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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEC RECOGNIZES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Chico, California – In celebrating its 42nd anniversary, the Butte Environmental Council is looking to recognize **environmental heroes** in our community and also looking back over the decades to recognize those who've given years of service on behalf of the environment.

BEC is proud to honor the following individuals with this year's awards:

- **Jane Dolan**– The Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway**– The Colleen Jarvis Environmentalists of the Year Award 2017
- **Richard Harriman** – The Barris Farms Service Award

This year BEC will recognize Chico resident **Jane Dolan** with the **Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award**. The award, named after founding member Michael McGinnis, is intended to recognize an individual who has led lifelong efforts in environmental advocacy and education. **Jane Dolan** former AS President and Butte County Supervisor, Jane has a legacy of championing protections for our local water, preserving farm land, and promoting quality development and sustainable land use. Among her many lasting impacts in our community, Jane is perhaps best known for her authorship and tireless advocacy of the Chico Area Greenline. Her work has forever changed our community, and our collective use of our most precious natural resources.

Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway have been selected as **Environmentalists of the Year for 2017** – In July of 2016 the Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway celebrated a project that was 15 years in the making. After a referendum and special election in 2001 to halt a project that would have turned the property in to a roadway, the Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway partnered with the City of Chico to make the Comanche Creek Greenway a reality. Today the Greenway is open to the public! The Greenway is the last remaining wild land in Southwest Chico, a rich riparian ecosystem which provides habitat for many species of wildlife. The Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway are committed to enhancing the ecosystem by removing invasive plant species and creating a natural refuge for humans and wildlife to enjoy.

The **2017 Barris Farms BEC Service Award** recipient is **Richard Harriman** – for decades Richard has put his extensive legal experience to use by engaging in local issues that have the potential to impact our local environment and most precious natural resources. A graduate of Stanford University, Richard has demonstrated unwavering committed to the public interest, taking up

as many causes as he can handle. Recently Richard has worked to move Chico Scrap Metal to prevent environmental contamination in nearby neighborhoods, successfully appealed the expansion of a potentially dangerous natural gas injection well in Glenn County, and he continues to follow numerous projects that risk the land, air and water in Northern California.

Recipients were carefully chosen by the Butte Environmental Council board last month. **The awards will be presented at BEC's 42nd Anniversary Gala fundraiser on Saturday, October 21st at the Arc Pavilion. Tickets are \$50. The event will feature an island-getaway-themed meal prepared by Siphos Restaurant and Cafe, instructional rum tasting by Hooker Oak Distillery, a silent auction, and live music by Triple Tree and Conquering Lion.**

Present and past award recipients have helped BEC become the successful environmental protection organization that it is. Many past award winners have contributed significantly to the Bidwell Parks & Chico Creeks Cleanup, the Endangered Species Faire, the Chico Bicycle Music Festival, citizen workshops on regional water issues, and toxics awareness campaigns.

The Butte Environmental Council is a non-profit environmental organization based in Chico, California. BEC's mission is to protect and defend the land, air, and water of Butte County and the surrounding region through action, advocacy, and education. Since 1975, BEC has played a significant part in shaping the environment and policies of Butte County and surrounding areas.

For more information about the Gala event visit becnet.org/events/42nd-anniversary-gala
For additional information, contact:

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On the day of the event, press inquiries may call cell phone 530-720-2319.

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