



BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Spring 2008

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Here's an excerpt from an interview by Dolores Mitchell recently published in Inside/Out on the occasion of Avenue 9 Gallery's Picture Safari exhibition:

"The quiet, unassuming, pastoral sight of the rice fields inspired me to paint this image. When I moved to Chico four years ago the beauty of the surrounding area captivated me. The fertile farmlands and the pristine natural environment of the Northern California valley make me feel so lucky to live here. We need to protect our environment and our area's unique identity so we don't become part of the bland homogenization of our expanding suburban society. Simple things, such as rice fields, are often overlooked as we rush by car from place to place. If we but open our eyes to the simple beauties around us, we can be rewarded by sublime experiences."

David T. Ruiz, Rice Field, 7-Mile Road, Oil, 20 x 16

The work of David Thomas Ruiz is exhibited nationally and is included in numerous public and private collections in the United States and abroad. Ruiz is a graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute and the New York Academy of Art. He currently resides in Chico and is an adjunct faculty member of the Fine Arts Department at Butte College.

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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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. 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

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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.

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FROM THE BEC BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Your BEC Board of Directors has been meeting regularly during 2008 working to implement committee recommendations on by-laws changes and personnel policies.

Currently the board and member volunteers are revisiting the Development Committee 2003 report. We have determined that major goals regarding financing and staffing set by that committee have been met. Ralph Meuter, who chaired the original committee, is leading the new committee assessment of future development of BEC. We expect to activate grant and membership committees by summer.

The Board has been supportive of having a water element in Butte County's general plan. Several BEC members attended a special meeting April 14th for groups and individuals supporting a water element for input to the Community Advisory Committee and county planning and water staffs on the general plan. Barbara Vlamis, Executive Director and Board Chair Jim Gregg both spoke in favor of a water element at that meeting. BEC member Tony St. Amant has been leading an effort to get a water element placed in the general plan.

The board has supported BEC's legal suit to force the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District to conduct environmental review before commencing drilling seven so-called "research wells" that will produce more water from the Tuscan Aquifer than is currently consumed by the city of Chico! The federal grant bankrolling the study indicates water from such wells would be available for export in the near future.

Look for more information on Board activities in future issues of the *Environmental News*.

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.

**Endangered Species
Faire**

Fun for the whole family!

Live Entertainment!

**Saturday
May 3rd, 2008**

10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park

Butte Environmental Council • www.becnet.org • 891-6424

Brief History

The project was first available for public comment in May 1998 through the Draft Environmental Impact Report. The excerpt from BEC's comments at the time illustrate the trajectory that this project followed for ten years:

The overall tone of the document reads like a promotional brochure for the project as if prepared by the applicant and does not provide an objective analysis of the potential impacts. The need for such a project in this location is not discussed, nor is there any analysis of the impact of such an operation on other existing mining facilities. Regional demands for such products could be provided from existing operations or from operations located in less sensitive areas that don't border critical wildlife corridors and convert important agricultural lands...This superficial treatment of the many legitimate environmental impacts rendered the EIR document not only inadequate for the purposes of satisfying CEQA.

The EIR failed to identify the potential for the mining operation itself to contaminate the aquifer. Best management practices aren't even recommended to protect water quality. The determination that pollution of the aquifer is a less than significant impact is without basis. Without question such impacts must be considered potentially significant and worthy of all practical mitigation measures of which there are many. The inexplicable omission of mitigations further reveals the entire document as inadequate in satisfying CEQA's requirements for full disclosure and feasible mitigation.

MINE DEFEATED!

Ten Year Struggle Ends

On January 29, 2008, the relentless pursuit of a gravel mine on the M&T Ranch ended on a three to two vote with supervisors Bill Connolly, Jane Dolan, and Maureen Kirk in the majority. The three supervisors upheld the citizen's appeal of the Butte County Planning Commission's February 22, 2007 approval and denied the project.

After another attempt by county staff to allow the proponents to review their project before the public, Kirk presented a long list of concerns that she had with the proposal including pedestrian and bicycle safety, significant impacts to local roads, deleterious effects to existing farm operations, and the destruction of prime agricultural land.

The gravel mine would have simply moved workers from one site to another instead of creating new jobs, and would have cost the County millions of dollars to construct adequate roads. Predictably, Supervisor Kim Yamaguchi supported the project for these dubious economic "benefits."

Dolan took a different tack, criticizing the overriding considerations that the supervisors must accept to approve the project. This list is supposed to reveal all the impacts that a project will create and can't be mitigated below the "level of significance" required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As Dolan put it, overriding considerations are a "big deal" and are supposed to demonstrate how the benefits outweigh the risks, but she found the list full of "conclusory statements or opinion." Supervisor Curt Jossiasen appeared to agonize over his decision, but it was quite disingenuous since he, like Yamaguchi, regularly overlooked negative impacts to County coffers and residents when a project even remotely looks like economic development.

The audience was anticipating Connolly's remarks, but he remained silent. Instead, Dolan challenged some of Jossiasen's thoughts and then launched into a motion to support the appeal and deny the project. It was then that Connolly spoke, seconding the motion and stating that he found this the wrong location at this time. Cautious applause was heard, which was followed by a mass exodus from the chambers and elation in the foyer.

Butte County is the only jurisdiction BEC is aware of in these parts that has denied any projects in the last 20 years. The County has a proud history

of protecting agricultural land and its limited budget, which all came into play with this decision. Supervisors Connolly, Dolan, and Kirk have protected the public interest and commons with their votes and should be applauded. In addition, it has been an honor to work with the team that fought the mine over the last ten years and the many community members who joined us during the last, concerted campaign. Special thanks are due Ron and Sandy Jones, Frank and Lila Prentice, Nell and Jim Bremner, John and Cathy Cottle, Richard Thieriot, John Nock, Maria Phillips, and John Merz with the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

The Chico Beat



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

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

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

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

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

5. An Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared.

Location, Location, Location

The Mechoopda casino is still slated for a location that is opposed by Butte Environmental Council. After many attempts to sway the Mechoopda and their investors in meetings from 2000 to 2004, and delineating the serious and significant impacts with the site during two public comment periods, they are determined to move forward with a casino off SR 149 in the heart of rural Butte County. Not surprisingly, the Bush Administration's Bureau of Indian Affairs rubber-stamped the proposed casino despite the environmental problems itemized repeatedly by BEC and Butte County:

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

2. The Environmental Assessment (EA) violated federal law by failing to disclose and analyze the entire suite of Casino Projects (casino, parking lot, hotel, housing, and more). An Environmental Impact Statement should have been prepared.

3. The Environmental Assessment did not adequately assess endangered species impacts.

4. The Casino Projects have the potential to lead to cumulative impacts

by converting agricultural land to a "highly intensive commercial use" and creating growth inducing impacts that could lead to development pressure in the communities of Durham and Dayton as well as "discontinuous patterns of urban development and significant impacts to the agricultural resources of the County," (Butte County comments, January 26, 2004).

5. The EA contains "NO mitigation measures" (emphasis in the original Butte county comments) for traffic or transportation impacts.

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

7. "...the EA estimates thirty-one (31) fire related incidents annually. The EA does not present any empirical analysis to support this estimate. Based upon known incident loads from two existing tribal casinos in operation in Butte County, this figure appears to be significantly underestimated. There is not a fire station close enough to realistically provide the medical or fire services needed in a time of critical life-threatening emergency," (Butte County comments, January 26, 2004).

The City of Chico also raised concerns about the location in 2004 (see sidebar), but a majority of the current City

Council took a rather mercenary and shortsighted view since 2006 when they authorized the City manager to entertain an agreement to provide police, fire, and other services 12 miles outside Chico's border. Butte County vigorously opposes the attempt by Chico to enable the casino construction through the assurance of services for all the reasons mentioned above. The casino's Las Vegas backers, Fertitta Colony Partners, LLC, has sweetened the agreement with the City by offering funds beyond the costs of providing the services.

Complicating the Casino Projects issue are statements by some Chico council members that this project should be supported to "right the past wrongs" done to Native Americans. While obviously well-intentioned, the sentiment overlooks that the issue is not whether a casino should be built, but where.

The promise of a revenue stream (as well as the wish to "right the past wrongs") has lured some Council members to support the Casino Projects while overlooking the numerous documented unmitigated impacts in the short and long run to the City (see sidebar) and Butte County – impacts that will cost both City and County financially, aesthetically, and environmentally.

PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE: MORE WAL-MART DELAYS

Believe it or not, after more than four years, on January 30th 2008, the city finally released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposed "supersizing" of the existing Wal-Mart on Forest Avenue. A Planning Commission hearing was set for April 3rd. Then just six days before the hearing, the Planning Department cancelled the hearing, due to a "technical" problem regarding traffic studies. The latest estimated time frame for a rescheduled hearing is in 3 to 4 months. Most likely nothing will happen until this fall.

A short time before this hearing was cancelled, Wal-Mart announced it had dropped their application for the proposed new Supercenter at the north end of Chico. This is encouraging news. However, we mustn't become complacent. Wal-Mart could re-open that application in the future should they choose to do so.

In the meantime, we must continue our resolve to keep the existing Wal-Mart as it is, no matter how long the process takes. Wal-Mart is hoping opposition will fade as the delays continue to unfold. This proposed expansion into a 208,000 sq. ft. Supercenter is primarily the addition of a huge discount grocery store, which Chico does not need. There are three discount grocers within a one mile radius of the proposed expansion: Costco, WinCo and FoodMaxx. We don't need the additional traffic congestion, air pollution, or the negative economic impact it will have on local businesses.

We are counting on those who value the quality of life and the character of Chico to remain committed to opposing any Supercenter. If you support our position and haven't already done so, please go to our website, www.chicocares.org and click on "Join Us" to add yourself to our database of supporters who receive updates on the status of the proposed expansion. The website provides more detailed information on the issue and what actions can be taken to support us.

Chico is at a crossroads. We have the opportunity to help choose a path that will preserve Chico's quality of life, or do nothing and watch Chico become "Anywhere, U.S.A."

Heather Schlaff, Chico Advocates for a Responsible Economy (CARE)

Plastic Bags are Killing Us

By Katharine Mieszkowski
Salon, August 10, 2007

The most ubiquitous consumer item on Earth, the lowly plastic bag is an environmental scourge like none other, sapping the life out of our oceans and thwarting our attempts to recycle it.

On a foggy Tuesday morning, kids out of school for summer break are learning to sail on the waters of Lake Merritt. A great egret hunts for fish, while dozens of cormorants perch, drying their wings. But we're not here to bird-watch or go boating. Twice a week volunteers with the Lake Merritt Institute gather on these shores of the nation's oldest national wildlife refuge to fish trash out of the water, and one of their prime targets is plastic bags. Armed with gloves and nets with long handles, like the kind you'd use to fish leaves out of a backyard swimming pool, we take to the shores to seek our watery prey.

Dr. Richard Bailey, executive director of the institute, is most concerned about the bags that get waterlogged and sink to the bottom. "We have a lot of animals that live on the bottom: shrimp, shellfish, sponges," he says. "It's like you're eating at your dinner table and somebody comes along and throws a plastic tarp over your dinner table and you."

This morning, a turtle feeds serenely next to a half submerged Walgreens bag. The bag looks ghostly, ethereal even, floating, as if in some kind of purgatory suspended between its briefly useful past and its none-too-promising future. A bright blue bag floats just out of reach, while a duck cruises by. Here's a Ziploc bag, there a Safeway bag. In a couple of hours, I fish more than two dozen plastic bags out of the lake with my net, along with cigarette butts, candy wrappers and a soccer ball. As we work, numerous passersby on the popular trail that circles the urban lake shout their thanks, which is an undeniable boost. Yet I can't help being struck that our efforts represent a tiny drop in the ocean. If there's one thing we know about these plastic bags, it's that there are billions and billions more where they came from.

The plastic bag is an icon of convenience culture, by some estimates the single most ubiquitous consumer item on Earth, numbering in the trillions. They're made from petroleum or natural gas with all the attendant environmental impacts of harvesting fossil fuels. One recent study found that the inks and colorants used on some bags contain lead,

a toxin. Every year, Americans throw away some 100 billion plastic bags after they've been used to transport a prescription home from the drugstore or a quart of milk from the grocery store. It's equivalent to dumping nearly 12 million barrels of oil.

Only 1 percent of plastic bags are recycled worldwide -- about 2 percent in the U.S. -- and the rest, when discarded, can persist for centuries. They can spend eternity in landfills, but that's not always the case. "They're so aerodynamic that even when they're properly disposed of in a trash can they can still blow away and become litter," says Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against Waste. It's as litter that plastic bags have the most baleful effect. And we're not talking about your everyday eyesore.

Once aloft, stray bags cartwheel down city streets, alight in trees, billow from fences like flags, clog storm drains, wash into rivers and bays and even end up in the ocean, washed out to sea. Bits of plastic bags have been found in the nests of albatrosses in the remote Midway Islands. Floating bags can look all too much like tasty jellyfish to hungry marine critters. According to the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, more than a million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die every year from eating or getting entangled in plastic. The conservation group estimates that 50 percent of all marine litter is some form of plastic. There are 46,000 pieces of plastic litter floating in every square mile of ocean, according to the United Nations Environment Programme. In the Northern Pacific Gyre, a great vortex of ocean currents, there's now a swirling mass of plastic trash about 1,000 miles off the coast of California, which spans an area that's twice the size of Texas, including fragments of plastic bags. There's six times as much plastic as biomass, including plankton and jellyfish, in the gyre. "It's an endless stream of incessant plastic particles everywhere you look," says Dr. Marcus Eriksen, director of education and research for the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, which studies plastics in the marine environment. "Fifty or 60 years ago, there was no plastic out there."

See the rest of the story at Salon.com: http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/08/10/plastic_bags/index.html?source=search&aim=/news/feature

Off Road Vehicle Damage on Public and Private Lands

By Larry Crisman

Summer and fall of 2007 has been the scene of multiple OHV (off highway vehicle) damage in Colby Meadows, east of Butte Meadows. Most of the damage was done by ATV's and some by 4x4's. Infractions have been photographed and the Lassen National Forest office (LNF) has been notified. LNF has stacks of photos and files of damage to meadows, creeks, hillsides, and vandalized gates and barricades.



Colby Meadows 7.28.07

This is a national problem covering areas as diverse as the Outer Islands of North Carolina, Florida Everglades, Death Valley National Park and Anza-Borrego State Park. During the rainy season, 4x4's can be seen damaging public and private land just east of Chico along Humboldt Road, between Bruce Road and Highway 32.

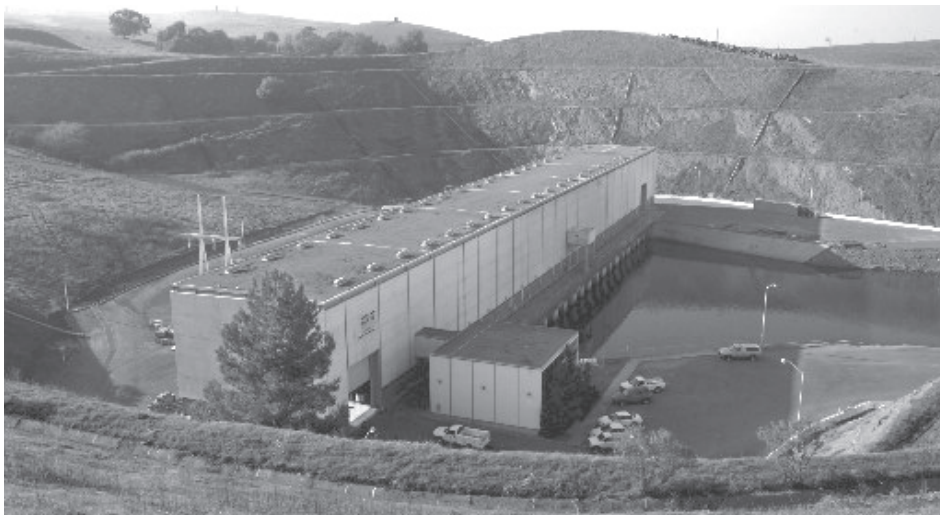
There is an organization called Tread Lightly, founded by the U.S. Forest Service in the mid 1980's that became a separate non-profit in the early 1990's. If you check out their website, www.TreadLightly.org, you will see that most of their funding comes from OHV manufacturers. A lot of the information is very "light." On the other hand, they do have an ear on the OHV industry.

I have spoken with Tread Lightly about the problems in advertising, such as wheel spinning, wheel stands, big air and other resource damaging stunts. Often you see a fine print disclaimer "Professional rider on a closed course." Unfortunately, action shots often lead to monkey see, monkey do behavior, which leads to damage and closed trails. Tread Lightly said they talk to the companies and ad agencies about this problem but are usually ignored. What they do listen to is mail from potential customers, and that's where we come in!

Send a letter to Tread Lightly, 298 E. 24th St., Ogden, UT 84401 or email to monica@treadlightly.org. Include in your letter:

- 1) The name of the company
- 2) A brief description of ads you have seen
- 3) Type of media you saw it on (TV, magazine, etc.)
- 4) Mention locations where you have seen damage
- 5) Mention outdoor clubs that you belong to
- 6) Suggest benefits of education for responsible riding in schools
- 7) Ask them to contact state and federal land managers to not only fine OHV violators, but also give them community service hours doing restoration work.

WATER



State Water Project Pumping Facility near Tracy, CA

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) has built a movement of rural and urban people to foster family-scale agriculture that cares for the land, sustains local economies, and promotes social justice. For example, in the Sacramento Valley CAFF is assisting Colusa County almond growers in implementing biological farming practices that reduce pesticide applications on and erosion from orchards.

Runoff from almond orchards along tributaries of the Colusa Basin Drain in Colusa County contains sediment and pesticides. The Colusa Basin Drain flows into the Sacramento River. Best Management Practices (BMP's) such as cover cropping, insectary hedgerows, grassed swales, and streambank stabilization could significantly reduce contaminated runoff. CAFF and the Colusa County Resource Conservation District have found that farmer-to-farmer information exchange is the most effective way of changing agricultural management. In this project, CAFF will work with local almond growers to implement BMP's and demonstrate their effectiveness to other growers. They will measure sediment and diazinon loads before and after, and up- and downstream of demonstration sites to assess BMP effectiveness.

Tri-County Water

By Ryland Brobeck

The tri-county area (Butte, Glenn, and Tehama) is a beautiful and vibrant region with stunning waterways, flourishing farms and a variety of other businesses run by the wide range of people living in the many communities located here. Due to the area's large agricultural industry, water quality is of the utmost importance not only to those who rely on farming for their income, but also to anyone who calls the area home. Whether you're a farmer, a fisherman, a private well owner, a water sport enthusiast, or just someone who likes to cool off in your local swimming hole from time to time, you know that having access to clean water greatly adds to the quality of life for everyone.

The Central Valley's agricultural industry has much at stake when it comes to the health of Northern California's waterways. In this regard, they should be the stewards of the rivers, lakes and streams. The sad fact is, however, that the agricultural industry is one of the main contributors of current pollution to waters in the central valley in the form of sediment, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides (both herbicides and insecticides), and salts. This isn't to say that all farms are involved in heavy pesticide applications or that some of the more conscious ones don't also contribute their share of contaminants into our waterways. Determining who is responsible for polluting and who isn't is critical when addressing the issue of water contamination that is caused by agricultural runoff. We must give praise and support to the farm owners who take the issue of water quality

TRI-COUNTY continued on p.14

CALIFORNIA WATER POLICY CONFERENCE REVIEW

By Jim Brobeck

As the BEC groundwater policy analyst, I travel throughout California to represent the interests of the people and environment that rely on a healthy, balanced aquifer system in the northern Sacramento Valley. On November 13, 2007, I caught the early Amtrak connection to Los Angeles to attend the annual California Water Policy Conference organized by the extraordinary Dorothy Green and her associates.

An activist and leader in California water policy for over thirty years, Dorothy Green's many achievements include founding Heal the Bay, an environmental organization that protects Santa Monica Bay's water quality, and starting the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council. Ms. Green also helped establish the Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform (POWER), which sponsors the annual California Water Policy Conference that Dorothy has chaired for the past 17 years. Recently, she helped launch the California Water Impact Network, whose goal is to move the state towards a sustainable water future.

This year the two-day conference examined the critical link between climate change and water resources. Evidence is growing that the earth's climate will become warmer in the 21st century, which raises several questions:

- What impacts will climate change have on our water supply, quality, infrastructure and institutions?

- What are the challenges and opportunities?
- Are local, state and federal agencies up to the challenge?
- What should we be doing now to prepare?

As California accepts the reality of climate change, water managers and environmentalists are straining to create strategies to meet water supply demand. It is clear that conservation, including recycling of water, is the most cost effective approach. But water purveyors have everything to gain by keeping demand high and prices rising.

Another well accepted approach is using aquifer formations as geological storage reservoirs. This plan may be appropriate in areas of demand south of the Delta (as long as it doesn't increase water transfers through sensitive Sacramento River facilities) but would be disastrous if applied in our Sacramento Valley where the connectivity between aquifer and streams, groundwater and native vegetation, is still intact. BEC invests time and money into sending representatives to meetings to educate both purveyors and environmentalists about the negative impacts associated with converting balanced aquifers into fluctuating "water banks."

The POWER conference included keynote speakers and simultaneous breakout sessions. Barbara Vlamis and I reviewed

WATER POLICY continued on p.14

California has 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
Los Angeles Times
October 23, 2007

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.

HAS ENOUGH continued on p.19

Water Transfer: Past, Present and Future

California's State Water Project water is anchored on the Oroville reservoir. This artificial body of water is only 60% normal elevation for this time of year and with no significant precipitation in the forecast it is likely to stay low through the 2008 recreation season. Shasta Reservoir is also unusually low. But the reservoirs of southern California are at nearly 100% elevation for this time of year.

Water from these reservoirs must pass through the Sacramento San Joaquin River Delta into pumps located in a San Joaquin arm of the Delta. The pumps move water into artificial concrete lined canals to supply the lucrative transfer market.

On April 16, 2008 a federal judge ruled that the permit to operate the pumps is in violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act jeopardizing the survival of Central Valley salmon and steelhead. The decision by Judge Wanger is likely to impede the ever increasing evacuation of Delta water that is propping up desert agriculture and urban sprawl. This critical decision will buy time for the Sacramento Valley aquifer system and Sierra-Cascade streams that are connected to the groundwater.

This winter the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) attempted to negotiate the transfer sale of 85,000 acre feet (31 billion gallons) of water to south of Delta buyers. GCID has included a provision to use 2,500 acre feet of Tuscan aquifer water to leverage the deal. But the deal collapsed under the scrutiny of Butte Environmental Council and the uncertainty created by Judge Wanger's decision that Delta pumping must be decreased rather than increased.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) will none-the-less move forward with funding provided to irrigation districts west of the Sacramento River to develop the infrastructure that would allow these purveyors to pump Tuscan aquifer water directly into agricultural canals to facilitate "conjunctive use" water transfers.

GCID has proposed an ambitious program of large-scale groundwater extraction from the northern Sacramento Valley.

While this program is termed "research", it does not constitute scientific research in any recognizable form, and its plan includes no comprehensive identification of possible risks, or coherent discussion of the substantial uncertainties involved in characterizing the aquifers of this region. By characterizing the project as "research" GCID and its Stony Creek Fan Partners were able to use a technicality to evade environmental analysis of their plan to use California grant money to install a series of high-volume production wells connected to their canal system.

BEC interceded in this plan by challenging the "Finding of No Significant Impact" with a lawsuit. GCID's exemption claim will be challenged in Glenn County Superior Court on May 22nd. BEC found startling information while preparing for the case: GCID has a \$1.4 million grant to gain total control of the ground water under parts of Butte, Glenn, and Tehama counties.

A federal grant agreement, signed September 27, 2006, states that the objective of the project is to,

"make water available for in-basin and out-of-basin transfers that will improve statewide water supply reliability..."

Under Task B, the Lower Tuscan Integrated Planning Program, the agreement states that, "GCID shall define three hypothetical water delivery systems from the State Water Project (Oroville), the Central Valley Project (Shasta) and the Orland Project reservoirs sufficient to provide a full and reliable surface water delivery to parties now pumping from the Lower Tuscan Formation. The purpose of this activity is 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."

In other words, DWR and BoR see the disruption of the aquifer system as a distinct possibility after the groundwater is integrated into the state water supply.

RESERVOIRS continued on p.12

GROUND WATER USERS MEETING: WHO'S LOOKING OUT FOR US?

By OJ McMillan

The Butte-Sutter Basin Area Groundwater Users had their annual meeting on Thursday, January 31st, and my wife and I decided to go. We are not members of that group, but we do belong to BEC and as Chico residents we know we have a big stake in the health of the Tuscan Aquifer. The way water is administered in California is bewildering to the casual observer, and since it is obvious that water is going to be an increasingly important and contentious topic, and since a couple of representatives of our water bureaucracies were going to present, we hoped we would learn something.

Contributing to our interest in this meeting is the fact that Butte County has recently approved the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan without requiring thorough environmental review. We know that BEC is challenging this approval in court, and that this approval was given with extremely limited public participation. In fact, limiting public participation seems to be a theme of water policy in California. Anyway, the advocates of this Plan represent it as being about "research" – they just want to understand how the aquifer works, and they aren't trying to convert it into a cash cow by selling water to places that need our water (maybe down south?). This research seems to consist of "suck and see" – production wells will be drilled and large amounts of water will be removed from the aquifer and we'll see what happens. If creeks and wells dry up, oak trees die, and the land subsides, then we will see that we should not do that. We are assured that they are not thinking of selling our groundwater – the groundwater will be used to replace surface water, which might be sold. Doesn't that make you feel better?

The program for the meeting was advertised as "Who's looking out for us? How is your organization protecting the interests of groundwater dependent users overlying the Tuscan Aquifer?" There were three speakers: Paul Gosselin, Director, Butte County Department of Water And Resource Protection; Lester Messina, Water Resource Coordinator, Glenn County Department of Agriculture; and Barbara Vlamis, BEC Executive Director. It was moderated by the Butte County League of Women Voters.

Barbara, who spoke last, addressed the subject of the meeting and described BEC's activities on this topic – activities which will be familiar to readers of the EN. However, our two bureaucrats in their preceding talks acted as

GROUND WATER continued on p.12



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WELLNESS

WELLNESS UPDATE

Work continues on the three-year grant BEC received from The California Wellness Foundation.

Tyana Maddock has completed three classroom visits to each of 17 different elementary school classes in Oroville, Chico, Gridley and Hamilton City. Each class received presentations on toxics in the environment and alternatives to toxics. The young students learned how to make their own non-toxic cleaning products, and learned how to make safer alternatives for air fresheners, pest control, and drain cleaners. The kids had a great time with the varied and fun activities that Tyana planned for their classes and each received a Environmental Steward Award at the end.

We hope to continue classroom education throughout the summer and for the next couple of years. We also hope to expand the presentations to high school students, especially seniors who are about to enter into the adult world where they will be responsible for purchasing and using their own household cleaning products.

Toxic Awareness Survey:

BEC will be conducting a "toxic awareness" telephone survey sometime in April or May. If the telephone interviewers call you, please take 10 to 15 minutes to participate in this important survey.

BEC has recently signed up two interns who will be working to help implement this grant. Leslie Freeland, a Public Administration major at Chico State, who will be working on focus groups and the survey, and Yuka Nagasawa, a Health Science major, who will be working on alternatives to toxics and education.

We prepared several pamphlets for the Chico Home & Garden Show in March, including one entitled "4 Reasons to Kick the Weed & Feed Habit", and created "alternatives to toxics" recipe cards for cleaning and pest control options without harmful chemicals.

If you would like to become involved with this project, please contact Mary at marym@becnet.org

Toxic Cosmetics

There are hazardous ingredients found in many products we use everyday, including toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, lotion, makeup and perfume. These products can contain toxic chemicals that you unwittingly put on your hair, in your mouth or on your skin everyday.

If you are concerned or interested (and you should be), there is a website run by the Environmental Working Group that makes it simple to find the toxicity level of your personal care products: <http://cosmeticsdatabase.com>

Products are rated 0 to 10 as low hazard (green circle), moderate hazard (yellow circle) or high hazard (red circle). This is the easiest system to be found on the Internet to find information on personal care products. You can search by product name (toothpaste), by ingredient (fluoride) or by company name (Tom's of Maine), and there is an advanced search option to help you find and compare products that are safer to use.

Check it out to see how your products rate or to find safer alternatives. In addition, you can quickly find out if a particular company has signed the Safe Cosmetics Compact or if they test on animals.

You should be advised that the ratings are based on the available information for each product. The cosmetics database provides the information that they use to determine the rating and this information is listed in a subsection on each page (with easy-to-understand pie charts). If you find a product with a low hazard rating, you can make your own determination after you view the amount of data the rating was based on.

ANOTHER SILENT SPRING?

By Karen Laslo

This is the time of year that backyard, organic gardeners start looking at seed catalogs anticipating a bountiful crop of healthy vegetables to feed themselves and their families. The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (BCMVC) is also making plans to expose our neighborhoods once again to pesticides starting in May. Some local citizens have many questions regarding the spraying: will the gardeners' veggies, in fact, be organic? Since pesticides can kill beneficial insects too, including pollinators, will their vegetable plants get pollinated? What happened to the chorus of crickets that used to sing outside our windows on warm summer nights? What rights do we citizens have regarding spraying?

The BCMVC will tell you the product they use contains "natural" pyrethrins derived from chrysanthemum flowers to kill

mosquitoes that cause West Nile Virus (WNV). Unfortunately, in order to be effective, the pyrethrin pesticide must also contain other chemicals such as piperonyl butoxide. This chemical is suspected to be a carcinogen, liver and gastrointestinal toxicant, a neurotoxicant, reproductive toxicant and can adversely affect the human immune system. Additionally, it can adversely affect other non-target organisms as well as natural predators of mosquitoes, such as dragonflies.

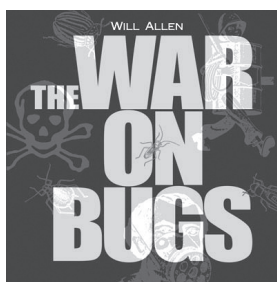
Continued pesticide spraying for adult mosquitoes has not proven to be effective in curbing West Nile Virus, and mosquitoes can eventually build resistance to the poison. A new group is forming here in Chico to seek safe and effective alternatives to deal with WNV. If you're concerned too, contact SWAT@pesticidewatch.org and let us know how you'd like to get involved.



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Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs... the good, the bad and the recyclable.



CFL's can be a good way to conserve electricity, however, behind every silver lining is a dark cloud. CFL's (as with all fluorescent lights) contain a small amount of mercury, and therefore are toxic once broken. The EPA recommends the steps listed in the sidebar (below) be taken if you break a CFL in your home or office. The mercury in a CFL bulb is in vapor form, and if broken, can escape into the air. If breakage occurs, you should leave the room and air it out before proceeding with cleanup (see sidebar below).

The Good:

Energy Star CFLs use up to 75% less energy and can last up to 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs, which helps the environment as well as your pocket book.

— *If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars.* — Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Bad:

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, and the mercury is released into the air as soon as a CFL is broken. Although there is a lot less mercury in one CFL than in a dental filling, mercury is something you don't want to take into your system if you can avoid it. It can be even more harmful to children and pets (due to their higher respiration rates) than it is for adults, so get them out of the room quickly when a bulb breaks.

— *One CFL contains a hundred times less mercury than is found in a single dental amalgam filling or old-style glass thermometer, according to the U.S. EPA.*

Although CFLs do contain mercury, the use of CFLs does help reduce mercury emissions from power plants by reducing power demand, which more than offsets the amount of mercury in the bulbs.

The Recyclable:

Since CFLs contain trace amounts of mercury, they cannot be thrown in the trash, and must be recycled. There are several places in Butte County to recycle your used CFLs. BEC is currently working with several other organizations, companies, and agencies to expand the list of CFL drop-off locations to make it more convenient for the you, the consumer, to recycle your CFLs. According to a Vermont-based Mercury Policy Project director, up to 95 percent of the mercury contained in CFLs can be recovered if the bulbs are recycled properly.



How should I clean up a broken fluorescent bulb?

The following steps can be performed by the general public:

1. **Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.**
2. **Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealed plastic bag.**
 - ☐ Use disposable rubber gloves, if available (i.e., do not use bare hands).
 - ☐ Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and place them in the plastic bag.
 - ☐ Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.
3. **Place all cleanup materials in a second sealed plastic bag.**
 - ☐ Place the first bag in a second sealed plastic bag and take it to a local recycling center.
 - ☐ Wash your hands after disposing of the bag.
4. **If a fluorescent bulb breaks on a rug or carpet:**
 - ☐ First, remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner, following the steps above.
 - ☐ Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.
 - ☐ If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in two sealed plastic bags and take it to the local recycling facility.



HINTS:

Take Care When Changing Bulbs:

Handle CFLs with care. Do not force the bulb if it does not screw easily into the socket. Use both hands when changing the bulbs so that there is less chance of dropping the bulb (especially when the socket is on or near the ceiling).

Cut Out Steps:

Cut out the steps in the sidebar and tape it to your box of new/used CFLs, put it on the refrigerator, or put it somewhere where the whole family can find it quickly.

Save The Box:

Put your burned-out CFL bulbs back in the box (if you still have new bulbs, mark the burned-out bulb with a permanent marker) and keep until you can bring it to a recycling center.

CFL Collection Centers in Butte County:

Chico	Household Hazardous Waste Facility 1101 Marauder St.	1-866-429-2288 (toll free) Fri 9 – 1, Sat 9 – 4
Paradise	Neal Road Landfill 1023 Neal Road	879-3252
Oroville	Household Hazardous Waste (Norcal) 2720 S. 5th Ave.	342-4444 or 533-5868 1st & 3rd Fri 9am – 2pm
Oroville	Butte County Fire Station #64 22 Walnut Dr. Kelly Ridge	Sat 9-1
Butte County	For more information on recycling and household hazardous waste	www.recyclebutte.net

EDUCATION

Wine/Champagne Cork Recycling

Wine and Champagne corks are now being recycled in the USA! Yemm & Hart Green Materials is collecting wine and champagne cork stoppers with the goal of converting them into a useful self-sustaining product -- to extend the useful life of this natural resource for decades and to raise awareness of the cork oak tree and its eco-system.

Did you know that the Cork Montados, the cork oak savannahs, are the continuation of an ancient practice and multi-dimensional use of land around the Mediterranean Sea? The Cork Montados actually protect the biodiversity and certain wildlife that is endangered or on the brink of extinction and are a hedge against desertification caused by global warming as the Sahara creeps into Europe. Together, we can make cork recycling part of the cause to save the Cork Montados. It is important that people not only recycle their corks but make sure that they are not synthetic to begin with. Real cork is sustainable, synthetic and screw caps are not. You can help the Cork Montados by the choice you make for your wine.

A typical wine cork weighs approximately 0.12 ounces and champagne corks weigh approximately 0.32 ounces. They gather many more wine than champagne corks. One ton (2000 lbs) takes about 266,667 corks. All corks received are unpacked and sorted into pure cork and non-cork material. The non-cork material is donated to an area teacher's recycling center, so kids get a chance to be creative with it. This is an expensive manual process that adds value to the collected corks. When corks can be paid for, it is believed that this sustainable and increasingly rare material will eventually

cease to be discarded without regard.

Yemm & Hart has determined that the most sustaining type of product is a tile. They will produce tiles in 36" squares, 1/4", 3/8" and 1/2" thicknesses, sanded on one side and ready to be adhered to a floor, wall or other substrate. When sales have been made of the tiles, then the cork contribution portion of the experiment will evolve into cork redemption. This is when Yemm & Hart will set a price and pay for corks sent to them based upon established rules. Initial contributors of cork stoppers will receive preferential pricing on Cork Tiles.

They are now entering what may be the final stage in the experiment to create a self-sustaining business that sources post-consumer wine and champagne cork stoppers and extends their life as tiles that can be used for floors, walls and other products. Begun in January 2004, four years later at the close of 2007, one and a half tons of pure cork stoppers have been collected from 1,146 contributions. If you have questions or to learn more, please visit their web site: www.yemmhart.com/news+/winecorkrecycling.htm.

You may send your wine and Champagne cork stoppers prepaid (paid by sender) to Yemm & Hart or drop them off outside the BEC office door at 116 W. Second Street Suite 3 in Chico.

Wine Cork Recycling
Yemm & Hart Ltd
610 South Chamber Dr
Fredericktown MO 63645

Source: www.yemmhart.com/news+/winecorkrecycling.htm

Buried Under Junk Mail?

Take the time to remove yourself from junk mail lists --- it's the Green Thing to do! It saves trees (100 million each year are turned into junk mail) and water (28 billion gallons are used to produce the paper each year), not to mention the huge *carbon footprint* used for distribution! Send a postcard or letter to:

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ATTN: Dept 27074598
Direct Marketing Association
P.O. BOX 282
Carmel, NY 10512

Include your complete name, address, zip code, a \$1.00 check, and a request to "activate the preference service". For up to five years, this will stop mail from all member organizations that you have not specifically ordered products from. It can take awhile (a week to several months) to actually see a difference, supposedly because some mailings are prepared so far in advance.

Telemarketers Interrupting Your Dinner?

Register with the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) National Do Not Call Registry at www.donotcall.gov or via phone at 1 (888) 382-1222.

Remove your name from pre-screened credit offers.

If you would like to reduce the number of pre-screened credit and insurance offers you are receiving, visit www.optoutprescreen.com or call 1-888-5OptOut (1-888-567-8688) to opt-out of these offers. This is a free service to consumers offered by the major credit bureaus.

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ChicoEco.org Highlights Cooperative Living

By Nani Teves

ChicoEco.org is a BEC website that pulls together our communal knowledge of eco-projects, a directory of green businesses, and a full calendar of action events for the purpose of global cooling. Stephanie Williams and Timothy Elliot and their six neighbors are reinvigorating meaning in their lives and restoring the earth. On an average street in the avenues in typical little Chico houses is a unique cooperative living situation. And it all began by tearing down walls and opening doors, not theoretical ones but literal ones.

The yards are separated by waist high fences with gates strewn open and each little area feels like a nook with something special to offer. Stephanie, who is writing her thesis on Building Community in Neighborhoods, feels that their diverse group and the goal of sharing local resources is what makes community living so successful. She and her neighbors figured out what they had to offer and opened up themselves to sharing. Stephanie and Tim have a shady yard so they built a communal chicken coop with the help of a friend, using reused materials. One neighbor has plenty of sunshine and two vegetable garden beds, while another has a BBQ and picnic table. They share a lawn mower, laundry lines, a compost pile and most importantly their skills. Stephanie and Tim split their garbage and recycling cans with a neighbor, saving them almost \$200 a year. Stephanie says that in the process “we have gotten to know each other and developed a level of comfort with each other that allows us to ask for help when we need it without a fear of rejection; we maintain this relationship with our neighbors to make our lives easier and more enriched.”

More loosely, what they have done is create an extended family and support network. Childcare is offered, painting parties are held, rotating potlucks take place, and when the power outage happened – the owner of the gas water tank offered hot showers



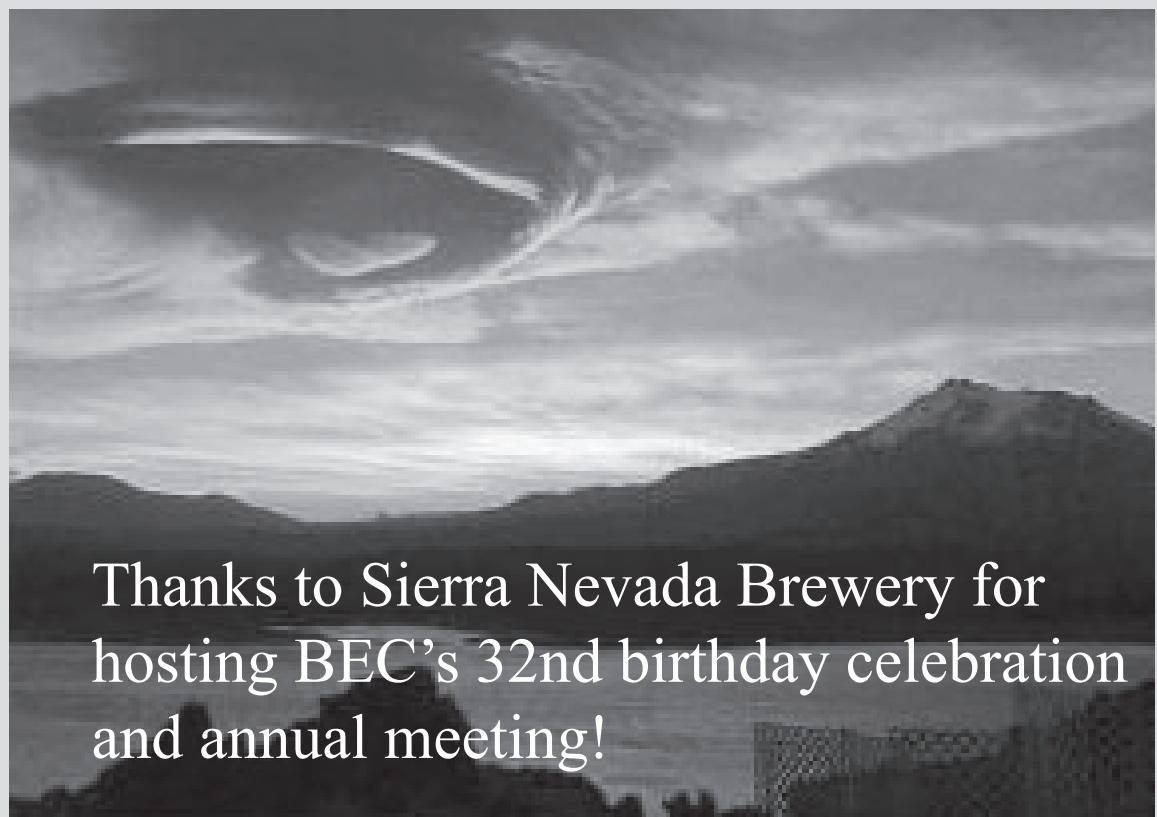
Yards and minds open up to community living in Chico.

to those without. Another huge benefit to creating community in their neighborhood is for 6-year-old Henry. In their area there are no city parks, and infill is encouraged so play space is limited. The connected yards offer a larger area to explore and encourages multigenerational friendships.

Besides the social benefits, the environmental benefits are huge. Instead of buying and eventually throwing out seven lawnmowers, BBQ's, picnic tables, they have one. Instead of driving to the market for a missing ingredient, they go next door and ask for it. And because

they have freed up time by sharing in the workload, they can now have the time to divert waste from the landfill by composting, and have taken the ‘eat local’ food movement to their own backyards.

What this group has going on is what most of us want and need in our lives but we don't know where to begin. Stephanie suggests to “start simply,” and “try to find things in common with people that live close to you. If you see a neighbor working around their house say hello, share your talents and if you think somebody might be able to help with something – ask them because people love to help. And, while you're in the spirit, bake a peach pie for that new neighbor three houses down, because how awesome would that be!” If you want to know more about what Stephanie and her neighbors are doing, go to ChicoEco.org and feel free to e-mail her with questions about her experiences or ideas for getting started.



Thanks to Sierra Nevada Brewery for hosting BEC's 32nd birthday celebration and annual meeting!

The Lake Shastina photo illustrates the lovely setting for the drawing prize that was provided by Jim and Lyla Gregg.

TRANSPORTATION

Oops! Coulda Had It. But Not Now.

\$750,000 For Highways Instead Of Pedestrians And Bicyclists

By Donna Cook

Butte County's transportation planning agency is BCAG, Butte County Association of Governments. BCAG staff decisions are approved or disapproved by the BCAG Board, composed of the Board of Supervisors plus one representative of each of the jurisdictions within Butte County. The Board voted in January to approve the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) presented by the BCAG staff.

One of the items in the proposal caught my eye: BCAG staff wrote, "BCAG's 2008 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Fund Estimate for Butte County is \$5,231,000. Within this estimate, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has identified \$750,000 as a target to program Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects, however, BCAG is not required to program any TE projects." So I did some homework to find out what TE funds are. TE funds are the only federal source of support for pedestrian and bicycle safety projects and facilities ("Aging Americans: Stranded Without Options," April 2004, Surface Transportation Policy Project). TE funds are meant to help bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users by providing pedestrian access and walkways, bicycle access, bike racks, storage facilities, and installing equipment for transporting bicycles on mass transportation vehicles. TE funding was what helped to get Marin County's very successful Safe Routes to School Program going--a program that resulted in 38% of kids in participating schools now walking or biking to school.

Butte County has those needs. Does Butte County have access to TE funds? Yes, it did.

But it won't have access again until 2010 because the BCAG staff decided not to spend the money that the CTC had even suggested as a target for TE spending: \$750,000. They might not be required to, but why didn't they do it because it would be a benefit to about a third of the population in Butte County who cannot

or do not drive a car? When I asked why the Transportation Enhancement projects were not going to be used to fund bicycle and pedestrian projects, Jon Clark, BCAG's Executive Director, said that the federal requirements for TE projects were very difficult and that they would prefer to have local governments use funds such as Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for the relatively small bicycle and pedestrian projects.

If you haven't read the last column I wrote for BEC's News, let me summarize by saying that only a very small part of TDA funds is being used for bicycle and/or pedestrian projects. Bicycle and pedestrian projects are already funded with some of the TDA funds, so using TDA funds is not adding additional money to the pot for bicyclists and pedestrians. Both TE and TDA funds are being used for staff salaries and street and road repairs except for a very small amount. If the requirements for applying for TE funds are so difficult, perhaps those of us in the community who are interested could do the research and prepare the paperwork necessary so that in 2010 Butte County residents could get the benefits of their tax dollars paid to the federal government.

In closing, isn't this also a civil rights issue? Doesn't Title VI of the Civil Rights Act pertaining to environmental justice guarantee, "Ensuring full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process; and preventing the denial, reduction or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority populations and low-income communities"?

RESERVOIRS continued from p.7

when the reservoirs are below normal elevation. They assure the homes, farms and businesses currently using the aquifer that any disruptions in well operations will be temporary. But no provisions to protect streams are offered.

Record low numbers of salmon returning from the ocean to the Sacramento River this year has sent a shockwave through the California fishing, water, and environmental communities. Tina Swanson, senior scientist at the Bay Institute and a fish biologist, said problems in either the ocean or the river system can disrupt the salmon population, but problems in both areas can be catastrophic. And that is essentially what has happened, she said, "We can't do anything about conditions in the ocean," she said, "but we can control what goes on in the river. We need to do a better job of management to protect the salmon habitat.

Wild spring-run Chinook salmon seem to be doing better than the fall-run hatchery fish. Wild population that spawn in Deer Creek, Big Chico Creek and Butte Creek may be critical to the survival of the

fish. (Source: Alan Harthorn, Friends of Butte Creek) But these streams may be dewatered if the connectivity between groundwater and surface water is disrupted by overpumping the aquifer system.

"Harthorn concludes this isn't something that happened in just one year. It's been going on for some time."

GCID's seven well project will extract a volume of ground water that approaches or exceeds the current utilization by the City of Chico, creating the likelihood of a significant adverse environmental impact. BEC has requested that the Glenn County Superior Court require the preparation of an environmental impact report by a more appropriate lead agency and that the Court halt all activities surrounding the project. This is only the beginning of a protracted battle to protect local ground water for the residents, economy, and environment of the northern Sacramento Valley.

GROUND WATER continued from p.7

if they had not been told what the meeting was about. I don't wish to be unkind, but they seemed to have, at just the last minute, gathered up some stuff they had lying around. It appeared as though, if they just showed up, that should be good enough. Mr. Gosselin launched into a large PowerPoint presentation, but he ran out of his allotted time well before the end of his slides and well before he got around to saying anything about the meeting's topic. He did however say we should trust him, quite a few times. Mr. Messina did not base his presentation on a slide show, but spent much of his time rummaging through his notebooks and did show some slides on the technical details of how the measured performance of some new wells matches the historical record of some old wells -- or something.

Well, we did learn something. We learned that our government agencies apparently hold us in contempt, and think that if they say so, we should just trust them, and everything will be OK. So our take-home from this meeting is this: if we value the quality of our North State environment, and if we care about what happens to the groundwater that we all depend on, we better pay really close attention. Our bureaucrats' words say we should trust them, but their actions say "watch out!"

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Saturday May 3rd, 2008
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Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park

ARTICLES CONTINUED

TRI-COUNTY continued from p.6

discontinuing detrimental practices that in some cases means making sacrifices in production. In this way, they are truly showing their aspirations to protect this indispensable resource.

Urban runoff is another significant cause of chemical contamination entering waterways in the region. Storm drain pollution washing from street gutters into streams can be reduced if the general public takes responsibility to raise awareness of the problem and to prevent contamination by making changes in their everyday lives.

According to the Chico Urban Streams Alliance, there are some simple things you can do to prevent storm water pollution:

- Never pour anything into a gutter or storm drain that shouldn't be in a stream.
- Recycle used oil.
- Clean up after your pets. Dispose of pet waste in a bag, and dump it in the garbage.
- Don't litter. Cigarette butts and trash drain from the streets directly into our creeks.
- Wash your car on your lawn or at a car wash.
- Use environmentally friendly soaps and household cleaners.
- Limit the amount of fertilizer you use on your lawn or garden.
- Don't fertilize when rain is forecast.
- If you must use pesticides, or herbicides, never use them in wet weather.
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM), rather than pesticides. (Find out about IPM at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)
- Choose Clean Water Business Partners to clean your carpets and landscape your yard: <http://www.becnet.org/nodes/issues/water/chicousa/>

One more source of pollution to water in this area is found in the form of mercury contamination caused by mineral extraction/processing that occurred in the surrounding foothills during the gold mining era. During the mid-late 1800's the gold rush was in full swing and mercury was being used in the mining process to separate gold and silver from the sediment. The technique of using mercury during the amalgamation phase has been employed throughout history as far back as the

Roman Empire and is still in use in some parts of the world today. Most of these historical mines have been closed for over fifty years or more but we are still finding mercury residues in our streams and rivers to this day. There are many negative effects that mercury can have on the ecology in and around waterways. One of the more prevalent problems with mercury contamination of our streams is that it accumulates in fish that are in turn eaten by other predatory fish, otters, birds, and even humans thus having an effect throughout the entire food chain.

There is a major need for more monitoring and protection of water quality in the tri-county area and in the whole Sacramento River Basin. The crucial first step that needs to be taken is to obtain physical water samples and conduct lab tests to determine if there are contaminants present within the body of water that is in question. Once the information has been studied and analyzed it can be determined which sections need to be added to the Cal/EPA's 303d list of impaired waterways to be continuously monitored and protected. Once a section of water has been added to the 303d list, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are required to set up a Total Maximum Daily Load: a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards.

It is long overdue for the USEPA and the agencies that implement the federal Clean Water Act in California (the SWRCB and the RWQCB) to step up and institute the monitoring programs necessary to locate pollution sources and, in the more acute cases, to immediately stop the pollution and start cleaning up the contaminated sections.

We must all do our part to keep the water clean not only for ourselves but also for the future generations who will inherit the problems, or, hopefully, the lack of problems that we leave behind as our legacy.

WATER POLICY continued from p.6

breakout groups to participate in. This gave me the opportunity to communicate with water policy leaders such as Dennis O'Connor (Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources), Assembly member Lois Wolk, Brad Udall (NOAA climate scientist), Tim Brick (Board Chair, Metropolitan Water District) and Michael Jackson (renowned water rights attorney).

The conference took place prior to the moderate pulses of precipitation that flowed over California during December. The sense of urgency regarding climate change was clear during every speech and discussion as the state experienced dry weather with no snow pack and low northern California reservoirs. It was interesting to note that while Shasta and Oroville reservoirs are disturbingly low; the reservoirs in southern California are practically full, providing a supply buffer that will see the urban users through next year. The Oroville reservoir holds the source of most of the State Water Project. The December Oroville reservoir level was at only 55% normal for this time of year. Shasta was at 71% the normal level.

Southern California's Diamond Valley Reservoir was well over 100% normal level this December as was Castaic Reservoir. The new Diamond Valley Reservoir in Riverside County is perhaps the largest earthworks construction project in U.S. history. Diamond Valley Reservoir nearly doubles Southern California's above-ground water storage capacity. At 800,000 acre feet capacity, this reservoir is larger than Lake Havasu and took 4 years to fill. It contains as much water as combining Castaic Lake, Lake Mathews, Pyramid Lake, Lake Perris and Lake Skinner.

The contrast between the southern and northern reservoir levels can be traced back to record breaking water pumping that transfers water out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. In 2007, more water was pumped than ever before. At the same, time fish counts in the Delta indicate unprecedented crashes in the population of several key species: delta smelt, central valley fall run Chinook salmon, juvenile striped bass, threadfin shad and longfin smelt.

The POWER discussions indicated that policy makers and analysts are expanding the range of considerations that will affect water use and supply. The paleo-climatological record of California, which includes century-long periods of drought, is finally being examined. Given the fact that climate change models predict less snow and more droughts, the role of California in shaping national energy policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was accentuated by both environmentalists and water purveyors. Discussions about basic economic models explored the well-accepted American principle that the market should decide the value of everything and questioned whether it is ethically right for some to profit over a resource that belongs to all of us. Attention to the leverage of environmental attorneys in modifying operations of Delta pumping operations provided respected, but dramatic encounters during the official proceedings and in private meetings between the active players who are maneuvering to create alliances.

During discussions I attempted to maintain a balance of receptivity (to the information others presented) and expression (presenting the water policy perspective of BEC and other Sacramento Valley environmentalists). I found that our colleagues in Plumas and Shasta Counties are well informed and supportive of our priorities while many others place our interests in a subservient tier.

I am pleased to announce that my travels were accomplished using public transportation systems from Chico to Los Angeles. I spent a few nights with family in Santa Monica, commuting from there to downtown LA on the inexpensive bus system. By tapping into available public transportation I was able to minimize my "carbon footprint" as I attended a conference that prioritized reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a key factor in formulating California Water Policy.

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								◆				◆		◆	◆		◆			

u 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

345-4917, Daily 7-4, www.northvalleydisposal.com

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

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 1/2 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, 899-9980, Yahi group.

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

April: Earth Month @ Chico State
Earth Month is a month-long celebration of the environment that involves Chico State student groups and the Chico community in a variety of workshops, panels, discussions and events focusing on environmental awareness and sustainable progress. Check <http://www.aschico.com/earthmonth> for more details. This year Chico State will host over 60 events in just 30 days showcasing this year's theme: Its Not Just a Green Thing. Among these events is Eco-Fest, an all day affair on April 19th featuring live music, eco-friendly vendors, kid's activities and food.

Earth Day 2008 Worldwide
(Also, see calendar-beginning of April: Earth Month @ Chico State) Ok people,

this is it. Earth Day 2008 is about you! The first Earth Day in 1970 brought more than 20 million people out into the streets to protest against environmental destruction and we changed history! Our environmental problems in 1970 were big, but climate change is bigger, and we, the people, need to take matters into our own hands immediately. Find out what's happening near you! www.earthday.net

Friday May 2, Invasive Plant Removal
Help Friends of Bidwell Park remove invasive Japanese privet trees. We'll be working along the dirt trails west of the Madrone Ave. entrance to Lower Park (off Vallombrosa). From 9:00 am to noon. Tools, water, and gloves provided. We'll be moving around so if you arrive late at the park entrance, call 321-3406 for our current location. If you're under 18, must have release form signed by parent or guardian. For more information, call Susan at 892-1666.

Saturday, May 3, -- 29th Annual Endangered Species Faire
BEC will be hosting the Endangered Species Faire from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. This year's theme: Pollinators: What's all the Buzz About? This Faire is a fun and educational event for the whole family. Great Music! Live Animal Presentations! Fun educational activities! Plays and performances! Good Food! This event is held at Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park, and we encourage you to walk, ride your bike or take the bus to this Earth Day celebration. For more info contact Mary: marym@becnet.org or 891-6424.

Sunday, May 4, Invasive Plant Removal
Help Friends of Bidwell Park remove invasive Japanese privet trees. We'll be working along the dirt trails west of the Madrone Ave. entrance to Lower Park (off Vallombrosa). From 9:00 am to noon. Tools, water, and gloves provided. If you're under 18, must have release form signed by parent or guardian. For more information, call Susan at 892-1666. We'll be moving around so if you arrive late at the park entrance, call 321-3406 for our current location.

Monday, May 5, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Spring Hike: Spring Birds
8 am -- 12 pm Observe the birds of BCCER (bring binoculars) with Scott Huber, Altacal Audubon Society. Meet at highway 32 & 99 park and ride (East Lot). Bring lunch, water, hiking shoes, long pants, sun block. Expect rough terrain,

poison oak, warm weather, possible rain. This event is free (donations accepted to support future hikes). Contact Mark Lynch: bccereducation@csuchico.edu

Wednesday, May 7 - YAH! Program
Meeting at the Oroville Public Library Rex Burress will show his slides on "The Wonders of the Feather River". The meeting is open to the public. Directions: Highway 70 to Montgomery Street exit, east to Lincoln and turn right. Or exit at Oro Dam, east to Lincoln and turn left. Library is on NE corner of Lincoln and Mitchell. For further information call 343-9277.

May 8, 15, 22, 29, Volunteer Thursdays in the Park
Remove invasive Himalayan blackberries from the restoration site at One Mile and plant native plants. From 2 to 4:30 pm. Wear closed-toe shoes. Tools and water provided. Meet at the Sycamore Baseball Field parking lot or, if you arrive late, follow the paved trail east to just north of Caper Acres. Sponsored by the Chico Park Division. For more information, call the volunteer coordinator, Lise-Smith-Peters, at 896-7831.

Saturday, May 10, 17, 31, 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 or longer for volunteers who wish to continue. 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, call the volunteer coordinator, Lise-Smith-Peters, at 896-7831.

Saturday, May 10, Bidwell Park South Rim Views and Flowers
Meet at the Green Gate to Upper Bidwell Park on the north side of Hwy 32 at 10 am with lunch and water. Walk along the south rim trail, then descend to the Annie Gidwell Trail to return to the 10Mile House road back up to the Green Gate--about 4.7 miles. Marvelous views of the Chico creek Canyon and the Sacramento Valley. Sponsored by Mt. Lassen Chapter, California Native Plant Society. Leader Wes Dempsey 342-2293.

Saturday, May 10, Watershed Assessments in Big Chico Creek
The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

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

is in their 5th season of citizen-based water quality monitoring. From 9 am to noon, volunteers meet at the south side of Five Mile Recreation Area. New volunteers are welcome to participate. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620.

Saturday, May 10, Spanish broom removal from Butte Creek Preserve
Help the BEEP (Broom Education and Eradication Program) community action group remove invasive, fire-prone broom plants from the Preserve. From 9 am to noon, bring water and gloves. For more information, call Dulcy at 892-8726.

Saturday May 10 - Mountain Bike Paradise Lake
(grade 2, class A) A seven mile round trip along the road that follows Paradise Lakes eastern shore. This is a fairly flat, dirt road experience. We'll probably see ducks, geese, and fishermen. It is the kind of ride that excersizes you but allows you to talk with your riding companions. Helmets are required. Bring well maintained bicycle, spare tube, pump, lunch and water. We'll meet in the northeast corner of the Save Mart/KMart parking lot at Clark Road and Wagstaff at 9:30 A. M. We should leave the lake (45 minutes from Chico) by 3:00 P.M. Please call John at 872-8258 or hubhollister@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 11, - Pine Creek Unit, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge Complex.
Come bird a recently opened public trail through the 564-acre Pine Creek Unit of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. This site is located directly east of Hamilton City and just south of Highway 32 and is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bring your binoculars, bird field guide book and water. Rain cancels. Meet at the Chico Park 'n Ride (lot closest to freeway) at 8:00 a.m. We'll be back around 12:30 p.m. Contact Jennifer Patten, field trip leader, for more information, 345-9356, jpchico@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, May 11 - Sacramento River Bend Hike Through Varied Terrain
(grade 2, class A). If there's a chance of sunshine we'll meander up river past Yana caves, rolling hills of wildflowers, lush riparian habitat and dramatic bluff-top views almost to Inks Creek and back. Expect to encounter poison oak, too, as well as some rocky and muddy stretches (long pants, long sleeves and sturdy boots

highly recommended) on this 7 mile, 5 1/2 hour hike with a lunch stop at Massacre Flat gravel bar. Meet at Paradise Save-Mart at 8:30AM or Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM for the 50 mile drive to Bend Bridge by 10:15AM, then to the Perry Riffle trailhead by 10:45AM. Don't forget your camera! Leader: Stephen, 876-1391.

Saturday, May 17, Verbena Fields Restoration Site
Remove invasive plants, pick up large and small trash and construction debris, flag piles of asphalt and concrete to be removed during the restoration or gather up the small pieces of asphalt and concrete that are scattered around the 20.9 acre site. From 9 am to noon. Verbena Fields is adjacent to Lindo Channel on East 1st Ave (east of In Motion Fitness) at Verbena Ave. Sponsored by the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance. For more information, call BCCWA coordinator Susan Mason at 892-2196.

Saturday, May 17- Moonlight Paddle
(3 miles, flat water) Bring your own canoe or kayak for a leisurely paddle on the calm cool waters of the North Forebay, Oroville. Learn about the Ponzo Illusion, constellations, and satellites. You must have warm clothing, a flashlight, and wear PFD to attend. Limited to the first 12 boats to sign-up with the leader. There is a \$4 entrance fee. Meet at the boat ramp at 6PM. Leader: Dave Garcia 533-2357 or rangerdave@mynvw.com.

Sunday, May 18 - Chico Mural Walk & Lunch
(grade 1, class A). Stroll around downtown Chico to view the many innovative murals followed by a group lunch at a downtown restaurant. Cost: lunch only. Meet on the steps of Chico City Hall (Main St. & 4th St.) at 10AM. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

Monday, May 19, Bird Watching from Sea Level to 10,000 ft. in a Day
6:30, Chico Creek Nature Center, Altacal Audubon Society's May Program. Bruce Webb will present us with bird-watching sights and sounds from Colima and other western Mexico birding hotspots. From coastal mangroves to the pine forests atop Volcan de Fuego and nearby Nevado de Colima (13,450 ft) it is possible to see some remarkable birds and butterflies. Expect to see photos and hear some recordings of owls and many other endemic birds of Mexico.

Thursday - Monday, May 22-26, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Princeton, Oregon. Make plans to join us for a long Memorial Day weekend in Oregon at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, one of the premier birding hot spots of the west. Malheur is well known as a great spot for eastern migrants that include Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Red-Eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush and American Redstart. We will visit marshy Malheur Lake, one of the finest waterfowl refuges in the United States. Additionally, if time permits we will explore the neighboring Steens Mountain, a majestic tilted fault block. We will camp at one of the campgrounds outside of the refuge. If you are considering going, please call field trip leaders Mike Fisher 530-624-4777 or Jennifer Patten 530-345-9356 for more information and to coordinate camping and driving arrangements.

Saturday, May 31, - Butte College Wildlife Refuge
We'll visit the nature trail located along the riparian area of Clear Creek and see how the Acorn Woodpeckers are faring after lots of changes to the standing granaries this winter.

Then we'll walk the trails through the blue oak/savannah community and look and listen for breeding and nesting birds. The weather may be warm and the walking moderately strenuous. Please dress appropriately for sun, bugs, ankle support and the possibility of snakes. Meet at the Park 'n Ride nearest Hwy 99 at 7:30 a.m. and bring binoculars and water. We will return at approximately 1:00 p.m. For more information please call Scott Huber @ 321-5579.

Saturday, May 31, Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs
Annual fishing derby for children ages 4 to 12 at Horseshoe Lake. Bring your own gear (no lead sinkers) or borrow from organizers.

Sunday, June 8, - Upper Bidwell Park
Take a casual walk along the creekside and adjacent woodlands in search of birds that breed in Upper Park. No experience necessary. Just bring your binoculars, a field guide if you have one, hiking shoes, water and snacks. Meet at the newly constructed parking lot by Horseshoe Lake at 8:30 a.m. and walk until about 11:30 a.m. (2-3 miles). For more information, contact Phil Johnson at 570-7139.

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

**Call toll free (have title with you)
(877) CARS-4-US Ext. 1865**

**Cars, boats, trucks, RVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles,
vans, jet-skis, motor homes, and even buses.**

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info@gaiacreationsecoland.com
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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

1360 Neilson St., Berkeley, CA 94702
510.526.4049, cpsa@psln.com
http://users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html;

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, Karrotalk@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

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
cavederical@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
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Flying Mammal Rescue of California

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Friends of Bidwell Park

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Friends of Butte Creek

PO Box 3305, Chico, CA 95927
530.879.0887, friends@buttecreek.org
www.buttecreek.org

Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium

CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929
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www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

Friends of Plumas Wilderness

PO Box 225, Taylorsville, CA 95983
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Friends of the River

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814
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GRUB (Growing Resourcefully United Bellies)

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Institute for Sustainable Development

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Southwest Chico Neighborhood Association
www.swchicoe.org, swcna@swchicoe.org
South Campus Neighborhood Council
Attn: Charlie Pruesser
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Streaminders
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The Cause
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The Bidwell Ranch Conservancy
Chico, CA, 530.345.7205

The Esplanade League
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The Nature Conservancy, Northern Central Valley
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TreeAction
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Upper Ridge Areas, Inc
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Woodleaf, A Young Life Camp
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HAS ENOUGH continued from p.6
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.

Publisher's Note:

Step three in the article above refers to groundwater storage. It is unfortunate that groundwater was so abused in southern California during the 20th century that aquifers are viewed as reservoirs. In addition, the creeks, rivers, and habitat that were supported by healthy aquifers are long gone, but some restoration is occurring at significant cost. It is responsible for southern California to use their aquifers for storage at this point, but the mistakes of past should not be repeated in northern California.

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