

Butte Environmental Council



116 W. Second Street, Suite 3
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www.becnet.org

Activities and Events

Environmental Advocacy
Environmental Education
Groundwater Protection
Endangered Species Faire
Bidwell Park Cleanups
Chico Area Creek Cleanups
Recycling Referrals
Wetlands Preservation

Staff

Nikki Schlaishunt

Administrative Director

Robin Huffman

Advocacy Director

Mary Muchowski

Education & Outreach Coordinator

Maggi Barry

Program/Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Jim Gregg, Chair

Lynn Barris, Vice Chair

Armeda Ferrini, Treasurer

Pamela Posey, Secretary

Nora Burnham

Mike McLaughlin

John Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Butte Environmental Council wins water lawsuit

Chico, California – March, 16, 2010 – The Superior Court of California ruled that the state has to comply with environmental reviews when proposing water transfers under the State's Drought Water Bank (DWB) program.

Yesterday, the Superior Court of California County of Alameda ruled in favor of BEC, et al, in their lawsuit against the California Department of Water Resources and the DWB program. This is an important win for California's water and environment. Requiring the state to comply with environmental laws will support sustainable water use which will ensure that our groundwater remains a healthy, natural resource.

Background: Last February 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 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, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and the California Water Impact Network joined BEC as partners (in name only) in the case against a long list of powerful water districts and agencies who joined the State's effort to facilitate water transfers without following environmental law.

The Butte Environmental Council has been at the forefront of environmental activism in Butte County and the northern Sacramento Valley since 1975. They are located in downtown Chico and have office hours Monday-Thursday 9:30am-5:00pm.

Contact:

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