



# Environmental Sentinel

*Your source for Butte County's environmental news and events*

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Council**  
*Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1975*

October 2014

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## Dear Robyn,

Happy Fall! As you may have heard, our Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup was an amazing success ([check out our photo gallery!](#)), and your continued support of BEC makes events like this possible. Thank you!

Our next big fundraiser is [BEC's Anniversary Gala coming up on October 18](#). We have a great menu planned and some incredible silent auction items. If you haven't picked up your tickets yet, **call us today!** We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

*Robyn DiFalco*

530-891-6424

## Upcoming BEC Events

**Saturday, October 18**

[BEC Anniversary Gala & Awards, Arc Pavilion](#)

**Tuesday, October 28**

[Water Forum: The Water Bond](#) (and what this means for the North State)

**Thursday, November 20**

[Water Forum: Water in Paradise](#) (and the Governor's new plan for regional self-sufficiency)

**Thursday, December 4**

[Water Forum: California's New Groundwater Laws](#) (and how this can lead to a balanced water budget)

**Friday, December 12**

[BEC Holiday Party](#) at the BEC office 5-8pm

## Appeal of Tree Removal

Last year about this time **BEC appealed the City Council's decision to remove seven trees** at Salem and 8th St. We withdrew the appeal, in part, because the City committed to completing the **Urban Forest Management Plan** within a year.



The Plan, however, remains stuck in committee. The position of the Urban Forester remains unfilled. The City's own Sustainability Indicators Report has found that Chico's Urban Forest "needs improvement" and that **the number of trees planted continues to fall short of those being removed.** Still, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission approved the removal of twenty-five more trees.

So, BEC appealed the Park Commission's approval of the permit submitted by Mission Ranch CMD's **to remove twenty-five sycamores** from the City right-of-way. We based our appeal on our belief that the project has undergone inadequate environmental review because the cumulative effects on the urban forest have not been discussed. Filing the appeal also gives us an opportunity to make our case to the **City Council on Tuesday, October 7th. Please join us in speaking up for the long term viability of Chico's Urban Forest.**

[Read our letter appealing this tree removal permit.](#)

*(See below for more articles about upcoming tree planting projects.)*

## Why We're Voting NO on the Water Bond

**We are urging you to vote NO on Prop 1, the California Water Bond on the November 4th ballot.**

The BEC Board considered the elements of this bond package and determined that what good may come from passage of this bond will be far-outweighed by the long-term negative impacts to the ecosystem and our water resources.



While the bond includes a small percentage of funding for water conservation, water recycling, wetland habitat, and cleaning drinking water for disadvantaged communities, the majority of funds would ultimately undermine water sustainability goals, regionally and statewide, and would not provide additional water supplies or offer any solutions to our drought.

We believe this bond is an unsustainable approach to water management.

[Read our Press Release here.](#)



For more about the water bond, visit these informative sites.

<http://www.noonprop1.org/>

<http://www.friendsoftheriver.org/site/PageServer?pagename=NoWaterBond>

**BEC has lawn signs available. Call 891-6424 to get yours today!**

## Annie B's Community Drive

Annie B's Community Drive is now closed, and we are grateful for the generosity of our supporters! We have not yet received the list of our donors but until then, please accept this early **Thank You!**



For those of you who missed the deadline: **It's actually not too late!** You can still make your contribution today: you can use the Annie B's return envelope and North Valley Community Foundation will forward your contribution, or you can send a check to our office: 116 W. 2nd Street, Suite 3, Chico, CA 95928. Credit Card donations are accepted [securely online](#). Annie B's was our largest fundraiser last year, and we couldn't accomplish our work without your support. No matter when you donate, **we leverage every dollar we receive**. Thank you for your support!

## BEC's 39th Anniversary Gala: Saturday, October 18th

Are you as excited as we are? **The dinner this year will be especially delicious**, with Kaelen Davis of Santino's Catering as our chef, using his summer Caribbean vacation as inspiration for the menu. The **no-host bar** is sure to be a hit this year, with two of our lovely BEC staff members tending the bar!

We have some **exciting silent auction items** this year! We have items ranging from round-trip airline tickets to worm castings to hot sauce!

Do you have your tickets yet? Tickets are \$45 and are available at Chico Natural Foods, or at the BEC office. Call us today at 891-6424 or visit the [Gala page on our website](#) to reserve one of the last remaining seats!



We'll also present our annual awards, recognizing local environmental heroes in our community and looking back over the decades to recognize those who've given years of service on behalf of the environment.

**BEC is proud to honor the following individuals with awards:**

- **Andy Keller - Environmentalist of the Year 2014**
- **Joni Clark Stellar - The Barris Farms Service Award**



## • John Merz - The Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award

For the full story on the impressive achievements of these individuals, you'll have to attend the Gala!

## Community Cleaning Together!

The Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup on September 20th, gave community members and businesses an opportunity to show their support of clean waterways and parks...and they took that opportunity!

**We had a record number of volunteers -- 450!** This included individuals and families, as well as other larger groups from businesses, local organizations, and churches. Our Business Partners included: Orchard Supply Hardware, Klean Kanteen, ChicoBag, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, FISHBIO, and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.



**We also collected a record amount of waste and recyclables!** Our initial estimates are that we collected 40,000 pounds of trash from the waterways and park, but our final numbers are still trickling in.

**Special thanks to** Susan Mason, Mark & Cynthia Gailey, Janet Ellner and Friends of Comanche Creek, our City Park Rangers, the Sheriff Work Alternative Program, and the Chico Police Department for your extra help! You were essential in making the Cleanup a success! **We also want to thank and recognize our major sponsors again:** Orchard Supply Hardware, TriCounties Bank, Klean Kanteen, Madison Bear Gardens, Butte County Fish & Game, Butte County Public Works, City of Chico, Growing Up Chico, Kelly Meagher, the Chico News & Review, and Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. We couldn't have done it without you!

[Check out our photo gallery from this year's event](#) -- you'll be amazed at what was in the creeks and what we pulled out!

**Remember, there are other smaller cleanup events happening all over town and volunteers are always needed** to help keep our parks and greenways clean. For a listing of other upcoming cleanup events, visit <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/calendar.html>

## Planting Trees with Chico Tree Advocates

*Chico Tree Advocates was selected for one of the City of Chico's mini-grants this fall, with the goal of raising funds to replant our urban forest. BEC is proud to*

support this effort by serving as fiscal sponsor for Chico Tree Advocates.

*An update from Charles:* Chico Tree Advocates has been focused on fundraising this fall. Now, we are ecstatic to announce that we have been **very** successful thanks to everyone who donated, our team of volunteers, and BEC's wonderful support. CTA has raised over \$2,500 towards the City of Chico's Community Grant Program--exceeding our fundraising goal!



*Charles Withuhn of CTA*

**We are now ready to plan the plantings.** We have cleared locations in the Avenues and southeast of Downtown near Parkview School. The exact dates are still open pending contacts from volunteers and their availability. Please call Charles at 343-3152 to participate. Weekends or weekdays are available. Enjoy the thrill of building our urban forest and seeing your trees grow!

You can support CTA's tree planting efforts, either as a volunteer or financially. Please make contributions payable to BEC (CTA's fiscal sponsor). Thank you!



## Calling All Teachers: Recycling Education

BEC's Recycling And Rubbish Education program (RARE) is excited to announce that signing up for a Recycling or Composting workshop is now easier than ever! [Visit our website and book online!](#) **RARE** is an educational program that provides ***in-class workshops*** focusing on the importance of the "Four R's" - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot (compost). Workshops that specifically address composting can also be scheduled. RARE is a great opportunity for children to have fun and gain knowledge regarding their role within the environment!



Our workshops are specifically designed for each grade level and we provide an alignment to specific units within the California Environmental Education Initiative Curriculum. Our workshops are informative and fun! Engaging children through hands-on activities and games helps us to deliver the important message of waste reduction and proper recycling habits.

RARE can also help coordinate **field trips to the Neal Road Waste and Recycling Facility**. These trips can either take place before our in class visits, or be used as a follow up activity. This provides students an up close experience with their local landfill. A limited number of scholarships are available and are on a first come first serve basis and can cover all or partial transportation costs.

Please pass on this valuable information to a teacher or school near you!



## Investing in Chico's Urban Forest

On November 8th, members of the Butte Environmental Council and the Salvation Army will join students from the Construction Management and Geography and Planning Departments **to plant 32 native trees on public land in the center of the City of Chico.** In keeping with the draft Urban Forest Management Plan, trees and shrubs native to the savannah oak forest will be planted in the triangle of land between Pine and Cyprus. Trees appropriate for under power lines will be planted in front of homes of the Butte Housing Authority. Trees found in riparian habitats will be planted along the Humboldt Park greenway. To get involved call the BEC office at 891-6424.



## A Bond, A Budget, and A Bill:

*Understanding the momentous water issues of our time*

Save the date for BEC's water forum series this fall:



### **The Water Bond (and what this means for the North State)**

Speakers include Jane Wagner-Tyack Policy Analyst with Restore the Delta, Michael Jackson Water Lawyer, and Lucas Merz Executive Director of the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

Date: Tuesday October 28th 6-7:30

Location: The Chico Grange

### **Water in Paradise (and the Governor's new plan for regional self-sufficiency)**

Date: Thursday November 20th 6-7:30

Location: The Paradise Library

### **California's New Groundwater Laws (and how this can lead to a balanced water budget)**

Date: Thursday Dec. 4th 6-7:30

Location: The Chico Grange

Go to <http://www.becnet.org/events> for updated information about these events.

## Fracking Ordinance

The County's draft **Ordinance to ban hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking")** was released to the public on October 1st and BEC is working with our friends and allies at Frack-Free Butte County to review and assess its merits and deficiencies. The ordinance will be reviewed by the Butte County Planning Commission on **Thursday, October 23 at a public hearing at 9:00 am in Oroville -- and we're hoping to pack the room with BEC members and citizens who support this ban.**



Carpools will be leaving from Chico and possibly other areas of the county -- call BEC at 891-6424 for details about carpooling. We anticipate the opposition to this ordinance will not only be organized, but well funded by out-of-area energy industry monies.

For more information:

[Click here to view the Ordinance draft online.](#)

[Click here to view local news article.](#)

[Click here to link to the Butte County Planning website with info about the hearing, etc.](#)

## Environmental Events in the Community

**Tues, Oct 7** [Chico City Council meeting](#) - 2 important items: discussion on invasive arundo in the creeks and tree removals

**Thurs, Oct 9** [Chico Peace & Justice Center](#) Annual Dinner Fundraiser, Masonic Family Center

**Fri, Oct 10 & Sat, Oct 11**

**Outdoor Education for All (OEFA) Workshops** "Taking Science into the Field Using Inquiry Methods Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core."

Friday evening: 4pm-7 pm; OPTIONAL: 7-8 pm Pizza & Salad Social

Saturday morning: 9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

LOCATION: Forest Ranch Charter School, Forest Ranch, 1518 Cedar-Creek, Forest Ranch. Send inquiries or request for registration form to: [butteoefa@gmail.com](mailto:butteoefa@gmail.com)

**Fri, Oct 10** [Northern California Wilderness Treasures Rendezvous](#)

October 10 @ 8:00 am - October 12 @ 5:00 pm

Tehama District Fairgrounds, 650 Antelope Blvd, , Red Bluff, CA 96080

**Fri, Oct 10** [Fund-Rager Concert](#) for Melody's legal fees for Tar Sands direct action Support BEC Boardmember, Melody Leppard who put her body on the front lines to protect the environment.

**Sat, Oct 11** [Global Frackdown at Chico City Plaza](#) 11am

Fracking poses serious risks to Butte County, most critical concern is water contamination from extraction and waste disposal. Join [Frack-Free Butte County](#) organizers for an inspiring and informative rally with words, song and dance, and of course DRUMMING! Bring a drum, shaker or rattle, to 'drum up awareness' as we march together, from the water fountain to encircling the Farmers' Market and back, demonstrating our unity to PROTECT OUR WATER! Learn how YOU can help

ensure Butte County and beyond is safe from toxic fracking. Frack-Free Butte County Fundraiser at Dave & Celeste Garcia's house 2-4pm

**Tues Oct 14** Seminar at CSUC by Charlie Alpers, USGS California Water Science Center

Arsenic Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Bioavailability at Empire Mine and Other Historic Gold Mines in the Sierra Nevada Foothills

4:00-5:00 PM at CSU Chico, Physical Sciences Room 213

<http://www.csuchico.edu/geos/events-and-seminars/2014-Seminar-Schedule%20.shtml>

**Thurs, Oct 16** Chico Creek Nature Center's [Annual Harvest Moon Dinner and Silent Auction](#) at the Chico Women's Club, 6-9:30pm

**Wed, Oct 22** [Campus Sustainability Day at CSUC](#)

Empowering Change on Campus and in the Community

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Bell Memorial Union Auditorium

**Thurs, Oct 23** [Public Hearing on Ordinance to Ban Fracking in Butte County](#)

at the Butte County Planning Commission in Oroville

9:00 am, at 25 County Center Drive, Oroville

**Fri, Oct 24** Food Day at CSUC, Documentary: Growing Cities

Student Services Building Room 150, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

RSVP for this event by emailing [sustainability@csuchico.edu](mailto:sustainability@csuchico.edu) or call us at (530) 898-3333. This event is free and open to the public, space may be limited

**Sat, Oct 25** [Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park, 10:00am](#)

**Tues Oct 28** Seminar at CSUC by Dan McManus, Department of Water Resources  
Aquifer Response to Drought Conditions: What's the Plan for Sustainable Management?

4:00-5:00 PM at CSU Chico, Physical Sciences Room 213

<http://www.csuchico.edu/geos/events-and-seminars/2014-Seminar-Schedule%20.shtml>

**Fri, Oct 31** Deadline to submit proposals for [This Way to Sustainability Conference at CSUC](#) Mark your calendars for This Way to Sustainability Conference X ~

Thursday - Friday, March 26, 27, 2015. Now accepting conference proposals. If you would like to speak at This Way to Sustainability Conference X, please submit your proposals by Friday, October 31, 2014.

**Sat, Nov 1** Sacramento River Road Cleanup Monthly volunteer cleanup of roadways near the Sac River from 9 to 11 am followed by an optional lunch at Scotty's Landing. For more information or to register, see [Sacramento River Preservation Trust](#).

**Tues, Nov 4** Election Day! Be sure to vote!

**Sat, Nov 8** OMG GMO Film Series event at Pagaent Theatre

**Sat, Nov 8** Neighborhood Cleanup and Invasive Plant Removal, Little Chico Creek (9 am to noon) (BEC, CNPS, Chico Park Division)

**Sat, Nov 8** Humboldt Community Garden Workday

**Sun, Nov 9** Oak Way Community Garden Workday

**Tues, Nov 11** Sierra Club Yahi Program Meeting: Nancy Hawley will tell us how she



became a park ranger and about her experiences at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Denali National Park. Social hour with refreshments will start at 6:30pm with the program following at 7pm. at the Chico Branch Library at 1108 Sherman Ave. on the corner of East First Ave. and Sherman in Chico. The talk is free and open to the public. Non Sierra Club members are welcome. For more information call Suzette Welch 342-9214.

**Nov 13-15** [30 Years Later... A State of the Sacramento River Conference](#), Sierra Nevada Big Room (Sac River Trust)  
Annual Members (6-10pm)  
State of the Sac River Conference (9am-2pm)  
Saturday, Nov. 15th: Field & River Trips (8am-3pm)

**Wed, Dec 10** Chico Velo Holiday Party & Annual Meeting 5:00pm

**Fri, Dec 12** BEC Holiday Party, at BEC office downtown, 5-7pm  
[www.becnet.org/events](http://www.becnet.org/events) (details coming soon)

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