



# BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL

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## Butte Environmental Council Wins Major Water Lawsuit

On March, 16, 2010, a Superior Court ruled that the State has to comply with environmental laws even in dry times.

The Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, ruled in favor of BEC and co-petitioners in their lawsuit against the California Department of Water Resources in their plan to transfer additional water because of a three year drought. This is an important win for the North Valley's water resources and environment. Requiring the State to comply with environmental laws will help ensure that the Tuscan aquifer system remains healthy and well managed into the future.

Early in 2009 the Governor issued a proclamation claiming an emergency drought and sought to implement water transfers without following California environmental law, specifically the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). BEC hired the legal team of Lippe, Gaffney and Wagner, LLP, to challenge the exemption because the relatively mild drought is not an emergency situation caused by nature but rather a regulatory drought caused by mismanagement. In April 2009, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and the California Water Impact Network were named with BEC on the suit against a long list of powerful water districts and agencies that joined the State's effort to facilitate water transfers without following environmental law.

Butte Environmental Council has been at the forefront of environmental activism in Butte County and in the Northern Sacramento Valley since 1975.

BEC appreciates all BEC members and the many other supporters who helped make this successful lawsuit possible, including the Butte-Sutter Basin Area Groundwater Users. BEC also thanks and congratulates attorneys Tom Lippe and Keith Wagner for presenting and for winning this important lawsuit to protect local water resources.

## Natural Flows

by Carol Perkins

Despite the excitement of Butte Environmental Council's winning the Drought Water Bank lawsuit in March against the State of California, the Department of Water Resources, and 83 water districts, the pressures to increase water transfers remain.

In February the Bureau of Reclamation issued their finding of no significant environmental impact (FONSI) for Federal water transfers. Individual water sellers may forgo their rights to surface water by idling farmland or by substituting groundwater to meet their irrigation needs. In this way, bit by bit, more local water can be pumped to buyers to the south, without adequately studying the cumulative effect on the Tuscan aquifer system.

As a result of increased water transfers, Northern California streams will endure hidden impacts from groundwater pumping. Moving more water out of the natural hydrologic system is a bad deal for Butte County and all the surrounding counties.

The following data identifies the reported through-Delta transfers that moved water from the Northern Sacramento Valley to points south of the Delta in acre-feet/year. This year and next, the Bureau plans to move an additional 215,000 acre-feet out of the Sacramento River Valley. That total includes 110,000 acre-feet of groundwater.

### Through-Delta Transfers Sacramento River Region

Year	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2009
Acre-feet	243,806	481,576	251,876	165,088	104,974	274,285

An acre-foot is equivalent to nearly 326,000 gallons, which is enough water for a household of 4 for a year, where each member consumes 220 gallons per day. Californians on average continue to flaunt water, consuming about 270 gallons per person per day. By comparison Australians are now limited to about 35 gpd. The hydrologic cycle in Queensland is so broken that they have also had to choose to import all their food.

*A common thread in our efforts to alter the hydrologic cycle – to deliver water to farmers at times other than when Mother Nature would supply it – is our belief in the capacity of technology to tame nature. The science of engineering allows us, we think, to overcome the limits of nature. (from Water Follies by Glennon)*

In the 1950s the Cosumnes River, which flows from the foothills just south of Sacramento, was engineered to flow straighter within man-made levees. The levees isolated the river from its floodplain, starving it of vital recharge capacity, reducing in turn groundwater that would feed the river later in the year. Groundwater pumping further affected the hydrologic system between the river and the aquifer. The

continued on page 12

## Inside

Board of Directors Update .....	2
Meet the BEC Staff .....	2
Advocacy: Support, Encouragement, Backing .....	3
Chico Green School Moves Toward September Opening .....	4
Big Chico Creek: Headwaters to the Mouth .....	4
Costs of New Era Mine .....	5
The Crash of 2009 .....	6
Water Bond .....	6
Wellness Update .....	8
Got Toxicants? .....	8
Are Phosphate Detergents Safe for the Environment? .....	8
Who Supports Air Quality? .....	9
Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals .....	9
Development Eyes Butte Creek Canyon .....	10
Endangered Species Faire .....	11
Don't Miss the BEC Fundraiser Event A Night of Dinner and Dancing .....	12
Recycling .....	15
Calendar .....	16, 17
Environmental Directory .....	18, 19

Photo: Big Chico Creek meets the Sacramento River. Circa 1999.

*Environmental News*, a newspaper published three times a year, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. To submit articles or events for the Environmental News and Calendar, e-mail [marym@becnet.org](mailto:marym@becnet.org). Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication and must include the author's name, address, and phone number. BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC.

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#### About BEC

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

BEC  
116 W. Second St, #3, Chico, CA 95928  
530.891.6424, [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday  
9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

#### How to Join BEC

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

#### BEC Board of Directors

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Craig Seabury & Ingrid Cordes  
and many more...  
*Thank You!!*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE

The members of your BEC Board of Directors were overjoyed with the news of BEC's winning of the litigation against the Governor and the Department of Water Resources for failing to conduct environmental impact studies related to the governor's calling a drought emergency and the allocation of north state water resources.

This was very expensive litigation which caused a cash flow problem for BEC. Hopefully any appeal will be unsuccessful and the state will have to pay BEC's legal expenses. To help BEC's cash flow an anonymous donor has given BEC a \$5,000 donation and challenged its members and supporters to match an additional \$10,000 from the donor.

The Board is pleased with the work of its outstanding staff working under an advocacy and administrative model as BEC moves forward in its educational mission and advocacy for Air, Land and Water. Members are especially encouraged to attend the annual Endangered Species Faire on May 1 in Bidwell Park to see firsthand BEC's premier educational event.

Since the last issue of the Environmental News former board member Robin Huffman has assumed the duties of Advocacy Director joining with Nikki Schlaishunt, our Administrative Director.

It is a pleasure to report such good news about our organization to you the members of BEC.

*Jim Gregg*  
*Chair, BEC Board of Directors*

## Meet the BEC Staff

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) has been working for the environment since 1975, starting the first recycling program in Chico and then growing into an advocacy and education organization. Through the years, BEC has employed many skilled and committed people. Currently BEC has four employees who provide the core of BEC's whole workforce of staff, consultants, and volunteers. Together, we make sure our environment has a voice in caring for and growing our community.

Maggi Barry has been with BEC for 5 years. The work she has done has shifted with BEC's needs. She now splits her work between helping to keep the office running and assisting with the education and outreach program. BEC is one of the subcontractors involved with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention program and Maggi helps run the Clean Water Business Partner portion of this program. Maggi is also BEC's representative with EarthShare California, an organization that provides funding for a variety of environmental organizations in California. During her non-BEC time Maggi sings with the Doin' It Justice Community Choir, and also works as a recreation therapist for folks with disabilities.

Mary Muchowski has currently been with BEC for 3 years as the Education & Outreach Coordinator. She has a long history with BEC and previously worked as the office manager for several years. She currently administers the Wellness program which is funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation. Mary also organizes our annual Endangered Species Faire, our annual Parks and Creeks Cleanup, and does other education and outreach work including (but not limited to!) preparing our Environmental News and coordinating the Eco-Life program with Chico State students. When not at BEC, Mary is an avid birder and offers outings for bird watching at the Snow Goose festival as well as for groups and individuals.

Nikki Schlaishunt first worked for BEC as an intern in 1993. Currently she is the Administrative Director and is in charge of administration and development. Her work includes (but is not limited to!) budgeting and finance, grant writing, membership development, and other fundraising work. She matches her part-time position at BEC with part-time work as a grant writing assistant for Tempura Board & Associates. Nikki is a published writer and during her off time she enjoys writing, and her work on the boards of Rogue Theatre and the Unitarian Universalists Fellowship in Chico.

Robin Huffman is BEC's newest employee. She started very part-time last October as BEC's Advocacy Coordinator. In February BEC was pleased to hire her as Advocacy Director. She runs BEC's advocacy program, which includes (but is not limited to) attending meetings, writing letters, making comments on official documents, and generally keeping the pulse of all things environmental locally. Robin also teaches at Butte College.



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Fundraiser for Matching Grant

## 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.



Butte Environmental Council is tracking many issues in addition to the stories in this edition of the Environmental News. Pamela Posey reports on large development projects that could happen in and around Butte Creek Canyon, including a proposed expansion of Paradise Irrigation District. Allen Harthorn writes about the endangered salmon run in Butte Creek, the last best run in the State. John Scott contributes an article on air quality rules which details the voting record of elected officials. Rich Meyers writes about the expensive debacle at New Era Mine, allowed by the poor judgment of three Butte County Supervisors. Noelle Ferdon reports on the proposed water bond that voters will decide in November. The cover story by Carol Perkins on Natural Flows shows the importance of understanding the interaction of surface and groundwater. Of course, BEC is very pleased to report that we won the Drought Water Bank lawsuit. When the formal "final" judgment is issued, there will be a sixty day period in which an appeal might be filed, so "it's not over until it's over". Winning the March 15 decision is a victory for environmental review being done for water transfers, in accordance with the law. Follow all the issues in this Spring/Summer edition; I haven't named them all.

First and foremost of other issues BEC is tracking is the Butte County General Plan 2030. The Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Draft General Plan 2030 is due to be released on April 8 and will have a 60-day public review and comment period. The New Zoning Ordinance for the General Plan will be released for public review mid-May, and there will be a public workshop on June 23 at the Southside Community Center in Oroville from 5:00-8:00 pm. There will also be a series of Butte County Planning Commission meetings, from July to November, to review aspects of the zoning ordinance and related documentation. Stay tuned by visiting [www.buttegeneralplan.net](http://www.buttegeneralplan.net), and engage in this process to support environmentally sensitive planning and zoning.

A parallel process is the Butte County Association of Government's development of the county's Regional Conservation Plan (a.k.a. HCP/NCCP). The conservation and cost strategies for implementation will make or break this Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan. Public stakeholder meetings happen on the first Wednesday of each month. Participation is encouraged, and more information is readily available online at <http://www.buttehcp.com>. Basically, the idea of the HCP is to coordinate and consolidate areas for conservation required by environmental laws to protect species. HCPs actually facilitate development. They attempt a win-win coordinated strategy for the environment and for developers. The HCP must be in-line with the general plan of the county as well as of the municipalities.

BEC will do its best to track city general plans as they develop. The City of Chico is going through a general plan update. (See <http://chicogeneralplan.com/>.) At issue are potential areas for development in Chico's sphere of influence, where the city and county may not see eye-to-eye. BEC will continue to speak up for the environment in this planning process too.

Regional Water Management Planning group, to include Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, Sutter, and possibly Shasta counties. The governance structure for this is yet to be determined; the contractor will propose three different structures to the boards of supervisors. It is important that the North Valley coordinate toward keeping a healthy water system. BEC expects to be part of this integrated planning, to

speak up for the environment along with others from the environmental community.

The water bottling issue is not limited to Orland, where an approved water bottling plant is being challenged in the courts for failing to proceed with environmental

review. In Butte County one landowner proposed to truck spring water from the foothills to a water bottling plant in some undisclosed location (Nestle in Sacramento perhaps?). Fortunately on March 30, the Board of Supervisors skirted the issue for now by confirming that a spring water collection operation is not a permitted use within lands in a Timber Preserve Zone (in a 4-1 vote, with Supervisor Yamaguchi in favor of the property owner exporting spring water). Butte County should strengthen our water regulations and standards, considering the high demand for water.

Land, Air, and Water, these three resources are great, and the greatest are the species that depend on them, including our own. May we manage these resources well, letting nature do most of the work.

Send BEC your e-mail address to [staff@becnet.org](mailto:staff@becnet.org) and you will receive periodic newsletters and action alerts. BEC also has a Facebook page where you can become a friend. See you at the Endangered Species Faire on May 1.

*If you support, encourage, and back environmental issues in your neighborhood, you're an advocate, and we appreciate you.*

## Advocacy: Support, Encouragement, Backing

Robin Huffman, BEC Advocacy Director

With water there are several big issues in the mix at this time. Paul Gosselin, Director of the Butte County Water and Resource Conservation department is taking note of Bay Delta Conservation Plan and has gotten approval from the Board of Supervisors to formally participate in the BDCP process. The plan involves use of water from the North Valley, so it seems reasonable that the BDCP steering committee in the Bay Area would take input from a Northern Sacramento Valley Advisory Group. Gosselin assures me this group, when established, is to include environmental views.

The WRC has contracted \$1.6 million for a new Tuscan study (the last one BEC stopped because there was no environmental review), the Tuscan Aquifer Project, which should bring additional science to help understand the Tuscan aquifer system. This is not a comprehensive study, but will add some knowledge here and there. The scope of the work will necessitate some kind of environmental document, yet to be released. The project is to use existing wells and to install some monitoring wells. Water pumped for testing is to stay in the area and will not involve mass quantities of water, according to Gosselin. Stay tuned.

Butte County has also contracted for the formation of a Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated



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# Chico Green School moves towards September opening

by Jeremy Miller  
Chico Green School

The Chico Green School, a tuition-free public charter high school, continues to move forward to opening its doors to its first freshman and sophomore classes this fall. The mission of the school, which is chartered through the Chico Unified School District, is to “prepare students to be free, capable, and unique human beings who choose to inhabit the world with intention and purpose. Through environmental and civic engagement, students will develop an understanding of social, economic, and environmental sustainability and have the will to be active and responsible stewards in their community and the world. We will use Waldorf methods, a well established pedagogy that reinforces and nurtures the high school student’s developing capacity for abstract thinking, ethical judgment, and creative imagination.”

Two informational sessions have been held that have allowed founders and teachers to elaborate on these points. Key among them is the desire to provide a holistic educational experience for the students, one that allows the students to grow as individuals in a “small school” setting that is conducive to each individual being able to discover and take ownership of the joy of learning over the course of their four-year career at the school.

The outcomes? School founders have high expectations for their students, and acknowledge the world is changing quickly and is in need of compassionate leaders. “Our goal is not to prepare students for today’s world. We want our students to have the foundation to become the type of people who can create the world of tomorrow.”

The school will utilize Waldorf teaching methods in the presentation of a curriculum that fulfills both CSU and UC course requirements. Waldorf methodology is grounded in the understanding that high school students are going through many personal changes during their teenage years; acknowledging and embracing this journey by integrating it within the students’ academic studies serves to create more grounded, holistic learners and individuals.

The school will also integrate sustainability and environmental concepts which will be a unifying theme throughout the curriculum. In addition to coursework, the students will apply these skills through the service learning component. It is hoped that the city of Chico will get to know many of the Chico Green School students through their active participation in the community in which they live.

On March 27 smiles abounded as the school held its first annual “Green Tie Affair” at the Chico Grange Hall. The event featured a live and silent auction, dinner, and classic 80’s music courtesy of the Oneders. Proceeds from the event will go towards facilities for the new school.

When this article went to press, a lease for the new school site was in its final stage of negotiation. Individuals interested in learning more about the school, either as prospective students or as members of the community looking to become involved as a partner in this amazing program can find contact information on the school’s website, [www.chicogreenschool.org](http://www.chicogreenschool.org).



Students out in Big Chico Creek measuring flow with the Big Chico Creek Citizen’s Monitoring Program (the Stream Team).

## Big Chico Creek: Headwaters to the Mouth

by Nani Teves  
Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

Big Chico Creek begins its impressive 45 mile journey from a series of springs on Colby Mountain. It is here at the interface between the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Mountains where the creek takes its time flowing through coniferous forests and the youngest geologic formation, the Tuscan. The majority of water that flows in Big Chico Creek is gained in the upper third of the watershed which receives an average of 75 inches of precipitation annually. As the creek drops in elevation into the canyon, harder geologic layers such as the Lovejoy Basalt in upper Bidwell Park restrict the creek, resulting in pools (like Bear Hole) and drops (like the waterfall at Higgins Hole). The pools are also used by spring-run Chinook salmon during the summertime as they carry out their life cycle. Soon enough the creek is again meandering through the softer Chico Formation where it flows through CSU, Chico and the City of Chico, and eventually through almond and walnut orchards. It is in the urban portion of the watershed where water quality degrades, including elevated levels of fecal coliform in the summer, stream temperature increases, and a steady source of garbage. Because the rainfall

averages 20 inches annually in the valley and the soil is so permeable, many summers the creek infiltrates and dries up before meeting with the Sacramento River.

The quality of water that flows through Big Chico Creek and its tributaries is a culmination of the natural processes and human activities that occur throughout the entire watershed. The invasive broom plant causes a fire hazard and degrades wildlife habitat in the canyon area. The Valley and Blue Oaks are not regenerating adequately to ensure ecological survival. The parking lot sheds water with pollutants to storm drains flowing directly to the creek.

Also affecting the quality of the creek’s flow is the declining groundwater under the Chico Urban area, which has dropped an average of 15 feet over the last 31 years.

However, the creek is also the cumulative effect of the many people who have come together to work towards improving the health of Big Chico Creek. People are learning about the issues and taking action, such as the Broom Education and Eradication Program (BEEP), a citizens group working tirelessly to remove broom from the Forest Ranch area. Friends of Bidwell Park and the City of Chico gather volunteers weekly to pull exotic plants and replant with natives in Bidwell Park. The Big Chico Creek Citizen’s Monitoring Program consistently collects water quality samples in the creek to track changes and to focus restoration efforts.

Kids and Creeks lead students on environmental education field trips along local creeks to foster connections with nature and instill a sense of stewardship. Streaminders works along riparian areas restoring the creeks flow and habitat. And the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance collaborates for education and restoration from the headwaters to the mouth. It is through all these individual and group efforts that the natural functions of Big Chico Creek are being protected and restored.

To learn more about the Big Chico Creek Watershed, including watershed history, wildlife, hydrology, ways to get involved, and more go to [www.bigchicocreek.org](http://www.bigchicocreek.org). Or spend a day exploring the watershed on one of the Alliance’s field trips, by sending an e-mail to [coordinator@bigchicocreek.org](mailto:coordinator@bigchicocreek.org) to be kept in the loop on dates and outings.

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# Costs of New Era Mine

by Robin Huffman, BEC Advocacy Director  
and Rich Meyers of Dry Creek Coalition of Butte County

Now that the court has issued decisions, estimates can be made more closely as to what the gentlemen on the Board of Supervisors – Supervisors Yamaguchi, Connelly, and Josiassen at the time – are costing the county taxpayers for failing to adequately consider the impact of the New Era Mine on the environment even as the operators were wreaking havoc in the neighborhood in the Dry Creek / Cherokee Canal Watershed in the Butte Valley area.

## Violations by Butte County and New Era Mine

The neighbors of New Era Mine formed Dry Creek Coalition when, in March 2007, new operators, North Continent Land and Timber Company, began muddying up Dry Creek as they denuded 12 of the 18 acres of the New Era Mine property. The mine was originally permitted as a small “mom and pop” operation in 1982 and had operated sporadically for a few years and then became idle for the last 15 years.

In December 2007, reacting to complaints from neighbors, Butte County, Department of Conservation- Office of Mine Reclamation, and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board made inspections of the site and issued Notices of Violation and a Clean-up and Abatement Order.

North Continent appealed the County Notice of Violation to the Planning Commission and, when the Planning Commission agreed with staff, went on to appeal to the Board of Supervisors. In August 2008, on a 3/2 vote the 3 “boys” voted to allow the mine to operate under the 1982 permit and reclamation plan, ignoring advice from OMR spokesman, Steve Streeter (the county planner in 1982), our Attorney Keith Wagner, and their own County Counsel.

BEC joined Dry Creek Coalition, hired Keith Wagner, of Lippe, Gaffney and Wagner LLP, and sued Butte County and North Continent for violation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). After prevailing in an illegal attempt at intimidation from North Continent in Sacramento Court (a \$1million Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation), BEC and DCC went on to win the CEQA and SMARA suit in Butte County Court. In December Judge Benson gave Butte County 90 days to rescind their August resolution; in March the Board did so and directed staff to start the process to reclaim the site. Also in March the OMR issued an “Order to Comply” directing North Continent (NC) to take a number of actions, including providing a reclamation plan. On April 15 the State Mining and

Geology Board will hold a hearing to decide if NC is trying to comply with the issues on the “Order”. Butte County is waiting for the Board to issue their decision in order to coordinate the dates specified for NC to comply with the various requirements.

Soon after the judge issued his Statement of Decision in October (finalized and recorded in December) NC pulled all of their equipment off the site. In December, in response to orders from CVRWQCB, they finally spread some straw over the disturbed area to help prevent erosion. To date North Continent Land and Timber has not submitted or obtained a reclamation plan. New Era Mine remains a huge open pit that appears to have been abandoned and continues to affect Dry Creek and the downstream neighbors. The neighbors want the land restored, but it remains to be seen who will be held accountable if the company finds a way to back out of their financial and environmental responsibilities.

## Estimated Costs to Butte County Taxpayers

1. The County received a \$25K deposit from North Continent in July 09 for the cost of the defense of our

*continued on page 13*

## Recycle? Reuse? Surplus!

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**Swiss Volcano Canteen Cooker:**  
Swiss Army issue canteen cooker. Conveniently portable at 10.75" tall and 3.5" wide, this canteen cooker can be taken anywhere. This can be used as a canteen and a cooking stove with wind protection.  
\$8.99



**Swiss Folding Lantern:**  
This is a Swiss Army folding lantern, a very cool ingenious item from the 1920s. These were issued through the 1940s, very rare and in great shape. It folds flat to fit in the canvas pouch that comes with it. A true original military classic item! The dimensions are 7 1/2 inches tall and 4 inches wide. The front door is spring loaded and allows access to the candle.  
\$89.00

**German Cold Weather Liner:**  
This is a beautiful and extremely warm quilted (new) parka liner, and they are all brand new. Quilted interior, tough nylon shell, full zippered front, zippered patch pocket on right chest. Nylon web lining. Machine wash/dry. Made in Germany.  
\$24.99



**Army Style Compass:**  
Army Style Compass. Foldable Alloy Case, Liquid filled, Magnifying glass, Map scales. Comes in a nice nylon pouch.  
\$9.99

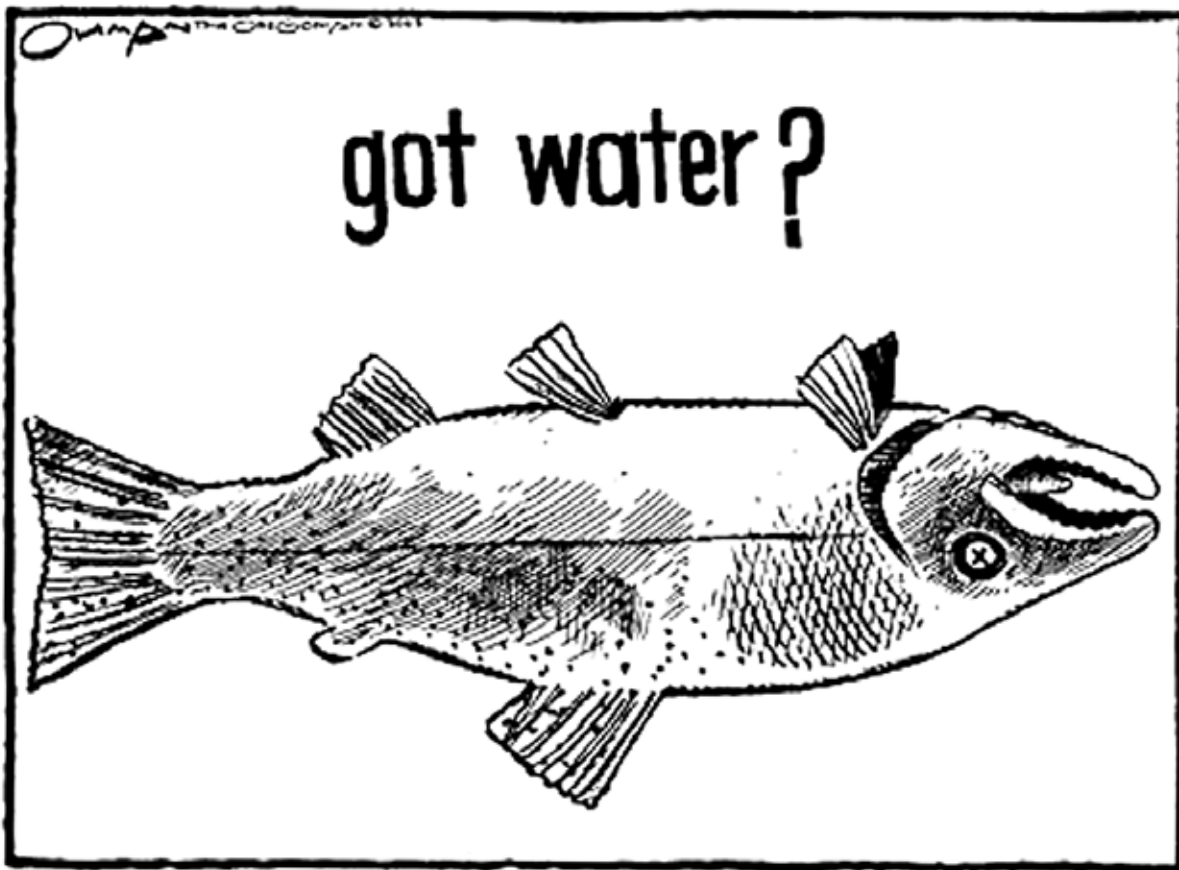


**Russian Antique Stopwatch:**  
As I was crawling through old Russian Army warehouses in the Czech Republic looking for more interesting military artifacts, I stumbled across these beautiful antique Russian stopwatches. To be honest I don't know much about them, they are in beautiful working condition. This is what is written on the front: coenaho b e c c p. They are a 20 jewel movement.  
\$175.00



**New Czech Leather Boots:**  
Brand new Czech Army boots. Genuine, full-grain leather uppers. Solid traction lug rubber outsole. Reinforced toe for extended wear. Multiple eyelet lacing system. Each approx. 10"h., 34 ozs. Medium width. Condition: brand new, never issued.  
\$39.99





## The Crash of 2009

by Allen Harthorn, Executive Director, Friends of Butte Creek

Last year will be known as the "Crash of '09." And not the economic collapse we all witnessed. The final summary of the 2009 salmon runs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin basins is in; the numbers are disappointing at best, and an alarming drop from the record low 2008 runs. Despite predictions that 120,000 salmon would return to the Sacramento system in 2009, the reality was that only 39,000 salmon returned and less than 25% were wild fish. Once again, the fishery agencies are trying to put on a cheery face for the future based on the return of two year old fish last year, commonly known as "jacks." In the past there has been a decent correlation between the number of jacks and the succeeding year's run. With that in mind, the agencies are tentatively predicting 200,000 fish or more for 2010. We can only hope they are right.

Butte Creek had a marginal run of fish in the midst of this crisis, suffering a drop of 75% from the 2008 run. Only 2,561 fish were estimated to have lived through the summer to spawn in September. Conditions were nearly ideal for spawning, so we can hope that the survival rate of the juveniles will be high. This still represents the largest run of Spring Run Chinook salmon left in the State.

Butte Creek has had a tremendous amount of restoration investment and it shows for the most part. However, low water years, as we have had for the last three years, are very problematic. Two significant fish passage problems near the mouth of Butte Creek in the Sutter Bypass are well known fish killers. Willow Slough diversion at the end of the East Borrow channel has a very long, old style Denil fish ladder that is nearly impossible to pass through for the fish. The two culverts in the diversion next to it are even worse. In low water when fish are holding below this dam, they are in constant danger of human predation. Poachers frequent this area, and hopefully we will catch some with our watchful Creek Observers. Thank you very much to those out there that are looking out for the fish.

Weir 2, which is about five miles above Willow Slough, is also a very old and poorly designed fish ladder. The weir is owned by Department of Water Resources (DWR) and diverts water through an unscreened diversion into the USFWS refuge. In 2009, during the Spring Run migration DWR shifted the flow to the West Barrow Channel and shut down this diversion while stranded spring run salmon languished below. Apparently DWR had to repair a few boards in the ancient flashboard dam and chose the worst time to do it.

The good news is that replacement designs for both Willow Slough and Weir 2 have been engineered, permitted and are awaiting funding. Bids may actually go out this year and some construction could happen before fall. You can check the DWR website for this project.

<http://www.water.ca.gov/fishpassage/projects/butte.cfm>

California's budget is in crisis; vital education, health and public safety services are on the chopping block. But this November, Governor Schwarzenegger and the state Legislature will ask California voters to pass an \$11.1 billion water bond loaded down with special-interest projects. Instead of focusing on sustainable long-term water supply and water quality policies, the bond would provide a massive subsidy to corporate interests and wasteful and polluting technologies, including new dams and desalination.

from Noelle Ferdon, Central Valley organizer for Food and Water Watch

### What's Wrong with the Water Bond?

#### 1. Corporations Win, Taxpayers Lose.

The bond is a raw deal for taxpayers. Bonds are loans that the state must pay back with interest. That means that over the next 30 years, the bond will suck nearly \$24 billion (the original \$11.1 billion, plus interest) from the state's general fund at the expense of essential services including education, transportation, parks, police, and fire protection.

The bond opens the door to privatization of our water. At the last minute, a provision was added to the bond that lets private corporations own and profit from public water projects.

Taxpayers will be hit again and again: to finance the bond's repayment, to provide a profit to water corporations upon which the public will depend, and to pay for essential services that we could no longer afford because of debt payments to the bond.

The bond would also make up to \$1 billion of taxpayers' money available for desalination, an expensive and polluting process that removes salt from seawater. Publically funded desalination plants could be wholly owned by private corporations, which would then profit from the sale of drinking water to consumers.

#### 2. Bailout for Corporate Polluters.

The bond rewards bad water stewardship. After years of polluting our ground and surface water with pesticides, animal waste, industrial chemicals and other contaminants, big businesses in California would get more water handouts from the bond. Communities without safe drinking water would be left in the lurch. Less than 1 percent of bond funds are guaranteed to make it to disadvantaged communities that need the most help. That's why groups like the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water have come out against the bond.

#### 3. Kills Fish, Pollutes Our Rivers.

More dams mean more environmental destruction. The bond would provide \$3 billion in funding to enlarge existing dams or construct new dams and other water storage projects. California already has nearly 1,500 dams that divert water and threaten

continued on page 14

endangered fish populations, including salmon. Pacific Coast salmon populations are nearly extinct. Existing dams remain well below capacity most of the time.

#### 4. The Bond Doesn't Fund Real Solutions to California's Water Problems.

Only 2 percent of bond funds are set aside for conservation programs. Using water more efficiently is the most cost-effective solution and the only means of a long-term sustainability of our water resources. Groundwater cleanup and infrastructure improvements receive only a small fraction of total bond funds.

What's more, because the bond prioritizes funding for dams, the water quality and conservation programs wouldn't receive bond funding until years after its passage. For this reason, environmental groups like Friends of the River and the Sierra Club have come out against the bond.

#### Help Stop the Bond and Demand Better Water Policies!

Food & Water Watch and our coalition partners are working hard to spread the word about this wasteful bond. Join us to help defeat the bond in November and advocate for water policies that benefit all Californians!

There are lots of ways to contribute. We can help you organize a house party or a film screening to raise awareness about the issue. You can talk with local organizations and congregations and ask them to endorse the "No on the Water Bond" campaign. Look and listen for media coverage of water issues. Write a letter to the editor, call into a radio show, and spread the word!

For more information call Noelle Ferdon, Central Valley office, Chico: (415) 293-9907 and visit our website: [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/no-water-bond](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/no-water-bond)

#### BEC Stands Against the Water Bond

Butte Environmental Council sees no local advantage from this huge new bond proposal. The bond ballot measure, if it passes in November,

would fund projects in other areas of the state that would negatively affect our local environment and water resources. Water bonds are already approved and available to be sold for local water projects.

The big bond projects that November's bond measure would fund will require extensive environmental review and most likely lead to expensive court battles to stop additional massive transfers of water from our local ecosystems.

If the bond passes, the state and corporate interests will gain more control of our local water resources. The bond will fund long deep straws into our land, pipelines to mismanagement and unsustainable uses of local water.

To keep the water in our creeks and under our feet and to support local water management, vote no on the water bond on the November ballot.

Send messages to the Butte County Board of Supervisors, \*Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation, and local irrigation districts to strongly stand against the water bond on the November ballot.

\*Paul Gosselin, Director, 538-3804

Butte County Water and Resource Conservation  
308 Nelson Ave.  
Oroville, CA 95965  
<http://buttecounty.net/waterandresource>  
E-mail: [bcwater@buttecounty.net](mailto:bcwater@buttecounty.net)



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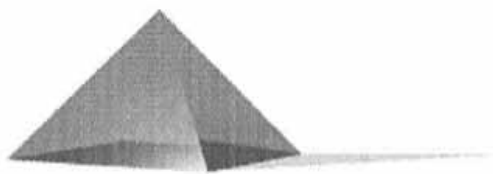


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# Wellness Update:

By Mary Muchowski

Progress continues on the projects we have developed for our grant from The California Wellness Foundation. We had one television advertisement air on local channels during October, November and December. Now we have another television advertisement regarding chemical cleaning and pesticide products (concept created by staff and produced by Brian Peterson of Peterson Pro Video) which has aired in March and will continue through April. We are also working on one more TV commercial called “Toxic Trail” that will be airing as soon as we get it produced.

Our new intern Adebusola Adekoyejo, and Karla Kent have been aiding staff and our contractor, Julia Murphy, with developing and revising materials for this grant. Our Alternative Cleaning Solution workshops continue to be well-received. After a slideshow presentation that details the harmful side-effects of many commercial household cleaning and pesticide products, we allow workshop participants to make their own alternative cleaning products using ingredients and bottles that are provided by BEC. If you know of a group that would like to have this presentation, give us a call at the BEC office. We also have a slideshow presentation on Alternative Lawn and Garden Care.

## Are Phosphate Detergents Safe for the Environment?

The proposed legislation to limit or ban the use of phosphate in detergents by manufacturers needs re-visitation and an immediate response from legislators. The government needs to get actively involved in the protection of our environment because humans are fast becoming creators of environmental pollution, even if unintentionally. We all make those cataleptic choices about the products we use in our household, which might be a threat to our environment.

One of these threats comes from phosphate. Phosphate is a salt of phosphoric acid and is extremely important in living cells, particularly in the storage and use of energy. It is also involved in the transmission of genetic information within a cell and from one cell to another. Phosphate is a nutrient that naturally speeds up the growth of algae in our waterways. The accelerated growth of algae can cause it to spread across the water surface in floating blooms that prevent sunlight from reaching the underlying plants. Phosphate is toxic in high concentrations and must be kept to a minimum in our environment.

Unfortunately, detergent manufacturers are boosting the phosphate concentration in laundry and dishwashing detergents. We, as the consumers of these products, are making a conscious choice to buy these products, use these products and then drain them down the sink, unwittingly polluting the environment! This is a major source of water pollution as the phosphates in these detergents

## Got Toxicants?

### DO WE KNOW WHICH CHEMICALS ARE TOXIC?

After 30 years of laws aimed at controlling toxic chemicals, government must at least have a good idea of which chemicals are toxic - or so most Americans assume. But that assumption turns out to be wrong.

To tell whether a chemical has the potential to damage human health or the environment, there needs to be basic, screening-level information about its toxicity. But that information is simply not available for most of the top-selling chemicals in U.S. commerce today - as recent studies have proven (see below). This means that, for those chemicals, we have no way of knowing whether releasing them or being exposed to them could hurt people or the environment.

### CRITICAL DATA NEEDED TO ASSESS HEALTH HAZARDS IS MISSING FOR MOST CHEMICALS

Basic screening-level toxicity information is essential to be able to identify potential health and environmental hazards of individual chemicals.

However, recent studies by Environmental Defense and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have found that the vast majority of chemicals in widespread commercial use lack basic toxicity data in the public record. There are close to 3,000 chemicals (excluding polymers and inorganic chemicals) that the U.S. either produces or imports in quantities of over 1 million pounds per year. EPA has reviewed the publicly available data on these chemicals and has concluded that most of them may have never been tested to determine how toxic they are to humans or the environment. EPA evaluated all 2,863 of these “high production volume” chemicals and found that only 7% (just 202 chemicals) had publicly available results for all eight of the standard, basic screening tests. Almost half of these chemicals (43%) had no data in any test category.

EPA’s findings confirm and extend the findings of Environmental Defense’s landmark 1997 report Toxic Ignorance, which used a random sample of 100 U.S. high production volume chemicals to demonstrate that nearly 75% of these chemicals lack the basic data required for human health hazard identification.

### HOW TO FIND OUT IF A CHEMICAL HAS BEEN TESTED

Go to Scorecard’s About the Chemicals section and search for the chemical you are interested in. Every chemical profile has a section titled “Basic Testing to Identify Chemical Hazards,” which indicates whether a chemical has been tested for specific human health endpoints like carcinogenicity or acute toxicity.

### WINNING A COMMITMENT FROM THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY TO TEST CHEMICALS

In October 1998, EPA, Environmental Defense and the chemical industry announced a major new program to accelerate the testing of high production volume chemicals. The Chemical Right-to-Know Initiative is an ambitious effort to tackle the “toxic ignorance” problem by rapidly testing chemicals and making this important data available to scientists, policy makers, industry, and the public.

By early 2000, more than 400 chemical manufacturers had agreed to provide accelerated hazard screening for more than 2,000 high production volume chemicals that they manufacture, in what U.S. EPA has named its HPV Challenge Program.

### INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CHEMICAL TESTING

EPA’s evaluation of hazard data on high production volume chemicals is part of an international effort to identify data poor chemicals being conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD has established an internationally agreed upon set of basic tests that should be conducted on chemicals, the Screening Information Data Set (SIDS). Environmental Defense utilized the human health components of SIDS in Toxic Ignorance. EPA utilized a modified version of SIDS in its evaluation of chemical hazard data availability (EPA credited a chemical with SIDS data if any study relevant to an endpoint could be found, although completing the SIDS set for these endpoints requires multiple studies).

The OECD uses its set of screening tests to identify chemicals that require additional testing, and then member countries volunteer to fill these data gaps. An overview of OECD’s SIDS program is available at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/sids/overview.htm>. Once basic testing is completed, an initial assessment of chemical hazards is prepared, which may then lead to further toxicity studies or to actions that reduce risks. OECD has published assessments on a number of chemicals, available at <http://irptc.unep.ch/irptc/sids/sidspub.html>.

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drain into the wastewater system after their use in cleaning. The sewage treatment plant cannot filter the phosphates in the wastewater system (especially in high concentrations) before it flows down to the river and contributes to river contamination. Since all rivers eventually flow into the ocean, we pollute the ocean as well.

Several states have banned the use of phosphates in dishwashing soap and some states have proposed limiting the percentage of phosphorus concentration in laundry detergents. Almost everyone enjoys the effortless use of the automatic dishwasher for cleaning dishes. While most liquid detergents used in hand washing our dishes are phosphate-free, powdered or tablet detergents frequently used in our automatic dishwashers contain 6 to 8 percent of phosphorus by weight. This is about the same percentage of phosphorus in Miracle –Gro that is used in fertilizing

houseplants. The water quality of our community needs to be protected and protecting it includes the use of phosphate-free cleaning products.

One of several threats posed by phosphorus pollution is public health. The amount of phosphorus entering the waste water system is substantial enough to create threats to the health of the public. Though phosphates are important substances in the human body because they are a part of DNA materials and they take part in energy distribution, too much phosphate can cause health problems such as kidney damage and osteoporosis. Our bodies generally produce phosphate and we also obtain it in our diet, however, low calcium to phosphorus ratio in the diet increases the incidence of hypertension and the risk of colon-rectal cancer.

Phosphorus is one of the main nutrients required

*continued on page 9*



# Who Supports *Air Quality?*

by John Scott, BEC Board member  
with Robin Huffman contributing

As the Butte County Air Quality Management District continues its mission to curtail air pollution, they are engaging local residents in discussions with members of the BCAQMD board. The board consists of all of the members of the Board of Supervisors plus one representative from each of the municipalities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville, and Paradise, for a 10 member board. Currently, a “supermajority” of six votes is required to pass proposed air quality rules. With no provision for substitutes, and attendance not required, obtaining the supermajority to improve air quality has been a recent downfall of this board.

In the past few years, several air quality rules have been formulated in public workshops and brought before the board for consideration, but not yet passed.

Most recently, in March, the District held a series of Public Workshops in Paradise, Chico, Oroville, and Paradise Pines on the Proposed Amendments to Rule 300, Open Public Burning Requirements, Prohibitions and Exemptions. The rule was devised to help meet the requirements of California law to reduce air pollution from smoke from burning yard clippings, burning to clear land, and burning to reduce fire hazards. Smoke contains “particulate matter”, known as PM10 for the larger 10 micron particles. Particles 2.5 microns and smaller in the smoke can become permanently embedded in our lungs as we breathe.

Dr. Mark Lundberg, Health Officer for Butte County Public Health Department, has stated to the board that significant respiratory related deaths are attributed to poor local air quality. According to Lundberg, poor air quality can contribute to coronary heart disease (400 deaths per year in Butte County, which is ranked 40th out of 58 health jurisdictions, 1 being the best). And poor air quality contributes to vascular disease, of which there are 150 deaths from stroke every year in Butte County, which ranks 49th out of 58 health jurisdictions for vascular disease. The rate for chronic lower respiratory disease in Butte County is 150 deaths every year, where the county ranks 46th out of 58 on that count.

Data from air quality monitors indicate that smoke from burning vegetation and from woodburning stoves are major contributors to air pollution during certain months of the year. The Chico air quality monitors for PM10 and PM2.5 show that Chico’s air quality, in particular, is polluted beyond the level the State standard for safe air on more than a few days every year. The BCAQMD’s focus has, therefore, been to implement a rule in the Chico urban area towards Butte County’s compliance with State law. (To view yearly air quality reports and graphics see <http://www.bcaqmd.org/page/monitoring-air-quality.php>)

Over several years and many board discussions, there has been much input from the public on proposed Rule 208, Mandatory Wood Burning Curtailment Periods. Ongoing supporters include Luke Anderson of the Chico Healthy Air Alliance. In December 2008, the board declined to adopt the rule. The board instead handed the issue to the City of Chico. The vote to decline to adopt Rule 208 was unanimous, with Chico Councilmember Gruendl absent and not voting.

September 24, 2009, the board was again unable to support the proposed Rule 208, which would only have applied to the Chico urban area during a few days of the year, with many exceptions so that no home would be left without heat. Supervisors Yamaguchi, Lambert, and Connelly were absent (Connelly left just before the vote) and did not vote. After much citizen input and discussion, Councilmember Gruendl made a motion to adopt the rule, adding provisions to exempt manufactured logs and also Thanksgiving and Christmas day from the rule. This motion was supported by Supervisor Kirk, Supervisor Dolan and Councilmember White of Paradise (who proposed the exemptions). Vice Mayor Johansson of Oroville, Mayor Fichter of Gridley, and Councilmember Thompson of Biggs voted no. As six votes were needed for the motion to pass, the district was 2 votes short of adopting the rule. The matter was again sent to Chico.

January 28, 2010 the issue came back to the board, this time to approve the BCAQMD staff working with the City of Chico staff to work out the details of Chico implementing the rule itself. Several board members from outside of Chico voted against this proposal: Biggs Councilmember Thompson, Gridley Mayor Fichter, and Supervisor Connelly. However, they did not prevail. This complicated course of action is thus being pursued, an unnecessary route since the BCAQMD has authority in this matter.

In March’s board meeting Councilmember Thompson requested that BCAQMD discuss the county recommending suspending State law AB 32 at the next public meeting in Chico on April 22 (Earth Day) at 10:15 a.m. in the Chico Council Chambers. AB 32 is a first-in-the-world, comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms to achieve quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gasses.

The BCAQMD board cannot be counted on to support cleaner air. The board members need to know you support reasonable clean air rules.

Your involvement can help prevent Butte County from taking a giant step backwards on clean air policy. Encourage your elected representatives to support measures that foster clean, healthy air.

Contact the Butte County Air Quality Management District at 891-2882 for additional information and to stay current with their efforts to make local air healthier to breathe.

## Detergents *continued from page 8*

by plants for basic process of life. It promotes the growth of algae, which clouds the water and can crowd out other plants. The process of eutrophication increases the growth of algae allowing it to nurture bacteria that depletes the oxygen required by some underwater plants and certain aquatic animals to survive. The depletion of the oxygen leaves little or no oxygen for some plants and fish to continue to exist and they eventually suffocate.

As consumers we need to understand that healthy watersheds are fundamental for a healthy

environment and economy. These watersheds provide water for drinking, irrigation for agricultural and industry as well as hydroelectric power for communities and businesses. They are also imperative to our recreational needs, providing opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of our environment.

What can you do to help save the environment? Read the label and follow the instructions on household products. Look for and choose phosphate-free brands that are safe for the environment at your local grocery store.

Choose environmentally safe phosphate-free automatic dishwasher detergents such as Ecover, Seventh

## Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals

by Tristan E. Ragsdale

Do you have old, outdated potent pharmaceutical drugs lying around your medicine chest? Would you like to dispose of them in the most ecologically sound manner? Would you like to learn more about your options of disposal and their effects on the environment and society?

According to the Associated Press: “For the first time, [a study shows that it appears] more than half of all insured Americans are taking prescription medicines regularly.” Disposing of outdated medicines can be an important part of keeping your children healthy, our ecosystem clear from harmful chemicals, and eliminating confusion over taking prescription drugs in the home.

In 2002 the USGS published the results of its first-ever investigations of man-made contaminants. Utilizing highly sensitive assays, the agency located “traces of 82 different organic contaminants -- fertilizers and flame retardants as well as pharmaceuticals -- in surface waters across the nation.” More specifically some of these drugs included natural and synthetic hormones sourced from human birth control pills, antibiotics, antihypertensives, painkillers, and antidepressants.

In addition to ecological harm wrought by introducing human medicines into the ecosystem, prescription drugs can fall into the wrong hands because of children selling prescription drugs at schools. Recent reports state that teenagers are packaging drugs stolen from parents medicine cabinets and selling them at school.

According to About.com, the federal government has guidelines on properly disposing of prescription drugs to prevent possible ecological damage and from having the drugs falling into the wrong hands. Aside from contacting a medical provider regarding proper disposal, the guidelines include:

- Remove drugs from original container so that the original highly noticeable yellow containers and personal information cannot be stolen from landfills or garbage cans.
- Mix drugs in garbage with undesirable trash such as kitty litter, conditioner, or used coffee grinds to prevent garbage theft.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection agency is currently researching the effects of prescription drugs on waterways
  - Do not (unless otherwise specified) flush prescription drugs down the toilet.

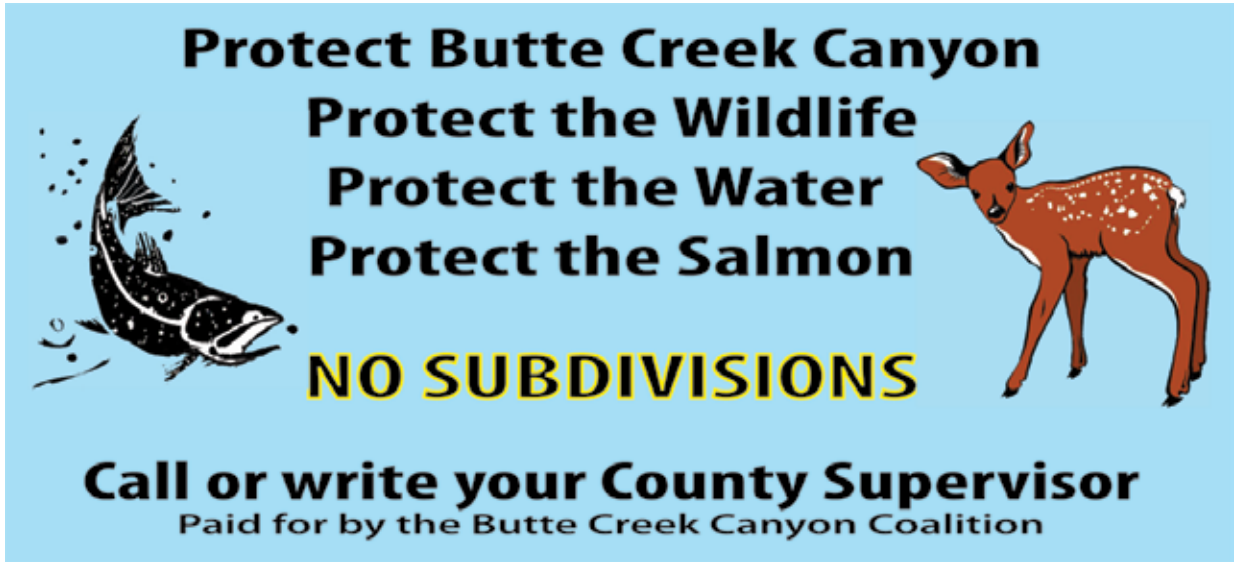
Here in the Chico local area pharmacists recommend following the above guidelines, or you may contact Dr. Phyllis Cullen at 891-0325 to participate in “Project Save.” Project Save collects outdated and used prescription drugs so they may be sent and used in third world countries.

Properly disposing of unwanted prescription drugs has many effects on our planet’s future, our children’s health and wellbeing, as well as protecting your privacy. Please follow the above guidelines for proper disposal techniques, the Earth and our future generations may depend on it!

Generation, Eco Palmolive and Trader Joe’s brand.

Choose environmentally safe phosphate free laundry detergents such as Green Works from Clorox, Seventh Generation Free and Clear Natural Laundry Detergents. Also, you can always make your own homemade recipe.

Rethink daily habits by taking baby steps and help to reduce water pollution. Share your knowledge with others. Our actions have an extensive impact on the lasting quality of our environment. We can, and must choose to make a difference!



# Development Eyes Butte Creek Canyon

by Pamela Posey, BEC Board Member

The rural nature of Butte Creek Canyon has great appeal for not only its residents, but for the cyclists, tubers, kayakers, hikers, historians, fisherfolk, artists and general lovers of nature who come to recreate and appreciate this gem in our county. However, not since the 49ers left has the canyon faced such a tentative assault as faces it now. The developers have arrived and have set their sights on the canyon lands for the new gold rush – subdivisions.

One of the developers, by the name of Signalized Intersection West, LLC (SIW), a developer based in Southern California, has purchased 326+ acres of land on the north side of Centerville Road across from the duck pond above the Honey Run Covered Bridge along the beautiful bluffs. SIW wants the area be zoned so they can build a subdivision on their property. This “cluster home” development is seemingly an environmentally sound concept, and could be so in a more appropriate area. The acreage at stake lies along steep bluffs, up to the canyon

rim, in a spring recharge area, and most importantly, in the Critical Winter Migratory Deer Herd range. This area is the southernmost extent of the lands the Department of Fish and Game has designated as critical deer habitat for their overwintering and fawning grounds. There is very little developable land on this acreage. At the April 13th Butte County Board of Supervisors meeting the public will have an opportunity to request that the Supervisors reconsider their decision to zone the area Foothill Residential against the recommendations of the Planning Department. This will be an important decision for the future of Butte Creek Canyon.

Another developer, Schuster Homes, has plans for what was initially a 1,400 home development at the mouth of the canyon extending along Potter Road to 20th Street, and over to Honey Run Road. The city of Chico recently expanded the homes to 2,100. Included in this proposed development could be a retail center, BMX course and

elementary school. This study area lies within the county’s service area, but as its location lies in close proximity to the city, it may be annexed. Again, this area lies within winter deer herd range and water recharge zone. The residents of Chico and Paradise have expressed their appreciation and concern that this viewshed should be protected.

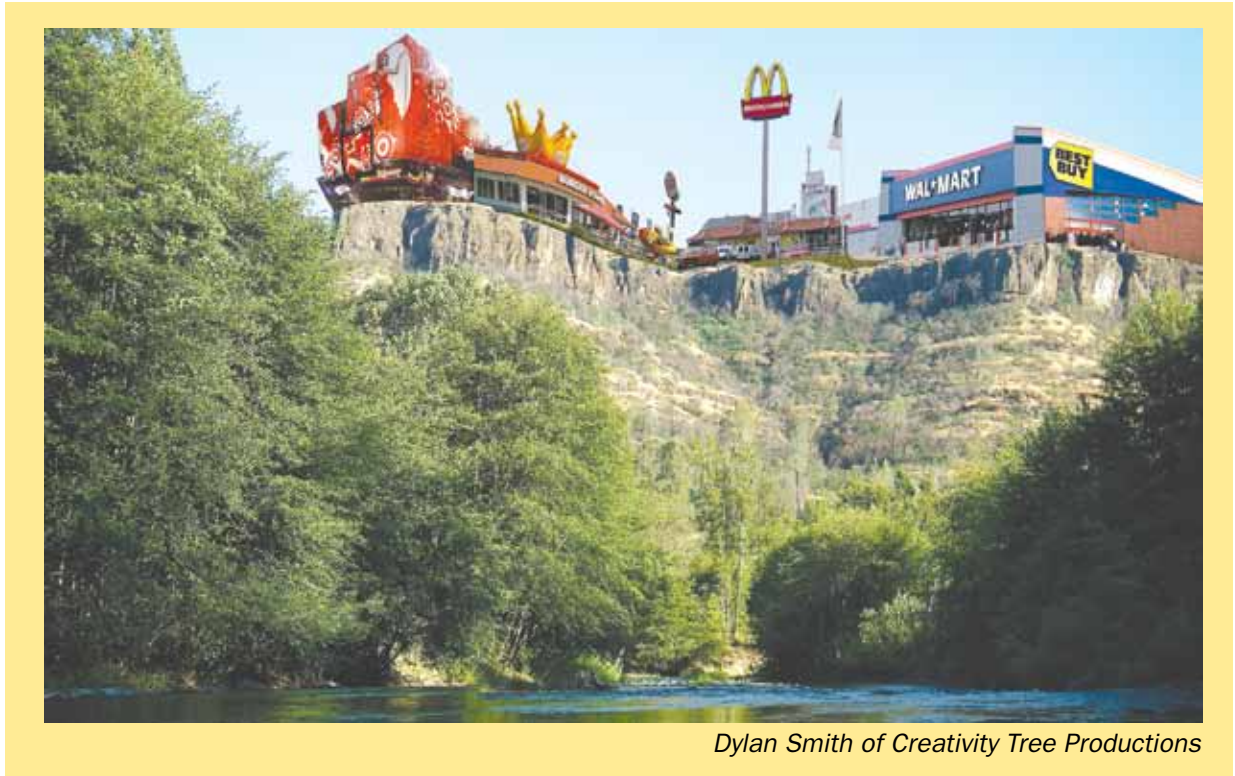
With both of these areas of proposed development are the issues of sewage, water, traffic, and fire protection. Both of these areas have burned repeatedly in just the past few years. The impacts on the surrounding environment would be significant and contrary to the Butte County General Plan 2030’s important goals of preserving and enhancing the rural character of Butte County as well as important habitat and watershed areas. These development issues run further afoul of county goals in the General Plan where it is stated that the county shall limit development in foothill areas that are constrained by fire hazards, water supply and migratory deer habitat. The General Plan 2030 is, for the most part, a sound document, environmentally sensitive and one that needs to be supported. Letters written to the Board of Supervisors or Dan Breedon, Advanced Planning Supervisor, General Plan Update, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965, stating your concerns and support of their stated goals are needed as they move through the processes of writing the new zoning ordinances and the approval or denial of these subdivisions.

Yet even more eyes are on Butte Creek canyon. Paradise Irrigation District (PID) has proposed to expand its Sphere of Influence (SOI) to include areas extending west almost to Highway 99, south to Lake Oroville, and north down Butte Creek Canyon to Little Butte Creek. PID is attempting to address perceived drought prevention measures to access additional sources of water for Paradise and Magalia. This could include the possibility of drilling a well in the Tuscan aquifer near lower Neal Road, and diverting more water from Little Butte Creek. Pumping the Tuscan aquifer up to Paradise is not at all reasonable nor economically feasible. Extending its straw further into Little Butte Creek would drain even more of the life-giving source for the endangered spring run Chinook salmon, as well as affecting the surrounding environment. Letters need to be sent to George Barber, Paradise Irrigation District, 5325 Black Olive Drive, Paradise, CA 95969, with your concerns for PID’s expansion plans.

Corporate eyes on the canyon include those of Wal Mart for a proposed development at the Skyway gateway to Paradise. Wal Mart has not given up and has not gone away. This developer continues to buy property at the entrance to Paradise along the rim of Butte Creek Canyon. With two stores already in the area, one in Chico and one in Oroville, this one seems to be entirely superfluous. The impact would also be highly detrimental to the small family owned businesses in Paradise. Impacts on Butte Creek Canyon would include lights shining down into the canyon, canyon rim encroachment, flying trash and runoff from the parking lots. This will permanently scar the viewshed shared by Canyon and Paradise residents alike. Sending your comments of concern to Supervisor Yamaguchi, 747 Elliot Road, Paradise, CA 95969, is highly encouraged.

Butte Creek Canyon is a treasure, one that seems to be highly coveted these days. Your letters of concern and support for the goals of the County General Plan are needed. You can also contact the Butte Creek Canyon Coalition for further information and to volunteer your help. Their email is: [buttecreekcanyon@digitalpath.net](mailto:buttecreekcanyon@digitalpath.net)

*Please help keep Butte Creek Canyon rural, beautiful, and most importantly, a safe corridor for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.*



Dylan Smith of Creativity Tree Productions



Butte Environmental Council's

# Endangered Species Faire



*Saturday*

## May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

*Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park (Chico, CA)*

Walk,  
Ride,  
Take the Bus!

*It's THE place  
to be  
on May Day!*



**Live Animals  
Educational Booths  
Interactive Activities**

*Great Entertainment & Food!*



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For more information 891-6424 [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)



**Natural Flows**  
*continued from page 1*

pumping amplified the duration of low flows in the fall, which directly affected the spawning Chinook salmon.<sup>1</sup> The resulting impact to the salmon runs was devastating. A river that once was home to substantial fall runs of Chinook saw consistently less than 600 in a season. Under suitable, natural flow conditions this river was capable of supporting up to 17,000 salmon<sup>2</sup> estimated in a 1957 study by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Major cones of depression surround the lower Cosumnes River. Increased reliance on groundwater led to overdraft, calling for management strategies that would address the declining surface and groundwater supplies. A UC Davis team led by Jeff Mount developed a model that predicted a reduction of groundwater pumping on the order of 190,000 acre-feet per year would be required to restore the river's flows.

It's hard not to draw similarities between our beleaguered Butte Creek and the Cosumnes River.

The adjacent illustrations show different types of stream aquifer interactions. Conditions A and B can be natural variations due to seasonal or hydrologic changes. While C may also represent natural conditions of an ephemeral system, it is indicative of a dry or arid climate. For Northern California environments, C depicts an unnatural, anthropogenic change related to unsustainable human use of water resources.

Illustrations A and B indicate a change in hydraulic gradient and are representative of many of the streams along the eastern edge of the Sacramento Valley<sup>3</sup>. Groundwater feeds the stream in A, usually during the dry season with little to no runoff from snowmelt or rainfall. We find these conditions along our streams in the upper reaches such as Big Chico Creek above Salmon Hole and Butte Creek above the DeSabra Powerhouse.

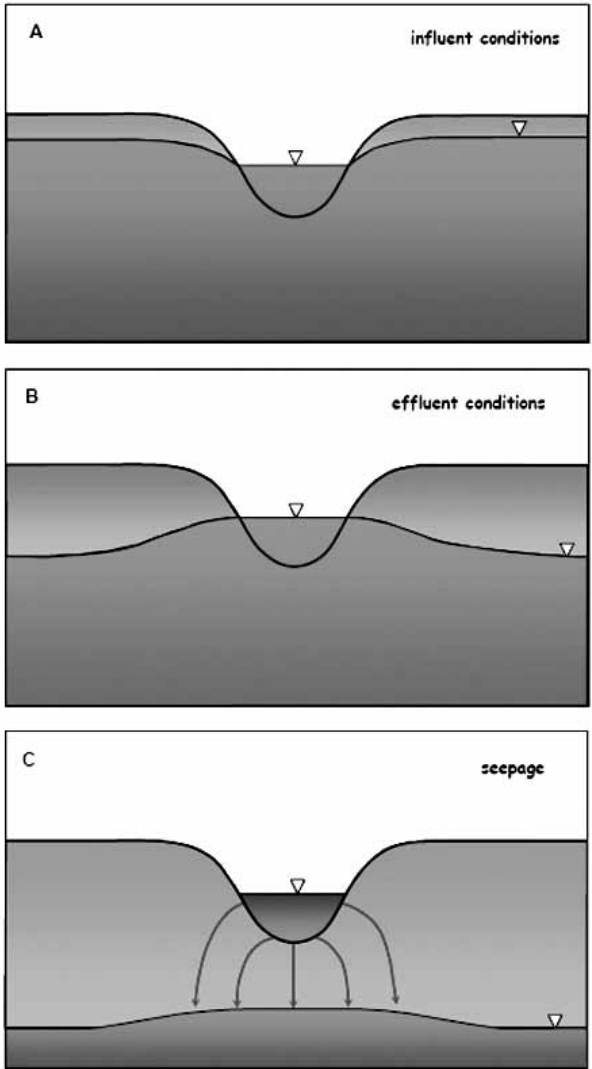
Our streams depend on groundwater or they will flow too low or dry.

The stream recharges groundwater during periods of high surface flow from runoff of rain events or snowmelt as depicted in B.

Some reaches of the Cosumnes River function similarly to the stream seepage as shown in C, where the stream flows down into the aquifer because of the lowered groundwater table.

Without research it is difficult to understand how stream and aquifer systems interact; likewise, it is difficult to know

when and where the system as a whole can become broken as depicted in C. The methods for getting the data are well established, and research is needed to understand the local hydrologic systems.



*...effective land and water management requires a clear understanding of the linkages between ground water and surface water as it applies to any given hydrologic setting<sup>4</sup>.*

The connections between streams and groundwater have been verified in well established studies of disturbed hydrologic systems throughout the world. In California, studies on the Carmel River<sup>5</sup>, Mojave River<sup>6</sup>, and the Cosumnes River all describe the negative impacts to stream flows from local groundwater pumping. Robert Glennon's book "Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters" (2002) also explores the fate of the Cosumnes River and others as well as wetlands, springs, and lakes.

Each hydrologic system differs in the precise ways that the groundwater and surface waters interact. The variables are numerous and complex to assess; however, some of the more accessible information are the types of rock the rivers traverse, the stream stage and the groundwater elevations. The Bureau's plan for water transfers ignores this complexity in their FONSI. Instead of claiming no significant environmental impact, they should be collecting the data needed to understand the Tuscan aquifer system as a whole.

We need greater focus on protection and conservation of local water resources, and we must demand adequate science that will enable the regional hydrologic cycle to remain largely natural and well managed into the future.

<sup>1</sup> Fleckenstein, J., et al. Managing Surface Water-Groundwater to Restore Fall Flows in the Cosumnes River, Journal of Water Resources Planning And Management. 2004.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Draft anadromous fish restoration plan: a plan to increase natural production of anadromous fish in the Central Valley of California. 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Graphic found in Chapter 3: Links Between River Flows and Groundwater Conditions of the Cosumnes Research Group phase I project. This report was last accessed on March 24, 2010 at <http://baydelta.ucdavis.edu/reports/crg1?q=reports/crg1/hydrology>.

<sup>4</sup> Winter, Thomas C., et al. Ground water and surface water: a single resource. U.S. Geological Survey circular – 1139. 1998.

<sup>5</sup> Kondolf, G. M., et al. Effects of bank storage and well pumping on base flow, Carmel River, Monterey County, California. Journal of Hydrology, 91:351-369, 1987.

<sup>6</sup> Lines, G. C. Ground-water and surface-water relations along the Mojave River, southern California. USGS Water Resources Investigations Report, 95-4189, 1996.

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# John D. Burge, CPA

## Certified Public Accountant

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## Costs of New Era Mine

*continued from page 5*

CEQA Writ of Mandate. As of December County had spent \$38K, and this figure has likely grown by about \$10K since then. In his declaration for the Motion for Fees, Deputy County Counsel stated that they have had no success collecting any more from NC so this cost is somewhere between \$13K and \$25K.

2. An estimate of the number of hours that Butte County Department of Development Services and County Counsel have invested in this project is difficult to know. It is far from over as DDS is planning on another trip to Sacramento to a SMGB hearing about NC.

3. Butte County Superior Court just ruled that Lippe, Gaffney, Wagner LLP are to receive \$144,075 for their fees to represent us in this case. This in addition to \$2,652 awarded for costs (filing fees, document preparation, etc.). The county is required to go after NC to pay, pursuant to the indemnification agreement NC signed in August 2008. NC has recently denied their responsibility under this agreement.

4. Cost out of pocket for the county is approximately \$167,000 (assuming \$19K for the county's defense costs, \$144K attorney fees, and \$2.7K costs). This will likely come out of the general fund. North Continent has yet to pay as required, and may not have any unencumbered assets with which to collect payment. The only known asset is the \$270K financial assurance for reclamation, held jointly with the Office of Mine Reclamation and Butte County. OMR is moving to seize these funds for reclamation of the site.

If cost of reclamation exceeds \$270K, which OMR seems to think it may, the County will likely be out those costs also.

### Costs to the Neighbors

Dry Creek Coalition has spent in excess of \$102,000. This breaks down to:

1. \$22K in the County administrative process: Attorneys, Hydrology report, Steve Streeter declaration and appearance, Consultation with various experts, etc.).
2. \$80K spent for Keith Wagner's representation in court and before SMGB and CVRWQCB. They expect to receive a percentage of this from the judge's award. Mr. Wagner represented DCC and BEC for a greatly reduced fee because of the environmental impacts this case represented. As part of this agreement he will collect closer to his "Market Rate" or normal fee out of the Judge's award for "Fees." A good share of this \$80K was spent petitioning vari-

ous agencies and is not recoverable. This petitioning, however, was a vital part of our victory.

When this is all over and done DCC members will have spent over \$50,000, which they will likely never recover.

### Cleanup and Costs

The March 11 Order to Comply requires many things from NC, the main one being a hearing before the State Mining and Geology Board in Sacramento on April 15, incurring more costs to the DCC and to the County.

The Notice of Violation said there is an "imminent threat to the public or environment". According to a recent note from Philip Woodward, Senior Engineering Geologist of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, "the ponds are being managed by an on-site caretaker to prevent overflow, however they do need maintenance and the site needs to be stabilized against erosion, especially

since the mine is shut down. I will be issuing a Notice of Violation to the owner/operator in the near future. I am working with Butte County and Office of Mine Reclamation to get the site stabilized."

It is estimated that the misjudgment of Supervisor Yamaguchi and Supervisor Connelly cost the taxpayers of Butte County at least \$167,000 so far, plus untold hours of staff time, and the site isn't reclaimed yet.

Supervisor Dolan and Supervisor Kirk voted for the New Era Mine to get a new permit, which would have required New Era Mine to follow environmental law.

A third vote with Dolan and Kirk would have saved the county tax payers a lot of time and money, would have protected the Dry Creek watershed and environment, and would have saved the neighbors and concerned citizens of Butte County a lot of trouble in protecting their properties from a misguided mining operation.

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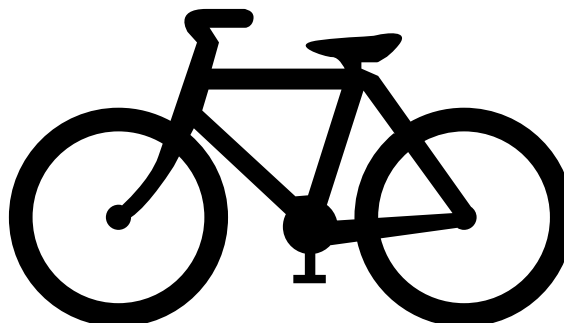
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The Crash of 2009  
continued from page 6

The other very serious passage problem is right above the Highway 99 bridge, just south of Chico. For three years running, fish have refused to make the last run up to the Durham Mutual Water District dam and have retreated to the best cool water downstream of the bridge. Unfortunately the diversions at Parrott/Phelan diversion and the Durham Mutual dam take more than 65% of the water out of the creek upstream, and the water temperatures soar when we have warm June days. The Department of Fish and Game have been rescuing (see Chico E-R article link below) these stranded fish for two of the three years.

In 2007, more than 200 fish died as no one did anything. Last year, the temperature in the creek reached 80 degrees Fahrenheit two days before they were finally rescued. All 28 fish were tagged with radio receivers by UC Davis researchers and DFG during the rescue. All but two receivers were later recovered; however, none of the fish made it above the Covered Bridge where cooler water may have helped them survive. It is almost certain that none of the fish spawned; most died within a couple weeks. Spending the weekend in bathtub water temperature before the rescue will usually kill any and all salmon. Read the Enterprise Record articles at: <http://www.buttetecreek.org/documents/FishneedWaterER.pdf>

The solution is simple. More water is needed below the dam to facilitate passage. This could easily be accomplished by substituting pumped water from wells in the two districts, Durham Mutual and M&T Ranches, which divert most of the water at Parrott/Phelan dam. Recognizing that pumping groundwater is a sensitive issue in the North State, people need to understand we are far too close to losing these fish to be selfishly using surface water when the fish don't have enough in the creek. It doesn't make sense to argue against groundwater pumping for farmers when an endangered species is on the brink of extinction. We can find a way to provide the water for the fish when they need it and still protect the groundwater if we work together and be creative. Groundwater substitution has been used successfully on Deer and Mill creeks for years to provide fish passage by not diverting surface water. Ground water is pumped only when the fish need the water the most.

Aren't there laws to protect the fish you might ask. Yes, there are laws. They simply are not enforced. Fortunately, the good flows this year should make Willow Slough, Weir 2, and Durham Mutual much more passable. We can't forget, however, that dry years will return and fish will be stranded again. It is time to seriously and aggressively protect beneficial uses including critical habitat (read "water") for the endangered Spring Run salmon and steelhead trout. Hoping that the fish will come back on their own is a recipe for extinction. Please support the efforts of Friends of Butte Creek to keep these fish alive and well. Visit [www.buttetecreek.org](http://www.buttetecreek.org) for more information.



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

# Become a BEC Volunteer!

*We need YOUR help!*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

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

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

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

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

#### 1) 20/20 Recycling Centers

California Department of Conservation  
Albertson's, 1050 Oroville Dam Blvd., Oroville  
Albertson's, 146 W. East Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 1586 Hwy 99, Gridley  
Safeway, 1016 W. Sacramento 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 Scraps Metals/Steel Mill Recyclers

786 Oroville-Chico hwy, Durham 342-4930 M-F 8-5

#### 3) AS Chico Recycling Saturday Donation Center

417 Cherry St., Chico, 898-5033

Sat. 10-2:30 www.aschico.com/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  
Tu-F 9-3:30, Sat 9-1

120 Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility  
879. 2350, Toll-free # 866.369. DUMP.

http://www.buttecounty.net/publicworks

#### 13) Recology Waste Curbside Recycling 342-4444

#### 14) Recology Oroville Recycling Center & Household Hazardous Waste

2720 S. 5th Ave. Oroville, 533-5868: Recycling  
Center, M-Sa 8:30-3:30; Hazardous Waste 1st Friday  
of each month: 9:00am to 2:00pm and 3rd Friday  
of each month: 9:00am to 2:00pm. Free to City of  
Oroville residents. 1-866-HAZCATT (429-2288)

#### 15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley

#### House-hold 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) Northern Recycling & Waste Services

(Paradise Cycles) 920 American Way,  
Paradise CA 95969. M-F 8- 5  
www.paradiserecycle.com

#### 17) Recycle Paradise

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

#### 18) TOMRA Pacific

Collins & Denny Mkt. 434 Plumas Ave, Oroville  
Raley's Supermarket, 2325 Myers St. Oroville (530)  
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) Earthworm Soil Factory

704 Neal Rd, 895-9676

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: www.recyclebutte.net

# Calendar

**Ongoing, Tuesday** – 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. For those at the intermediate level with some volleyball experience. Call Karen, 899-8305, or Betty, 345-7205.

**Ongoing – Volunteer Trail Work in Bidwell Park.** Volunteers needed to work on trails or remove invasive plants. Various projects are scheduled almost every week. For more information, call park volunteer coordinator Lise at 896-7831. Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. If you're under 18, please bring release form signed by parent or guardian.

**Tuesdays, April – Volunteer Tuesdays** in the Park. **Annie's Glen and Camellia Way Park.** Pick up litter and remove weeds from 1 to 4 pm. Meet at the pedestrian bridge in the middle of Annie's Glen (across from Morning Thunder restaurant). Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing. The City Park Division will provide tools, water and instruction. If you're under 18, please bring a release form signed by parent or guardian. For directions, call 624-3982. Heavy rain cancels.

**Wednesdays, April – Volunteer Wednesdays** in the Park. From noon to 3 pm, meet April 14: Caper Acres Parking Lot. April 21: **One Mile Recreation Area.** Help remove invasive plants. Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes, long pants and long sleeves -- there may be some poison oak in the area. The City Park Division will provide tools, water and instruction. If you're under 18, please bring a release form signed by parent or guardian. Heavy rain cancels. Call 624-3982 if you can't find the site.

**Wednesday, April 14 – Yahi Program, Table Mountain.** If you have wondered how Table Mountain was formed or why it has such spectacular wildflower displays, Albin Bills, retired botany professor from Butte College, will give a presentation of the wildflower display on Table Mountain. A very timely topic, inasmuch as the display should be spectacular this year due to the rains we've been getting. Conference Room of the Chico Public Library, at 7:00PM. For further information call 343-9277.

**Wednesday, April 14 – Chico Peace and Justice Center** (526 Broadway). Come to an informal meeting at 12pm and get a better understanding of what the Chico Peace and Justice Center does and how you can get involved in the work. This meeting should last no longer than an hour. Please send an email to [activists@chico-peace.org](mailto:activists@chico-peace.org) to let us know you are coming.

**Friday, April 16 – River Partners 12th Anniversary Dinner & Silent Auction.** 6:00PM at the Big Room at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. 1075 E. 20th Street, Chico. Advanced registration required. Reserve your seats early, because this event typically sells out. For more info go [www.riverpartners.org](http://www.riverpartners.org) or call (530) 894-5401 ext. 222.

**Saturday, April 17 – Grange Fundraiser.** The Chico Grange's 3rd Annual Open House will take place on Saturday, April 17th at the Grange Hall at 2775 Old Nord Avenue from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This is an event not to be missed! Live music, community information booths, children's activities, a potluck dinner will be available that day. The Grange will provide beverages and a meat and a vegetarian entree. Please bring a generous portion of your favorite side dish to share (salad, vegetables, rice, or pasta). This event is free of charge to the public but we do invite you to either become a Grange member or make a small donation. Please bring your own lawn chair for outdoors, and carpool if possible. The Chico Grange's mission is to promote local agriculture, environmental stewardship, and a vibrant community. Call 895.1976 for more info.

**Saturday, April 17 – Sacramento River Float.** 7:30am-6pm, Red Bluff to Los Molinos; Trust

& AS Adventure Outings. 530.345.1865 or [liz@sascrivertrust.org](mailto:liz@sascrivertrust.org)

**Saturday, April 17 – Spring Trails Days in Upper Park.** Help maintain trails from 9 am to noon (or longer if you wish to continue). Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing. The City Park Division will provide tools, water and instruction. If you're under 18, please bring release form signed by parent or guardian. Call Trail Crew Leader Lloyd Johns at 624-9672 for work site location.

**Saturday, April 17 – Feather Falls Hike.** Sierra Club Yahi Group sponsored. Come enjoy the 6th highest waterfall in the U.S. and the beautifully flowered and shaded, 8-9 mile round trip trail to it. Please wear boots or sturdy hiking shoes and bring lunch, water and carpool \$\$\$. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM or at the NW corner of the Oroville Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:35AM. (grade 2, class B) Leader: Julian: 893-1994; Asst. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491.

**Thursday, April 22 – Sacramento River Trust 25th Anniversary Dinner.** 5:30pm-10:00pm, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Mezzanine Room. 530.345.1865 or [liz@sascrivertrust.org](mailto:liz@sascrivertrust.org)

**Saturday, April 24 – Chico Park Division's Earth Day Project.** 10AM to 1PM (grade 1, class A) Meet at the Chico Creek Nature Center in Lower Park. We'll work on restoration and clean up around the Nature Center, Deer Pens and Cedar Grove areas. Wear sturdy closed toe shoes and bring gloves if you have them. Tools and water will be provided. Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

**Sunday, April 25 – The 2010 Wildflower Century.** Registration on [Active.com](http://Active.com) is now open!

**Sunday, April 25 – Sutter Buttes Hike.** 8:00am – 4:00pm, Yuba Historical Society and Trust 530.345.1865 or [liz@sascrivertrust.org](mailto:liz@sascrivertrust.org)

**Tuesday, April 27 – Sacramento River Moonlight Float.** 4:00pm-10:00pm, Irvine Finch to Scotty's Trust & AS Adventure Outings. 530.345.1865 or [liz@sascrivertrust.org](mailto:liz@sascrivertrust.org).

**Saturday, May 1 – The 31st Annual Endangered Species Faire.** Hosted by Butte Environmental Council, Cedar Grove, Bidwell Park, 10 AM to 4 PM. Since 1979, the Endangered Species Faire has commemorated Earth Day with a full-day of exhibits, activities, presentations and entertainment. Between 6,000 and 10,000 individuals of all ages visit and participate in Northern California's oldest annual environmental fair held at Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park (530) 891-6424.

**Saturday, May 8 – Monthly Birding Field Trip** to Upper Bidwell Park. Altacal Audubon (held the second Saturday of each month). Call for starting time and location. Bring binoculars, water, snacks walking shoes and proper clothing for the expected weather conditions. Rain cancels. Contact: Steve King at 566-6136

**Saturday, May 8 – Water Quality Monitoring** along Big Chico Creek. Offered by Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance from 9 am to noon. Meet at the Five Mile Recreation Area parking lot (off Centennial Ave). New volunteers welcome! Call Timmarie at 342-6620.

Steve Miller  
Broker



Miller Real Estate

Chico, CA  
530-345-6061  
email: [steveinchico@att.net](mailto:steveinchico@att.net)  
CA DRE 01122306

**Saturday, May 8 – Bidwell Park Day Hike.** Sierra Club Yahi Group sponsored. Take a mostly shady, flat 10 mile trek along the south side of Big Chico Creek. Meet at One Mile's Caper Acres at 10AM. Our walk is on paved park road past Five Mile to the upper park (via a gravel pedestrian/bike path) and ends at the golf course. We'll return to Five Mile to eat our lunch and return to parking lot by 2-3PM. Bring water and lunch (or buy at golf course). Rain cancels. (grade 2, class A) Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

**Wednesday, May 12 – Yahi Program: I Drive 55.** Dave Garcia, Chair of the Yahi Group and retired State Park Ranger, will show us the film "I Drive 55." Watch and learn a simply way to help reduce our consumption, lessen carbon emissions and increase safety on our roadways. Conference Room of the Chico Public Library, at 7:00PM. For further information call 343-9277.

**Saturday May 15 – Botanical Illustration,** Friends of the Herbarium. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. Registration for the workshop is \$40.00 (\$30.00 for students and for members of Friends of the Herbarium); please register in advance. Class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants); older children are welcome to register. For more information about registration or directions please contact the Chico State Herbarium office at (530) 898-3511 or NS@csuchico.edu. Contact Judy McCrary at jmccrary@digitalpath.net.

**Saturday, May 15 -- Sutter Buttes Hike**  
8:00am to 3:00pm, Yuba Historical Society and Trust  
530.345.1865 or liz@sascrivertrust.org

**Sunday, May 16 -- Sacramento River Float**  
9:00am-4:00pm, Jelly's Ferry to Bend Bridge  
The Trust & Friends of the River  
530.345.1865 or liz@sascrivertrust.org

**Saturday, May 22 – Hooked on Fishing,** Not on Drugs. Free annual fishing derby from 7 am to 1 pm at Horseshoe Lake. For children ages 14 and under, limit 1 fish per child. Separate area for anglers ages 1-5! Expert local anglers on hand to help coach. Bring your own gear (no lead sinkers) or borrow from organizers. To donate or volunteer, call 891-4757.

**Saturday, May 22 – Chambers Creek Hike.** Sierra Club Yahi Group sponsored. A steady climb of 1,500' to beautiful Chambers Creek Falls. Those wishing to go on for more exercise can continue on the trail to climb another 2000' to the top of the Feather River Canyon for nice views of upper Chambers Creek and the Bucks Lake Wilderness. Bring lunch, water, long pants and shoes with good tread. Round-trip distance to the top of about 8-9 miles unless we get stopped by snow (or 3-4 miles to the falls). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM or Spring Valley School (Pentz Rd. and Hwy 70) at 8:30AM. (grade 2, class A) Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

**Saturday, May 29 – Cross Country Ski, Lassen Park.** Sierra Club Yahi Group sponsored. We'll leave from the Bumpass Hell Parking Lot, climb Ski Heil Peak and descend the open south slopes. Metal edged skis and climbing skins (or a very aggressive waxless pattern) advisable. Date may change if the Park road is

not plowed to Bumpass Hell in time. Bring appropriate gear, clothes, \$ for drivers, etc. Call leader for details and equipment recommendations. (grade 2, class B) Leader: Ken, 693-2134.

**Monday, May 31 – Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting** in Council Chambers starting at 6:30 pm. The public is invited to attend.

**Saturday, June 5 – Humboldt to Humbug Summits Day Hike.** Sierra Club Yahi Group sponsored. This is an 8 or 9 mile hike rolling across the ridge running from one summit to the other, all on the Pacific Crest Trail, nothing very steep up or down. A great opportunity to see the volcanic rocks on the ridge of the long gone Mount Yahi caldera. Overviews of and a bit of the history of Mount Yahi. Wildflowers and snow plants should be poking out of the snowmelt mud. This is a shuttle trip of about 100 miles round trip. Bring sturdy shoes, carpool dollars, a good sized lunch, and plenty of water, none on the hike. Dress in layers, including a wind shell or jacket. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM. (Grade 2, Class A) Leader - John 872-8258; Asst. Leader: Jeanne 899-9980.

**Wednesday, June 9 – Yahi Program.** Marianne Werner, Sierra Club member and retired instructor from Butte College, will tell us about the Mayan civilization: "The Day of the Dead, and Edward James and an Endeavor of Las Pozas." Conference Room of the Chico Public Library, at 7:00PM. 343-9277.

**Saturday, June 12 – Monthly Birding Field Trip** to Upper Bidwell Park. Altacal Audubon (held the second Saturday of each month). Call for starting time and location. Bring binoculars, water, snacks walking shoes and proper clothing for the expected weather conditions. Rain cancels. Contact: Steve King at 566-6136.

**Saturday, June 12 – Water Quality Monitoring** along Big Chico Creek. Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance. From 9 am to noon, meet at the Five Mile Recreation Area parking lot (off Centennial Ave). New volunteers welcome! Call Timmarie at 342-6620.

**Thursday, June 17 – Sierra Club Newsletter Folding.** Join us to help fold and sort the newsletter for mailing. It only takes about an hour. Volunteers are always needed: newcomers and old members are both welcome. Call 343-9277 for directions and more info.

**Thursday - Sunday, June 17-20 – Yosemite National Park Backpack to Glen Aulin and Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River.** Sierra Club Yahi Group sponsored. Hike down the Tuolumne River from Tuolumne Meadows 6-7 miles to scenic Glen Aulin to set up a base camp. Day hikes to spectacular California and Waterwheel Falls and a nearby peak. Hike out on Sunday. Individual commissary. Limited space. Call to reserve your spot. Cost: \$10 per person and \$5 for permit. Call leader in advance. (grade 2, class B) Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

**Friday, June 18 -- Dinner and Dancing. BEC Matching Grant Fundraiser.** Doors Open at 6:00 pm, Sierra Nevada Big Room. Tickets at BEC. 530.891-6424.

**Saturday, June 19 – Sacramento River Loop Bike Ride.** Sierra Club Yahi Group sponsored. A flat, leisurely 15 mile round trip past orchards along Sacramento Avenue to the Sacramento River and return to Chico on River Road. Bring lunch and water. Helmet required. Meet at Subway Restaurant, corner of W. Sacramento Ave. and Nord Avenue at 10AM. (grade 2, class A) Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977

**Saturday, June 19 – Introduction to the Willows of California, Friends of the Herbarium.** From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$100.00 personal, \$125.00 business (\$90.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 20 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 8 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact John Bair at john@mcbaintrush.com or (707) 826-7794 ext14. For more information about workshop registration please contact the Chico State Herbarium office at (530) 898-3511 or [NS@csuchico.edu](mailto:NS@csuchico.edu)

**Monday, June 28 – Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting** in Council Chambers starting at 6:30 pm. The public is invited to attend.

**Saturday, July 10 – Water Quality Monitoring along Big Chico Creek.** Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance. 9 am to noon, meet at the Five Mile Recreation Area parking lot (off Centennial Ave). New volunteers welcome! For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620.





**Altacal Audubon Society**  
PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927  
ptj64@sbcglobal.net  
www.altacal.org

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

**Arboretum Management Club, CSUC**  
**Big Chico Creek Restoration**  
First & Normal Sts., Chico, CA 95929  
530.345.4542  
www.csuchico.edu/amc  
mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu

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

**A.S. Environmental Affairs Council**  
BMU 203, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5701 or 530.218.5820  
Fax: 530.898.6014  
www.csuchico.edu/eac  
asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

**Barber Neighborhood Association**  
(Southwest Chico neighborhood)  
barberneighbors@yahoo.com

**Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation**  
P.O. Box 841, Durham, CA 95938  
530.345.1700  
www.kirshner.org

**Bidwell Park Endowment Fund**  
PO Box 3223, Chico, CA 95927-3223  
530.345.7265  
ptombarrett@sbcglobal.net

**Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**  
PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927  
530.343.9004 (Wildlife Help Phone)

**Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance**  
PO Box 461, Chico, CA 95927  
530.892.2196  
www.bigchicocreek.org  
coordinator@bigchicocreek.org

**Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy**  
PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927  
530.893.5399, Fax: 530.893.0694  
www.buttecreekwatershed.org  
creek@buttecreekwatershed.org

**Butte Environmental Council, Inc.**  
116 W. 2nd St. Ste 3  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.891.6424, Fax: 530.891.6426  
www.becnet.org, staff@becnet.org

**Butte Humane Society**  
2579 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928  
530.343.7917, Fax: 530.343.3734  
www.buttehumane.org  
shelter@buttehumane.org

**California Conservation Corps**  
2725 Hwy 32, Ste F Chico, CA 95973  
530.894.0495, www.ccc.ca.gov

**California Native Plant Society**  
2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.447.2677, Fax: 916.447.2727  
cnps@cnps.org, www.cnps.org

**California Native Plant Society**  
**Mt Lassen Chapter**  
PO Box 3212, Chico, CA 95927  
530.343.8240  
wyethia@earthlink.net

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

**California Park Association**  
1750 Humboldt Rd., Chico, CA 95928  
530.343.4161, Fax: 530.894.6984  
www.calipark.com

**California Sportfishing Protection Alliance**  
1316 Neilson St., Berkeley, CA 94702  
510.526.4049; jbeuttler@aol.com  
www.calsport.org

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

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

**Cherokee Preservation Society**  
530.534.0400, Fax: 530.534.0400

**Chico Avenues Neighborhood Association**  
PO Box 4510, Chico, CA 95927  
www.chicoavenues.org  
chicoavenues@sbcglobal.net

**Chico Certified Farmer's Market**  
305 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928  
530.893.3276, Karrottalk@aol.com  
Terry Givens, Market Manager

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

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

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

**Chico Food Not Bombs**  
Email: zrogers@sunset.net  
(530) 893-5772

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

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

**Chico Natural Foods Coop**  
818 Main St., Chico, CA 95928  
530.891.1713, www.chiconatural.com

**Chico Peace and Justice Center**  
526 Broadway, Chico, CA 95928  
530.893.9078, www.chico-peace.org  
chico-peace@sbcglobal.net

**Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program**  
PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530.895.0866  
roger@streaminders.org

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

**Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE)**  
BMU 309, 3rd Floor, CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5817, Fax: 530.898.6431  
caveclerical@csuchico.edu, www.aschico.com/cave

**Community Legal Information Center, CSUC**  
**Environmental Advocates**  
Chico, CA 95926, clic@csuchico.edu  
530.898.4354, Fax: 530.898.4911  
www.csuchico.edu/clic/ea  
clic@csuchico.edu

**Environmental Action & Resource Center**  
CSU Chico, BMU 301  
Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5676, Fax: 530.898.6782  
www.csuchico.edu/earc  
earc@csuchico.edu

**Environmental Water Caucus (EWC)**  
319 Lenox St., Oakland, CA 94610  
Land: 510.893.1330 Cell: 510.693.4979  
Fax: 510.893.1331; www.ewccalifornia.org  
enesmith@ewccalifornia.org

**Farm Sanctuary**

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

**Flying Mammal Rescue of California**

916.838.7002  
admin@flyingmammalrescue.org  
www.flyingmammalrescue.org

**Friends of Bidwell Park**

PO Box 3036, Chico, CA 95927  
530.892.1666  
www.friendsofbidwellpark.org  
info@friendsofbidwellpark.org

**Friends of Butte Creek**

PO Box 3305, Chico, CA 95927  
530-228-5342  
friends@buttecreek.org  
www.buttecreek.org

**Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium**

CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5381  
ljaneway@csuchico.edu  
www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

**Friends of Plumas Wilderness**

PO Box 225, Taylorsville, CA 95983  
530.283.6649

**Friends of the River**

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.friendsoftheriver.org  
info@friendsoftheriver.org  
916.442.3155, Fax: 916.442.3396

**GRUB (Growing Resourcefully United Bellies)**

530.680.4543

**Habitat for Humanity**

2288 Park Ave Ste A  
Chico, CA 95926  
Mail: PO Box 3073, Chico CA 95927  
530.343.7423, www.buttehabitat.org  
tritter@buttehabitat.org

**Institute for Sustainable Development**

CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.3333, Fax: 898.3336  
sustainability@csuchico.edu  
http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/

**Kids & Creeks**

PO Box 3271, Chico, CA 95927  
530.895.1749  
contact@kidsandcreeks.org  
www.kidsandcreeks.org

**KZFR**

341 Boradway St Ste 411  
Chico, CA 95927  
530.895.0706, Fax: 530.895.0775  
Studio: 530.895.0131  
On Air: 530.895.0167  
www.kzfr.org, G.M.: jill@kzfr.org

**Lassen Forest Preservation Group**

1540 Vilas Road  
Cohasset, CA 95973  
530.342.1641

**Little Chico Creek Watershed Group**

379 E 10th Ave, Chico, CA 95926  
530.892.1227; nanibay@hotmail.com

**Middle Mountain Foundation**

PO Box 3359  
Yuba City, CA 95992-3359  
530.671.6116  
www.middlemountain.org  
middlemountain@yahoo.com

**Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy**

40652 Hwy 36 East  
Mill Creek, CA 96061  
Phone & Fax: 530.595.4470  
milcrk1@aol.com

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

PO Box 4512, Chico, CA 95927-4512  
530.345.6125

**Northern California Regional Land Trust**

167 E. Third Ave, Chico, CA 95926  
530.894.7738  
Fax: 530.894.7738  
www.landconservation.org  
ncrlt@landconservation.org

**Plumas Forest Project**

PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103  
530.836.0461  
John Preschutti  
always@psln.com

**River Partners**

580 Vallombrosa Ave  
Chico, CA 95926  
530.894.5401 ext 22  
www.riverpartners.org  
info@riverpartners.org

**Sacramento River Preservation Trust**

631 Flume St.  
Box 5366, Chico 95927  
530.345.1865  
Fax: 530.899.5105  
www.sacrivetrust.org  
jmerz@sacrivetrust.org

**Sacramento River Watershed Program**

PO Box 188585  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
916.549.4017, www.sacrivetrust.org  
marylee@sacrivetrust.org

**Shady Creek Outdoor School**

(formerly known as Woodleaf Outdoor School)  
530.292.3436  
georges@sutter.k12.ca.us  
www.shadycreek.org

**Sierra Club, Yahi Group**

PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927  
530.345.2696  
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/

**Sierra Forest Legacy**

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95811  
916.442.3155 x207  
Fax: 916.442.3396  
craig@sierraforestlegacy.org

**South Chico Neighborhood Association**

PO Box 3582, Chico, CA 95927  
guzzettidavid@yahoo.com

**Southwest Chico Neighborhood Association**

www.swchicoe.org  
swcna@swchicoe.org

**South Campus Neighborhood Council**

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

**Streaminders**

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

**The Cause**

530.895.8852  
www.be-the-cause.org

**The Bidwell Ranch Conservancy**

Chico, CA, 530.345.7205

**The Esplanade League**

PO Box 4868, Chico, CA 95927  
www.esplanadeleague.org  
eleague@shocking.com

**The Nature Conservancy, Northern Central Valley**

500 Main St., Ste. B  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.897.6370, Fax: 530.342.0257  
www.nature.org

**TreeAction**

530.892.1818  
www.treeaction.org  
fgair@sbcglobal.net

**Trout Unlimited**

1808 B 5th St., Berkeley, CA 94710  
510.528.4164, www.tu.org

**Upper Ridge Areas, Inc**

PO Box 154, Magalia, CA 95954  
530.873.1787  
ridgebird2@comcast.net

**Valley Water Protection Association**

7399 Hwy. 99, Oroville, CA 95965  
530.343.0916  
colewaterinfo@yahoo.com

**Vallombrosa Avenue Neighborhood Association**

2096 Vallombrosa Ave  
Chico, CA 95926



## BEC Wins Major Water Lawsuit

On March, 16, 2010, a Superior Court ruled that the State has to comply with environmental laws even in dry times. This is an important win for the North Valley's water resources and environment. Requiring the State to comply with environmental laws will help ensure that the Tuscan aquifer system remains healthy and well managed into the future.

BEC appreciates all BEC members and the many other supporters who helped make this successful lawsuit possible.

## BEC has a new website!

Be sure to check out our new look.  
**Butte Environmental Council**  
[www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

## You can also visit us on Facebook

Featuring our Facebook logo!



## Join BEC!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Household       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Fish Fan     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Wetlands Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Count Me In   |

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