



116 W. Second Street, Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-6424
(530) 891-6426 FAX

www.becprotects.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

Robyn DiFalco
Executive Director

Maggi Barry
Office Manager / E&O Assistant

Mary Muchowski
Education & Outreach Coordinator

Julia Murphy
Project and Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Mark Stemen, Chair

Adele Pfister, Secretary

Michael McGinnis, Treasurer

Amanda Freeman

Richard Harriman

Mark Herrera

Skye Li

Grace Marvin

John Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 21, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUM TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF FINAL PHASE OF THE BUTTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2030

Last chance nearing for citizens to voice their concerns

Butte County, CA – June 21, 2012 – The Butte Environmental Council and others concerned for the environment will hold a series of public information forums in Chico and Paradise to raise awareness of the recently released Zoning Ordinance and the proposed Amendment to Butte County's General Plan 2030.

“It has become clear that there is a great divide between the General Plan goals to protect agricultural lands, water resources, environmentally sensitive resources and the plan to implement these goals” said Nani Teves, BEC Advocacy Consultant. The County is proposing to rezone thousands of acres of prime farm land, forest land, and resource conservation areas to residential, yet has no plan in place to mitigate these losses, no clear understanding of what the increased demand on groundwater will do to local water supplies, and no solutions identified to address ‘significant and unavoidable’ impacts in the EIR. BEC is working to lessen this divide between county goals and the plan of action, and advocating for solutions to be in place before the damage is done.

The forums, sponsored by the Paradise Grange Hall and the GRUB Cooperative in Chico are free and open to the general public:

Tuesday, June 26 at the **GRUB Cooperative** in **Chico, 5:30 pm**
(1525 Dayton Rd, Chico, 95928)

Wednesday, June 27 at the **Paradise Grange, 5:30 pm**
(5704 Chapel Dr. off Pearson Rd between Academy Dr and Recreation Dr).

Presenters will include county staff from the Department of Development Services, BEC executive director Robyn DiFalco, BEC Advocacy Consultant Nani Teves, and Jon Luvaas, a member of BEC and of the Grange who has been involved with local planning issues for many years.

A brief presentation will be accompanied by maps and charts highlighting proposed changes and potential areas of concern documented in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR). A question and answer session will follow and attendees will be encouraged to submit individual concerns in writing by the close of the public comment period on Monday, July 16. All documents are available for public review online at <http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/>

The timing of the public review process is taking place in the middle of summer (June 1 – July 16), the height of the vacation season when many community members may not be in town or paying attention to local issues. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on this topic June 14th and the attendees included a coalition of neighbors from the El Monte neighborhood of Chico and two representatives of BEC; no reporters from local media were present. This topic seems not to be getting much attention despite the significant impact these decisions could have on the community.

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) has been protecting Butte County's land, air and water through environmental advocacy and education since 1975. BEC is over 500 members strong and growing. For more information about our work and programs, visit our website at www.becprotects.org.

###

Contact:
Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council
116 W.2nd St. #3 Chico 95928
(530) 891-6424 office; (530) 588-3605 cell
robbynd@becprotects.org