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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring Water-Wise Habitat-Friendly Garden Tour

Chico, California – Gain inspiration for your garden at the Water-Wise and Habitat-Friendly Chico Garden Tour, just in time for May planting! This tour will showcase alternatives to traditional landscaping using designs featuring California native plants. This free event is co-hosted by the Butte Environmental Council, the Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Altacal Audubon Society.

This event will take place Sunday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at more than a dozen Chico gardens. Registration is free, however donations will be used to design and install water-wise and habitat-friendly public gardens and too offer related educational activities.

The Garden Tour will be divided into two parts, a morning tour from 9 a.m. to noon and an afternoon tour from noon to 3 p.m. Some gardens will only be open during the morning tour or the afternoon tour. Participants will be able to create their own itinerary visiting gardens in the order they desire.

“Even though it rained this year we don’t have an infinite supply of water. We want to make people aware that the places we take up displace the creatures that were here before us,” said Woody Elliot, President of the Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

This event showcases effective techniques for replacing lawns, conserving water and creating wildlife-friendly habitat in the gardens of local community members. Some water conservation techniques include the planting of drought tolerant plants and the use of drip irrigation. Wildlife-friendly techniques include ponds, birdbaths, logs, native grasses and flowers and other favorite plants for birds and pollinators.

With the number of gardens growing in Altacal Audubon’s *Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program* local pollinator and bird populations are expanding and connecting to wild lands through these habitat corridors.

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The Altacal Audubon Society’s Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program supports community members interested in converting unused lawns to natural, drought-tolerant California landscaping and habitat. By acting now, we can conserve and protect valuable water resources, and rebuild needed wildlife corridors within our community.

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization that seeks to protect California's native flora for future generations. The mission of the CNPS is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants throughout the entire state and California Floristic Province.

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 becnet.org/events/water-wise-and-habitat-friendly-spring-garden-tour or Contact:

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On the day of the event, press inquiries may call cell phone 530-521-4402

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