

Contact:  
Natalie Carter, Executive Director  
Butte Environmental Council  
(530) 891-6424  
natalie.carter@becnet.org

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. Block Parties with a Purpose are community supported cleanups designed to bring neighbors together to make a positive difference in their community, and are a great opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy our waterways.

Our local creeks are regularly clogged with trash. This has a negative impact on the birds, fish, mammals, and native plants that need a trash free habitat to survive and thrive. In addition to our local wildlife being impacted, the trash that gets into our waterways can be carried out to the Sacramento River, down to the San Francisco Bay Delta, and out into the ocean, causing harm along the way. 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 second Saturday of each month, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Our first Block Party of the season will be on December 9th. The party will start at the corner of Pine St and Humboldt Ave. Bring closed toed shoes and a desire to invest in your community. We will bring the tools to get the job done. Block Parties with a Purpose is a project of the Watershed Program of Butte Environmental Council and is made possible through generous contributions by the City of Chico, Waste Management, Butte County Public Works, local businesses and concerned citizens like you! Block Parties will be held on the second Saturday of each month, ending the season on June 9, 2018.

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 530-774-6503.