

Contact:
Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council
(530) 891-6424
robynd@becnet.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Successful Block Party Removes 7.2 Tons of Debris from Little Chico Creek

Chico, California – In February the Butte Environmental Council pulled 7.2 tons of waste from Little Chico Creek with the help of 67 volunteers. BEC's Block Parties with a Purpose Program has collected a total of 9 tons of rubbish from Chico's waterways on the first Saturday of every month since December 2015. This accomplishment couldn't have been met without the tremendous help of local volunteers dedicated to making our community better.

The Butte Environmental Council will be holding its fourth monthly Block Party with a Purpose event Saturday, March 5 from 9 a.m. to noon concentrating this month's efforts on Lindo Channel. This month's meeting point will be at 580 E. Lindo Ave (across from S&S Produce on Mangrove Avenue). The project is free and supports residents joining together to clean up sections of Chico's urban creeks, which are impacted by invasive species and garbage.

"Lindo Channel is the most impacted waterway in Chico," said Lindsay Wood, BEC's Watershed Coordinator. "We need neighbors more than anything to come out and be stewards of their waterways."

Over the years, local urban creeks have become choked with invasive plant species, as well as more recent increases in garbage from encampments set up along the creeks, that has left our community with a problem that seems to be spiraling out of control. Invasive plant species out compete beneficial native plants and provide fuel for fires, while excessive garbage pollutes the water and leaves neighborhoods looking neglected.

A special thanks to our partners who've helped make a difference in our community's waterways: City of Chico Parks Department, Sheriff's SWAP Crew and the California Conservation Corps. Along with our community sponsors of the program: Orchard Supply Hardware, Waste Management,, Beach Hut Deli, Beatniks Coffee House, Klean Kanteen, Sewing Chic-O and Golden Valley Bank.

Tackling this problem is intimidating for everyone: neighbors, the city, businesses, and environmental advocacy groups. When we get together and boost combined efforts urban waterways can once again be the beautiful neighborhood creeks and healthy wildlife habitat corridors that they once were.

A little background:

The program initially started in fall 2014 as a partnership between BEC, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the 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.

###

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 www.becnet.org/watershed-program/block-party-purpose or Contact:

Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director
robynd@becnet.org

On the day of the event, press inquiries may ask to speak with Lindsay Wood.

See attached photo by Mike Boyd.