



Sacramento River. Photo by [unclear]



Environmental Sentinel

Your source for Butte County's environmental news and information

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Coalition**
Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1982

February 2014

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Upcoming BEC Events

Save the Dates...

March 6-8 (Thurs-Sat)

BEC presents at CSU Chico's

"This Way to Sustainability" Conference

Friday, March 7

Environmental Coalition Gathering at CARD

Sunday, March 30

"Breaking Bread, Breaking Ground"

Community Garden Fundraiser at Arc Pavilion

Saturday, May 3

Endangered Species Faire at One Mile



This Way to Sustainability Conference, and a Gat

Wherein we share our passion for sustainability with the community.

March brings us education, in the form of CSU Chico's This Way to Sustainability Conference. BEC staff and board members will present in four different sessions this year, on **topics from gardening, recycling education and green careers.**

The theme of this year's conference is sustainable food and agriculture, providing insight on methods and solutions to feed the world's growing populations sustainably. Pa emphasis on **Sustainable Agriculture, Farmland Protection, GMO's, Health and Nutrition, Food Security, Ag Mitigation, Agro Ecology, Sustainable Food Production, Co-ops Eating Local.**

Registration closes February 28th; **register online today** and peruse the presentations available to you as an attendee. For information about **BEC's presentations** and our **Environmental Coalition Gathering on Friday, March 7th, follow the link...**

BEC Preps Comments on Bay Delta Conservation

The average citizen cannot be expected to read, much less analyze the 40,000+ pages of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan's Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S). But rest assured, **BEC is working with dozens of environmental allies from the Environmental Water Caucus of California to dissect this document and submit meaningful comments** by the April 14 deadline.

Carol Perkins, BEC Water Policy Analyst, notes that "although the Plan purports to 'i

protect ecosystem health, water supply, and water quality within a stable regulatory framework' species protection and conservation measures do not extend beyond the plan boundaries, e.g., into affected regions upstream of the Delta; i.e., the water supply headwaters. **The effects of more water diverted out of the Sacramento Valley region may have a lasting impact on species of concern:** Valley Elderberry Longhorn beetle, Chinook salmon, and the Giant Garter snake.

Additionally, impacts may include loss of groundwater, and the plan lacks floodplain protections or enhancements for this region. [Read more.](#)



Local Protections From Fracking

Fracking activists celebrated a small victory in Butte County -- but now comes the hard part.

The Water Commission voted on Feb 5 to recommend that the Board of Supervisors consider local regulations that would provide a layer of protection from fracking. **Specifically, the Board will consider whether to modify the Zoning Code language to require a Conditional Use Permit for new proposed fracking projects, a process which also requires a public hearing and environmental review.** Communities in Pennsylvania recently won a major court case which affirmed their right to impose similar local regulations through zoning.



Concerned citizens are encouraged to attend this Board meeting (anticipated for March) to help us make the case for limiting fracking activity in Butte County. The 5-2 Water Commission was an acknowledgement that fracking poses environmental and public risks and that the State of CA has not provided adequate regulatory oversight, leaving it to local jurisdictions to look out for their own health and welfare. [Read more...](#)

Get Active: NO FRACK Rally in Sac

It's nice to see a City-sized crowd demonstrating, once in a while.

Join the **largest anti-fracking mobilization in California history** and tell Governor Brown what you feel about fracking. Join in on the statewide solidarity and fun, with people from San Francisco to Eureka.

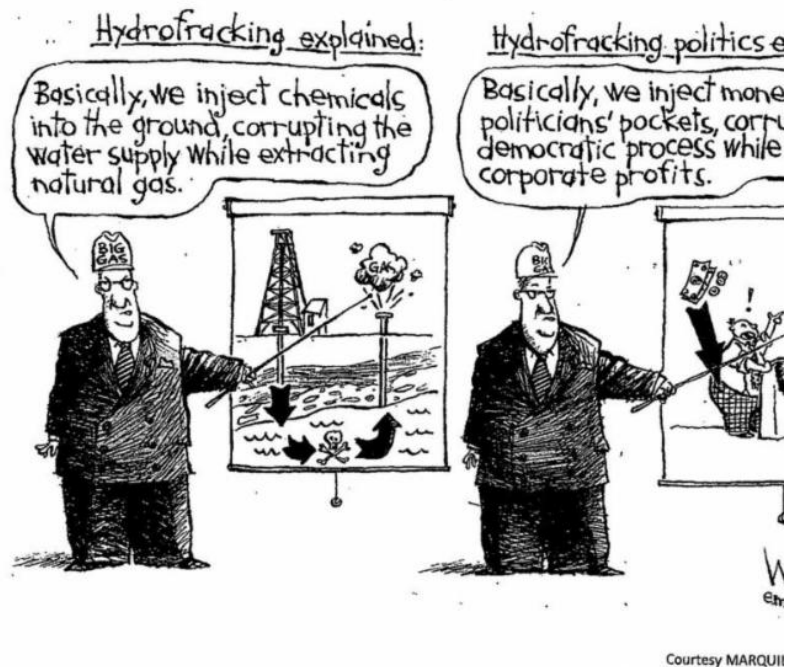
What: Don't Frack California

When: Sat, March 15, 1pm

Where: California State Capitol, 1315 10th St, Sacramento.

Chico Bus: Loading at **Butte College Chico Center, 2320 Forest Ave, Chico**, next to the parking lot. Bus leaves at **10am** and returns at **6:30pm**

Sign-up and reserve your bus seat [here](#). To read more, [click here](#).



RARE Bits

More Recycling and Rubbish Tips from Tanya

Here comes Spring, and not a moment too soon. Our tiny house seems to be overstuffed, and it is time to REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE! I get overwhelmed when I think of all the items piling up in my garage that I have put off getting rid of. I also have small children and have found that trying to get rid of things is kind of like brushing your teeth while eating Oreos. Items go in the donate pile and before I turn around the children have brought the items back out! The key component to my strategy has been organization! Here are a few tips for tackling the material clutter that creeps into modern life: [Read more...](#)



Help Us Bring the Procession to Life!

Teeming, screaming, crawling, hopping, flopping, flying life...

The Procession of the Species preparations for the Endangered Species Faire, M underway. We are offering puppet-making workshops to schools, and a puppet-making to any individual or organization who would like to participate in the parade.

We need your help in two ways:

1) Participate by creating a costume or puppet that represents an endangered species important to you. We also welcome dancers and musicians (as a group or as individuals). Participation is free; you simply have to [register](#), so we can save a spot in the parade for you.

2) Volunteer to help in the classroom. We especially need volunteers to help childrer

puppets using recycled packed paper, recycled plastics and containers, and paper mache. We'll teach you the process, and you help out with the kids. And we'll need some folks the day of the parade for organizing the event.

You can [download the registration form](#) or to request a puppet-making handbook, please contact BEC or Susan Tchudi at susan@turkeytailfarm.net or at **530-781-4122**.

School workshops begin March 3rd; the deadline to register is April 19th.

[Read more...](#)



Breaking Bread, Breaking Ground, Breaking Barriers

Oak Way Community Garden to provide access to all bodies

We're excited about our upcoming fundraiser for all kinds of reasons. Expanding the availability of community garden resources with Oak Way Gardens is an investment in our future, our security, and our sanity. It's a way for us to connect with the Earth in a tangible, respectful, mutual way; to acknowledge and celebrate the circle of the seasons and they cycle of growth, decay, and growth again. And anyone who's ever eaten a home-grown tomato knows what the most immediate and tangible benefits are! [Read more...](#)



Game On: LA vs. Chico

Not that we're, you know, *competing* or anything



If anyone knows how important water is; it's us folks up here in the North. However, we are also pretty spoiled. In 2013, the average **Angeleno** used **150 gallons** of water per day, as opposed to the average **Chicoan** used **228 gallons**. Let's not be too hard on ourselves just yet; as of 2015, according to CalWater, this amount is down from 280 gallons just a few years ago. Those figures include the production of some pretty nice beer. So... Congratulations on the conservation... but we've got a ways to go.

If you have a conservation mindset or a competitive spirit, BEC will be offering long-term solutions to decrease your water usage by hosting a series of spring workshops. [Read here](#) for more about the workshops...

Environmental Community Events

More opportunities for involvement and education from our allies

Wednesday, February 19 *Sierra Club Yahi Group Informational Program*
CLEARCUTTING

Local Activist Chris Nelson will give an update on the practice, extent, and impacts of clearcutting on private land in Northern California. Trish Puterbaugh is the Yahi Group's action contact on these issues and will attend and be available for questions as well. This talk is FREE and open to all and will be held at **7 pm** at the Chico Branch Library at 1108 Sherman Ave. (corner of East and Sherman in Chico). For more information, call Suzette Welch at 342-9214.

Saturday, February 22 *EarthBound Skills: The Ancient Art of Fire*

In this **12pm to 5pm** workshop, you will learn an ancient method of fire making without a lighter. Everyone will make their own fire making bow drill kit to take home to continue. Our main focus will be materials, form and technique. Anyone with previous experience will be taught more advanced methods and modifications. Please bring your own knife if possible. We have some loaners for those without.

Saturday, March 1 *Sacramento River Preservation Trust "Adopt-a-Habitat Cleanup"*

SRPT will be conducting cleanups at Scotty's Landing, Indian Fishery, River Road, Washoe Chico Creek Access Area, and along West Sacramento Avenue, on the first Saturday of February continuing on the first Saturday of every month after in 2014. The Sacramento River is a beautiful place to enjoy on Saturdays. We will meet at the Indian Fishery parking lot, where West Sacramento River Road intersect, at 9:00am and work for 3 hours. No host lunch at Scotty's Landing cleanup. See you at the river!

Sunday, March 16 *Party for a Frack-Free Butte County* at the Women's Club. Help support the ballot initiative for a moratorium on Fracking in Butte County. From 1:30 to 5:00 pm at the Chico Women's Club 592 East 3rd St (Corner of 3rd & Pine) in Chico. Featuring live music by Gordy Ohliger's "Hot Potato" Gypsy Trio, Stevie Cook & John Seid, John-michael Sun & S Dobra, MaMuse. Fracking Documentary "The Sky is Pink" will be shown. Food and drinks provided. Cost \$10.

*For more fun and informative community events, see BEC's online events [**calendar**](#).*

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