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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Block Parties with a Purpose**

*Chico, California* – The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) and City of Chico are pleased to announce the return of the Block Parties with a Purpose program. The project is free and supports residents joining together to clean up sections of Chico's urban creeks filled with invasive species and garbage.

Over the years, local urban creeks have become choked with invasive plant species, as well as more recent increases in garbage resulting from encampments, that has left our community with a problem that seems to be spiraling out of control. Invasive plant species out compete beneficial native plants and provide fuel for fires, while excessive garbage pollutes the water and leaves neighborhoods looking neglected. Tackling this problem is intimidating for everyone: neighbors, the city, businesses, and advocacy and environmental groups. But when we get together and boost combined efforts, urban waterways can once again be the beautiful little neighborhood creeks and healthy wildlife habitat corridors that they once were.

Block parties will be held the first Saturday of each month, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the following locations:

Saturday, December 5, 2015 -- Lindo Channel

Saturday, January 2, 2015 -- Big Chico Creek

Saturday, February 6, 2015 -- Little Chico Creek

Saturday, March 5, 2015 -- Lindo Channel

Saturday, April 2, 2015 -- Little Chico Creek

\*Block party will not be held on Saturday, May 7, 2015, as we will be celebrating our annual Endangered Species Faire

Saturday, Jun 4, 2015 -- Lindo Channel

How this project works:

- Neighborhood groups come together to target problem areas within Chico's waterways.
- Community members are invited to help join the effort
- Butte Environmental Council provides tools, dumpsters, and expertise.

A little background:

The program initially started in fall 2014 as a partnership between BEC, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and City of Chico. The program now continues with funding from the City of Chico's Community Grant program. This event is made possible with the help of many generous sponsors, allowing efforts to be taken even further by empowering and supporting those who care most to take action – the people living adjacent to urban streams.

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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 further information, visit <http://www.becnet.org/watershed-program> or Contact:

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On the day of the event, press inquiries may call cell phone 530-403-0960.