



Butte Environmental Council

Educating and advocating for the land, air and water

September 2012

Butte Environmental Council e-News

Your Environmental Sentinel

In This Issue

[Birthday Bash Draws Nigh...](#)

[Community Superstars](#)

[BEC Advocacy Update](#)

[Wellness at Butte County Library](#)

[More Props for Prop. 37](#)

Quick Links

[BEC Website](#)

[BEC Event Calendar](#)

[Prop.37](#)

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Stemen, *Chair*

Adele Pfister, *Secretary*

Michael McGinnis, *Treasurer*

Amanda Freeman

Mark Herrera

Skye Li

Grace Marvin

John Scott

STAFF

Robyn DiFalco

Executive Director

Dear Robyn,

Birthday Bash Only Ten Days Away!

The menu is planned. The food donations and silent auction donations are underway. There's so much silent auction booty and wine in the office we can barely move. We are getting all wound up--this is going to be a FANTASTIC party, and best of all, we're going to get a chance to **relax together** and celebrate another year of hard work and significant victories.

If you can't attend this year, consider buying a ticket and donating it to a young environmentalist. We will be seating these "scholarship" attendees with our environmental award recipients. Yes, we're **bringing awards back** after missing last year, which means four recipients for two awards. It's up to all of us to bring those youngbloods into the environmental fold; and what better way than to invite them to the BEC Bash?

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased [online](#) from the BEC website, at the BEC office, at Lyon Books, Chico Natural Foods Co-op, and from your friendly neighborhood BEC board member. It's going to be a night to remember, so save the date, bring your mate, and don't be late--and we'll see you at the Birthday Bash!

Saturday, September 29 at Arc Pavilion.
Doors open at 5pm.

[Link to event details on BEC's website](#)

[Link to facebook event](#)



Supporting BEC Friends & Allies

So many thanks to everybody out there in the community that made our Park & Creeks Clean-up, and our Garden Grand Opening, successful and fun!

We pulled crazy quantities of garbage out of the creeks and from the park--filling a 40 yard dumpster at Park St. and a 20 yard dumpster at the park. Among the assortment of trash items were numerous car tires, a couple of car doors (?) and one "lucky" BEC board member found a dismembered deer.

Executive Director
Mary Muchowski
Education & Outreach
Coordinator
Maggi Barry
Office Coordinator/
E&O Assistant
Julia Murphy
Project & Admin. Assistant

CONSULTANTS

Carol Perkins
Water
Nani Teves
Land Use/Planning

116 W. 2nd St.
Chico CA 95928
Phone (530) 891-6424
Fax: (530) 891-6426

www.becprotects.org

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

And thank you (links) to cleanup sponsors and allies

- [Upper Crust Bakery](#)
- [The Grocery Outlet](#)
- [Gaia Creations](#)
- [Lifescapes](#)
- [Recology of Butte County](#)
- [Butte County Public Works](#)
- [Butte County Fish & Game Commission](#)
- [Chico News & Review](#)
- [Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.](#)
- [Butte Natural Distributing](#)
- [California Conservation Corps](#)
- [The Law Office of Grady Davis](#)
- [and Safeway.](#)

Your donations of money, services, and backbone helped make the Clean-up a success...

Hats off, too, to Theta Chi, Sigma Chi, Sigma Pi, Phi Kappa Tau, and The Interested Gentlemen of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., at CSU Chico; these folks all turned out to assist, and their help was much appreciated...and to all of you who showed up and volunteered half your precious Saturday.

You are the lifeblood of this event. We are so grateful for your willingness to help, and your commitment of time and labor. Doesn't it make you fall a little more in love with our park & creeks, to have taken your relationship to the next level this way?

Interested Gentlemen, below.
We filled that dumpster!



And to all of the people who came for the festivities at the Humboldt Community Garden Grand Opening: We had a fantastic time--thank you for a lovely evening!

Special thanks to **Jimmy, Diane, Janette, and Whipple** for sweet tunes; and the amazing **Heidi Jones-Blanchard** for putting together the **Salsa Competition**. Congratulations to **Donna Garrison, 1st prize winner**; this is the superstar that's cooking our **Birthday Bash feast**, so you can expect a top-notch culinary experience.

A huge Thanks and So Long For Now to **Darya Soofi**, the hard-working volunteer who coordinated the Grand Opening and the Garden operations over the summer. You came, you saw, you did a marvelous job of helping the Garden run smoothly.

And welcome to **Tim O'Neal**, an Ag Business major from CSU Chico. He'll be taking over the coordinator position at the Garden. We look forward to working with you, Tim!

A melon-colored baby, at the Garden.



What's BEC Working On?

Sometimes BEC's advocacy works gets splashed across the pages of the local papers, but often our advocacy is quiet and behind-the-scenes. Two examples from this month highlight my point.

Butte County has agreed with BEC and other concerned citizens on

two important points of the **General Plan Final EIR**.



In the first, a new policy has been included in the Final EIR. It **addresses the problems** of maximum build-out and cumulative effects of developing to the full extent allowed, and **requires additional environmental review** beyond what the County is projecting. This is so important because it creates a **threshold for environmental review** rather than continue to add development piece by piece by passing what the EIR studied.

The EIR also includes additional language, paying particular attention to sensitive natural communities, and recommends changes to the proposed zoning for the **El Monte neighborhood** and the **Butte Valley Clark Road corridor** that **support their rural character and raise parcel size minimums** respectively.

The second example comes from the **City of Chico** and its **Climate Action Plan**. The plan is being review by the City's **Sustainability Task Force (STF)**. At its September meeting, staff updated the STF and reported that the plan was still undergoing review and may be available at the **October meeting**. Representatives from BEC felt this was inappropriate. So, after voicing this displeasure, BEC representatives were invited to a meeting with City officials where they were offered **written assurances that the Climate Action Plan would come before the full Council the first week of November**.

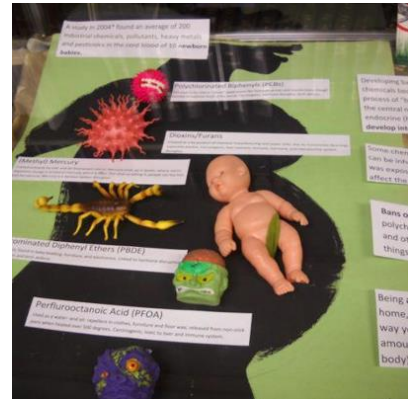
Whether or not you read about it in the papers, BEC is out there working hard to make sure environmental commitments are upheld and that policies are passed and implemented in a timely manner.

Wellness Display at Library

If you're in the Chico branch of the Butte County Library, check out our Wellness display. There are two glass cases towards the back of the Library where we've installed information about reducing exposure to common toxics you may be bringing into your home and yard.

We also dropped off several copies of our Alternatives to Toxics booklet (you can see the e-version [here](#)) and our Alternatives to Toxics recipe cards.

We're going to be making less-toxic cleaning product recipes in Oroville at the [Salmon Festival](#) this **Saturday, September 22 from 10 to 3**, so stop by and say Howdy!



Also in Wellness news: We're following **Tom Gascoyne's** articles on the South Oroville cogeneration facility (**Covanta**) very closely--especially since we're mentioned in several of the articles. [Here's](#) the latest.

Prop 37 Gets Props from the New York Times

The ballot initiative to label genetically modified foods in California has merited an editorial in the New York Times (it's almost as important as the Snow Goose Festival!)--you can read the article [here](#).

The editorial points out that **"Big Food is worried that this is the thin edge of the wedge, and I hope they're right."** The initiative's success would definitely galvanize other states into passing their own labeling laws, and would be a victory for food-eaters everywhere.

Regionally, The Butte Environmental Council, [Chico Grange](#), [Lundberg Farms](#), [Chaffin Family Orchards](#), and [Chico Natural Foods Co-op](#) (to name but a few) stand in public support of the initiative's passage. ***It can be done, and we're going to do it.***

Unquenchable In Mind...

BEC is partnering with others in the community to address this year's Book in Common, Unquenchable. The book speaks our national water crisis and we're aiming to facilitate the conversation on the local level.

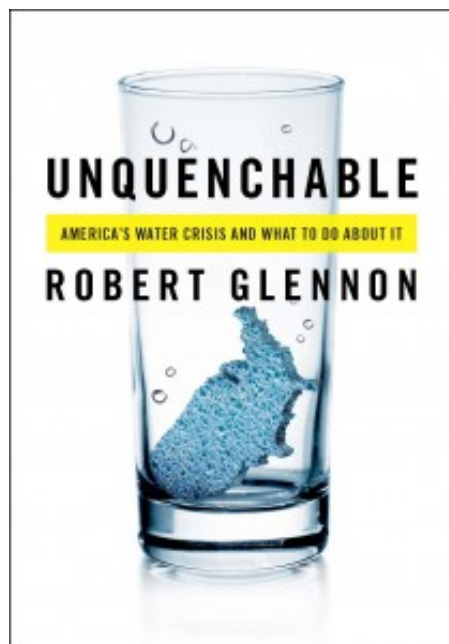
BEC's website features an Events Calendar listing all water-related events listed here as well as others. Stay tuned to BEC's website for more on this year's community dialog on water.

Wednesday, September 26 at 4:00 there is a panel discussion on **"Best Practices in Ag Water Use"** at Colusa Hall, on the CSU Chico campus.

The film **"Last Call at the Oasis"** airs **Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7:30**, at the **Pageant Theater** in Chico. Tickets must be purchased online.

On **Thursday, October 5th**, **Robert Glennon, the author of Unquenchable**, will speak at Laxson Auditorium at CSU Chico at 7:30.

Tuesday, October 9th Anita Chaudry will give a talk **"Water and Climate Change: Challenges of Governance."** It will begin at 4PM and is at Ayers Hall, Room 120, CSU Chico campus.



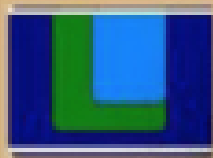
On October 11th at the Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Ave in Chico, there will be a North Sacramento Valley water forum "Taking a Closer Look at Delta Planning." The forum is from 5-7PM.

On Saturday, October 13, The Stream Team offers an opportunity for volunteers to learn how to collect samples from Big Chico Creek. Stream Team volunteer monitors meet at 9AM at Five Mile Recreation Area, the 2nd Saturday of each month, from April through October.

All these and more environmental events are listed on the BEC website.

Robyn DiFalco

Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council



CHICO U-LOCK-IT
SELF STORAGE

(530) 895-9999 // 1909 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PKWY.

LOCATED BEHIND MEEKS LUMBER AT THE CORNER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING & E. 20TH

Now Accepting E-Waste for Recycling!

Visit them at <http://www.chicoulockit.com/>

[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe™**

This email was sent to robynd@becnet.org by robynd@becprotects.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Try it FREE today.

Butte Environmental Council | 116 W 2nd Street, Suite 3 | Chico | CA | 95928