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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Butte Environmental Council Awards Lifetime Achievements
at 40th Anniversary Gala**

Chico, California – On Saturday, October 24, 2015, the Butte Environmental Council will recognize environmental heroes in the community and celebrate four decades of protecting and serving the environment at their 40th Anniversary Gala, which takes place at the Sierra Nevada Big Room.

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

- Karl Ory, Lifetime Achievement Award
- Lesley Kuykendall, BEC Service Award
- Kaitlin Haley and Kevin Killion, Environmentalist of the Year Award

This year BEC will recognize **Karl Ory** 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. Karl Ory will be acknowledged for his decades of work to establish and protect the Chico Area Greenline, advance public transit, help close the Rancho Seco nuclear plant in Sacramento, defeat downtown parking structures, and "save" the farmer's market. Ory also served as the Director of CAVE and of the local chapter of the American Red Cross upon moving to Chico in 1974, as well as on Chico City Council from 1977-85, including two years as mayor.

The **2015 Barris Farms Service Award** is being presented to **Lesley Kuykendall**, a long-time BEC member from Oroville who has led the Oroville Dioxin Education Committee and efforts to document and seek remediation for the legacy of industrial pollution that disproportionately affects the community of Oroville. Lesley has also given her service to other local efforts such as the Save Oroville Trees campaign that fought against PG&E Tree removals this year.

The **2015 Environmentalist of the Year Award** goes to **Kaitlin Haley and Kevin Killion** who successfully led a student campaign last year that got the CSU, Chico Research Foundation to commit to divesting from fossil fuels, making it the first public university in the nation to do so. These two recent CSUC graduates are leading their generation in the fight against climate change.

Award recipients were carefully chosen by the Butte Environmental Council board of directors last month. The awards will be presented during the banquet at Sierra Nevada's Big Room. Tickets for this event are \$50 and will increase to \$60 after October 10th. Premium tickets will also be available for \$100 each and will include a Sustainability Tour and Tasting at Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. Featuring a delicious dinner, award winning beers and wines, Silent Auction, live music by Ha'Penny Bridge, and 40 years of amazing stories, this is an event not to be missed.

The Sustainability Tour and Tasting of Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. is not one of the regular brewery tours offered and this is a rare opportunity to see a whole different side of Sierra Nevada's operations. Premium ticket holders will have a unique opportunity to tour the Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., guided by Sierra Nevada's sustainability manager to learn about the brewery's onsite electricity generation, biodiesel production, energy efficiency, water conservation, a unique onsite composting system, and how they divert an amazing 99 percent of their solid waste from landfill. The tour will take place from 3-5pm on Saturday, October 24, starting at the Tour Lobby and will conclude with a beer tasting of new and limited release beers.

Attendees will include some of the original founders of the organization visiting from outside the Chico area, current and former elected officials, and a broad range of supporters throughout the community.

For more information or to purchase tickets for this event, please call the BEC office at 530-891-6424 or visit the BEC website at www.becnet.org/events/40th-anniversary-gala

For additional information or contact info for the award recipients, contact:
Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director
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On the day of the event, press inquiries may call cell phone 530-588-3605.

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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.

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