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For Immediate Release

ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY GATHERING

CHICO, Calif. (Feb. 20, 2014) -- A coalition group of local environmental organizations will host the Environmental Coalition Community Gathering on Friday, March 7 at the CARD Center. This event takes place from 5:30 to 8 p.m., following the annual "This Way to Sustainability" Conference at Chico State.

The Environmental Coalition was formed last year as an effort to unite the various local environmental groups around the biggest environmental issues taking place in Chico and Butte County, including the implementation of the General Plans (City and County), the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, the Agricultural Mitigation Ordinance, climate change issues, and water issues.

Twenty-three original groups participated in the first Community Gathering event last March 2013. This year several more groups have joined including Outdoor Education for All, Chico Tree Advocates, Friends of the Farmers Market, and Cultivating Community North Valley.

Charles Withuhn of Chico Tree Advocates said "We look forward to this event to see all the energy our community has on these issues; to see what is happening; to get inspired."

Mark Stemen, president of the Butte Environmental Council Board, looks forward to the Environmental Coalition Community Gathering this year. "We are honoring our legacy of bringing together members of the community that are concerned about the environment," Stemen said.

The reception will provide an opportunity for the organizations of the Chico Environmental Coalition to reaffirm the importance of working together. This event will take place just following the final keynote speaker of the This Way to Sustainability Conference at Chico State. The event begins with one hour of socializing and will then conclude with brief presentations from each organization regarding their current achievements and goals.

"The gathering event offers members of the environmental community an evening to come together in a celebration of recent achievements and bolster the sense

of connection between the numerous groups”, said BEC Executive Director Robyn DiFalco.

The coalition began meeting regularly in November 2012 and brings together approximately 30 nonprofit groups as well as representation from both Butte College and Chico State. Participating organizations include:

- Altacal Audubon Society
- Associated Students Sustainability Program, CSUC
- Butte College & the Sustainability Resource Center
- Butte Bicycle Coalition
- Butte Environmental Council
- California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC)
- California Urban Streams Alliance - The Stream Team
- Center for Water & the Environment, Chico State
- Chico Creek Nature Center
- Chico Peace & Justice Center
- Chico Tree Advocates
- Chico VELO Cycling
- Citizen Action Network – Frack-Free Butte County
- Citizen’s Water Watch
- Cultivating Community
- Friends of Bidwell Park
- GRID Alternatives
- GRUB Education Program
- Institute for Sustainable Development, Chico State
- Kids and Creeks
- Mt Lassen Chapter Native Plant Society
- Northern California Regional Land Trust
- Outdoor Ed for All
- River Partners
- Sierra Club, Motherlode Chapter

According to DiFalco and other members of the Coalition, these groups are coming together to combine their skills and expertise by working collaboratively and strategically on solutions to the challenges facing Northern California.

Anyone from the public is welcome to attend the Environmental Coalition Community Gathering. Participating organizations will provide free appetizers and adult beverages will be available for purchase at the event.

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For more information, please visit www.becnet.org/events or contact Executive Director Robyn DiFalco at (530) 891-6424 or robynd@becnet.org