



# 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*

## Butte Environmental Council Newsletter

July 2016



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### Greetings!

**BEC Protects!** I am guessing you have heard our slogan before, but I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the work you make possible with your generous support!

**BEC Protects Endangered Species** by monitoring local development and speaking out against the loss of important habitat.

**BEC Protects Water** by cleaning up our local waterways and refusing to accept threats to our water quality and supply.

**BEC Protects the Land** by watching for uses that will challenge our efforts towards greater sustainability and increase negative impacts on our climate.

Thank you for protecting our environment by [supporting BEC's work](#), you make it all possible!

Sincerely,  
Natalie Carter

Energy Conservation Tip: No Drought about it

Recycling Education Tip:  
Celebrate Summer with  
Environmentally Safe  
Habits!

Environmental Events in the  
Community

Join Our Mailing List!

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#### Quick Links

[BEC Website](#)

[BEC Event Calendar](#)

[Renew BEC Membership](#)

[Last Month's E-Sentinel](#)

530-891-6424

## Upcoming BEC Events

**Thursday, August 25** 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
CN&R/Ray's Liquor - wine tasting fundraiser  
Bidwell Golf Course

**Saturday, September 17** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
[Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup](#)

(See articles below for all event details or visit our website  
at [www.becnet.org/events](http://www.becnet.org/events) )

## PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES: PUBLIC Scoping Meeting on July 12

Protect the Endangered Species living right here in Chico. Say NO to developing important Butte County Meadowfoam, Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp, and Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp habitat!



Butte County Meadowfoam

The City of Chico Planning Department is considering development of important Primary and Occupied habitat for the genetically distinct Chico population of Butte County Meadowfoam.

BEC has been defending vernal pool habitat for more than 10 years, and this is no exception! [Support BEC](#) and help protect endangered species.

**Come to the meeting on July 12 at 5:30 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber, 421 Main Street Chico, CA. City Representatives will be present present a summary of the project and answer questions.

## Stop Oil Trains Week of Action, July 6-12

Today marks the third anniversary of the tragic Lac-Mégantic, Québec derailment and fire that killed 47 people.

Black train cars marked **1267** regularly carry crude oil through our communities and through precious natural resources like the Feather River Canyon.

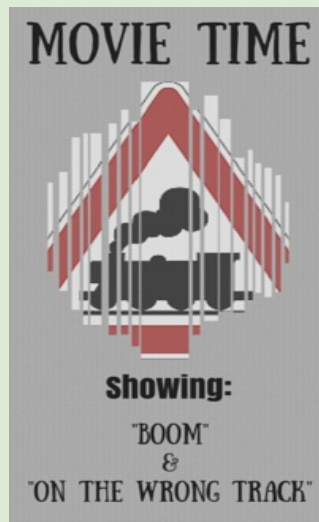
Join BEC and say NO to Oil Trains in our community at the



DOT Placard 1267 Petroleum

Chico350 Press Conference this **Friday, July 8 at 9 A.M.**  
Meet at W 1st Street and the Railroad tracks (behind the  
Wildcat Recreation Center).

Crude Oil, Flammable Liquid,  
Class 3



Learn more at the FREE Oil Train movie showing

**Sunday, July 10 at 7 P.M.**

Pageant Theatre Chico, CA  
351 E 6th St, Chico, California 95928

Showing two films, Boom and On The Wrong Track, followed by a panel discussion on the crude oil bomb trains that are rolling through Oroville and Chico. There have been 13 derailments and explosions in the last three years, is Chico or Oroville next?

**Free organic popcorn to the first 20 people to arrive!**

Brought to you by:

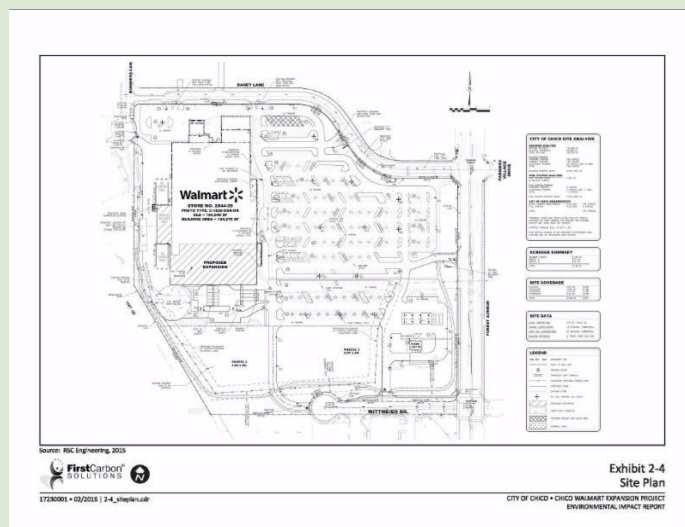
CHICO 350

## WalMart Expansion

The WalMart Expansion DRAFT EIR is currently available for a 45 day public review period ending on August 1, 2016.

Six years ago the city council rejected the stores expansion in a 4-3 vote following heated debate. The newly proposed expansion would increase the size of the store to 195,688 square feet, and make it a super-center.

It would also add a gas station and a drive-through grocery pick up.



Development of this scale demands careful examination. We must demand responsible development, ensuring support for alternative methods transportation, sustainable building and parking lot features, minimizing impacts accelerating climate change, and protecting the viability of local businesses.

Submit your comments by August 1, and please, [SUPPORT Butte Environmental Council](#). BEC provides comments on behalf of our communities best interest, promoting responsible land use and development, while protecting our regions natural treasures.

Find the document [here](#).

Written comments on this [Draft EIR](#) should be addressed to:

Mr. Mike Sawley

Associate Planner City of Chico Community Development Department

411 Main Street, 2nd Floor P.O. Box 3420

Chico, CA 95927

Phone: 530.879.6800

Donations of \$50 or more receive a free t-shirt! Please help our efforts to recover habitat for these species by [donating to the Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup](#) effort.



## "Wishcycling" and other Recycle Jargon

On the topic of recycling and trash, here are 3 new words to add to a long list of new jargon, and their definitions. We've all seen it...:

**Greenwashing:** 1. Remorseless intentional false advertising of a product to be "Eco" or "green" without any basis in actual recyclability, or compostability.

**Photodegrade:** The chemical breakdown by the sun as seen in plastics. Plastic "breaks down" only into tiny pieces of plastic, but it does not 'bio-degrade' into nutrients available for organisms to 'eat'.

**Wishcycling:** 1. A misleading "Please recycle" symbol on a non-recyclable product. 2. The act of putting an item in the recycle bin "hoping" it can be recycled.

This Fiji ad is a great example of greenwashing. The company is owned by California's very own multi-billionaire, Stewart Resnick, who currently owns 70,000 acres of pistachio and almond trees in the Westlands Water District, where excessive selenium levels in the soil require excess water to support agriculture.

His name might sound familiar to you. In addition to Fiji Water, among Resnick's companies are such brands as POM Wonderful, Cuties and Halo Citrus. Resnick is a majority stake holder in Kern Water Bank, and has gotten some attention lately for his popular Kern County citrus crops being irrigated with oily fracking wastewater. POM Wonderful owns 32,000 acres of citrus, and overall his crops use an estimated 120 billion gallons of water a year. Read more in these articles from [Forbes](#) and [The Guardian](#).



Sunday Summer Oak Watering and....  
SPECIAL volunteer opportunity Saturday, July 9th at 9 A.M.!

# Oak Restoration Maintenance Day!

**Saturday, July 9th @ 9AM**

**Upper Bidwell Park Parking Lot E**

**Come help us upgrade some of our high achieving young oaks to cages!**

**We will also be pulling weeds and doing general maintenance to keep all of the young sprouts happy and healthy.**



**You should bring:**

- Plenty of drinking water
- Sunscreen, hat, and/ or sunglasses
- A smile!



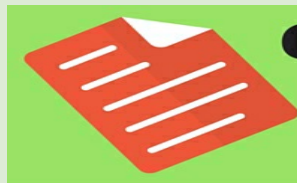
Now that the spring rains are over, we must continue to provide water for our oak seedlings to help them establish their taproots and survive the hot summer.

**Every Sunday at 8 A.M.** [BEC](#) volunteers gather to provide each of the 204 Oak seedlings a gallon of water. We need as many volunteers as possible to help us water and track the seedlings growth.

We also have a **special volunteer opportunity Saturday, July 9th at 9 A.M.** We will be upgrading our highest achieving oaks to cages so they can expand but still be protected from deer browsing.

If you would like weekly updates and reminders about upcoming events, you can add your name to our [Tree People List](#), or at our [Oaks Page](#).

Questions? Please contact our new Oak Restoration Coordinator, Lexi, at [oaks@becnet.org](mailto:oaks@becnet.org) or call the office 530.891.6424



## Office Wishlist

**Give back...**  
**Get tax breaks!**

Cleaning house this summer?

Want to give back to your community in a different way?

Give to BEC! We have developed a wish list of used items (but good) items to keep us working hard and allow moving forward.

To make it easy, we can make arrangements to *pick up items directly* from you and can provide *tax receipts*!

### We're dreaming of...

- Espresso machine (preferably used and in working condition)
- Heavy duty stapler
- Misc. office supplies (pens, pencils, note pads, sharpies, etc.)
- Sturdy ladder
- Little broom & dustpan set
- Hot water heater/boiler
- Artwork (to be hung in our office or put in our silent auctions)
- Crafting materials (glue, crayons, coloring pencils, etc.)
- Financial record/Bankers boxes
- Items to be used in our silent auctions
- Children's toys for Eco-Scavenger hunt at ESF
- Small reusable cups (NOT glass; do not need to be in a matching set; for hydration station at ESF)
- Holiday Decoration items
- Books for BEC's Library (accessible to [BEC Members](#) only; preferably environmental- or nature-themed)
- Bookshelf

We are so grateful for *any* donation!

### New projects in the works at BEC!



BEC is working on an exciting upcycling project to be announced soon! Want to help? Bring in some materials we can use! We are currently looking for the following materials:

- Metal bottle caps (beer, glass bottle sodas, etc.)
- Colorful plastic bottle caps (sodas, juice, etc)
- Wine corks
- Old newspaper

Not sure if we could use it? Give us a call!

For more on upcycling and other eco-topics, be sure to follow us on [Pinterest](#)!

## Community Garden Plots Available

Are you interested in growing your own food but don't have a suitable garden space? We still have garden **plots available** this season in our [Humboldt Community Garden](#), located on Humboldt Rd and El Monte Ave.



A one-year plot lease for the 2016-17 garden year is \$75 for a 15x15 plot (225 square feet). There is also a refundable \$50 cleaning deposit. The lease includes water, limited liability insurance (a city requirement) and access to community tools and finished compost or bark chips, depending on available supplies.

We have one agency plot available for a nonprofit organization that measures 25x60 feet (1,500 square feet) and is \$375 for the year.

Come join us and grow your garden along with your community in this beautiful and serene location!

**CALL TODAY (530) 891-6424**



### Go Green and Support BEC in One Step!

Send funds back to BEC by going solar with SolarCity, America's #1 full-service solar provider.

For more information, visit [www.becnet.org/solar](http://www.becnet.org/solar)



## Energy Conservation Tip: No Drought about it

This month we're focusing on saving energy by saving water. Follow these tips to save water, and you will be saving energy at the same time. It takes energy to get water to our homes, and then more to heat the water we use.

Fun Fact: Eighteen percent of the energy we use at home goes to heat water for showers, dishes and washing clothes. Using less hot water, means spending less on energy. More information at [www.energyupgradeca.org](http://www.energyupgradeca.org)



(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!**



## Recycling Education Tip: Celebrate Summer with Environmentally Safe Habits!

**Go for Reusable party-ware** instead of disposables: Use reusable plates, cups and utensils where possible

**Provide Trash, Recycling, and Compost receptacles** for your party: Let your guests know that you are trying to be waste-conscious this year. Drop off food waste to be composted at a community garden in town (we have two! Just call us!) or ask a friend or neighbor if they compost

- Quick composting guidelines can be found [here](#)

**Get outside** and enjoy the great outdoors!: Lower your energy bill by getting out of the house - go to the park, go floating, or maybe head to the movie theater!

**Avoid using fireworks:** Instead, roast marshmallows, host a movie or game night, go hiking or swimming, the possibilities are endless!

- **Why?:** "A recent NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) [study](#) showed that...most of the fireworks used for public displays contain chemicals called Potassium perchlorate and cerium nitrate which are terrible for the environment and causes health problems to the heart, lungs and the respiratory systems."

**Save and Reuse decorations:** If you have single-color decorations, use them for other parties and events you might have and save red-white-and-blue colored decorations for other holidays.

## Environmental Events in the Community

For more information about upcoming local events please visit BEC's Environmental Events Calendar:  
<http://www.becnet.org/events>



**July 6** Grub Ed front yard garden build  
9-1pm, 921 Neal Dow Ave.

Grub Ed leads as we build front yard garden boxes for family challenging themselves to cook & feed the family of four from the garden. Cutting wood, assembling, filling garden boxes & setting up irrigation are all part of the morning activities. Contact Colleen for more info @ 239-272-9661

**July 9** Stir Fry Demo Featuring Fresh Seasonal Veggies with the Edible Pedal  
7p.m. Torres Shelter 101 Silver Dollar Way, Chico  
Edible Pedal teams up with From the Ground Up to demonstrate fresh seasonal veggie stir fry from the garden. Contact Karen for more info @ 530-519-2646

**July 14** Kids friendly seasonal food tasting  
3-4p.m., Chico Branch Library, 1108 Sherman Ave, Chico  
Bring your kids and come participate in the food themed story telling time. Grub Ed supplying. Seasonal food samples & recipes to make @ home. Contact Lindsey for more info 530-680-3217.

**July 16** Starting Your Fall Crops  
10- noon, Chico Peace & Justice Center, 526 Broadway Chico.  
Time to start thinking about your cabbage, broccoli, kale & other crops to be harvested in the late fall. We will have seeds and other supplies for you to make and take home vegetable starts for your own garden. You will receive instructions about the best way to care for your veggie starts in order to have good germination and healthy

plants. Contact Colleen for more info @ 239-272-9661

**July 19** Grub Ed Glean Team meets

9 a.m., One Mile @ Sycamore Pool (Woodland Ave side)

Gleaning of fruit, berries or veggies to be donated to local food pantries for distribution. Contact Colleen @ 239-272-9661

**July 19** Grub Ed food preservation workshop

2-4 p.m., Bidwell Presbyterian Church 208 W 1st St. Downstairs in kitchen.

Join as we share recipes and preserve the summer. Contact Lindsey @ 530-680-3217.

**July 21** Fresh Veggie Stir Fry

2-4 p.m., Avenida Apts 2505 Esplanade, Chico.

Edible Pedal teams up with From the Ground Up to demonstrate fresh seasonal veggie stir fry from the garden. Contact Karen for more info @ 530-519-2646

**July 28** Preserving Tomato Abundance

5:30-7:30 p.m., Bidwell Presbyterian Church 208 W. 1st St., Chico.

Downstairs in kitchen. Join Grub Ed in making sauces & spreads from the season's abundant tomatoes! Space limited, please register by 7/23 by calling 530-680-3217.

**July 28** Sustainability Task Force Meeting

5:30 p.m., City of Chico, Municipal Chambers Conference Room 1.

[Agenda posted here.](#)

**July 30** Harvesting Melons

9-11 a.m., Chico Grange Seed Saving Garden 2775 Nord Ave

Not sure when to pick that melon off the vine? Come hear tips for harvesting at the right time for that tummy yummy ripe melon harvest. Contact Colleen for more info @ 239-272-9661