



Butte Environmental Council
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2013

ETHICAL ISSUES AND WATER: AN INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Event: a free public Forum on ‘Ethical Issues and Water: an interfaith dialogue’
When: Tuesday February 5th, 2013 from 4:30-6:00 pm
Where: Colusa Hall 100B on the CSU, Chico campus
Hosted by: CSU, Chico’s Book in Common group and Butte Environmental Council
For more information: www.becnet.org or call 891-6424

CSU Chico’s Book in Common Group and Butte Environmental Council invite the public to a forum on ‘Ethical Issues and Water, an interfaith dialogue’. The conversation will focus on the spiritual and stewardship issues that surround water, including water as an element essential to all life, as a human right, and as a contentious public policy issue in California and beyond.

The event will be held on Tuesday February 5th from 4:30-6:00pm at Colusa Hall 100B on the CSU, Chico Campus.

Speakers include: Bruce Grelle, Professor of Religions Studies at CSU, Chico, Shirley Adams a Christian and founder of Bridging the Gap, Lin Jensen a Buddhist, Ali Sarsour a Muslim, and Marty Dunlap an Attorney and Water Issue Mediator.

Background: Wars have been waged over water, civilizations have collapsed because of drought and yet some towns pop up in deserts because we move water hundreds of miles from one place to another. We are 60% water and the earth would not exist without it, yet we rarely give it a second thought. It magically appears and magically goes away. However the fate of local water is at a critical juncture, the Tuscan Aquifer our ground water supply is currently the state’s target for a new supply for southern California, it is in the works to route the Sacramento River around the delta in twin

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tunnels to irrigate the San Joaquin Valley, and it is projected that snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains will be down to 20% of historical averages in 90 years. The North State region is rallying around these issues to learn and voice our concerns. This year's Book in Common '*Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and what to do about it*' was chosen by CSU, Chico and Butte College as an opportunity to highlight local and global concerns about water. BEC is kicking off a 2013 Code Blue water outreach campaign, and others are focusing special attention on tracking what is happening locally and in Sacramento.

Behind all these management and political issues are deeper questions: do we have a responsibility towards wise use of water? are there intrinsic and natural values to free flowing waters? what is the ethical thing to do about global quality and quantity of water? These questions and more, are the motivators behind bringing together perspectives of different religions, as well as the philosophical and legal opinions, for a community discussion. To attempt to understand and give attention to water, we must begin with the deeper conversation about what water means to us and consider our own role in stewardship of this vital resource.

For more information, contact

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