollutants. As if by an evil quirk of fate, we lose trees

on tens of thousands of acres in this area by fire, and still many deny that global warming is effected by our actions

To counter these trends the City Council needs our support to moderate the avarice and dominance of the building industry, who seem set on building more homes, even when we are in a recession with hundreds of foreclosures and homes being withdrawn from sale. It seems likely that we will have sufficient houses on the market and shops for rent for the foreseeable future – but fewer trees.

As the city's revenue from property taxes and fees fall, this is a good time to disconnect the link that makes building fees, permitting and administration the way we finance our planning and building. Then planners and city staff would not have to rely upon giving permission for development for their salaries to be paid. They could do the right thing.

We do not need more MacMansions, tract housing or profit-driven development,

*continued on p13*

### Press Release:

#### AGENCIES SUED TO PROTECT WETLANDS AND CRITICAL HABITAT

Chico, CA – On Wednesday, June 11, 2008, the Butte Environmental Council, an enduring advocate for vernal pool protection in California, sued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over their approvals of the Stillwater Business Park in Shasta County. The complaint alleges that the Corps and the Service failed to uphold the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act by issuing permits for the project that would destroy 65.7 % (234.5 acres) of the critical habitat for vernal pool branchiopods in the study area, 48.4 % (242.2 acres) of critical habitat for slender Orcutt grass, 7.55 acres of wetlands, and impact 678 acres of land necessary for the recovery of the species.

Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that fill with water during fall and winter rains. These unique grasslands once dotted most of California's Central Valley and southern California coastal areas and are home to a unique array of plants and wildlife that can be found nowhere else on earth. Biologists estimate that more than 90 percent of vernal pools have been destroyed throughout their historic range (Wright 2002). The vernal pool tadpole shrimp and the vernal pool fairy shrimp were listed as endangered in 1994 due to habitat loss and fragmentation from urban expansion, agriculture, roads, and water projects. After BEC litigation in 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Service designated critical habitat for these species and 11 plants, including slender Orcutt grass. "Critical habitat" for threatened and endangered species is considered to be habitat necessary for the recovery of the species, and, as such, is intended to have a higher degree of protection.

"It took BEC litigation to create the Vernal Pool Critical Habitat Rule and the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems in California and Southern Oregon*," stated Barbara Vlamis, executive director of Butte Environmental Council, "So we are not going to stand by and watch the agencies ignore the priorities they established in their own documents and regulations." The Clean Water Act requires the Corps to seek the Least Environmental Damaging Practical Alternative, which was not done. The Endangered Species Act necessitates that the Service not jeopardize the existence of the endangered and threatened shrimp species or the threatened grass and that they must not adversely modify critical habitat for the species. The current permits are contrary to the best available science, inconsistent with prior decisions, and are not supported by the facts before the agency.

## Chico Citizens Respond to Bidwell Park Master Management Plan with Proposed Amendments

By Randy Abbott

After years of preparation, the City of Chico staff and the Sacramento-based consultant EDAW are ready to present to the Chico City Council an updated Management Plan for Bidwell Park.

If approved by the City Council as is, many park lovers are alarmed about several questionable management policy changes:

- The Bidwell Deed's restrictions and vision of preservation have been removed as a required consideration in future decision making.
- New Intensive/Active recreational facilities can now openly be considered for placement throughout Bidwell Park, rather than containing this type of 'urban' use to the areas of the Park already used for these purposes, such as One Mile or Five Mile.
- Removes the mandate to close unauthorized trails in the Park.

In response to this situation, a coalition of concerned individuals, businesses and organizations are proposing a list of amendments to the draft plan, dubbed 'Annie's Amendments' (see next column).

Organizers say the Amendments are designed to establish clear, mandatory policies that would reestablish the importance of the Bidwell's original vision of preserving the Park's resources and beauty for the Citizens of Chico for all time.

Annie's Amendment organizers are stressing the importance of a collective community voice and are asking concerned citizens and organizations to add their names to a list of 'Endorsers of Annie's Amendments.'

To add your name to the list, email [EndorseAnnie@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:EndorseAnnie@friendsofbidwellpark.org).

A copy of the original Bidwell Deed, and the City's 1905 resolution to honor the Deed's conditions in perpetuity can be seen, along with other historical documents, at the website [www.friendsofbidwellpark.org](http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org).

The complete set of City documents associated with the Management Plan update: Draft Plan, Environmental Impact Report with responses to public comments, mitigation and monitoring programs for currently proposed Park projects, as well as the current (1990) Park Master Management Plan, can be found on the City of Chico's official website [www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us).

Annie's Amendments

Park Purpose/Goal: Maintain Annie Bidwell's

requirements as noted in the Deed of Conveyance as a primary consideration in all decision-making related to Bidwell Park, and observe the commitment made by the City to preserve the Park's natural resources for the enjoyment of the public, in perpetuity.

Objectives:

1. Preserve Bidwell Park's native ecology and natural aesthetic beauty.
2. Include consideration of the conditions found in the Deed of Conveyance in all decision-making related to Bidwell Park.
3. Include the historical purpose intended for Bidwell Park in Park educational materials.
4. Allow managed infrastructure for research, education, and non-intensive recreation; do not allow new facilities for intensive recreation, except within the existing footprints of areas already dedicated to such facilities.

Implementation Strategies:

1. The City shall weigh all decisions affecting Bidwell Park against the goal of preserving the natural values of the Park for future generations.
2. City staff shall be instructed to advocate for the preservation of Bidwell Park's natural, aesthetic, and historical values, in their role as trustees of a public resource.
3. The City shall provide a consistent educational message that emphasizes the historic purpose of Bidwell Park and informs the public of the formally protected status of the Park's natural features.
4. The City shall annually monitor the Park for unauthorized developments.
5. City staff shall enforce closure of unauthorized developments, and rehabilitate areas degraded by such unauthorized developments.
6. The City shall clearly identify existing authorized Park developments for non-intensive and intensive use including, but not limited to: trails, bike paths, roads and facilities for intensive recreation, and record these on a mapped database.
7. The City shall conduct a Park-wide inventory/assessment/monitoring program for natural resources, using qualified persons, using the management methods outlined by the document "Designing Monitoring Programs in an Adaptive Management Context for Regional Multiple Species Conservation Plans," published by the USGS in 2004. Special emphasis should be placed on rare, sensitive species and the habitat that sustains them.

## Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

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Oakland CA 94612



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[www.ejcw.org](http://www.ejcw.org)

Wednesday, August 13th

Mark Franco, Winnemem Wintu Tribe, (530) 510-0944

Debbie Davis, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (916) 743-4406

## California Supports Winnemem Wintu Tribe: Senate passes Joint Resolution urging restoration of federal recognition status

Sacramento, CA – The Winnemem Wintu Tribe drew one step closer to righting years of historic wrongs today. The Senate passed a Joint Resolution urging the federal government to restore federal recognition status to the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. The resolution, authored by Assembly Member Huffman, passed with 24 votes.

"California has sent a clear message today: our state stands in solidarity with the Winnemem Wintu Tribe to correct a terrible injustice by the federal government," said Assemblymember Jared Huffman. "It's now time for the federal government to acknowledge its mistake and once again recognize the Tribe."

The Winnemem were mysteriously dropped from the list of federally recognized Tribes in the 1980's. For years, the Winnemem received benefits from the federal government, such as housing and educational assistance. They abruptly stopped receiving benefits, ending access to local healthcare, housing assistance, and cutting families off from scholarships they had only years before used to pursue college degrees. To this day, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has failed to provide an adequate explanation for what happened.

"This resolution is long-overdue. For years, we have struggled to maintain our traditions on our own," explained Caleen Sisk-Franco, leader of the Winnemem. "Recognition would enable us to maintain our spiritual lifeways, get our youth scholarships and healthcare. To have the State of California declare their support for us sends a message that we are no longer alone on this issue."

The Winnemem are a traditional, non-gaming Tribe from Northern California. They have been unable to get a clear answer as to why the federal government stopped recognizing the Tribe, and the resolution will aid the Tribe in rectifying the historic injustice. The Winnemem Wintu, together with and the Natural Resource Defense Council and the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, introduced AJR 39 in 2007. The Resolution documents the state of California's long history with the Winnemem Wintu and urges the Federal government to fix an incomprehensible mistake that has drastically impacted the Tribe.

State agencies and many other organizations maintain relationships with the Tribe, but recognition can only be granted by the federal government. The Native American Heritage Commission lists the Winnemem as a California Tribe. Agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Game hold Memorandums of Understanding with the Tribe. Even federal agencies maintain a relationship with the Winnemem; the Tribe has legal agreements with the U.S. Forest Service, and their leaders receives religious protections and rights only guaranteed to Tribes under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

We will be taking this resolution to Washington D.C. We hope it will be impetus for our Congressional representatives to help us," said Mark Franco, headman of the Winnemem. "Recognition impacts our very survival as a people. California is in danger of losing a part of its cultural heritage if we do not act on this now."

The resolution comes at a particularly important time for the Winnemem. The US Bureau of Reclamation is investigating the possibility of increasing the size of the Shasta Dam, which would flood the Winnemem's few remaining sacred sites and ancestral lands. Recognition would force the Bureau to negotiate directly with the Tribe throughout this process.

The vote today signaled the growing support for the Tribe and the overwhelming need to address this long-standing inequity. The resolution will now be memorialized in federal Congress as a permanent statement on the California Legislature's support for the Winnemem Wintu Tribe.



# WATER



## California “Delta Vision” Plan to Save the Delta by Sacrificing the Tuscan

Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is the primary environmental advocate for Butte County and the adjacent counties that overlie the Tuscan aquifer formation. BEC has been involved in groundwater policy since 1994 when the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) facilitated significant water transfers out of our basin. These transfers were supported by increased aquifer extractions that resulted in costly impacts to groundwater dependent communities in Butte County.

The demand for water in California is creating a flurry of outside investigations into sources of potential “new” water. Human projects can’t create water but they can manipulate the timing of water flows through engineered infrastructure (dams, canals, pumps). Infrastructure always impacts ecosystems. The more aggressive the system is operated, the more severe are the impacts.

State planners are planning to convert the healthy Sacramento Valley Tuscan formation aquifer into a bank for water merchants to deposit and withdraw wealth. During the past decade the Department of Water Resources (State) and Bureau of Reclamation (Federal) have funded regional plans to integrate this local resource into the state water

supply. The agencies always cloak their plans with presumed incidental Delta ecosystem improvement.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta has been used for over 50 years as a conveyance canal to move Northern California river water into pumps that fill concrete channels flowing south. The natural high & low flow of the river system (an important driver of ecosystem dynamics) has been flattened by holding back winter-spring flows with dammed reservoirs that release water during the summer-fall. Municipal and agricultural outflows have contaminated the river system with toxic elements. The powerful pumps have evacuated Delta biomass exacerbating the decline of the fishery. Once abundant Delta smelt and Chinook salmon are now endangered.

State agencies were allowing the Delta ecosystem to decline and crash until environmental activists took the matter to court. This legal action forced the government to deal with the ecological collapse. Governor Swarzenegger has convened a “Blue Ribbon Delta Task Force” that is composing recommendations to restore a healthy Delta. Unfortunately the “Delta Vision” focuses on increasing water supply rather than decreasing demand. The panel claims to place equal value on creating a healthy Delta estuary ecosystem and preserving a robust water export supply [have their cake and eat it too]. They accept projected climate change will reduce snow-melt while planning to provide more “environmental” water to Delta flows. The primary source of “new” water is supposed to come from unnamed Sacramento Valley aquifers. BEC is convinced that the Tuscan is the target.

While the state has been forced by righteous litigation to attempt Delta restoration, they appear willing to risk destroying our vibrant Sierra-Cascade foothill-valley environment, including groundwater dependent orchard agriculture.

One recommended action is to streamline environmental review

of water transfers and to standardize the regulatory approval process. “Streamlined” CEQA and NEPA compliance is a strategy not favored by environmental advocates. Truncated review eliminates opportunities for stakeholders to participate as required by law while giving well-funded agencies and purveyors legal leverage. Standardized regulations allow agencies to sidestep special local hydrological conditions such as the connection between the Tuscan aquifer with native vegetation and stream flow on the eastern edge of the valley.

**Planners in Sacramento assume that our region contains abundant groundwater storage potential and want to “incentivize local water districts to bring these storage resources to market, and to engage in conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources.” BEC is focused on maintaining the ecological and economic benefits associated with our balanced aquifer and is contesting efforts by the state and its willing water selling partners to convert our aquifer system into a wildly fluctuating groundwater bank.**

Delta Vision states that Sacramento is intent on “removing limitations on the extraction and delivery of banked groundwater.” The very idea of converting our balanced aquifer into a “bank” for irrigation districts to place stormwater for sale presents a great threat to our quality of life. BEC is resolved to challenge the transformation of our balanced natural aquifer system into a water storage reservoir. The legal implications of such a conversion include the extirpation of pumping rights for

users unaffiliated with replenishment districts. The ecological implications include dewatering of streams and riparian areas located on the up-gradient portion of the Tuscan formation, such as Mill Creek, Big Chico Creek, and Butte Creek. The economic implications include expenses associated with deepening wells, the increased movement of aquifer contamination and the loss of groundwater dependent agriculture that has no access to surface water. Existing users of the Tuscan aquifer and environmental advocates will challenge any plans to intentionally place and store surface water into the Tuscan formation. Our unique hydrology (a tilted aquifer formation that surfaces and interacts with streams on the eastern edge of the Sacramento Valley) requires customized legal and regulatory strategies.

While BEC has been at the forefront of challenging the relentless attempts to raid our regional aquifer we are pleased to note a marked increase in concern by local agricultural and some local government leaders. The Delta Vision plan to, “**Exempt extractions and deliveries of banked groundwater from county ordinances that require permits for out-of-county exports of groundwater**” is the most overt announcement to date from power brokers in Sacramento that they plan to run us over! The usurping of local control of groundwater that may occur if the natural aquifer is converted to a state water bank is unacceptable.

*Citation: Preliminary Staff Draft, June 2008, Delta Vision Strategic Plan, Strategy 8, p48*



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## Water Quality Issues Around the Region

Grant funding through the Rose Foundation, the Honig Fund, and others has enabled Butte Environmental Council (BEC) to devote greater attention toward monitoring state and federal activities that impact the quality of Butte County's Sacramento River tributaries. BEC endeavors to increase awareness among county residents regarding threats to water quality; provide a presence at state and local agencies that have an impact on water quality; and increase activism from our community members to continue working locally to protect our water resources.

BEC recently commented on the Bay-Delta Strategic Plan establishing our position calling for baseline water quality monitoring and outlining our concern regarding the huge gaps that exist in monitoring our waterways. Monitoring is necessary to receive state and federal funding to improve the quality of our waterways and to better understand the potential pollution sources and risks associated with human and natural perturbations. We called attention to the lack of monitoring occurring in Butte County crucial to understanding chemical conditions of our waters under draught conditions and high flow. This data enables us to develop trends over space and time that will help identify critical conditions as an increase in demand puts a greater burden on our water supplies. Our comments also brought attention to the critical role Butte Creek plays in the valley Chinook Salmon populations and the potential looming impacts the devastating wildfires may have on our creeks and fisheries and habitats during the first fall rains when the ash and sediment left behind flushes down through the tributaries.

### Butte County – New Era Mine

On Aug 5, 2008 the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved continued operations of the mine under the 1982 Mining and Reclamation Permit 81-135. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) will oversee the water quality monitoring of Dry Creek downstream of the mine through a permit referred to as a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR). A WDR contains detailed instructions on how dredge and fill activities and water storage and discharge are regulated and monitored. Mine operators will be responsible for monitoring and reporting to the CVRWQCB on a quarterly basis. All water for mining operations is expected to remain on the property within the settling ponds. In the event that discharge to Dry Creek does occur, monitoring of that discharge is also required. Further information and the tentative WDR for the New Era Mine is available at the CVRWQCB web site. A public hearing takes place during the CVRWQCB meeting October 23-24, 2008 in Sacramento.

### Total Maximum Daily Loads

The latest 303(d) recommendations by the CVRWQCB should be publicly available early November and are open to public comment. The 303(d) lists waterways of concern and is the first step in establishing TMDLs. Data has been acquired over the last two years from a variety of sources. Originally, the Sacramento River Watershed Program maintained the data collection and management program for years. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) acquired the monitoring program in 2006, and the CVRWQCB took possession early in 2008. The 303d development and listing cycle happens every two years. The regional staff will solicit data again in the near future.

In a letter to the SWRCB, dated June 14, 2004, BEC pointed to the significant water quality issues affecting our major waterways from data reported in a variety of Sacramento River Watershed Program reports:

- Butte Creek – diazinon found at one site at a high of 42,000 ng/l reported in 2002
- Little Chico Creek – mercury toxicity found to fail the USEPA criterion of 12 ng/l in more than 50% of data collected as reported in 2003
- Mud Creek – mercury toxicity concerns as reported in 2003
- Dry Creek – occurrences of significant mercury toxicity as reported in 2003

These tributaries have not been regularly monitored, have not made it on to the 303d list, and may still contribute to toxicity accumulation problems down stream. On a positive note, the SWRCB has recently established a new statewide monitoring committee. We expect to see improved action from this collaboration between the environmental community and state and local agencies.

### Central Valley Drinking Water Policy

The week of August 25 the CVRWQCB held three public workshops/California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings in Stockton, Sacramento and Chico. The meeting in Chico was reported to be the best attended with nine participants. A multi-year effort is currently underway to develop a drinking water policy for surface waters in the Central Valley. The CVRWQCB is soliciting input from interested persons on alternatives to improve existing policies for protecting municipal and domestic supply beneficial uses as an amendment to the Basin Plan. Current policies and plans lack water quality objectives for several known drinking water constituents of concern and do not include implementation strategies to provide effective source water protection. Constituents of concern are: Salinity, Nutrients, Organic Carbon, and Pathogens. Quite possibly, this policy amendment will mean more stringent regulation and monitoring for dischargers operating under Waste Discharge Requirements – implying an impact on treatment plant operators for both drinking water and waste water; Separate Storm Water systems, and the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Contact BEC for more information or to join our e-mail listing of current issues and activities affecting the quality of our waterways in Butte County.

## Press Release:

### GLENN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT SUPPORTS INSTALLATION OF GROUND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Regional Ground Water at Risk

**Chico, CA** – Butte Environmental Council's challenge of Glenn Colusa Irrigation District's (GCID) project that GCID claimed was exempt from environmental review was denied August 13, 2008. Despite the project's connection to myriad regional planning documents (see below) and GCID's own local plans, Judge Byrd ruled that installing seven production wells into the deep portions of the aquifer underlying Butte, Glenn, and Tehama counties was just a monitoring research project. BEC alleged that the seven wells project is part of a concerted and expanding effort to install infrastructure into the Tuscan ground water so that it may, as stated in numerous planning documents and contracts, become integrated into the state and federal water supply. This project, installing seven production wells, will extract a volume of ground water that exceeds the current utilization by the city of Chico in one year, creating the likelihood of a significant adverse environmental impact without the benefit of mitigation.

"BEC is disappointed in the ruling," stated Barbara Vlamis, BEC's Executive Director. "It is clear that the judge believed that the seven wells project was an isolated project without environmental impacts, but BEC still views it quite differently," she continued. During the hearing, Judge Byrd found that GCID's monitoring project in the *Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* was isolated from their *Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Water Management Program* that includes "the installation of up to ten new district-owned production groundwater wells" for ground water production and the *Stony Creek Fan Partnership Conjunctive Management Program* to name just two more planned projects. BEC's litigation merely sought to have GCID analyze the impacts from their recently completed, current, and known future projects so that the public could review the projects comprehensively, comment, and see what safeguards existed to protect other ground water users and the environment as required in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Judge Byrd's ruling allows GCID to claim an exemption from CEQA and to defer analysis to a later date.

GCID's projects are using public money to expand its role in water management and marketing. As mentioned above, the current project is part of a much larger set of plans to "integrate" ground water into the state and federal water supplies. GCID has been pursuing these plans for many years. While speculators are allowed to propose projects in California, the law requires that they analyze the potential impacts and mitigate them through the CEQA. The federal contract that is funding part of this project is also seeking to, "...describe and compare the performance of three alternative ways of furnishing a substitute surface water supply to the current Lower Tuscan Formation groundwater users to eliminate the risks to them of more aggressive pumping from the Formation and to optimize conjunctive management of the Sacramento Valley water resources." This would include over 87% of Butte County's population. "BEC maintains that all these projects are related, could cause serious environmental and life-altering impacts, and that they should be reviewed comprehensively under CEQA," concluded Vlamis. BEC is evaluating its options for future action.

Plans that GCID is party to:

*Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement (Phase 8, October 2001).*

*Estimating the Potential for In Lieu Conjunctive Water Management in the Central Valley of California (2002).*

*Regional Integration of the Lower Tuscan Formation Using Conjunctive Water Management in the Sacramento Valley Regional Integration of the Lower Tuscan Groundwater Formation into the Sacramento Valley Surface Water System Through Conjunctive Water Management (June 2005).*

*Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2006).*



# WATER

## Code Blue

BEC Water Series #3

Thursday, October 23rd, 2008

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Chico Grange\*

### *Working Together for a Sustainable Water Future*

presented by Conner Everts

#### Overview:

Conner Everts will give a presentation that builds on Dorothy Green's book about why southern California does not need water from the north and how ocean water desalination is not the answer. It will be a personal description of his 30 years working on water issues, including our untapped local water resources, advanced water recycling efficiency measures, grey water, storm water and urban runoff capture, treatment and reuse, and maximizing wastewater reuse. He will address the need for real water policy changes and opportunities including groundwater laws and monitoring, the next level of conservation, agriculture metering, and dam removal with southern steelhead restoration. He will touch on climate change and its impact on water supply and the need for a new statewide alliance of Environmental Justice, labor, community groups, fishermen, and environmental organizations working towards real water policy for this century and beyond.

Conner Everts is Executive Director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance (SCWA) and works on watershed issues throughout the Southern California Bight - from Point Concepcion north of Santa Barbara to Ensenada in Baja California, Mexico. As well as working with watershed organizations and agencies to provide funding and promoting their successes, SCWA works with community-based organizations on water conservation programs, environmental justice programs, water quality programs, and promoting uses of local water resources including groundwater and proper use of reclaimed water. Restoration of habitat and dam removal for steelhead trout is another part of SCWA's work. Making the link between different programs and disciplines is key to SCWA's work. Conner is Co-Chair for the Desal Response Group (DRG), a project of SCWA, made up of diverse environmental groups working together statewide to provide the environmental response and prioritization of water resources. DRG actively coordinates statewide policy with over 22 environmental organizations challenging the 29 proposed desal plants in California and working with others on projects nationally and in Baja California.

\* Chico Grange  
2775 'Old' Nord Avenue  
Chico, CA 95973

## Complicated problem: GLOBAL WARMING

### Simple Solution:



### PULLINS CYCLERY

801 Main St., Chico  
(530) 342-1055  
pullinsusa@aol.com

## Seawater Desalination: New Solution or New Problem?

### FACT SHEET

**Ocean desalination – a process that converts seawater into drinking water – is being hailed as the solution to water supply problems. Proponents of desalination claim that this technology will create a reliable, long-term water supply, while decreasing pressure on other over-drawn water sources. But desalination facilities have the potential to create more problems than they solve.**

Here are some reasons why communities need to think twice before embracing ocean water desalination:

#### 1. Alternatives abound.

Smart water agencies are making great strides in adopting efficient water management practices such as conservation, reuse, and recycling. The Pacific Institute report "Waste Not, Want Not; The Potential for Urban Water Conservation in California" found that California can meet its water needs for the next 30 years by implementing off-the-shelf, cost-effective urban water conservation. Draft guidelines released by the state of Massachusetts found that "Prior to seeking desalinated water, proponents and communities needing additional water should first achieve savings through efficient use and conservation of existing water." Desalination is an expensive and speculative option that could drain resources away from more practical solutions.

#### 2. It's expensive.

Ocean desalinated water is among the most expensive ways to supply water. Producing water through ocean desalination costs three or more times what it costs to produce water from traditional supplies. It requires multiple subsidies of both water and electricity to break even, and it entails pricey upfront construction and long-term operation and maintenance costs. California American Water Company, has demanded an upfront rate increase to provide for construction of its proposed plant in Monterrey, California, before it has even produced a drop of water.

#### 3. It Could Exacerbate Global Warming.

Enormous amounts of energy are needed to force ocean water through tiny membrane filters at a high pressure. Ocean water desalination can be greater than ten times more energy intensive than other supply sources. Ocean desalination proponents, such as private corporations Poseidon Resources and American Water, plan to locate plants alongside existing coastal power plants, thus potentially spurring their emission of global warming pollution. Facilities also have the potential to induce urban sprawl, which could mean increased air pollution from car commuters.

#### 4. It Creates the Potential for Corporate Control and Abuse.

Ocean desalination provides a new opportunity for private corporations to own and sell water. Currently, there is little regulation of these facilities, creating the possibility that private corporations would rate-gouge thirsty populations – similar to what happened in the Enron energy scheme. A recent Food & Water Watch analysis compared average water rates charged by publicly and privately owned utilities in four states – California, Illinois, Wisconsin, and New York – and found that privately owned water utilities charge customers significantly higher water rates than their publicly owned counterparts: anywhere from 13 percent to almost 50 percent more. Worse, corporate controlled desalination facilities have performed miserably. Poseidon Resources, whose largest investor is the private equity firm Warburg Pincus, botched a large facility in Tampa Bay, Florida. The facility, at a final price of \$158 million, was completed years behind schedule and did not function until the Tampa Bay Water Authority took it over from Poseidon. Poseidon now plans to build several facilities in California, some of which are much larger including a facility in Carlsbad. Companies like Poseidon view the ocean not as a public resource but as a vast, untapped source of profit, with unlimited potential to supply water to the highest bidder.

#### 5. Fisheries and Marine Environments Will Be Threatened.

Many proposed ocean desalination plants are now planning to rely on "once-through" intake structures – an outdated technology that sucks in ocean water to cool the power plant. These intakes kill fish and other organisms that cannot free themselves from the intakes or that get sucked into the plants. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, these intake structures kill at least 3.4 billion fish and other marine organisms annually. This amounts to a \$212.5 million loss to anglers and commercial fishermen. California's power plant intake structures, alone, are responsible for the loss of at least 312.9 million organisms each year, resulting in a \$13.6 million loss to fishermen. As power plants begin to shift away from once-through cooling, a real danger exists that some desalination plants will use these intakes, and marine life destruction will continue. Further, the brine, or super salty wastewater created from the desalination process, also has the potential to upset our delicate coastal ecosystems.

#### 6. It Could Pose a Risk to Human Health.

A number of public health experts have expressed concern about using ocean water as drinking water and the effect that new contaminants have on water quality. Some of these new contaminants include boron, algal toxins (for example, red tide) and endocrine disruptors, all of which are concentrated through the desalination process. Another concern is that ocean desalination draws water from coastal areas with sewage and storm water runoff.

#### 7. It Promotes Environmental and Social Injustice.

Costs may be disproportionately borne by existing low-income communities, both those living near the plant who will not receive the water and those inland whose rates will increase to support the desalination plant, while gaining none of the benefits. In California, most proposed desalination plants would serve affluent communities in Marin County, the Monterey area, Cambria, southern Orange County and northern San Diego County. Low-income communities located near desalination facilities could be harmed if desalination facilities increase air pollution and limit access to the ocean for subsistence fishing. A proposed desalination plant in Huntington Beach, California would extend the life of a power plant that residents have been struggling to shut down for years.

#### Conclusion

Desalination shouldn't be used as a quick fix to our water shortage problems. Conservation and recycling programs are usually much less expensive and less risky alternatives to building desalination plants. To take action, go to: <http://foodandwaterwatch.org/water/Alerts/desal/>

#### For more information:

[www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/desalination](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/desalination)  
email: [foodandwater@fwfwatch.org](mailto:foodandwater@fwfwatch.org)  
phone: (202) 683-2500  
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# We Have Enough Water

The trick is to conserve the valuable state resource, make wise decisions about how to use it and cut waste.

By Dorothy Green and Jamie Simons

October 27, 2007 LA Times

For all the doom and gloom about the state of water in California, here's a surprising truth. California has enough water to meet its needs both today and tomorrow without new dams, peripheral canals or catastrophic costs. But there is a rub. It will take political will and better management.

If, in the wake of the health care debate and the strangle hold of special interest money, you are rolling your eyes and saying, "Give up the fight. It's hopeless," hold on a moment. There is a road map and if it's followed it can lead, not to Oz, but to a better future for Californians.

Here's how:

**Step number 1.** Conservation. Stop hosing down the driveway, use more efficient appliances, plug leaks and put water meters on homes that do not have them, and we can save about one third of the water used indoors, according to the non-partisan Pacific Institute. Planting California friendly plants, and installing smart sprinklers can help to conserve over half of the water used outdoors.

**Step number 2.** Reuse our existing wastewater. Before anyone yells "toilet to tap," let's establish that the last time there was "new" water on the planet was in the Garden of Eden. As it stands now, wastewater is treated until it is almost potable and then most of it is thrown away. Imagine, Los Angeles discharges the seventh largest fresh water river in the state into the ocean every day, year round. What if, instead, this water was reused for landscape irrigation and industrial processes? Or better yet, placed underground into the aquifer where the soil would complete the filtering process and it could then be pumped up for drinking water. Thinking yeach? Consider

this. The Colorado River, a major source of water for Southern California, contains the treated wastewater of Las Vegas. The San Francisco Bay Delta, another major source of imported water to Southern California, contains the water from ten sewage treatment plants that serve the communities located in and around the delta. Like we said, there is no such thing as new water.

**Step number 3.** Store groundwater more efficiently. This may seem like a no-brainer, but believe it or not, LA County Public Works puts reclaimed wastewater and any surplus water into ponds so that it can soak into the ground. The county does this with spring run off for use during the summer months. Why not do it with wet year surpluses for use in dry years? There is plenty of storage capacity underground in the huge aquifers that lie under the San Gabriel Valley, San Fernando Valley and Chino areas.

**Step number 4.** Use storm water more wisely. The Army Corps of Engineers and others built a storm drain system to prevent local flooding. You may have seen it. It's called the LA River. And while this concrete channel is very efficient at pushing floodwater through the county and out into the sea, why not use this water for multi-purpose projects, such as parks, where water can be held until it soaks into the ground? The reward? An increased water supply, improved water quality, additional green space, more recreational opportunities, enhanced habitat and an increase in nearby property values.

**Step number 5.** Cut agricultural water use. This is the biggie, the one that makes politicians run for cover only to reappear when it's fundraising time in the central valley. Agriculture uses about 80% of all the developed water in

the state. It has to be taken on or nothing will change. But here's the good news. Reduce agricultural water by just ten percent and you would almost double the water available for our cities. Can this be done effectively, efficiently and well? Try asking dry countries such as Israel. They know how to make the most of every drop of water and we should too. Farmers are businessmen. If legislation changed so would they.

So let's celebrate the defeat of the dueling water bonds proposed by the Governor and the Legislature. Let's spare voters the expensive initiative campaigns they are both planning to launch. The problem is not water. The problem is persuading citizens and agencies to put aside their business as usual mentality and cooperate for the greater good of us all. And when the goal has been accomplished through good leadership and smart stewardship, let's all raise a glass of water and toast ourselves.

*Dorothy Green is the founder of Heal the Bay and the author of "Managing Water: Avoiding Crisis in California." Jamie Simons is a writer living in Los Angeles. <http://articles.latimes.com/2007/oct/23/opinion/oe-green23>*

**Dorothy Green**, a legend in California water, died October 13, 2008. She wrote her last article five days earlier. I know that I speak for thousands of people when I say that she is deeply loved and that her contribution to California and the Earth will resonate for centuries.

Thank you, Dorothy, for your work, dedication, warmth, and example, sweet sister.

— *Barbara Vlamis*

October 10, 2008 article may be found at:  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-green8-2008oct08,0,7093004.story>

A sensitive article about Dorothy Green's life by Steve Lopez:  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/columnists/la-me-lopez17-2008sep17,0,3496650,full.column>

Dorothy Green's obituary is found at:  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-green14-2008oct14,0,4864671.story>

# EDUCATION

## Greening Your Final Arrangements *By Noelle Novey*

reprinted with permission from Co-op America's Real Money newsletter, 800/58-GREEN, [www.coopamerica.org](http://www.coopamerica.org)



### What?

Consider greening your funeral care.

### Why?

Save money and leave a beautiful, lasting memory for your loved ones.

### Wow!

Limit the use of natural resources and hazardous chemicals in your funeral care and cemetery upkeep. Have your funeral costs go directly toward land conservation efforts.

#### Resources

##### BOOKS:

Be a Tree: the Natural Burial Guide for Turning Yourself into a Forest, by Cynthia Beat. (New Society Publishers, 2009). Before I Go, You Should Know Funeral Planning Kit, available for \$12 from the Funeral Consumers Alliance, 800-765-0107, [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org).

##### ORGANIZATIONS:

Co-op America Web exclusive: visit [www.coopamerica.org/go/greenburials](http://www.coopamerica.org/go/greenburials), to find a list of US green burial grounds.

Crossings: Caring for our Own at Death, a green burial resource center.

301-523-3033, [www.crossings.net](http://www.crossings.net).

The Green Burial Council lists approved funeral providers, cemeteries, and products: 888-966-3330, [www.greenburialcouncil.org/providers.htm](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org/providers.htm).

Final Passages: 707-824-0268, [www.finalpassages.org](http://www.finalpassages.org).

##### SUPPLIES:

Colorful Coffins, 650-892-2515, [www.colorfulcoffins.com](http://www.colorfulcoffins.com). Natural Burial Company, 503-493-9258, [www.naturalburialcompany.com](http://www.naturalburialcompany.com). Passages International, 888-480-6400, [www.earthurn.com](http://www.earthurn.com).

**K**risti Minahan plans to protect the environment her whole life-and beyond. As a water resources management specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Kristi spends her days protecting her state's land and water. Though she hopes she has many healthy years ahead, the sudden death of a relative a few years ago got her thinking about what she would want when her own time comes someday.

"I have always felt that the modern ways of [burial] are not the way I want to go," says Minahan. "I would want to be connected to nature in death, not shut out from nature."

It can be difficult to contemplate our own end.

In the last hundred years, standard US funeral care practices have come to involve the use of toxic embalming chemicals and the burying of impermeable, finished wood, metal, and concrete along with the deceased, often in heavily fertilized cemetery grounds. But studies show that, when asked to think about it, the great majority of Americans want something closer to what Minahan wants: a natural return to the Earth.

#### The Hazards of Embalming

Embalming first became common in the US in the 1800s, when it was used to preserve the bodies of Civil War soldiers being shipped long distances to their families. Today, many bereaved families are given the impression that formaldehyde embalming is legally required and necessary for protecting public health, but neither is the case in any state.

The embalming process puts mortuary workers at risk both because formaldehyde is a recognized carcinogen, according to the state of California and the World Health Organization, and because the blood displaced by the embalming process may expose these workers to pathogens. Embalming effluent and organic matter extracted during the process are all washed down the drain as wastewater. And some of the estimated 827,000 gallons of embalming fluid buried annually in the US seeps into groundwater, potentially entering local water supplies.

#### A Box in a Box

If Minahan hopes, when the time comes, to return to nature quickly and simply, she would need to arrange not to be buried in a conventional casket. The caskets funeral directors sell to families are routinely made of non-biodegradable steel, fiberglass, chipboard, or tropical hardwoods from endangered forests, often with rubber or plastic seals and liners.

"The box is pretty, the lawns are neat, and nature can't get a word in edgewise," writes Cynthia Beal in *Be a Tree: the Natural Burial Guide for Turning Yourself into a Forest* (coming Fall 2009 from New Society Publishers).

In most conventional funerals, the casket itself is not even placed directly into the ground. To prevent uneven grounds that are hard to mow, many cemeteries now have rigid cement liners in every new grave into which a casket is placed. Mary Woodsen of the Commemorative Nature Preserves of New York has estimated that US cemeteries inter more than 1.5 million tons of reinforced concrete, more than a million tons of steel, 2,700 tons of copper and bronze, and 30 million board feet of hardwoods every year.

#### Cemeteries as Land Use

Conventional cemeteries represent a narrow, inflexible use of land in the first place. When a new cemetery is

created, the land is often cleared of existing vegetation, ruining the natural eco-systems and beauty of an area in exchange for a perfectly even, manicured lawn. Grounds crews often maintain such a lawn with excessive water usage and heavy applications of toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

The plot of land has a singular use, as large headstones break up the space and mark it as primarily a burial ground, and visitors typically come to the site only a few times a year. The area will never be viable green space that supports naturally existing plant and animal life. Neither will it be a shared community area that supports both land and people.

#### Greener Choices

Those who won't want their bodies embalmed with formaldehyde or sealed against the elements increasingly have a variety of choices. The grassroots "home funeral" movement has worked to publicize to families that embalming is not required by law—except in cases where a body is being transported across state lines—and that families can use dry ice or refrigeration to preserve a body naturally for several days before burial. In fact, a number of religions, including Islamic, Jewish, Baha'i, and Quaker faiths, routinely eschew embalming, respectfully washing the body of the deceased and proceeding with burial promptly.

Those who want an ally in avoiding embalming can now turn to the Green Burial Council, the first nationwide clearinghouse for greener burial products and services. You can find a list of funeral providers certified by the Green Burial Council as offering burial options without chemicals on the Council's Web site, or find guidance for ensuring a formaldehyde-free burial from Crossings: Caring for Our Own at Death, a home funeral resource center.

Green businesses, and several casket makers approved by the Green Burial Council, sell beautiful, simple, biodegradable caskets, shrouds, and urns made from recycled or renewable materials. For example, Colorful Coffins, Natural Burial Company, and Passages International offer caskets made of woven willow branches, plain pine wood, painted cardboard, cane, bamboo, or seagrass, and Natural Burial Company offers an Ecopod, a seed-shaped casket made of recycled paper incorporating mulberry leaves and silk.

Rather than attempt to seal off natural processes, all of these greener burial products invite nature in, and are designed to assist rather than impede a body's return to the Earth.

#### Opting Out: Cremation

For several decades, those who were disenchanted with conventional burial looked to cremation as an alternative. Cremation is a part of traditional Hindu and Buddhist funeral practices. Unfortunately, cremation presents some environmental hazards of its own: it requires large amounts of energy, releases significant carbon emissions, and often produces vaporized mercury, a neurotoxicant (an unsavory consequence of the widespread use of dental amalgam).

Within the coming year, the Green Burial Council will finalize standards for "greener" cremation facilities that are more energy efficient, mitigate any mercury emissions, and offset their carbon footprint. And the green businesses mentioned above offer a variety of biodegradable urns for ashes made from gourds, recycled

paper, rock salt, or sand.

#### A Natural Departure: Green Burial

Across the country, communities are joining with conservation groups to envision and create a new kind of burial ground that marries people's desire to be buried naturally with the goals of land conservation. Kristi Minahan is a part of one such effort, the Trust for Natural Legacies in Wisconsin. These "conservation burial grounds," "natural burial grounds," and "memorial preserves," as they are variously known, are natural lands (not manicured grounds) preserved for multiple uses, including bike or walking paths, native species conservation, or environmental study. Some portion of the land is made available for natural burials—without chemicals in biodegradable caskets or shrouds.

The burial places are not marked with a large headstone, but only with a small marker, or a tree, or sometimes nothing at all, with only GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates shared with the family so they can find the spot. And the land containing the burial ground is protected from development or other damage by a land trust or easement that ensures that the natural landscape will be preserved in perpetuity. The revenue from burials can be used to purchase more land for the trust as it becomes available, advancing conservation an acre at a time.

These greener burial sites appeal to people who want their last act to be a life-giving one. At the same time, conservation burial grounds also present conservation organizations with a vitally needed mechanism for funding their restoration projects.

Even as these burials direct funds towards conservation, they still often cost significantly less than conventional burials. Families spend an average of \$6,500 on burial, including embalming, before paying for cemetery costs such as a lot and gravestone; by contrast, a green burial with a plain wooden casket and a site in a conservation burial ground can come to less than \$3,000.

#### Ritual, Memory, and Conservation

Today, there are more than 200 green burial grounds across the UK. By contrast, the stateside green burial movement is still in the early phases. To see if one of the dozen or so existing green burial grounds in the US are near you, visit our Web site or the Green Burial Council's site, or seek out any local efforts to create one. Your local chapter of the Funeral Consumers' Alliance may also be a helpful source of information about local resources for greener final arrangements.

Thanks to a growing interest in more meaningful, affordable burials and in the environment, the green burial movement has been growing dramatically over the past few years, says Joe Sehee, executive director of the Green Burial Council.

"This is the place where ritual and memory connects people to land and to land conservation," he says. These greener burial options can actually help people feel less resistant to thinking about and planning their final arrangements, because "people can know that their last act is of incredible importance. When they pick out a green burial plot, they are proud .... It makes people's eyes sparkle—I've seen it."



# SWAT! Don't Spray!

Last year in the summer, I read an article in the local paper about the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (the District). It stated, "Vector Control were to begin spraying Tuesday night." And yet, this story came out the following day, Wednesday. The article referred to, "the map," yet, included no indication about how to access the map. In the article, Jim Camy, then manager of the District, was quoted saying, "If people are concerned about the spray, they should go indoors and close their windows." May I ask, how are people to go indoors if they do not know they are being sprayed? I called the District and was told that earlier in the year they put out a press release stating they would be spraying in the summer months. No specifics, no timeframes, just a heads up. I decided to write a letter to the Board of the District to express my concerns about their inadequate notification system, requested they contact me to let me know how they would be addressing my concerns, and never heard back from them. Their lack of responsiveness was very disconcerting.

As time went on, I began hearing of numerous other citizens who were also concerned about the lack of an adequate notification system. After calling the District, several people said they felt the District minimized the pesticide's potential harmful effects, and emphasized Pyrethrins are derived from flowers—Chrysanthemum flowers, and stated that they are 'safe.' They felt the District was not receptive to their concerns.

Earlier this year, I gathered with a group of citizens, united by our concerns. We decided to do some research and address the District's Board of Trustees (BOT) at their monthly meeting to express five main concerns:

1) Inadequate notification system and inadequate focus on prevention/education: We believe it is essential to have a mechanism to notify people as well as an increased focus on education. We made suggestions: website, email, phone calls, mailers, billboards, radio, TV, etc.

2) Adverse ecological impacts: killing non-target species including predators of mosquitoes such as dragonflies, wasps, and others; undermining of the food chain that may affect bird, bat, fish, amphibian and other animal populations; possible contribution to the honeybee colony collapse disorder. Additionally, repeated pesticide application has the risk of breeding pesticide-resistant mosquitoes, ultimately requiring more potent and higher doses of pesticides to achieve the same results. Development of resistance to pyrethroids is documented in a wide variety of target pests.<sup>1</sup>

3) Human Health and Safety: Pyrethrin products contribute to public health issues, both acute and chronic, such as cancer, asthma, reproductive damage, learning disabilities and more. Piperonyl Butoxide (PBO) is a chemical in the product the District uses that acts as a synergist to enhance the pesticides effectiveness. It has been classified by the EPA as a group C carcinogen.<sup>2</sup> It is also a suspected liver, neuro-<sup>3</sup> and reproductive toxicant in humans.<sup>4</sup>

4) Effectiveness: Aerial and ground fogging in urban areas for adult mosquitoes is not proven as an effective way to control mosquito populations or the spread of West Nile virus. The California Center for Disease Control has stated that pesticide spraying of adult mosquitoes is the least effective method of management; the EPA goes on to state that outdoor residential misting systems have not yet been studied sufficiently to document their effectiveness in controlling mosquitoes,

nor have they been scientifically proven to control or prevent the spread of West Nile virus or other diseases.<sup>5</sup> Across the country, many communities have chosen not to spray adulticides, including Washington, D.C. and Fort Worth, TX, and have done as well as, or better, in regards to West Nile virus infection rates when compared to nearby communities that did spray.<sup>6</sup>

5) Cost Effectiveness: Pesticides and ground spraying programs are expensive. Our group advocates for the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach that utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed and employs physical, mechanical, cultural, biological, and educational methods to keep pest numbers at a tolerable level.<sup>7</sup>

At the meeting the District listened to the group's concerns and acknowledged them. One of the Trustees said he wished they'd bring back DDT due to its efficacy, and relayed it had not been used correctly at the time. At that point, we realized we were coming from divergent perspectives and that trying to influence the District to eliminate using toxic pesticides was going to be a challenge.

We decided on a name: Safety Without Added Toxins (SWAT). Our goals: 1) A no-spray community, 2) Non-toxic mosquito control, 3) Local officials and the public supportive of non-toxic mosquito control. In order to educate the public and gather support, SWAT members tabled the Thursday Night and Saturday Farmers Markets. Our group members regularly attend the West Nile Virus Task Force meetings and the District's Board of Trustees meetings. We created a petition for people to sign that has a dual purpose: gather signatures from those opposed to spraying and provide the District with contact information of citizens to be placed on their spray notification list. We presented the petition to the District at one of their meetings and continue to do so as we receive them.

We received invaluable assistance from Paul Schramski, the California Director of Pesticide Watch ([www.pesticidewatch.org](http://www.pesticidewatch.org)), who provided us with information and gave us tips on how to organize effectively. He connected us with Lyon's books of Chico where we met Will Allen who introduced his book *The War on Bugs*. In the book, Allen exposes the smoking guns of chemical companies' marketing campaigns that have pushed toxic pesticides and fertilizers on America's and the world's farmers for more than 150 years. Allen simultaneously documents the waves of resistance put forth by farmers, consumers, and activists, pushing back against each new generation of "scientific" promises for better living through chemistry.

SWAT hosted a community meeting, with Paul Schramski as the keynote speaker, to help educate the public. He relayed how there is little to no evidence that fogging for adult mosquitoes reduces the threat of West Nile Virus, and in fact, may contribute to a whole host of adverse impacts to both humans and the environment. Given that 3 million pounds of pesticides are applied annually in Butte County, Paul questions the wisdom of adding additional chemicals to the "soup." He advocates focusing on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. IPM emphasizes current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. Education and personal responsibility is key.

When SWAT was originally formed, the District did not have a website. After making several requests for a site that would include a notification sign-up, the District launched their website August 22nd of this year. It contains information including: spray schedules, maps, pesticide information, notification sign-up, and other pertinent info. We will continue to monitor their notification process to ensure its adequacy. While many of us would prefer NOT to be fogged at all, at the very minimum, we believe it is our RIGHT TO KNOW when and where and with what products we will be fogged. At the very least, we should be able to protect our selves, our families, our pets, and the environment.

During our research we learned that there are several other communities across the nation who have been successful in protecting themselves and their environment by becoming "No Spray" communities, such as Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas; Washington, D.C.; Clark County, Washington; Lyndhurst, Ohio; and Rutherford County, Tennessee, among others. There are a variety of reasons to establish a no spray community: spraying adulticides is ineffective as many mosquitoes are not hit, hiding in bushes, trees, etc. and larvae will continue to thrive, soon producing more adults; adding harmful chemicals to the environment can have unwanted effects to both air and water, not to mention non-target species; residents with respiratory problems such as asthma would be in danger. Asthma and allergies are two health problems exacerbated by exposure to pesticides. Last but not least: the fear of lawsuits.

In areas where West Nile virus is endemic, it is estimated that less than 1% of mosquitoes carry the disease, and individuals bitten by a virus-carrying mosquito have a one in 300,000 chance of getting sick. Of those, only one in 150 persons infected will develop a more serious form of the disease. While we don't wish to downplay the seriousness of the disease, we feel that the District should continue and build on its efforts of larval-stage mosquito population control and greatly expand its public education efforts as alternatives to aerial and ground fogging for adult mosquitoes. We need to use safer, more effective methods to control the mosquito that causes WNV. We believe the financial, environmental and human health costs of using aerial and ground fogging of pesticides far outweigh the benefits of their use.

SWAT can be contacted at [SWAT@pesticidewatch.org](mailto:SWAT@pesticidewatch.org) or call 566.0181 or 891.6424. The California Wellness Foundation provides funding for BEC's participation in SWAT. To be placed on the District's notification list, call 530.533.6038 (from Oroville, Richvale, Biggs, Gridley, Berry Creek), or 530.342.7350 (from Chico, Paradise, Cohasset, Forest Ranch), or visit the District's website at [www.bcmvcd.com](http://www.bcmvcd.com)

1 Cox, Caroline. Permethrin – Insecticide Factsheet. Journal of Pesticide Reform. 1998. Vol. 18, No. 2.

2 Tracking Report. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide programs, U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C., 1997.

3 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances.

4 Jankovic, J. A Screening Method for Occupational Reproductive Health Risk. American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal. 57: 641-649. 1996.

5 Maine Environmental Policy Institute: <http://www.meepe.org/wnv/overkillma.htm> and the Environmental Protection Agency: [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/misting\\_systems.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/misting_systems.htm)

6 List of communities that have instituted no-spray policies, 2007: <http://skipper.physics.sunysb.edu/mosquito/Appendix/AppendixC-07-2.htm>

7 Bio-Integral Resource Center website: <http://www.birc.org/IPM.htm>

## WELLNESS UPDATE

### Wellness Grant Spring and Summer Recap

The Butte Environmental Council continues work on a grant from the California Wellness Foundation to increase awareness of toxics in Butte County. Staff and volunteers presented learning activities and wellness pamphlets full of information at the Chico Home, Garden & Antique Show in March, the Endangered Species Faire in May, the Green Baby Expo in June, the Butte County Fair in late August, as well as other tabling opportunities in Chico. We created non-toxic household cleaning recipes as well as posters and brochures explaining reasons not to use weed and feed and other pesticide products.

The countywide toxic awareness survey has been completed and is in the analysis stage as we go to print. We should be able to present the results in the next issue of the Environmental News.

BEC also continues work with the SWAT group who formed to increase education and knowledge about the methods and pesticide products used by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District. This group is continuing to recommend non-toxic alternatives to pesticide spraying and has assisted people with getting their names on the BCMVCD e-mail notification list. You can visit the BEC website for more information, and for maps of the fogging areas.

The CFL Working Group continues education about mercury in CFLs and recycling options. You can now find the recycling locations in Butte County on our website [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org) or at [www.recyclebutte.net](http://www.recyclebutte.net).

Two BEC interns worked hard throughout the spring semester to help with the Wellness Grant projects. Yuka Nagasawa spent 20 hours per week helping to develop posters, flyers and pamphlets and the Alternatives to Toxics Recipe Cards. She was a hard worker and we miss her already. Leslie Freeland assisted with development of the Toxic Awareness Survey that was completed in July and August.

We can always use volunteers to help staff booths at various events, create pamphlets, etc.! If you're interested call Mary at 891-6424 or email [marym@becnet.org](mailto:marym@becnet.org).

# TRANSPORTATION

## EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN TRANSPORTATION

by Donna Cook

Transportation produces the majority of greenhouse gasses. The following proposal is now in the hands of the City of Chico's Sustainability Task Force for their consideration as they prepare an action plan for cutting the volume of greenhouse gases in Chico. This proposal would not only cut greenhouse gases; it would create a transportation system that would be equitable to all Chicoans, not just those who drive cars and trucks. People who choose to do the right thing—for their health, for the avoidance of using petroleum at its human, environmental and economic cost, or just to get from one place to another—should not have to be martyrs.

If this proposal were enacted, the streets would be safer and more accessible to all users and would be more pleasant places, whether in retail or residential areas. Friendly streets draw more bicyclists and pedestrians. People outside of cars are more likely to get acquainted. Eyes on the streets create safer neighborhoods—and encourage even more people-centered use. People who are out of cars also get a better look at their local businesses.

Butte Environmental Council and the author are proposing to improve the traveling environment for everyone, including neighborhoods through which streets pass.

To speed down a street destroys all the other uses of the street. Engineering studies that only count accidents and speeds is incomplete. Are people out and using this street (and enjoying it) or have they chosen to avoid it because of the danger that they see and feel from speeding cars? Most people will not compete with cars in areas they perceive as unsafe. The fear of speed has a powerful negative effect on many communities.

After a 3-year study of speed management in an English village, they achieved a 47% reduction in road casualties, as well as a 10 mph

reduction in average speeds on mixed use and residential roads. That was accompanied by a 15% reduction in motor traffic on those roads, as more people switched to cycling, walking and public transport. 60% of people reported that they felt safer on the streets than they had done five years earlier.

The Longmont, Colorado Police Department did a similar study with similar results.

Some counties have found that 25 mph is excessive in neighborhoods and have begun implementing "home zones," where speed is limited to 20 mph. In 20 mph zones the average speeds fall by around 9 mph, while total number of crashes falls by 60% (and by 67% for crashes involving children). Only 5% of pedestrians die when struck by a vehicle going 20 mph; fatality increases to 45% at 30 mph; 85% of people die when the car is traveling 40 mph.

Ordinarily a long list of suggestions would not be given all at once. But these are not usual times. These are emergency measures for emergency times.

**Complete the streets.** "Complete" in this case means streets that allow everyone to use the roadways in reasonable safety. Sidewalks, bike lanes, and car lanes provide transportation for all users. If there is not room for two car lanes in the existing structure with the addition of sidewalks and bike lanes, then have sidewalks and a street with a speed set at 20 mph or lower with the warning that bicyclists have the right to share the road. All new or reconfigured streets would be built complete.

**Modify existing streets** to be complete. If there is a width that does not allow sidewalks and bike lanes with a car lane, perhaps this should be a one-way street with sidewalks and bike lane or a sidewalk and shared lane where the speed limit is set lower or the street is given a special designation like "Bicycle Boulevard" that places a planter or

tree in the center of the street at each end. Cars move slowly around the planter to enter the street as they might a parking lot. These "bicycle boulevards" could be interspersed to provide safer travel as work progresses to make all the streets safe. The Woonerts of Holland illustrate the use of cozy neighborhood streets as lively amenities, instead of dead car zones.

**Narrow the street lane widths** from 11 ft. (or greater) to 10 ft., as Sacramento did, to reduce traffic speed and increase livability and space for other street users.

**Manage speed** at a rate that is safe for all users. If the streets are safer and more pleasant, more people will walk or ride a bicycle or use their wheelchairs. Designing streets for low speed is an effective way to manage speed. Narrow streets create "friction" that tends to slow car traffic.

**Educate people about what to expect and why.** Include not just a description of what will happen but also the kinds of results that are produced in other communities, the more local the better. Include videos that show cities where this type of program has begun and show the difference in appeal even at the distance of a video.

**Plant more shade trees** along currently exposed areas. Shade is essential not only to create comfort but to reduce neighborhood heat, A/C use, and to absorb CO2 for the sake of our climate. When planted near the curb (in a park curb between curb and sidewalk), trees also create visual friction for traffic, slowing it down. Streets that are too wide, and lack sidewalks, need both a standard 7' park strip (on at least one side of the street) with a 5' sidewalk behind it. Where sidewalks exist next to the curb, a park strip should be installed on the street side and planted with trees which both narrows the street for safety and creates more shade. Wide streets cannot be shaded. Wide streets use unnecessarily excessive amounts of oil and are more expensive to build and maintain.

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## How To Change

Begin the changes on the routes leading to schools; just starting there, not stopping there. Providing a safe route for youngsters to walk or ride their bikes to school reduces two parent/car trips a day. A Marin County traffic survey showed that parents driving their kids to school was responsible for up to 21% of rush hour traffic. Another priority would be to modify the most important streets that connect people to very popular areas. These are streets like Manzanita Avenue where it is the only road leading to Hooker Oak Park and Playground and also is the most direct route to Wildwood Park for people coming from the southeast subdivisions. The rush hour snarl that is the current early morning experience might actually be smoother if the traffic were officially slowed and more of the people traveling to work and school were on bicycles. If there are parallel or equally direct streets that are already safe for bicyclists and pedestrians, then some streets could be delayed to the end of the modification list.

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## ON THE STUMP continued from p.4

years made high profits from our city. It may be vital to them, but it is not to us, the city's population.

If, after recovering from this recession, we do eventually need more homes, they should be for the smaller families and retired people who are now significant but almost disregarded elements in the demographic makeup of Chico's changing population.

The report to the Internal Affairs Commission by the Ad Hoc Tree Committee, which will wend its way through to the City Council, is limited in its scope and is once again subject to 'input' from the building industry's representatives.

Some useful progress has been made (if it survives the developer's desires to build unimpaired by trees, demand and environmental concerns). You can see the proposed changes on the TreeAction website at [www.Treeaction.org](http://www.Treeaction.org).

TreeAction would like to see three other changes in addition to those in the committee report:

- How to make the ordinance apply to property in the city's sphere of influence, so that trees cannot be removed in advance of applying for planning permission and annexation to the city.
- How to assure that trees saved in development are protected after ownership is transferred to an individual homeowner.
- That all trees over 12" diameter at breast height fall within the protection of the ordinance (other than designated weed trees), not just specified species.

These activities need your support at Internal Affairs and Council meetings. **Go on the stump for our trees and forests.**



Above: Jolly Little Pollinator, Top right: Hearthstone Kids' Sea Turtle Puppet, Bottom right: Barbi of Wild Things, Inc. with IZOD.

## Endangered Species Faire 2008

The 29th Annual Endangered Species Faire was a huge success! The turnout was great, the music was lively and the animal shows were riveting and entertaining. The weather was perfect: a clear day in the low 80's in a beautiful meadow surrounded by valley oak trees --- what could be better? The booth participants included school classrooms, federal, state and local government agencies, and non-profit organizations -- all which had great interactive activities, many involving pollinators, following this year's theme "Pollinators: What's All the Buzz About?" Young and old alike learned something new that day.

The day was filled with magnificent entertainment. The animal shows were fun and informative. Later, Giant Eco-Puppets told stories of alternate ways we could have been spending 4 trillion dollars instead of on the Iraq war. Several bands provided beautiful music, often as a donation to the Faire. Everyone enjoyed the local talent and we really appreciate that they took time out of their busy schedules to come play at the Faire. Bands included the deep beat, steel drum sound of Local World, world ambient music from Sekund Nachur, the sweet melodies of Canyon Folks and Celtic-style tunes from Ha'Penny Bridge.

It takes so many people to make this Faire a success, and we couldn't have pulled it off without our dedicated interns and volunteers. Special thanks to BEC intern Robin Schlosser and Maddie Smith for helping with Faire organization and creating a pollinator game for the kids (see the "Jolly Little Pollinator" photograph below). Yuka Nagasawa also helped with many Faire preparations, especially creating informative posters for the Wellness Booth. Maggi Barry was invaluable! Her persistence allowed all of us to feast on good food at the Faire.

Our wonderful major sponsors make this event possible, so we would especially like to thank: **Chico News & Review, FREE, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Soroptomist International of Bidwell Rancho.** Business Sponsors included **A&J Party Rentals, Bill Moon, DDS, Butte Natural Distributing, CSU Chico Forebay Aquatic Center, Durham Electric, Ed's Printing, Greenfeet, In-tents Events, Mt. Shasta Spring Water, Printed Image, Pullins Cyclery, Small Town Sound, Waste Management, Woodstock's Pizza, Bobby Seals, and Parkview Market & Deli.** Appreciation also goes to all the Friends of the Faire, who also contributed financially to keep the Faire rolling.

We are already gearing up for next year, which will be the 30th Annual Endangered Species Faire and we hope to make it an event to remember. Mark your calendar for **May 2, 2009!**

We have some 29th Annual Endangered Species Faire T-shirts left. If you're interested in purchasing one, call the office for size availability: 891-6424.

**Mark your calendar for May 2, 2009!**

# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



Butte Environmental Council  
116 West Second Street Suite # 3  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 891-6424  
(530) 891-6426 (fax)

## Become a BEC Volunteer!

We need YOUR help!

We need help – lots of help! With the Environmental Banquet, the Endangered Species Faire and the Creek Cleanups – our small staff and Board of Directors have their hands full. Any assistance is always very much appreciated.

If you can volunteer your time (no matter how much or how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. If you have volunteered in the past but are not sure if we still have your name and current phone on file please submit an updated form.

We will keep your name on file and give you a call when our needs coincide with your offer.  
**THANK YOU!**

### Volunteering is fun and educational!

Gene Anna and OJ McMillan, who recently won the Barris Farms Service Award for their volunteer work with the Butte Environmental Council, recruited their grandkids Maddy and Seamus to help with a project for our Wellness Foundation Grant. They assembled recipe cards titled "Alternatives to Toxics." The educational cards containing home and garden related recipes were handed out at a variety of events, including the Butte County Fair. The lovely cards attracted people to the booth and provided the opportunity to share useful information. It just goes to show that volunteering can be a fun and educational experience to pass along to our kids and grandkids, while at the same time making a valuable contribution to the community!

**BEC is growing and we could use some help from our friends! If you have any of the below items, we'd be happy to accept them. We can provide a tax letter for your benefit.**

**Wish list:**

**Fax machine**

**Vacuum cleaner**

**Shelving**

**Tri-pod/easel for paper/posters**

**Small fridge**

Please mail or fax this form to the BEC office (see address above)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

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

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

- ☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)  
☐ Creek Cleanups  
☐ Endangered Species Faire (1st Saturday in May)  
    ☐ Publicity  
    ☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations  
    ☐ Booth Construction & set-up (Friday before the faire)  
    ☐ Tear down & clean-up  
☐ Environmental News articles, BEC's quarterly newspaper  
☐ Fundraising  
☐ Office Work  
    ☐ Mailings  
    ☐ Phones  
    ☐ Research  
    ☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)  
☐ Photography (taking photo's of BEC events & activities; nature photography)  
☐ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies  
☐ Environmental Health/Toxic Awareness  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



# 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		\$		\$		\$					\$	F								
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							\$	◆				◆		◆	◆		\$			
Anti-freeze								◆						◆	◆					
Miscellaneous																				
Appliances (no freon)		◆				F						F								
Appliances (with freon)												F		F						
Cars														F						
Yard waste							◆					◆	◆							
Ewaste								◆				◆		◆	◆		◆			

- ◆ 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 Hwy, 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**  
879.2350, Toll-free # 866.369.DUMP, http://www.butte-  
county.net/publicworks/divisions/solidwaste/landfill.html  
**13) NorCal Waste Curbside Recycling** 342-4444  
**14) NorCal Waste Oroville Recycling Center & Household Hazardous Waste**  
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 Station  
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  
**21) Earthworm Soil Factory**  
704 Neal Rd., 895-9676 (accepts yard waste)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**  
[www.recyclebutte.net](http://www.recyclebutte.net)

# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

**Tuesdays, Weekly Park Bike Ride/Walk** (grade 2, class A). Beginning in March meet at the Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1 ½ hour bike ride along the creek. Walkers welcome for self-organized walk. Helmet and bike light required. Also bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 530.899.9980, Yahi group.

#### **Tuesdays, On-Going Volleyball**

Join Sierra Club 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. For more information, call Karen, 530.899.8305 or Betty, 530.345.7205.

**Thursdays, On-Going Volunteer Thursdays in the Park.** Remove litter, and invasive plants and help water native plants. Sponsored by the

Chico Park Division. For more information, call the volunteer coordinator, Lise-Smith-Peters, at 530.896.7831. If you're under 18, a release form is required by parent or guardian.

**Cross-Country/Downhill Ski List:** Join Sierra Club Yahi Group's more than 60 cross-country ski enthusiasts this winter as we explore the backcountry of Butte Meadows and Lassen Park and enjoy the groomed trails of the Mt. Shasta and Royal Gorge. Downhill skiing also available. All ability levels welcome. If you'd like to be added to (or updated to) our cross-country ski list, please contact Jeanne, 530.899.9980.

**Saturday November 1, Trail Days in Upper Park.** Community volunteers will help provide trail repair and maintenance on Upper Park trails. The workday will last from 9 am until noon. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, weather-

appropriate clothing, a hat and bring snacks. Tools, water & instruction will be provided. Sponsored by the Chico Park Division. For more information or for meeting location, call the volunteer coordinator, Lise-Smith-Peters, at 530.896.7831.

**November 2, Sunday - Davis/Woodland/Dixon for Mountain Plovers, Waders, Gulls and More!** Trip Leader: Scott Huber. A little more than an hour from Chico, Yolo and Solano counties account for a disproportionate number of rare bird sightings and provide unique habitat for a number of species with a very limited California distribution. In recent years such rarities as Ovenbird and Snowy Owl have found their way to this area, and the short-grass prairie near Dixon features regular occurrences of Mountain Plovers and raptors like Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle. The wastewater treatment facilities and dump near Woodland regularly feature unusual shorebirds and gulls. Join us for a day-long idyll along the backroads of this region for some interesting birds rarely found closer to Butte County. Meet at the Chico Park 'n Ride lot closest to Hwy 32 at 7:30 a.m. where we'll determine car-pooling arrangements. Most birding will be from the vehicle interspersed with short walks. Weather may be cold; dress accordingly. Rain cancels. Bring a lunch or take advantage of opportunities to buy lunch en route.

**Thursday – Sunday November 6-9,** This Way to Sustainability IV Conference, CSU Chico Campus. For more information, visit [www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture](http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture), call 530.898.3333 or email [sustainability@csuchico.edu](mailto:sustainability@csuchico.edu).

**November 8, Saturday - Butte Creek Ecological Preserve.** Butte Creek Ecological Preserve is a wonderful slice of creek frontage saved from development by California State University, Chico. The recovering habitat was seriously degraded by years of dredger and gravel mining but now up to 50 species of birds may be found there on a good day. In early November we will be seeing recent fall migrants settling in for the winter and numerous other resident birds typical of foothill riparian habitat. Expect to see a good selection of birds back from their summer vacations, including Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Black-throated Gray Warblers, White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Fox Sparrows as well as resident Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Bewick's Wrens and Oak Titmice along with the first Varied Thrushes of the season. We'll meet at the Hwy 32 Park 'n Ride (the lot nearest Hwy 99) at 8 a.m. and carpool to the preserve. Wear warm clothes and gloves. Rain will cancel this trip. Bring binoculars or call Scott to arrange to borrow some. Three to four hours will give us time to thoroughly explore the preserve at a leisurely pace and the walking is easy on sometimes rocky trails. For more information please call Scott Huber at 321-5579.

**Saturday November 8, Trail Days in Upper Park.** Community volunteers will help provide trail repair and maintenance on Upper Park trails. The workday will last from 9 am until noon. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, a hat and bring snacks. Tools, water & instruction will be provided. Sponsored by the Chico Park Division. For more information or for meeting location, call the volunteer coordinator, Lise-Smith-Peters, at 530.896.7831.

**Sunday November 9, Autumn in the Orchards Bike Ride.** A flat leisurely 15 mile ride through orchards and pastures on quiet country roads to Durham Park for lunch, then return to Chico on the Durham Bike Path. Meet at 10 A.M. at the Glen Oaks Memorial Park Cemetery office, Hegan Lane and the Midway. Bring water and a lunch (or buy one at the Durham Market). Helmets required. Rain cancels. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

**Monday November 10, Bidwell Park and Playground Commission's Master Management Committee Meeting** from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Chico Municipal Building. See [www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us) website for details. These are pre-scheduled monthly meetings that may be cancelled if there are no agenda items.

**Tuesday November 11, Invasive Plant Removal and Replanting Help Friends of Bidwell Park** remove invasive pokeweed, hackberry and privets and replant with native plants. We'll be working at Hooker Oak Recreation Area starting between the picnic area and the creek. From 9 am to noon. Tools, water, and gloves provided. For more information, call Susan at 530.892.1666. If you're under 18, a release form is required by parent or guardian.

**Wednesday November 12, Chico Creek Nature Center Preschool Program: Great Gobblers!** 10am – 11am at the Chico Creek Nature Center, 1968 East 8th Street, Chico, 530.891.4671. It's turkey time! Did you know we actually have wild turkeys right here in Bidwell Park? Join our naturalist to learn about the wild side of our feathered friends. We will get a close up look at a turkey specimen, go for a walk through some turkey habitat, do a turkey craft, and meet one of our animal friends. Preschool Programs are designed for children 3-5 years old. Cost is \$10 per child. Space is limited to 15 children per workshop. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the program.

**Wednesday November 12, Bidwell Park and Playground Commission's Preservation & Stream Committee Meeting** from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Chico Municipal Building. See [www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us) website for details. These are pre-scheduled monthly meetings that may be cancelled if there are no agenda items.

## Help Row the BEC Boat!

The local environment needs your contribution!

You can make a difference. If you can volunteer your time (no matter how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. Thank you!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

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

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

- ☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)  
☐ Various Creek Cleanups  
☐ 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



# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

**Thursday November 13, Bidwell Park and Playground Commission's Trail & Safety Committee Meeting** from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Chico Municipal Building. See [www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us) website for details. These are pre-scheduled monthly meetings that may be cancelled if there are no agenda items.

**Saturday November 15, Cross-Country Ski Trail Maintenance** (grade 1, class A) (Service). Free cross-country ski lessons for those who work on the Colby Meadows ski area. Tools furnished by the Forest Service. Bring work clothes, boots, gloves, lunch and \$ for drivers. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 8:00 A.M. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Saturday November 15, Bird Lower Yahi Trail.** 9:00am – 10:30am, meet at Horseshoe Lake Parking Lot E. This is a great walk for beginning birders in the best birding habitat in the Park. Several kinds of woodpeckers, mergansers, hawks, vultures, kingfishers, green herons and more are all common along Bidwell Park's premier riparian trail, along with the occasional beaver and otter. Nature Center Naturalist Jon Aull will lead this hike. Bring your binoculars and guide if you have them. Some binoculars will be available for loan. Meet at Horseshoe Lake Parking Lot E at 9AM. Rain cancels. (This hike is designed for adults, although children are welcome.)

**Sunday November 16, Lost Park Trash Pickup and Invasive Plant Removal** Help prepare this downtown park for winter storms by picking up trash that will otherwise end up in the creek, the Sacramento River, the Delta and the Pacific Ocean. Meet at the east end of the parking lot next to Lost Park. We'll also cut back or remove invasive plants to improve the area's security. If you're under 18, a release form is required by parent or guardian. For more information, call Susan at 530.892.1666.

**Sunday November 16, Side Hike from Green Gate to Five Mile.** Meet at 9:30 am at the Five Mile Parking Lot for a brief car shuttle. Hike is one-way, mostly downhill for 6-7 miles along the south side of Bidwell Park. Bring lunch, water, \$ for drivers and sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. For more information, call Jeanne 899-9980. Sponsored by the Sierra Club Yahi Group.

**Monday November 17, Sierra Club Yahi Group November Program – Colusa National Wildlife Refuge.** 6:30 p.m. at the Chico Creek Nature Center. Do you enjoy wildlife viewing and photography? Do you want to see thousands and thousands of wintering waterfowl while you drive along a three-mile gravel auto tour? Then come and join us for our program when Mike Peters, Manager of Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, presents his PowerPoint presentation on the birds and wildlife of CNWR. With 4567 acres including seasonal marshes, permanent ponds and uplands, the wildlife viewing can be exceptional. Visitors can also make use of its

new facilities which include a new observation deck, parking area, bathrooms, picnic tables, and a one-mile trail along a lush riparian slough. Mike Peters has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 16 years. He is currently the Refuge Manager for Colusa and Sutter National Wildlife Refuges - part of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

**Wednesday November 19, Slide program: Clearcutting in Northern California.** Marily Woodhouse, Sierra Club member with the Shasta Group, will present a slide program and update of clearcutting in Northern California by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). Meetings are held in the Conference Room of the Chico Public Library at East 1st Avenue and Sherman Way from 7 P.M. - 9 P.M. Meetings are open to the public and refreshments will be served.

**Sunday November 23, Black Butte Lake.** We will bird around the lake, hike the Big Oak Nature Trail, then drive up to the dam. Bring a picnic lunch and your binoculars. Dress warm, in layers, and wear sturdy shoes as there will be some hiking. Mountain Bluebirds, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Bald Eagles and Lawrence's Goldfinches are some of the birds we hope to find. The trip will end about 2 p.m. Rain cancels. Meet at Burger King in Orland (I 5 and Hwy. 32) at 9:00 a.m. Call Scott Huber at 321-5579 for meeting place and more information.

**Sunday November 23, Loop Hike at Mendocino Tree Improvement Center** (grade 1, class A). Join us as we walk both outside loops of the Mendocino Tree Center for a round trip of 3-4 miles. Well behaved dogs welcome. Wear comfortable shoes. Meet at 8 A.M. at Tree Center parking lot (Cramer Lane). Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net).

Thursday November 27, Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe (grade 1, class A) Ski or snowshoe followed by Thanksgiving Dinner at the Mineral Lodge. If there isn't enough snow cover we'll take an easy hike. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 A.M. Turkey dinner in Mineral 1:30 P.M. and return to Chico around 4:30-5 P.M. Cost: \$18 for dinner, plus \$ for drivers. Reservations required. Call Larry, 342-7998 for more info.

**Sunday November 30, Gray Lodge Wildlife Area.** This is sure to be a popular field trip when we travel down to Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge for the breathtaking event called the "Fly-Out". At dusk you'll witness thousands of ducks and geese rise from the ponds around Gray Lodge and fly to nearby fields to feed during the night. As the skies fill with birds, the sound of their wing beats and calls is incredible and something you won't want to miss. Meet at the Chico Park 'n Ride, first parking lot off highway exit, at 2:00 p.m. We'll car pool to Gray Lodge and if there is enough time we'll take the paved trail out to the viewing platform. Gray Lodge Wildlife Area is accessible to people with disabilities. Restrooms,

designated parking areas, a visitors museum, and a paved trail leading to a universally accessible viewing platform, can all be accessed from parking lot #14. A day-use pass is required for public access. The cost is \$2.50/person. Fees are waived for visitors under 16 years of age or those having a valid CA hunting, trapping or fishing license. Bring your own folding chair, warm clothing, hot chocolate, binoculars and bird field guide. Heavy rain will cancel. For more information please contact field trip leader Jennifer Patten at 345-9356 or [jpchico@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpchico@sbcglobal.net).

**Saturday December 6, Cross Country Ski** (grade 2, class A). We'll go where the snow is good. This is for people who own ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Saturday December 6, Raptor Run.** Meet at the Chico Park 'n Ride on Rt. 32 (the lot nearest the freeway) at 8 a.m. We'll look for raptors in the Cottonwood Rd. and Nelson Ave. areas. Targets are Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and Burrowing Owl as well as more commonly seen species. Bring binoculars (and scope if you have one) water, and a lunch. We should be back around 1 p.m. For questions, contact Scott Huber 321-5579. Rain cancels.

**Monday December 9 – Friday January 2, Camp Chico Creek Winter Session "Wild For Wetlands!"** Chico Creek Nature Center Environmental Education Day-camp for kids ages 5-11 will be held Dec. 29, 30, 31, 2008 and Jan. 2, 2009, 8 am - 1pm. We will explore the relationships between aquatic and riparian animals and their various wetland habitats. Planned activities include group discussions, live animal presentations, art and crafts projects, nature hikes and outdoor activities (weather permitting), and interactive games. Campers will take a lunch break from 11:30am to 12noon each day. Supported in part by funding from The City of Chico. Contact Info: (530) 891-4671

**Thursday January 1, Annual Polar Bear Swim across Lower Bidwell Park's Sycamore Pool** starting at 1 pm. This is a no-host event--you just show up at the appropriate time.

**Thursday January 1, New Year's Day Upper Bidwell Park Banana Belt Hike** to view early spring flowers and the last of the fall flowers. Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society Mt. Lassen Chapter. Meet at 10 am at Parking Area E. Bring lunch and water.

## Donate Your Used Vehicles To Butte Environmental Council! Running or not, and get a tax deduction...

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**(877) CARS-4-US Ext. 1865**

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# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

**Altacal Audubon Society**

PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927  
ptj64@sbcglobal.net  
www.altacal.org

**American Lung Association**

10 Landing Circle, Ste 1  
Chico, CA 95926  
530.345.5864, Fax: 530.345.6035  
www.californialung.org  
nvr@northvalleyregion.org

**Arboretum Management Club, CSUC  
Big Chico Creek Restoration**

First & Normal Sts., Chico, CA 95929  
530.345.4542  
www.csuchico.edu/amc  
mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu

**A.S. Recycling Program**

BMU 002, CSU Chico, Chico 95929  
Drop off center: 417 Cherry St., Chico  
530.898.5033, Fax: 530.898.6782  
www.aschico.com/recycle  
asrecycle@csuchico.edu

**A.S. Environmental Affairs Council**

BMU 203, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5701 or 530.218.5820  
Fax: 530.898.6014  
www.csuchico.edu/eac  
asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

**Barber Neighborhood Association**

(Southwest Chico neighborhood)  
barberneighbors@yahoo.com

**Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation**

P.O. Box 841, Durham, CA 95938  
530.345.1700  
www.kirshner.org

**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  
530.892.2196  
www.bigchicocreek.org  
coordinator@bigchicocreek.org

**Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy**

PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927  
530.893.5399, Fax: 530.893.0694  
www.buttecreekwatershed.org  
creek@buttecreekwatershed.org

**Butte Environmental Council, Inc.**

116 W. 2nd St. Ste 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**

2725 Hwy 32, Ste F Chico, CA 95973  
530.894.0495, www.ccc.ca.gov

**California Native Plant Society**

2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.447.2677, Fax: 916.447.2727  
cnps@cnps.org, www.cnps.org

**California Native Plant Society  
Mt Lassen Chapter**

PO Box 3212, Chico, CA 95927  
530.343.8240  
wyethia@earthlink.net

**California Oak Foundation**

1212 Broadway, Ste 842  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.763.0282, Fax: 510.208.4435  
www.californiaoaks.org  
oakstaff@californiaoaks.org

**California Park Association**

1750 Humboldt Rd., Chico, CA 95928  
530.343.4161, Fax: 530.894.6984  
www.calipark.com

**California Sportfishing Protection  
Alliance**

1316 Neilson St., Berkeley, CA 94702  
510.526.4049; jbeuttler@aol.com  
www.calsport.org

**California Wilderness Coalition**

1212 Broadway, Ste. 1700  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.451.1450, Fax: 510.451.1445  
www.calwild.org, info@calwild.org

**Chapman-Mulberry Neighborhood  
Organization**

C/O Supervisor Jane Dolan  
District 2, Butte County  
196 Memorial Way, Chico, CA 95926  
530.891.2830, F: 530.879.2479  
Jdolan@buttecounty.net

**Cherokee Preservation Society**

530.534.0400, Fax: 530.534.0400

**Chico Avenues Neighborhood  
Association**

PO Box 4510, Chico, CA 95927  
www.chicoavenues.org  
chicoavenues@sbcglobal.net

**Chico Certified Farmer's Market**

305 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928  
530.893.3276, Karrottalk@aol.com  
Terry Givens, Market Manager

**Chico Community Environmental  
Gardens**

151 Silver Dollar Way  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.680.5291, Fax: 530.899.9190  
www.ccegardens.org

**Chico Creek Nature Center**

1968 E. 8th St.  
Chico, California 95928  
530.891.4671, Fax: 530.891.0837  
www.chico.com/naturecenter  
naturecenter@chico.com

**ChicoEco**

www.chicoeco.org  
379 E 10th Ave, Chico  
530.892.1227  
nanibay@hotmail.com

**Chico Food Not Bombs**

Email: zrogers@sunset.net  
(530) 893-5772

**Chico Grange**

2775 Nord Ave., Chico, CA 95926  
530.895.1817 www.chicogrango.org

**Chico Greenline Coalition**

PO Box 3524, Chico, CA 95927  
www.chicogreenline.com  
info@chicogreenline.com

**Chico Natural Foods Coop**

818 Main St., Chico, CA 95928  
530.891.1713, www.chiconatural.com

**Chico Peace and Justice Center**

526 Broadway, Chico, CA 95928  
530.893.9078, www.chico-peace.org  
chico-peace@sbcglobal.net

**Chico Tree Enhancement &  
Education Program**

PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530.895.0866  
roger@streaminders.org

**Chico Velo Cycling Club**

PO Box 2285, Chico, CA 95927  
530.343.8356, Fax: 530.342.4646  
800.482.2453, www.chicovelo.org  
ed@chicovelo.org

**Community Action Volunteers in  
Education (CAVE)**

BMU 309, 3rd Floor, CSU Chico,  
Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5817, Fax: 530.898.6431  
caveclerical@csuchico.edu, www.  
aschico.com/cave

**Community Legal Information Center,  
CSUC**

**Environmental Advocates**  
Chico, CA 95926, clic@csuchico.edu  
530.898.4354, Fax: 530.898.4911  
www.csuchico.edu/clic/ea  
clic@csuchico.edu

**Environmental Action & Resource  
Center**

CSU Chico, BMU 301  
Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5676, Fax: 530.898.6782  
www.csuchico.edu/earc  
earc@csuchico.edu

**Environmental Water Caucus (EWC)**

319 Lenox St., Oakland, CA 94610  
Land: 510.893.1330  
Cell: 510.693.4979  
Fax: 510.893.1331; www.  
ewccalifornia.org  
enesmith@ewccalifornia.org

**Farm Sanctuary**

PO Box 1065, Orland, CA 95963  
530.865.4617, Fax: 530.865.4622  
www.farmsanctuary.org  
info@farmsanctuary.org

**Flying Mammal Rescue of California**

916.838.7002  
admin@flyingmammalrescue.org  
www.flyingmammalrescue.org



# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

## **Friends of Bidwell Park**

PO Box 3036, Chico, CA 95927  
530.892.1666

[www.friendsofbidwellpark.org](http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org)  
[info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org)

## **Friends of Butte Creek**

PO Box 3305, Chico, CA 95927  
530.879.0887

[friends@buttecreek.org](mailto:friends@buttecreek.org)  
[www.buttecreek.org](http://www.buttecreek.org)

## **Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium**

CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5381

[ljaneway@csuchico.edu](mailto:ljaneway@csuchico.edu)  
[www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html](http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html)

## **Friends of Plumas Wilderness**

PO Box 225, Taylorsville, CA 95983  
530.283.6649

## **Friends of the River**

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org)  
[info@friendsoftheriver.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheriver.org)  
916.442.3155, Fax: 916.442.3396

## **GRUB (Growing Resourcefully United Bellies)**

530.680.4543

## **Habitat for Humanity**

2288 Park Ave Ste A  
Chico, CA 95926  
Mail: PO Box 3073, Chico CA 95927  
530.343.7423, [www.buttehabitat.org](http://www.buttehabitat.org)  
[tritter@buttehabitat.org](mailto:tritter@buttehabitat.org)

## **Institute for Sustainable Development**

CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.3333, Fax: 898.3336  
[sustainability@csuchico.edu](mailto:sustainability@csuchico.edu)  
<http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/>

## **Kids & Creeks**

PO Box 3271, Chico, CA 95927  
530.895.1749  
[contact@kidsandcreeks.org](mailto:contact@kidsandcreeks.org)  
[www.kidsandcreeks.org](http://www.kidsandcreeks.org)

## **KZFR**

341 Boradway St Ste 411  
Chico, CA 95927  
530.895.0706, Fax: 530.895.0775  
Studio: 530.895.0131

On Air: 530.895.0167

[www.kzfr.org](http://www.kzfr.org), G.M.: [jill@kzfr.org](mailto:jill@kzfr.org)

## **Lassen Forest Preservation Group**

1540 Vilas Road  
Cohasset, CA 95973  
530.342.1641

## **Little Chico Creek Watershed Group**

379 E 10th Ave, Chico, CA 95926  
530.892.1227; [nanibay@hotmail.com](mailto:nanibay@hotmail.com)

## **Middle Mountain Foundation**

PO Box 3359  
Yuba City, CA 95992-3359  
530.671.6116  
[www.middlemountain.org](http://www.middlemountain.org)  
[middlemountain@yahoo.com](mailto:middlemountain@yahoo.com)

## **Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy**

40652 Hwy 36 East  
Mill Creek, CA 96061  
Phone & Fax: 530.595.4470  
[milcrk1@aol.com](mailto:milcrk1@aol.com)

## **Neighbors for Environmental & Fiscal Responsibility (NEFR)**

PO Box 4512, Chico, CA 95927-4512  
530.345.6125

## **Northern California Regional Land Trust**

167 E. Third Ave, Chico, CA 95926  
530.894.7738  
Fax: 530.894.7738  
[www.landconservation.org](http://www.landconservation.org)  
[ncrlt@landconservation.org](mailto:ncrlt@landconservation.org)

## **Plumas Forest Project**

PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103  
530.836.0461  
John Preschutti  
[always@psln.com](mailto:always@psln.com)

## **River Partners**

580 Vallombrosa Ave  
Chico, CA 95926  
530.894.5401 ext 22  
[www.riverpartners.org](http://www.riverpartners.org)  
[info@riverpartners.org](mailto:info@riverpartners.org)

## **Sacramento River Preservation Trust**

631 Flume St.  
Box 5366, Chico 95927  
530.345.1865  
Fax: 530.899.5105  
[www.sacriverttrust.org](http://www.sacriverttrust.org)  
[jmerz@sacriverttrust.org](mailto:jmerz@sacriverttrust.org)

## **Sacramento River Watershed Program**

PO Box 188585  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
916.549.4017, [www.sacrivert.org](http://www.sacrivert.org)  
[marylee@sacrivert.org](mailto:marylee@sacrivert.org)

## **Shady Creek Outdoor School**

(formerly known as Woodleaf Outdoor School)  
530.292.3436  
[georges@sutter.k12.ca.us](mailto:georges@sutter.k12.ca.us)  
[www.shadycreek.org](http://www.shadycreek.org)

## **Sierra Club, Yahi Group**

PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927  
530.345.2696  
[www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/](http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/)

## **Sierra Forest Legacy**

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95811  
916.442.3155 x207  
Fax: 916.442.3396  
[craig@sierraforestlegacy.org](mailto:craig@sierraforestlegacy.org)

## **South Chico Neighborhood Association**

PO Box 3582, Chico, CA 95927  
[guzzettidavid@yahoo.com](mailto:guzzettidavid@yahoo.com)

## **Southwest Chico Neighborhood Association**

[www.swchicoe.org](http://www.swchicoe.org)  
[swcna@swchicoe.org](mailto:swcna@swchicoe.org)

## **South Campus Neighborhood Council**

Attn: Charlie Pruesser  
1405 W 3rd St, Chico, CA 95928

## **Streaminders**

PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530.895.0866  
[roger@streaminders.org](mailto:roger@streaminders.org)  
[www.streaminders.org](http://www.streaminders.org)

## **The Cause**

530.895.8852  
[www.be-the-cause.org](http://www.be-the-cause.org)

## **The Bidwell Ranch Conservancy**

Chico, CA, 530.345.7205

## **The Esplanade League**

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

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

500 Main St., Ste. B  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.897.6370, Fax: 530.342.0257  
[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

## **TreeAction**

530.892.1818  
[www.treeaction.org](http://www.treeaction.org)  
[fgair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fgair@sbcglobal.net)

## **Trout Unlimited**

1808 B 5th St., Berkeley, CA 94710  
510.528.4164, [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)

## **Upper Ridge Areas, Inc**

PO Box 154, Magalia, CA 95954  
530.873.1787  
[ridgebird2@comcast.net](mailto:ridgebird2@comcast.net)

## **Valley Water Protection Association**

7399 Hwy. 99, Oroville, CA 95965  
530.343.0916  
[colewaterinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:colewaterinfo@yahoo.com)

## **Vallombrosa Avenue Neighborhood Association**

2096 Vallombrosa Ave  
Chico, CA 95926

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | Energy Elite   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 | Low income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Wetlands Watch   |                               |            |
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