

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S Environmental NEWS

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Butte County's Struggling Air Quality

By Rex Stromness

Ask people what the main drawback to living in Butte County is and you're likely to hear "the air quality." Those who commute to Chico and Oroville from the foothills get a daily, first hand view of what we in the valley are breathing – and it often isn't a very pretty, or clean picture. But, looks can be deceiving.

Even though Chico's air appears worse, the infamous "F" that Butte County air recently earned from The American Lung Association was actually based on ozone-level exceeding days in the foothills (Paradise/Forest Ranch) and not the valley. According to Gail Williams of the Butte County Air Quality District, Chico would have gotten a "C". She also adds that while Butte County had 10 days of exceeding ozone-limits, L.A. County (which also got an "F") had over 200 days in the same time frame.... Why are we in the same league?

Ozone, an invisible respiratory irritant, is "imported" from metropolitan areas south of us. It is carried by the prevailing south wind during the summer where it gets mixed in sunlight and ends up at 1,500 ft. elevation and higher. Ozone, like most air pollution, is primarily the product of automobile emissions.

Cars, busses, trucks, tractors and other vehicles are the main culprit in our worsening air, producing approxi-

mately 70% of the pollutants. Other Butte County air pollution sources are wood-stove and agricultural burning and dust from agriculture and new development.

While not the worst, certainly the most visible form of air pollution, particularly driving through the valley on a clear day, is the mushroom cloud of smoke emanating from rice-field burning. Farmers throughout the history of growing rice have burned their fields to kill diseases that can adversely affect harvests. As bad as it seems on some days when the sky is brown from the

smoke, it used to be much worse.

Before the "Phase-down" in rice burning was implemented in the early 1990s, 70,000 Butte County acres of rice were burned per year. It is now down to 20,000

acres per year. While flooding fields would achieve the desired result without smoke, flooding is less economic. Because of a "safe-harbor" clause (added to the bill by farmers) which stated that as long as some disease was detected, some rice could be burned, we will probably never be completely free of rice-burning.

Another factor in our recurring brown-air, particularly in autumn, is "fugitive dust" raised by disking of fields and ever increasing new development. While farmers don't have

Continued on Page 4



Medical Waste Facility in Red Bluff Zero Emissions or Incinerator in Disguise?

By Bradley Angel, Greenaction for Health & Environmental Justice

A company called Integrated Environmental Technologies (InEnTec) wants to build a commercial medical waste facility in Red Bluff. If built, the company would use a plasma arc technology that heats the medical waste and burns the waste gases. InEnTec claims they would also generate some electricity for the Louisiana Pacific Corporation plant next to the proposed site. Medical waste would be brought to the site from many other locations, and the facility would be the first of its type in the continental United States.

In December the Tehama County Planning Commission issued a conditional use permit for the proposed facility without an environmental impact report – and without considering very important information including

potential emissions of hazardous chemicals and toxic metals into the air. In fact, the county's permit decision was based on the totally incorrect claim that the facility would have no air pollution at all.

While InEnTec's website claims their technology is "pollution-free," the truth is that their technology does emit hazardous pollutants into the air, including dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known to science. William Quapp, a company representative, has admitted that some of their test results did show higher dioxin emissions than they would have liked to see. Other pollutants would also be emitted.

Studies by the U.S. Environmen-

Continued on Page 8

Environmental News, a quarterly published paper, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. To submit articles or events for the Environmental Calender, e-mail Tempra Board at tempra@wildcalifornia.org. All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via e-mail to tempra@wildcalifornia.org. Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication and must include the author's name, address, and phone number. BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC. Photos and art work will be returned if requested (include a SASE).

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About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a non-profit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC is devoted to environmental education and information, referral services, and advocacy.

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To join BEC, just fill out the membership form on the back page of this paper. Yearly memberships are:

\$20 Low income \$100 Wetlands Watch
\$35 Individual \$150 Energy Elite
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FROM THE BEC BOARD

Note from the Board President

By Kathryn Hood

A Joyful New Year to our Environmental family. Two thousand and five looks to be a year of continued struggle to protect our precious natural environment and quality of life. The good news is that we have a strong local organization known as the Butte Environmental Council that is committed to just that endeavor.

The Board of Directors guides BEC and is pleased to announce the addition of two new members. Peter Hollingsworth, a longtime member of BEC and a local educator, has agreed to sit on the board. His interest is in recycling and recruiting more people to help with the annual Creeks and Park Cleanup. He also recruited Karen Goodwin to join the Board as BEC's treasurer: a tremendous coup for the organization! We are sad to report that Tim Stroshane, who was highlighted in this space in the last EN, has found it necessary to resign his position on the BEC board, but not

Join us in making 2005 the year that BEC flourishes!

before he spearheaded the revision of the BEC by-laws, a task that has needed tending to for quite a while. He will continue working with BEC on special projects. Thank you, Tim, for your commitment to BEC as a board member and as a continuing BEC Angel.

The board is very pleased with the work of Tempra Board, our contracted grant writer and editor of this publication. Tempra's effort to research and apply for grants to help fund specific BEC projects and to provide money for the day-to-day operating expenses of the organization is a much needed shot in the arm to the health of this organization. Tempra's expertise and allegiance to BEC is much appreciated.

The other major way BEC is supported is by annual membership dues or monthly and quarterly Angel contributions. If you are not a member or are a "fallen angel" please consider renewing your commitment, and when you do, please consider volunteering to serve

on one of the committees that makes things happen to protect our quality of life in this part of our world (see back page). Would you like to help with the Endangered Species Faire or the Environmental Banquet? You could serve on the Events committee or consider helping to recruit new members (the lifeblood of BEC) by serving on the Membership committee. Are you in-

terested in getting the word out about BEC's education and advocacy in the community? If so, you could serve on the Public Relations committee. We also need a few more committed Board Members to chair these committees.

There are so many ways to lend a buck and a hand to the environment in Butte County! Join us in making 2005 the year that BEC flourishes!

From the Editor Questions about Biodiesel

One of our readers, Mary Muchowski, contacted the author of the article about Biofuel in the Fall 2004 issue of the EN. We wanted to summarize her questions and the answers provided for others.

1) Do you have to have a special diesel engine, or does the vehicle need any conversion devices added/installed?

2) Will using biodiesel void the warranty of a new truck?

3) Do you have to exclusively use biodiesel or petro-diesel? (i.e. if you are using biodiesel and are driving across states, can you put in petro-diesel if you can't find any biodiesel along the way?)

Devin replies: Yes, any diesel engine will work fine with no modifications. The Magnuson-Moss Act states that biodiesel is an EPA-approved fuel and is covered under any warranty. You can use biodiesel and diesel interchangeably, in fact mixing them together is a common practice. For more information, there are many sites available on the web. One group I work with is Unifried, and our web add is www.veggiebus.com.

Happy Biofueling, Devin

Note from the Editor: According to www.earthship.com, citing a presentation by Robert McCormick from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory on Fuel-Engine Compatibility and Performance of Biodiesel,

- Manufacturers warrant their products against defects in materials and workmanship

- In general use of a particular fuel should have no effect on the materials and workmanship warranty

- Use of biodiesel does not "void the warranty", this is prohibited by the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act

- *Manufacturers are concerned that extensive use of biodiesel will result in increased numbers of warranty claims for what are actually problems caused by the fuel*

"Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act": US Code - Title 15, Chapter 50, Sections 2301-2312 Legally, a vehicle manufacturer cannot void the warranty on a vehicle due to an aftermarket part unless they can prove that the aftermarket part caused or contributed to the failure in the vehicle."

CalTrans: Save Lives Immediately!

BEC has repeatedly suggested over three years that the Butte County Association of Governments, Butte County Supervisors, and CalTrans should prioritize public safety right now instead of waiting for their expensive, unfunded, sprawl inducing Highway 149 expansion and cloverleaf interchanges with Highways 70 and 99. A CalTrans response to our comments and letters trivializes the immediate safety issues in lieu of the massive \$83 million project that still faces hurdles with resource agencies and state funding. The current state budget will delay it at least another year to say nothing of the delays that may surface over the failure of CalTrans and Butte County to complete biological mitigation requirements.

According to the *Chico News &*

Affordable Highway Safety Improvements

More modest proposals to protect motorists from the hazards at the intersections and the traffic volume (below) were rejected by CalTrans in favor of the \$65,000,000 solution: 4 lanes and 2 clover leaf interchanges.

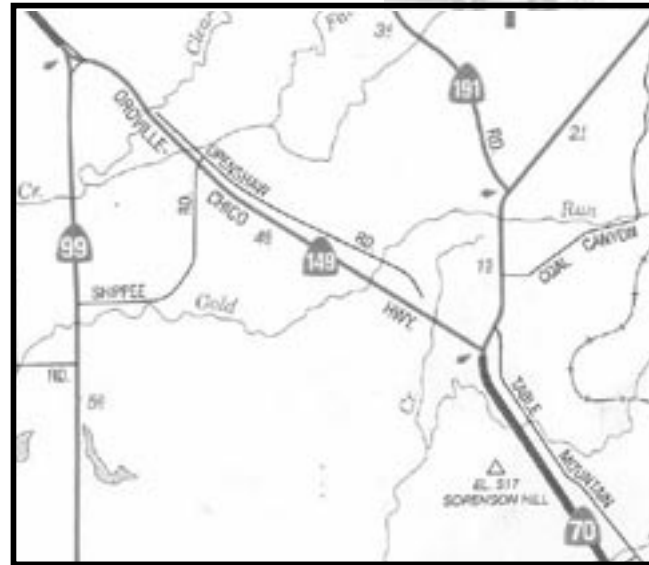
- Signalize both intersections at a cost of approximately \$250,000 each.
- Decrease speed from Oroville to 55 mph.
- Lengthen turn lanes on Hwys 99 and 70.
- Advocate for more funding for more CHP.
- Prioritize Butte County Transit by increasing buses during peak commute hours.

Review ("Blood Alleys," December 16, 2004), based on California Highway Patrol data, fatalities on Highways 70 and 99 in Butte County occur frequently at their junctions with Highway 149. From 1992 through 2004, 52 people have died from accidents on Highway 70 at the 149 junction, and 41 people have died on Highway 99 at the 149 junction.

One of the suggestions in BEC's alternatives package is that CalTrans signalize both Hwy 149 intersections to clarify driver right-of-way (see sidebar). CalTrans response to signals is that "Traffic signals at both intersections would not

be a permanent solution to safety issues...and would change the majority of the accident types from broadside (currently) to rear end collisions." Signals may not be a permanent solution, but they have certainly been used up and down the Highways 70 and 99 corridors to increase intersection safety: Entler/Southgate Lane, Estates Drive, E. Gridley Road, Elverta, Riego, etc. "Driver error," CalTrans states quite obviously, is the cause of most accidents. When BEC suggested lowering the speed limits, which is well known to diminish driver error, CalTrans, negates that suggestion by saying more enforcement would be necessary. In response to BEC's comment that more CHP (enforcement) are needed, CalTrans declined to respond.

CalTrans continues, responding to BEC's comments, stating that prioritizing Butte County transit would "...address the needs of some local commuters, but does not address the movement of goods and services, the need for safety improvements at the SR 70/149 and 99/149 intersections and regional traffic." CalTrans neglected to look at all of the alternative suggestions as a possible package and instead dis-



Hwy 149 in Butte County



paraged isolated solutions. Their broken record solution remains unfunded, they have failed to satisfy resource agencies requirements thereby further delaying the project, and they refuse to consider safety alternatives that could be implemented now!

If local governments were encouraged or inclined to plan regionally, we might not face such danger on the highways nor the specter of turning Butte County into another Santa Clara or Placer County. With Butte County's General Plan so outdated, there is no planning occurring locally for the future, let alone regionally. Creative planning for human habitation, employment, transportation, and the native environment can still be done well here. Do we need to replicate Silicon Valley before we see the missed opportunities? Better to ask whether the CalTrans planning model is so superior that every county should emulate it. And the answer to that, increasingly, is no.

To compare other transportation

modes to freeways, a freeway lane carries 1,800 cars per hour or less than 2,200 people. A single light rail track can comfortably carry from 8,600 to 16,000 people per hour, equating to four to seven freeway lanes (The Rochester Rail Transit Committee, Inc.). A report by the Institute of Transportation Studies at U.C. Berkeley, *The Full Cost of Intercity Transportation*, indicates that while internal system costs for transportation place rail highest at \$0.233 per user, highways at \$0.198, and air at \$0.124, when social costs such as air pollution, congestion, noise, and accidents are added to the analysis, rail is the clear winner at \$0.0002 with air travel at \$0.0043, and highways at \$0.0045 (Levinson et al., June 1996). And as transportation advocates know, widening roads classically fuels speed, accidents, sprawl, conversion of farmland and wildlands, and then congestion returns. Will California's government extricate itself from this destructive bandwagon? Stay tuned and involved.

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AIR QUALITY

As "Basic" Non-Attainment Area for 8-Hour Ozone Standards, Butte County to Reduce Ground-Level Ozone by 2009

Reprinted from the Butte County Air Quality Management District (www.bcaqmd.org)

On April 15, 2004 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the final attainment designations of areas for the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Part or all of 474 counties across the country were designated as non-attainment for the new standard. Designations and classifications take effect June 15, 2004.

Ozone can irritate a person's airway, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma, and inflame and damage the cells lining the lungs. Ozone can aggravate chronic lung diseases like emphysema and bronchitis and may reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system, and long-term, repeated exposure may cause permanent lung damage.

Butte County is classified as a "basic" non-attainment area. EPA classifies ozone non-attainment areas based on the severity of their ozone problem.

Classified areas fall into six categories: basic, marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme. Butte County will have three years (June 2007) to submit a plan, which describes efforts to reduce ground-

level ozone.

The Clean Air Act requires basic areas to attain the ozone standard as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than 2009.

Nonattainment areas with higher classifications must meet additional requirements and have later attainment deadlines. Under the new 8-hour standard the Sacramento Metropolitan area is classified as a serious non-attainment area with 2013 as the maximum attainment date.

The "basic" non-attainment area designation will allow the District more flexibility in the attainment demonstration. Essentially the District already implements the federal requirements

Ozone...may reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system, and long-term, repeated exposure may cause permanent lung damage.

for a basic nonattainment area and is nonattainment primarily due to transport. The District may need to amend some existing rules dependent on the modeling analysis per-

formed for the plan. The federal attainment plan the District will submit to EPA by 2007 will include consideration of the upwind contribution.

In 1979, EPA set a primary ozone standard of 0.12 parts per million (ppm) measured over a 1-hour period. This health standard protects people from peak ozone exposures. Butte County is currently classified as transitional non-attainment with the 1-hour standard. The transitional designation recognizes that the District currently meets the 1-hour standard, but must continue to implement nonattainment area programs for a period of time to ensure continued compliance.

In 1997, EPA revised the standard to 0.08 ppm for an 8-hour period. The 8-hour standard provides greater protection against longer exposures at lower levels, the kind of air pollution often seen in the transport-impacted communities of the California foothills. In California, urban areas generally experience more pronounced peak ozone levels (during the day), while many downwind rural areas record slightly lower levels but for a more prolonged period (at night). The 1-hour standard is expected to be revoked one year from the 8-hour effective date, or June 2005.

Butte Co's Air Quality

Continued from Page 1

restrictions on plowing their fields, developers can be cited and fined if they don't use water trucks to ease the dust.

Wood-stove emissions during the winter are another source, particularly when the winter "inversion" layer traps air in the valley. Since the "solution to pollution is dilution" we tend to have our best air quality during the spring when inversion is high or non-existent. While all new wood-stove installations must be state-of-the-art and efficient, there currently is no requirement to upgrade during the sale of a home with an old stove or fireplace.

The Butte County Air Quality Management District is charged with enforcing state and local air-quality regulations. With their 11-member staff, they keep facilities in compliance and issue permits to operate while monitoring air quality. They have monthly public meetings with local supervisors and mayors in attendance, and can be reached at 891-2882.

So what can be done to improve our air quality? We can't change the way the wind blows and will always feel the effect of pollution blown our way from Sacramento and even the Bay Area. But we can't blame them for all of our air quality problems and, according to Gail Williams, there are things we can do locally.

Cleaner wood-stoves and composting and flooding instead of burning rice fields are good steps. But first and foremost, she says, "drive as little as possible and drive smaller, less polluting cars when we do drive." Auto and truck emissions are by far the largest source of pollution with diesel being the very worst with its small and toxic particles. With more than 200,000 people in our area, we, to a large degree, create our own air-quality destiny.

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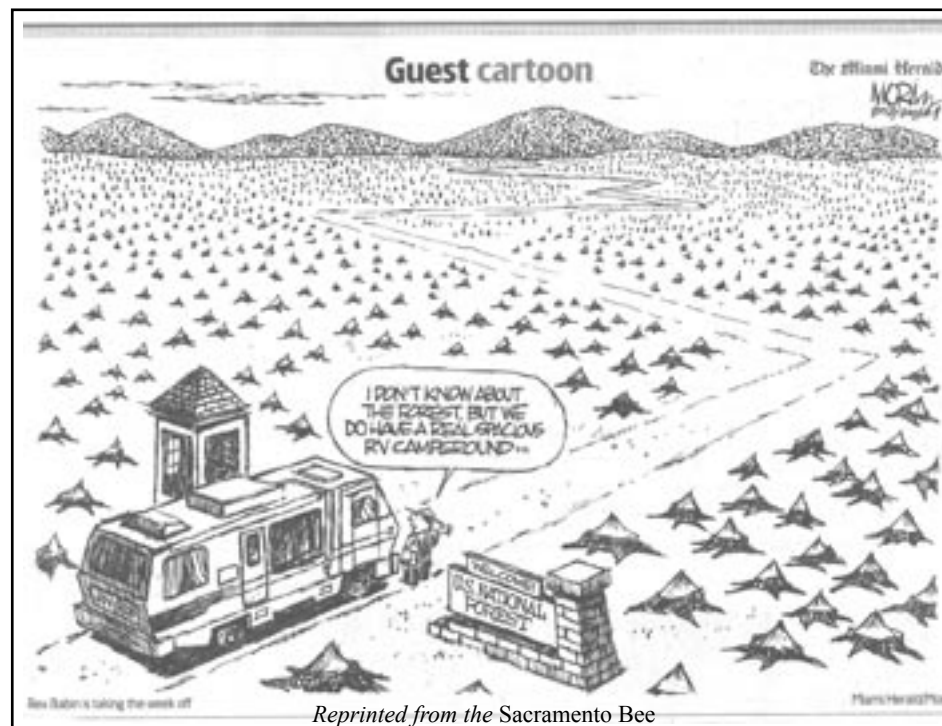
Bush Administration Escalates Forest Degradation Policies By Jim Brobeck

During the past four years the Cheney-Bush administration has installed officials that are hostile to the idea of managing national forests to achieve ecosystem goals that protect species, clean water and a return to historic wildfire regimes. Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, who oversees the Forest Service, is a former lobbyist for the timber industry, which threw its political support overwhelmingly toward Republicans in the last election cycle. Perhaps the most explicit example of this trend away from the public trust has been in the Sierra Nevada National Forests.

Hundreds of citizen participants sat at the table during the 1990's with representatives from the timber, grazing and tourist industries to collaborate and create a framework for ecosystem management of the Sierra Nevada National Forests. Their work culminated at the end of the Clinton-Gore administration with a plan to reduce fire hazards near communities, to manage a significant portion of the public land to establish old-growth characteristics, to give special attention to improving water quality, to make more use of prescribed control burns to reduce forest surface fuels so that naturally occurring wildfires could more gently groom the conifer dominated slopes, and to recognize the shift in the economy toward tourism and retirement communities.

But before the Framework plan could be established, the Cheney-Bush team captured the White House and installed appointees that are sympathetic to timber industry priorities in key Forest Service positions. Without giving the Framework a chance to succeed, officials claimed that the plan was unworkable and that the ferocious brush fires of 2003 that occurred in southern California were a model of the forest fires that would occur on the Sierra Nevada National Forests if they didn't radically rewrite the science based plan.

The Cheney-Bush gang are pulling new industry-pampering rules out of the drawer and shoving them through.



The use of small diameter thinning and prescribed burns has been largely replaced with an emphasis on mechanical "thinning" of trees that are approaching old-growth status. These public land forests are needed to provide critical habitat for old-growth dependent species that are being evicted from their territory on private forest lands that are being clear-cut under less stringent California State regulations.

With their dubious victory at the 2004 polls, the Cheney-Bush gang are pulling new industry-pampering rules out of the drawer and shoving them through rapidly. They expect the management direction will become institutionalized in a way that the Clinton-era Framework never had a chance to do. During the last days of December the Republican administration announced that a key wildlife protection that has governed federal forest management for more than two decades will be dropped. Furthermore, requirements for public involvement in planning for the country's 192 million

acres of national forest will be dramatically altered.

BEC and other environmental advocates have been participating in local National Forest management planning using the existing rules to insist that the public trust (rather than the economic interest of timber companies) be the priority of public land managers. The new rules allow the erosion of public participation in the management of public lands and give forest managers more leeway to open our forests to increased logging. While the new rule suggests that forest managers involve the public in the planning process, the "methods and timing of public involvement opportunities" will be left up to forest officials.

The new rules eliminate a mandate, adopted during the Reagan administration, that fish and wildlife habitat in national forests be managed to maintain "viable populations of existing native and desired nonnative vertebrate species." Replacing this directive to maintain the comprehensive suite of forest ecological species, managers will be asked to provide conditions to support diversity of native plant and animal species. Apparently individual species will be expendable if they in-

terfere with the economic targets that dominate management objectives of the Cheney-Bush bloc.

The species viability clause that is being eliminated has been a legal burr in the boot of logging interests. The reduction in logging on public land in the Pacific Northwest was based on lawsuits insisting on protecting the northern spotted owl. The reverberations in California have been a reduction in logging to preserve the viability of old-forest dependent species such as the California spotted owl, the goshawk and the Pacific fisher. By administratively rewriting the rule, conservationists lose the foundation for the protection of old-growth forests and wildlife that has protected the national forests for the last 20 years.

While environmental impact statements would supposedly be required for individual logging projects, previous rule changes and legislation under the Cheney-Bush admin. have exempted more and more projects from environmental review. All they need to do is declare a project is needed for fuel reduction and they will be able to skip the public oversight needed to protect the environment.

The Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign and California Attorney General Bill Lockyer are preparing individual legal challenges to the altered Sierra Framework plan. Meanwhile the California Forestry Association filed a lawsuit Dec. 10 against the Forest Service, alleging the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment illegally reduces the amount of timber available to the industry.

As the industrial management paradigm continues to press influence on public land-use policy, environmentalists must counter with robust intention to defend the laws in our conservation toolbox. Business oriented attacks on the Endangered Species Act are forthcoming. Voicing our priorities to elected officials, engaging in dialogue with land use managers and supporting advocacy groups such as Butte Environmental Council are three suggested strategies to preserve the quality of life.

WATER

Restoration and Increased Water Storage

By Tim Stroshane **CALFED's New "Balancing" Act**

Article excerpted and reprinted with permission from Spillway. To read the article in its entirety, including references, visit www.spillwaynews.net.

Congress approved HR 2828, the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, on October 6, providing \$389 million in federal funding to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to study increased Delta export pumping, construction of new dams and raising of existing ones in California's gargantuan water systems.

President George W. Bush signed the bill in late October, 12 years after his father, President George H.W. Bush, signed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act which reformed operation of the Central Valley Project, writing fisheries restoration into federal law as one of the project's purposes.

"The days of no new water storage for California are over," claimed its co-architect Congressman Richard Pombo, a conservative Republican representing the Tracy area.

Reflecting anxieties of the state's water industry, Senator Dianne Feinstein, HR 2828's Senate sponsor, said on her website, "Without CALFED there is not going to be enough water to meet California's needs. The last time California increased its water infrastructure was the 1960s when the State's population was 16 million. It's now 36 million and is expected to climb to 50 million by 2020. This legislation is needed now."

California environmentalists and fisheries advocates reject HR 2828. "From my point of view, CALFED, and this bill have become counter to everything we try to accomplish for fish in this state," mourned Byron Leydecker, Executive Director of the Friends of the Trinity River, and a fisheries consultant.

A portion of the bill's restoration funds are to come from the Restoration Fund of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to help defray costs of the Environmental Water Account,

which purchases water supplies to ensure safer habitat for fisheries near the major water project pumping plants near Tracy in the Delta.

"It's painfully ironic that a bill that's supposed to promote restoration is interfering with restoration activities," complained Barry Nelson of the Natural Resources Defense Council. Adds Carl Zichella of the Sierra Club grimly, "The ability to save ecosystems I think is in question now."

HR 2828 "balances the program as it was designed to be balanced," countered Jeff McCracken, spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the agency that owns and operates the Central Valley Project. "The balance now is it's going to ... look at water supply and continue to look at restoration. It's always looked at restoration."

McCracken's comment is borne out by the fact that the CALFED Record of Decision (ROD) and all its supporting documents created by CALFED staff and consultants between 1995 and 2000 contains both increased water storage elements as well as ecosystem restoration features, only the latter of which environmentalists support.

HR 2828 authorizes groundwater storage and feasibility studies for major new off-stream and expanded reservoirs, including enlargement of Los Vaqueros reservoir, raising of Shasta Dam, and construction of upper San Joaquin surface storage and Sites Reservoir. With these four storage projects, California could acquire an additional 3.2 million acre-feet of storage.

Prior to passage of HR 2828, CALFED operated as an extra-legal planning process to implement the administrative agenda of the consortium, the August 2000 CALFED Record of Decision (ROD), and was usually described as a consortium of over 20 federal and state agencies committed to addressing water and environmental problems of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta watershed.

Once President Bush signs HR 2828, the CALFED ROD will have greater legal stature in U.S. law. "By moving from an endless state of planning and paralysis by analysis into the stages of implementation, this legislation will finally deliver the resources we need for our economy and our environment," said Pombo.

In May 2004, Pombo and California's Senator Dianne Feinstein jointly vowed to "complete CALFED."

Passage of HR 2828 probably means eventual construction of new dams and reservoirs in California

"Balance is the key to this legislation," says Senator Feinstein in her news release on HR 2828. "The way that it is balanced is that each part—storage, conveyance improvements, and environmental restoration—goes ahead on a concurrent track, governed by CALFED and with the participation of the State and Federal government. This is the way to ensure a comprehensive approach to meeting California's water needs."

Adoption of the CALFED ROD as federal water policy means that its provisions for no net loss to Delta exports, and a phased increase of total Delta pumping levels by the CVP and the State Water Project from about 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to over 14,000 cfs have now received congressional blessing. Only legal, scientific, and engineering obstacles remain before increased export pumping begins.

The new law at Section 103(d) authorizes planning and feasibility studies for enlargement of Shasta Dam and Los Vaqueros Reservoir (in Contra Costa County), and authorizes studies for new storage at the Sites Reservoir in Colusa County and in the upper San Joaquin River area in Fresno and Madera counties.

By omitting mention of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review in HR 2828, farm water interests appear to believe they have carte blanche to complete feasibility studies, submit them to Congress, and subsequently build new storage projects in northern California and the southern Sierra. On the other hand, projects included in the

new CALFED law were contained in the CALFED ROD of August 2000. The ROD clearly states that the CALFED programmatic environmental impact report "identified a list of twelve potential surface storage projects for consideration. Further project-specific review, however, will be required." While HR 2828 does not pre-authorize the storage projects in CALFED, Pombo claims he has "won the guarantee" of New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici, who chairs the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, that "necessary funding will be secured to complete storage feasibility studies as soon as possible."

Disenchantment with CALFED

HR 2828 is also expected to provide new upper San Joaquin River storage that may help increase the water supply of the San Joaquin River basin, and enable Friant Water Users Authority-based farmers to cope with a recent judicial decision requiring them to contribute flows from Friant Dam to restore fisheries in the San Joaquin River.

With or without NEPA review, passage of HR 2828 probably means eventual construction of new dams and reservoirs in California, expansion of export pumping at the state and federal pumps filling the southbound aqueducts that bring agricultural and urban wealth to the San Joaquin Valley and southern California.

Without withdrawing their "stakeholder" status within CALFED's political framework, environmental groups now turn to fighting implementation of the Napa Agreement, renewal of CVP contracts, privatization of the State Water Project, and the merger of the major state and federal water projects through a plan called the Operating Criteria and Plan (OCAP). Many environmental and watershed groups walk a fine line between their advocacy of ecological protection and a collaborative stance that enables many of them to obtain restoration grant funding from CALFED to recreate habitat lost from earlier water and agricultural development.

The Pros, Cons and Future of the Chico Disc Golf Course

By Brian Krebs

The current location of the Chico Disc Golf Course is 4.8 miles east of Bruce Road on Highway 32. The course currently has 39 holes of disc golf available with metal totem poles for targets as opposed to the traditional baskets. There is a short course for amateurs which has 18 holes, and a longer more challenging course with 21 holes. Both courses are located on the south rim of Bidwell Park between Highway 32 and the canyon.

In 1995, the city of Chico acquired 1,200 acres of former grazing land from the Bureau of Land Management to annex to Bidwell Park. The short course was built within this area in 1992 and the long course was put in during 1996. Together the courses take up less than one percent of the total park's acreage. The current issue is whether or not the city should incorporate the two courses into the Bidwell Park Master Plan. This decision depends upon adequate environmental review, mitigation of potential problems, and public review.

The organization, Friends of Bidwell Park, opposes both of the courses in their current location. Their web site

(friendsofbidwellpark.org) addresses the potential problems of reduced water infiltration, compounded erosion, and habitat deterioration. They have also posted pictures of trees reportedly damaged by discs. However, it is difficult to determine where these trees lie in relation to the course.

Randy Abbott, a member of Friends of Bidwell Park addressed the issues of aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, soils and geology, hazards, planning, open space, public services, and transportation in a city council meeting on November 14, 2004. The Department of Fish and Game, in the same meeting, asked the city to address potential impacts on state and federally endangered species, hydrology and erosion. All of these areas of concern are to be taken into account and studied by the City of Chico as part of its EIR for the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan. To do this the city has hired EDAW, an environmental firm based out of San Francisco and Sacramento, to perform the environmental assessment.

Currently, the local stores Sports



Hole 12 on the Chico Golf Course. Photo courtesy of chicodiscgolf.org

Ltd. and Play It Again Sports carry discs and are supporters of the disc golf course. There is also a web site (chicodiscgolf.org.) dedicated to the disc golf course which has a variety of mitigation ideas, as well as photos of the course in various seasons, a "save the course" petition (currently with 142 signatures), a course map, and game statistics. The web site is maintained by Lon Glazner, a long time disc golfer. The idea expressed by Lon and hundreds of other disc golfers is that the park is for the community to use, not

to be established as a nature preserve. The course offers people of all ages a chance to get exercise, learn about nature, socialize, and have fun all while playing a free sport. Disc golf courses have been successfully established and recognized by city councils in a variety of North State areas including Redding, Ukiah, Auburn, Grass Valley, Penn Valley, Sonoma, Arcata, and even the neighboring town of Oroville. Chico disc golfers ask for equal respect just as

Continued on Page 9

Get Involved in the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update

By Cynthia Hills Gailey

The City of Chico Parks Department is in the process of developing an updated version of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP). Originally drafted in 1988 and adopted by the City of Chico City Council on January 2, 1990, with some sections having been updated since its adoption, a comprehensive update is now being proposed that, according to the City of Chico's Notice of Preparation letter dated October 14, 2004: "will incorporate the 1995 Upper Park ac-

quisition of 1,417 additional acres... and will establish uses and management goals for this area. The update will also reflect new rules and regulations that affect public use, resolve planning issues, and provide opportunities for public input. Further, the Master Management Plan Update will include potential updates and expansion of existing management goals, guidelines, and policies to more accurately reflect current planning topics... (It) will reflect the current status and goals for One Mile Recreation Area,

the Walnut Orchard, Lost Park, Annie's Glen, and Cedar Grove Picnic Area, as well as consideration of other recreation improvement proposals, including disc golf...(and) the Horseshoe Lake area..." A preliminary scoping meeting was held on October 28, 2004. Several dozen people attended this open public meeting, representing many points of view and concerns. They were divided up into groups addressing specific areas of concern, to brainstorm and thereby provide input to the City and the consultants hired to do the EIR for the BPMMP

update. If you want your ideas and opinions about Bidwell Park to be considered, you should plan on attending the upcoming Bidwell Park Master Management Plan update meetings, scheduled for: 2/10, 3/24, 4/14, 5/12, and 6/9. The meeting agendas, along with a lot of other information regarding the plan and the update process, including the city's notes from the aforementioned scoping meeting, will be posted on the city's web site: www.ci.chico.ca.us/common/mod_resource.asp?p=50&f=251

BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE

Solar Projects Should Consider Impact on Local Environment

EDITORIAL By Maria Rock

What happens when the environment is totally ignored in Butte County as we begin 2005 to save our air with solar? Butte Valley Preservation Soci-

ty Act: Negative Declaration is not meant to be used by developers to quickly push through projects that require a full Environmental Impact Report. There are



Site of Butte College solar array, before grading took place last fall.

ety (BVPS) with 1250 members is the answer. We all applaud the use of solar but have grave concerns for the current Butte-Glenn Community College (District) Solar Array Project Phase I, II & III that filed an inappropriate document: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)- Negative Declaration. Litigation should not be the direction citizens have to take but in this solar case there was no other way. In January the BVPS vs. BGCC Solar Project Phase I, II & III went before the Honorable Judge Kelly, who will make his decision for a preliminary injunction within the next few weeks, with the final outcome of the case by approximately May of 2005.

The most interesting comment by the District's counsel was that the 13.5 acre solar field with 17,000 solar panels will resemble a water feature. Since I am a Horticulture Environmental Consultant I held my laughter in the court room as there is no way anyone in their wildest dreams could visualize this array as a water feature. Marsha Burch, the lawyer for BVPS stated our position of lack of notification, incorrect documentation of the physical site, no legal notice of intent and stayed on task with the real issues at hand the misuse of the CEQA: Negative Declaration.

The California Environmental Quali-

thoughtful questions that were devised by CEQA that were not meant to stump the people who fill out these forms but to encourage them to make careful choices on paper.

Frankly, the District has alternative sites on 940 acres that are not environmentally sensitive sites. The solar panel site that the District has chosen is a highly sensitive Native American Indian site. None of the several Native American Indian Tribes in our area that I spoke to, that were to be notified by the District about development of any kind, were contacted about this project.

During the construction of this District facility and during growth stages there has been little to no respect for the Native American Indian culture. John Fury, Cultural Resource Specialist and former archeology teacher at Butte-Glenn Community College stated that above the present solar array site there was an extensive food processing area with several large rocks with many grinding holes. These rocks were dozed off the bank and severely scraped by the dozer's blades. Many of them are still visible today. When the sport field was created there was a raised oval area that was a large Indian habitation site. However, when the field was constructed the District leveled this site and used it for fill.

Though this was before environmental laws were in place this shows the total disregard for Native American resources on District property.

Had the current and past presidents and the board of trustees been made aware of the fact that the current solar site or previous construction sites were culturally sensitive would they have allowed the Facilities and Planning Department to

bulldoze them? They still can stand tall and make a change to the benefit of our environment. This kind nondisclosure of environmental issues from the District Facilities and Planning Department has to end. The administration, the board and the residents of Butte-Glenn County have to stand together and stop this solar array from being placed on this current cultural and environmentally sensitive site.

Proposed Medical Waste Facility Threatens Red Bluff

Continued from Page 1

tal Protection Agency and respected scientific bodies confirm that dioxin is super-toxic in minute doses of exposure. Dioxin exposure can cause cancer, and reproductive, developmental, immunological and other serious ill health effects.

In the United States there is only one commercial facility using plasma arc technology for waste treatment, and it is InEnTec's system that is being used. A company called Asia Pacific Environmental Technology operates the facility in Kapolei, Hawaii. InEnTec's website claims this facility is successfully operating, but the truth is that this facility has had serious violations including illegally storing excessive amounts of medical waste, failing to cease accepting waste while equipment was out of service, failing to adequately test end products, and blocking a complete government inspection of the facility. According to a May 29, 2004 Honolulu Advertiser newspaper story, APET blamed a federal ban on imports of heat-conducting electrodes needed to disintegrate the waste and machine malfunction for its setback in compliance. Many residents living near the plant in Hawaii have been furious about these problems.

Alarming, InEnTec's plasma technology at the Hawaii facility has operated without any testing of air emissions ever, despite the fact that an official at Hawaii's Department of Health confirmed that his agency

knows that the facility emits hazardous chemicals into the air.

Although InEnTec and other companies promoting plasma, pyrolysis, gasification or catalytic cracking claim their technologies are not incineration, in fact they use incineration as part of the process. Waste is heated, then the waste gases are directly burned or combusted in an engine to generate electricity. Some of the waste is destroyed, but residue containing toxic materials ends up in a solid residue, and other pollutants will be emitted into the air. Air pollution will also result from "upset conditions" when equipment breaks down, a common problem with incinerators and similar technologies.

The project must still be get permits from the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District and the State Department of Health Services before it can operate. County residents who are concerned about this project should contact the Air District at (530) 527-3717 and request that a full Environmental Impact Report be required and ask that you be notified in writing of all opportunities for public comment on InEnTec's permit application.

For more information contact Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice (415) 248-5010 www.greenaction.org greenaction@greenaction.org



The Fate of Disc Golf in Bidwell Park

Continued from Page 7

other park related sports are given such as golf, hiking, swimming, horseback riding, fishing, and mountain biking.

In 1999, the City of Chico's planning department conducted an initial environmental study of the two courses and declared that there was no significant impact. Since then members of Friends of Bidwell Park have used litigation measures to have the city further review the impacts of the course. EDAW is the consulting firm that won the bid for conducting the park research in October 2004. They will currently be starting from scratch to research any potential negative impacts. Their findings will be presented to the Citizen Advisory Committee in a series of four to six meetings.

Currently the short course receives the highest volume of use and therefore is at a greater risk for environmental damage. Some of the Disc Golf Club's mitigation ideas include tee pad surfaces to reduce erosion on and around tee box areas, seasonal shifting of target locations, potentially moving the short course to a new location, educating disc



Big Chico Creek flowing through Upper Bidwell Park, Jan '05. Photo by Sharon Fritsch

golfers to take 90 degree angles off the main path to their discs, and increasing involvement and monitoring by the city. Randy Abbott, member of Friends of Bidwell Park, expressed his concern for the city to require monitoring and mitigation. Whereas, Patsy Schultz of

FOBP would like to "leave the park unimpaired for future generations."

The passion that has come from both sides of the Chico Disc Golf Course has turned this issue into a hot topic in town. Both sides will be taken into account by the city and participation is

encouraged in City council meetings. The city will determine the fate of disc golf in Chico after careful review of EDAW's environmental report, mitigation attempts, and public review.

Editor's Note: Although Butte Environmental Council has not taken a side on this issue, we are supportive of actions that uphold and follow environmental laws. According to the January 13 *Chico News & Review*, a letter sent to the City of Chico by attorney William Yeates states that the City does not have a management plan in place that will allow for mitigation of potential damage to the park caused by the disc golf course. Until disc golfing and other uses of the park are addressed in the final amendments to the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP), it appears that the City has its hands tied. Our community can and should be involved in the BPMMP update process (see sidebar, page 7), and public meetings are scheduled throughout the year.

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BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE

Wal-Mart Attempts to Blanket Earth with Supercenters *Communities Rise Up*

By Heather Schlaff

There are important developments in the ongoing struggle to contain Wal-Mart's assault on the retail landscape of California. At a time when Chico is facing the prospect of two Supercenters, one at each end of town, an important ruling has come down from the Fifth District Court of Appeals in the case of Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control vs. City of Bakersfield. Wal-Mart has come up against strong opposition to its plans to open 40 Supercenters in the state within four years.

Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, has been aggressively attempting to bring their most successful retail format (the Supercenter) to California. The Wal-Mart Supercenter is a 24-hour grocery store combined with the discount goods of a traditional Wal-Mart. In addition to grocery, Supercenters include fast food chain restaurants, eye-care centers complete with on site doctors, low-cost hair salons, video arcades and other services traditionally found in strip malls and free standing buildings that make up a normal community.

These 200,000+ square foot buildings, over four football fields in size, bring unique questions to cities and small communities in California. The California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA, is designed to address potential impacts of new projects built in California. Its intention is to allow local governments and residents to understand the environmental issues that can be expected before a new project is approved and constructed.

Until recently, there were no Supercenters in California. Local governments have been struggling with developers and citizens to agree on what the true impacts are, and which of those impacts are acceptable.

This month, the Fifth District Court of Appeals published a ruling that will affect the approval of Wal-Mart Supercenters statewide. The appellate court reviewed the case "Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control vs. The City of Bakersfield," and subsequently overturned approvals for two shopping centers in Bakersfield. Each of the shopping centers included a Wal-Mart Supercenter, only 3.6 miles apart. The appellate court found a host of deficiencies in the city's obligation to study the environmental impacts of the shopping centers. Two Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) required by CEQA for the Bakersfield shopping centers were found to be insufficient in describing the potential impacts of the never-closed, super-sized Supercenters.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned approvals for two shopping centers in Bakersfield, finding a host of deficiencies in the City's obligation to study the centers' environmental impacts.

pacts.

After reading the existing EIRs, the public would have no idea of the health consequences that result when more pollutants are added. The court's ruling requires new EIRs be completed, in which the health impacts resulting from adverse air quality impacts must be identified and analyzed.

Another important finding in the Bakersfield case speaks to the issue of urban decay. Wal-Mart, the world's largest holder of vacant big box stores, is



The "Raging Grannies" are nation-wide groups of women who sing protest songs from war to Wal-Mart.

The court found that the Bakersfield EIRs failed to fully disclose the potential significant impact to air quality. In the past, many critics scoffed when the issues of air quality and traffic were voiced as concerns of new projects. This ruling sets as precedent the incumbency upon local government to fully disclose the impacts of Supercenters on air quality. The decision states that both the Bakersfield EIR's concluded the projects would have significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on air quality. Yet neither EIR acknowledges the health consequences that necessarily result from the identified adverse air quality im-

known for driving smaller businesses out and destroying traditional downtown America. While many have argued this is simply a function of competition, the court recognized urban decay as having a real impact on the environment.

The court expressly outlines public agencies' obligations to evaluate and mitigate "urban decay" impacts where evidence suggests new retail development may lead to store closures, physical deterioration or long term vacancies. The court further stated: "When there is evidence suggesting that the economic and social effects caused by the proposed shopping center ultimately could result in urban decay or deterioration, then the lead agency is obligated to assess this indirect impact. The decision further states, "the lead agency cannot divest itself of its obligations by summarily dismissing the possibility of urban decay or deterioration..."

The new Supercenters must now fully reveal to communities what businesses they are likely to displace and what impact those store closures will potentially have on surrounding businesses and neighborhoods.

This ruling is certain to impact the way in which both the Planning Commission and the City Council must view the proposed Forest Avenue expansion of the existing Wal-Mart into a Supercenter, and the plan for a new Supercenter at the current site of the Sunset Hills Golf Course north of town.

Meriam Park Alternative Vision for Development

By Tom DiGiovanni, President, New Urban Builders
Introduction by Barbara Vlamis, BEC

Building with Flair and Consideration

A 230-acre property in southeast Chico was approved for development and a preserve in 1996, but is considering a new form this year. New Urban Builders of Chico has brought forward a plan that will more efficiently use the land through design, mixed uses, incorporating civic buildings and providing retail space. This is the type of neighborhood pattern that the Chico General Plan envisioned when it was adopted unanimously by the City Council in 1994.

I was privileged to serve on the General Plan Task Force for three years with 40 other community members that crafted the Plan, including Tom DiGiovanni. It was there that compromises and decisions were made to prepare for an increase in population while protecting the natural resources that identify Chico: the foothills to the east, the creeks that tumble out of them, the oak woodland vernal pool savannas that finger into the community, and the rich soils in our alluvial plain.

This integrated traditional neighborhood project has the potential to create another unique section of this city such as those found surrounding CSU Chico. BEC is highly encouraged by the hundreds of hours that New Urban Builders spent involving talented professionals from both inside and outside the community and the public at large as they prepared the current proposal. We look forward to continued involvement with these developers and builders that incorporate a holistic, open view of urban planning.

I still remember the first time I came to Chico almost twenty years ago. Within the first day of roaming around town, I had that moment of clear recognition that Chico is a special place indeed. I've asked myself many times precisely what is it about Chico that makes this so. What are those qualities which draw us to this place? More broadly, what makes any place special?

I believe the answer lies in two distinct realms. The first is physical: the arrangement of all manner of buildings, streets and public squares and plazas, along with the manifestations of the natural environment which make their way into this built realm—trees, parks and creeks. The appealing physical qualities of Chico are well known to its citizens. Ask any resident to name his or her favorite places in Chico, and invariably most of the following will show up on the list: our vibrant downtown, our university campus astride Big Chico Creek, our older neighborhoods, our tree-lined avenues, our views of the foothills, our magnificent Esplanade, and, of course, our cherished Bidwell Park.

The other realm that makes Chico a special place is its civic and cultural spirit. This is the range of values and traditions which are expressed in a broad variety of civic, educational, environmental, charitable and religious organizations and institutions. One cannot be a resident of Chico for long without being gently approached to contribute time in a civic group. In so doing, we become citizens in the broader sense of the term because we are engaged in the tradition of cooperation and community-making. The common interest is expressed and served, and the sense that we're in it together is reinforced in tangible ways.

When we first conceived Meriam Park, we envisioned a place which would express both these special characteristics of Chico, the physical realm and the civic spirit. In this sense, the fundamental aim of Meriam Park is to participate in the best traditions of Chico. The plan contained in the pages of this General Application is intended to build a strong and supportive physical



Project location: between Humboldt Road and East 20th Street.

framework which actively encourages and contributes to Chico's vital civic tradition.

The place we intend to create is named in honor of Ted Meriam, generally recognized as the most influential civic leader since John and Annie Bidwell. It is intended not only to honor Ted Meriam but also to honor the important traditions of civic leadership and idealism which he embodied so well during his lifetime. It is our common responsibility to carry these traditions forward. In this sense we are reminded that the real long-term civic project is the one which follows the construction of the buildings and the plazas, the parks and the streets. While the role of the builder and designer is limited in time, it is an important and foundational one. We will devote all our energy and all our skill to be worthy of the task.

"Whether it is a place of worship, a telephone box or a garden wall, a building expresses the fundamental values of its builders and designers. It is a symbol of our state of mind and our self-respect . . . a means of safeguarding civic and personal values, and of encouraging and supporting them."

"A city can be built and prosper only if it represents the goals of individuals, of a society and its institutions. A city is not an accident but the result of coherent visions and aims. It is an invention of the human spirit."

-- Leon Krier, from *Architecture, Choice or Fate*



Michael Hayes' design for residences bordering a creekside greenway.

LAND USE

Conserving Placer County Habitat?

By Barbara Vlamis

Maybe, but the horse is miles out of the barn

Seeking not sustenance, but excess, housing in Placer County continues at a clip that is devouring land, polluting the air, and driving what remains of California's native wetlands and species closer to the brink of extinction. Large lot, trophy homes have again been approved to cover 3,140 acres of vernal pool critical habitat, land necessary to allow dependent species to recover and be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species.

BEC prepared to sue the federal agencies that permitted the destruction and was joined by Defenders of Wildlife to try to alter the destruction of the

3,140 acres (see sidebar, below). There is progress toward that end in settlement discussions, but two troubling trends continue: The Bush administration and most republican congressional leaders want to undo the environmental legacy created during republican Richard Nixon's presidency: the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act. As a destructive companion to that effort, most of California's counties and cities, with encouragement from the state, look at wildlands as ripe for exploitation.

How can politicians, from Washington, D.C. to local city councils, fail to understand that their decisions have *created* the list of animals and plants in jeopardy that they now decry is halting "progress" and "economic development. Urban sprawl, that is only possible because more and more native lands are destroyed, continues unabated in California until residents try to gain control over local land use decisions through initiatives. Local politicians and frequently a majority of their constituents, albeit a small one, usually fail to see the social and economic nightmare that they are creating with sprawl and how it pushes species to the verge of extinction. How long did it take Sacramento Area Council of Governments to start regional planning even though the crises of traffic, air quality, water quality, water shortages, flooding, wildland losses and more were readily apparent decades before in such metropolitan areas as Los Angeles, Walnut Creek, and San Jose?

Butte County Association of Governments, S A C O G ' s counterpart in Butte, has not even initiated such planning. In addition, Butte County has a seriously illegal and outdated General Plan. Has it never occurred to any city council, any board

There is a reason that California has the second highest number of listed plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act.

of supervisors, the state legislature, or California's congressional delegation that there is a reason that California has the second highest number of listed plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act?

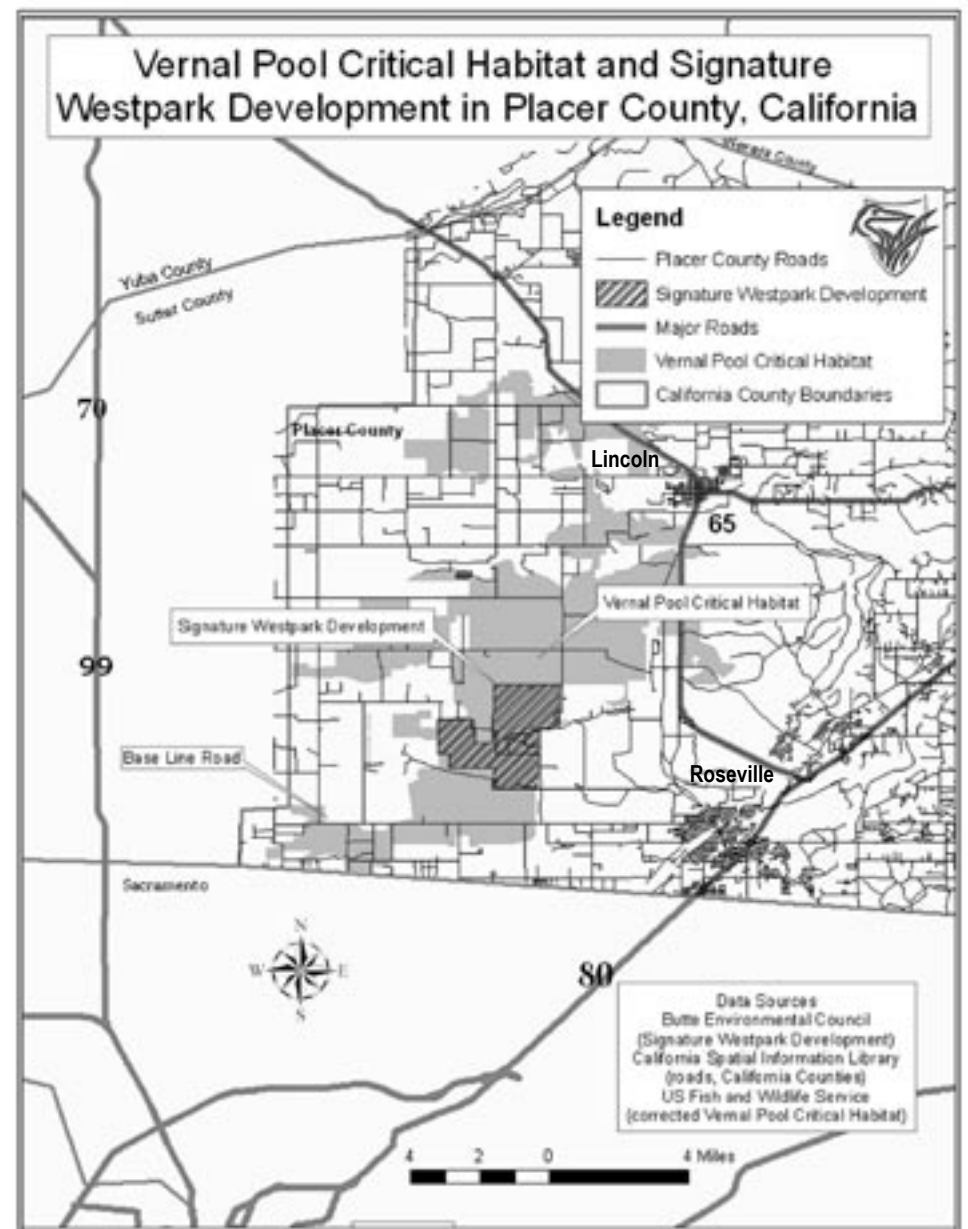
California used to have more than 5 million acres of wetlands. We now have less than 5% of them left. Our riparian habitat has similar numbers remaining and our ancient forests have been decimated. Has there not been enough manipulation and exploitation of nature's treasures in California, or do memories fail when the next developer stands in line to build,

the next clearcut is proposed, or the next vineyard is planned? According to a new report by Smart Growth America, the National Wildlife Federation, and NatureServe, California has 16 of the 20 counties in the nation that have the most imperiled species, led by San Diego, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Sonoma counties (www.smartgrowthamerica.com). While habitat and species are engulfed by sprawl, state and local jurisdictions wail that there is a shortage of affordable housing, yet stand back and allow the likes of Placer County to use land as inefficiently as possible in pursuit of pig-snout homes: two to three car garages presented as a home on large lots, 2,500–6,000 square feet interiors, and prices that only refuges from other areas already ruined can buy. For alternatives to this type of sprawling development, see article on page 11.

Why Vernal Pools and Why Placer County?

Answering the question, "Why protect vernal pools," is easy. Vernal pools are remnants of California's native wetlands, formed over millions of years. These precious ephemeral pools are home to many species that are genetically unique to California and a small part of southern Oregon. Four species in particular, the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and the vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) (listed on September 19, 1994), are significant players in the food chain. Migratory waterfowl count on these species for protein that is necessary for their flights north and reproduction. Rice fields may provide water and grain for waterfowl, but the protein available in the vernal pool crustaceans is essential for their

Continued next page





Critical Habitat and Hidden Gifts *The Value of Vernal Pools*

Continued from previous page

long-term survival. In addition to vernal pools' contribution to the food chain, the pools and the supporting landscape act as significant sponges, holding large quantities of storm water, assisting communities to prevent flooding. Additional economic benefits include grazing, a compatible activity when managed properly; tourism values such as hiking, photography, and wildflower observation; and education. Lastly, all Earth's species have a practical and spiritual place in the cosmos.

From a functional human perspective, vernal pool species are part of a food chain, as mentioned above, but they also hold secrets that we barely understand. For example, 80% of our human medication is plant based, yet only 5% of the known plants in the world have ever been investigated for pharmaceutical properties (e.g. the rosey periwinkle is a tropical flower used for leukemia; yew tree bark for ovarian and breast cancer) (World Health Organization). One vernal pool plant species, white meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba*) a cousin of Butte County meadowfoam (*Limnathes floccosa, californica*), has an oil that is used now for industrial purposes instead of hunting sperm whales for their oil. And while function is all that matters to some people, many others see value in all life and what supports it; how dare humans destroy natural systems and exterminate life just because humans fail to understand the complexity and treasure found in the intricate living fabric?

As to why protect vernal pools in Placer County, that too, is fairly simple to explain. Butte Environmental Council (BEC) first started to conserve vernal pool landscapes in the 1980s when BEC was instrumental in leading a successful referendum to protect the Bidwell Ranch land in Chico that was slated for 3,500 homes. In the early 1990s, BEC launched a program to protect this wetland landscape in Butte County by holding forums, conferences, and commenting on permits and projects that affected this habitat.

In 2000, BEC sued the federal government to designate critical habitat for the four crustaceans mentioned above, and succeeded through a settlement in obtaining vernal pool critical habitat (VPCH) lands for 15 species. Placer is one of the counties that retains the designation after extensive comment and review (five counties, including Butte, were removed for political reasons, but BEC is suing again to have the five counties' VPCH reinstated). Even with the VPCH designation, the federal agencies, with a mandate to protect wetlands and their species, failed to do so due to the hostility toward the environment by the Bush administration. With BEC's 13



Fairy shrimp found only in vernal pools provide essential protein for waterfowl. These areas also hold large quantities of stormwater; protecting communities from flooding.

years of active efforts to protect vernal pools and obtain the VPCH for the 15 species, the BEC Board of Directors' recognized the importance of what BEC

has accomplished for vernal pools and the necessity to hold the federal agencies accountable for what is well established legal protection for critical habitat.

Rewriting the Rules: Excerpts from a Natural Resources Defense Council report, January 2005 The Bush Administration's Environmental Record

After four years in office, the George W. Bush administration has compiled an environmental record that is taking our nation in a new and dangerous direction. Last year alone, Bush administration agencies made more than 150 actions that weakened our environmental laws. Over the course of the first term, this administration led the most thorough and destructive campaign against America's environmental safeguards in the past 40 years.

Even more troubling than the vastness of the onslaught is the fundamental nature of the policy changes. These changes do not merely call for updating regulations. They represent radical alterations to our core environmental laws.

For example, the administration has attempted to undermine the Clean Air Act by weakening the new source review program that pushes old polluting power plants and industrial facilities to clean up. It has tried to narrow the scope of the Clean Water Act by stripping environmental protections

from thousands of wetlands and streams. It is moving to hobble the Endangered Species Act by eliminating uniquely effective programs that protect habitat critical for threatened species. And it is reversing the single most important forest protection measure ever—the rule that protects 58 million acres of pristine, roadless, national forest lands.

Not surprisingly, after four years, the Bush administration's relentless anti-environmental agenda has translated into real damage on the ground. Since the Bush administration began, health warnings to avoid eating locally caught fish have doubled and completed cleanup of toxic wastes at Superfund sites have fallen by 52 percent; yet civil citations issued to polluters have dropped by 57 percent and criminal prosecutions of polluters have fallen 17 percent.

Meanwhile, the administration is making every effort to keep the public in the dark about the policies that contribute to these degraded environmental conditions. (For the full article, visit the *National Resources Defense Council website at www.nrdc.org*)

Bush By the Numbers:

100 - Approximate number of high-level officials in the Bush administration who help regulate industries they once represented as lobbyists, lawyers, or company advocates, according to a *Denver Post* analysis

6,000 - Number of scientists, including 48 Nobel laureates, 62 National Medal of Science recipients, and 135 members of the National Academy of Sciences, who warn that the Bush administration's overtly anti-science bias undercuts scientific integrity

75% - Decline in lawsuits filed against companies violating federal environmental laws in the first three years of the Bush administration as compared to the last three years of the Clinton administration—from 152 down to 36

57% - Decline in civil citations issued to polluters since 2001 (with civil penalties assessed against polluters in 2004 at the lowest since 1990)

17% - Decline in criminal prosecutions against polluters since 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

Friends of Bidwell Park Weekly Volunteer Opportunities

Friends of Bidwell Park sponsors volunteer invasive plant removal and trash pickup sessions 3 or 4 mornings a week. For specific dates and locations, see their calendar at www.FriendsofBidwellPark.org. They can also arrange special sessions for groups, based on the group's interests and time availability. For more information, send an email to info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org or call 892-1666. You can receive a weekly email about upcoming park activities by sending an email to the same address.

If you use the trails in Upper Park or want to learn more about these trails, the Park Department will offer several volunteer trail maintenance activities in the spring. To be notified about these volunteer opportunities, call the Park Dept. at 896-7800. Dates will also be posted on the FOBP web site.

Saturday, February 19 – Almond Blossom Bike Ride. A flat, leisurely 15 mile ride through orchards and pastures on quiet country roads to Durham Park for lunch and return on the Durham Bike Path. Meet at 10AM at the Glen Oaks Memorial Park Cemetery Office, Hegan Lane and the Midway. Helmets required. Bring water and lunch (or buy one at the Durham Market). Rain cancels. Leader: Gene, 873-1552. Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

Saturday, February 19 - Deer Creek Day Hike (grade 2, class A). Take a 5-6-mile walk through the late winter colors as we follow alongside beautiful Deer Creek. We'll begin at the trail just off of Highway 32 and hike to a secluded lunch spot. Bring water, lunch and carpool \$. Rain cancels. Return at approximately 4PM; about an 80-mile round-trip

drive. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 9AM. Leader: Julian, 893-1994; Asst. Leader: Jeannie, 894-5354. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

Wednesday, February 23 - 2nd Annual Organic Farming and Food Conference. Highlighting local food production and trends, presentations by ranchers regarding production challenges, marketing opportunities, and benefits to consumers from supporting local farms. CSUC campus - Bell Memorial Building - 8:30 - 5:00. To register: www.chicofoodnetwork.org or call Monica Samaniego, 345-7430.

Wednesday, February 23 - Slow Food Organic Dinner: From Farm to Table. Enjoy an organic, locally grown vegetarian dinner featuring farm fresh salad, baked veggie grain loaf, garlic mashed potatoes with shiitake mushroom gravy, steamed green beans and dessert. Part of the 2nd Annual Organic Farming and Food Conference (see above). Includes Silent Auction. 6:00 p.m. at the California Park Pavilion. Tickets: \$18, avail. at Grilla Bites or www.chicofoodnetwork.org.

Thursday, February 24 – Critical Mass Bike Ride. Last Thursday of every month at 5 pm, meeting in the free speech area, often with speakers and informational booths earlier. Bicycle riders (other alternative forms of transportation are welcome!!) take to the streets to show support for people- powered transport! This is a safe and legal ride with an emphasis on friendly and educational interactions with other street users. For more information, visit or call E-ARC (898-5676). Environmental Action & Resource Center

Thursday, February 24 – Sierra Club Newsletter Folding. Join us to help fold and sort the newsletter for mailing. It only takes about an hour and we always have

a lot of fun! Volunteers are always needed: newcomers and old members are both welcome. Call 343-9277 for directions more info. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

Saturday, February 26 – Feather Falls Hike. Come enjoy the 6th highest waterfall in the U.S. and the beautifully flowered and shaded, 8-9 mile round trip trail to it. We'll take the lower trail to the overlook, then go above the falls for lunch by the creek and return via the upper trail. Please wear boots or sturdy hiking shoes and bring lunch, water and carpool \$. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30AM or at the NW corner of the Oroville Wal-Mart parking lot at 9:05AM. Leader: John, 530-879-9196; Asst. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

Sunday, February 27 - Singles - Lunch and Walk (grade 1 class A) Meet for lunch at the Italian Cottage

(2525 Dominic, corner of Skyway). Afterwards we will walk to the Chico Tree Improvement Center (2471 Cramer Lane) for a stroll under the beautiful trees. Wear good walking shoes. Heavy rain cancels. Please call by Friday so we can make reservations. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491; Asst. Leader Lynn, 877-1671. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

Monday, February 28 – Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting. Chico Municipal Building Council Chambers, 7:00 PM -- Agenda at City of Chico website at www.chico.ca.us.

Friday, March 4 - Expect the Expected: Flooding in the Sacramento Valley. This workshop will examine the causes of flooding, natural and man-made, as well as the ecosystem services that floods provide (open space, wildlife habitat, and floodwater conveyance). 9:00

MEET CALIFORNIA WILD AUTHOR TIM PALMER



California Wild
**Preserving the Spirit
and Beauty of Our Land**

Tim Palmer; Terry Donnelly,
Photographer; Mary Liz Austin,
Photographer

"California Wild" celebrates the beauty of the Golden State, interprets its natural wonders, inspiring you to care for this remarkable place with joy, foresight, and stewardship.

FREE PROGRAM

**Chico State University
Bell Memorial Union Room 210
Friday March 18, 2005**

7:00 pm

presented by
The California Wild Heritage Campaign,
Environmental Affairs Council,
Environmental Action and Resource
Center, Environmental Advocates, AS
Recycling, Sacramento River Preservation
Trust, River Partners, and Chico
Paddleheads

"California Wild" takes you on a tour of mountains and forests, deserts and seashores, grasslands, lakes, and rivers. You'll experience this great state in all seasons, and you'll share incomparable views from the highest mountaintop down to the Pacific surf at sea level. Finally, Palmer tells you about the California Wild Heritage Campaign and the efforts of thousands of people to protect wild land and rivers, which still reveal the force of nature in all its glory.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Chico City Council Chambers. Registration: \$35, with optional afternoon lunch and field trip for an additional \$25. Sponsored by River Partners, DWR, USFWS, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, CSUC Center for Economic Development, CSUC Dept. of Economics. To register or for more information, call 898-4598.

Saturday, March 5 – Cross Country Ski in Heart Lake Wilderness and Lassen National Park. This is for people who own ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Unusual weather or snow conditions may change the destination. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride, Highway 99 and Highway 32 at 8AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

Thursday, March 10, 7:30 PM Program: “Ishi!” - Many already know that Ishi was the last of the Yahi tribe, but we hear that Dr. Robert Woods’ original program about this fascinating survivor is a real treat. If you would like to hear about our local roots, here’s your opportunity to learn from a wonderful Teacher/Naturalist/Interpreter (B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana). 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Chico Branch Library at 1st and Sherman. Refreshments will be served and the public is welcome. Call 893-1994 for information. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

Friday, March 18 – Tim Palmer’s “California Wild” Slide Show. With a blend of natural history, evocative writing, informative passages, and personal experience, writer Tim Palmer brings this spectacular landscape to life. (see ad previous page) CSUC, Bell Memorial Union Room 210, 7:00 p.m. Free.

Saturday, March 19 – Soils of Upper Park hike led by NRCS soil scientist Andrew Conlin, 9 AM to about 1:30 PM, starting at Parking Area B (by the Cross). The first hour, a short walk up the North Rim Trail, will provide “the big picture” about park soils so if you don’t have enough time for the entire hike, you can come for just this introductory

segment. The second part of the field trip is a walk from Parking Area E to Bear Hole, looking at the various soil layers and associated vegetation. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and snacks. Call 892-1666 or email in fo@friendsofbidwellpark.org for more information.

Thursday, March 24 – Bidwell Park Master Management Plan update meeting. The focus of this meeting will be review of specific park projects. The public is invited to participate. Chico Municipal Building Conference Room 1 at 6 PM -- Agenda at City of Chico website at www.chico.ca.us.

Saturday, March 26 – Wildflower Walk. Experience the fleeting beauty of Butte County’s vernal pools. 10-12 a.m., led by Hilary Locke. Sponsored by BEC, Friends of Bidwell Park, Save Bidwell Ranch. Call BEC for more info. 891-6424.

Monday, March 28 – Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meeting. Chico Municipal Building Council Chambers, 7:00 PM -- Agenda at City of Chico website at www.chico.ca.us.

Friday, April 1 – National Day of Action for Clean Energy on Campuses, 11-2 pm, Free Speech Area. Campuses Nation-wide are getting together on each of their campuses and taking action to urge their administrations to 1) Purchase clean energy
Continues next page

KID’S CORNER



10 Things You Can Do to Help Your Environment

1. Conserve energy by turning off the television and playing outside.
2. Don’t forget to turn off lights, televisions and other electrical appliances every time you leave a room empty.
3. Ride your bike or walk to nearby activities instead of taking a car.
4. Take a shower instead of a bath, showers tend to use less water.
5. Turn off the faucet while you are brushing your teeth to help save water.
6. Donate old toys and clothes to a local shelter or charity instead of throwing them out.
7. Ask for rechargeable batteries instead of single use batteries for toys, games and flashlights.
8. Recycle “junk” from around the house by using it as material for Arts and Crafts.
9. Choose a nearby park, section of road or other area to clean-up and then help keep clean.
10. Always put cans, bottles, cardboard and paper into recycling bins instead of trash bins.

PAPER-MAKING! A Fun Project for You to Try at Home

Paper is usually made from trees, but you can recycle tissue and make your own paper.

What you need: a piece of screen, hot water, tissue or other used paper, starch, a medium mixing bowl, a hand mixer, a shallow pan, a stack of newspaper, a rolling pin, decorative items (optional)

1. Cut a piece of screen and fold the edges twice to make a frame.
2. Tear up some tissue paper into the mixing bowl.
3. Add enough water to completely cover tissue and allow it to dissolve
4. Beat the tissues and water to make a “slurry”.
5. Add a tablespoon of starch
6. Pour the slurry into a shallow pan
7. Slide the screen to the bottom of the pan and gently move it to get an even layer of slurry on top of the screen.
8. Lift the screen straight up and allow the water to drain back into the pan without tipping the screen.
9. Place the screen with the pulp side up on a stack of newspaper.
10. (optional) Lay pressed flowers, leaves and grasses on the pulp.
11. Cover the screen with more newspaper and use the rolling pin to squeeze out excess water.
12. Gently remove top newspaper and peel the homemade paper from the screen.
13. Allow the new paper to dry in a warm flat place.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

Environmental Banquet 2005

- a Fundraising Event
for the 26th Endangered
Species Faire -

Wednesday, April 6,
2005

6 p.m. to 9:30
Sierra Nevada Brewery
Big Room,
1075 East 20th Street,
Chico

The evening will include a silent auction, a delicious buffet dinner, award presentations by local groups, and our speaker, Felicia Marcus, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Trust for Public Land. She is a graduate of Harvard and the New York University School of Law, Ms. Marcus served as Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX, from October 1993 until January 2001, overseeing California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and over 140 federally recognized Indian Tribes.

This event is hosted by Butte Environmental Council and co-sponsored by Altacal Audubon Society, AS Recycling, Chico Creek Nature Center, Chico Peace and Justice Center, Friends of Bidwell Park, KZFR radio, Mt. Lassen Chapter - California Native Plant Society, River Partners, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Streaminders, Stop Bidwell Ranch, The Nature Conservancy, and the Yahi Group - Sierra Club.

to get campuses involved with setting examples of clean energy changes. A.S. Recycling Program

Friday, April 1 – Farm Sanctuary Tour Season Begins. Visit the Farm Sanctuary's California Shelter, located near the beautiful Black Butte Lake in Orland, and meet the dynamic, social and playful animals who reside

at our 300 acre farm. Rescued from abuse and neglect, these incredible survivors teach visitors that farm animals can be our friends, rather than our food. Guided tours are held on Saturdays, every hour from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. from April 1 - November 30. Visitors are also invited to browse our gift shop and view the educational displays in our "People Barn."

www.farmsanctuary.org for more information.

Saturday and Sunday, April 2 - 3 - Wildflower Walks. Experience the fleeting beauty of Butte County's vernal pools. 10-12 a.m. on Sat, 1-3 p.m. on Sun. Sponsored by BEC, Sierra Club, Friends of Bidwell Park, Save Bidwell Ranch. Call BEC for more info. 891-6424.

26th Annual Endangered Species Faire

Grassland Wonders
May 7th in Cedar Grove
10 AM to 4 PM
FREE ADMISSION

Come joins us on May 7th 2005 for Northern California's longest running environmental faire. The day will abound with entertainers, educational and interactive booths sponsored by local schools, government agencies and non-profit groups. The event is for all to enjoy, but especially kids. Come enjoy fine food and specialty items from local eateries and stores.



We are always thrilled to have new and returning faces to help in the set up, take down, and running of the faire. We also greatly appreciate donations to help keep the faire free to the public, and exciting to attend. Please see the forms on the back of this newspaper for details.

If you are a vendor, non-profit, government agency or school and would like to participate in this year's faire please contact Olivia at 891-6424 or Olivia_bec@sbcglobal.net.

2) Build LEED certified buildings in the future and 3) Make buildings more efficient. Information links: www.fossilfools.org --about day of action specifically www.renewcsu.org -about the CSU campaign to get the CSU system to adopt more sustainable policies www.cleanenergynow.org - Green Peace International campaign

BUTTE COUNTY
RECYCLING

See businesses below by number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CRV	\$	\$	◆	\$	◆	\$	\$		◆	\$			◆	\$	\$	◆	\$	\$		\$
Glass		\$	◆	\$		\$	◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Metal																				
Bi-metal cans		\$	◆		◆	◆				◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Tin cans		\$				◆	◆			◆			◆	◆			◆			
Aluminum foil/ pie pans			◆				\$			◆										
Scrap metals		\$		\$		\$					\$									
Plastics														◆						
#1 Plastic		\$	◆	◆	◆		\$		◆	◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#2 Plastic		\$	◆		◆		\$			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#3-7 Plastic		\$	◆				◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆			
Paper																				
Newspaper			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Magazines			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Phone books			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Cardboard			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆
Mixed paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Ledger paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Hazardous Waste																				
Alkaline batteries			◆						◆					◆						
Car batteries		\$				\$	◆	◆			\$	◆		◆						
Paint								◆						◆						
Pesticides								◆						◆						
Fluorescent lights & ballasts							\$	◆						\$						
Used motor oil							F	◆						◆			\$			
Anti-freeze								◆						◆						
Miscellaneous																				
Appliances (no freon)		◆				F														
Appliances (with freon)														F						
Cars														F						

- ◆ Accepts recyclables listed
- \$ Cash paid for recyclables listed
- F Fee charged to accept recyclables listed

- 1) 20/20 Recycling Centers
California Department of Conservation
Albertson’s, 1050 Oroville Dam Blvd., Oroville
Albertson’s, 146 W. East Ave., Chico
Safeway, 1596 Hwy 99, Gridley
Safeway, 1016 W. Sacramento Ave., Chico
Safeway, 690 Mangrove Ave., Chico
Safeway, 1366 East Ave., Chico
Safeway, 6020 Clark Rd., Paradise
T-F 11-5, Sa 8:30-5, closed 1:30-2
- 2) Aldred Scrap Metals/Steel Mill Recyclers
786 Oroville-Chico Highway, Durham, 342-4930
M-F 8-5
- 3) AS Chico Recycling Donation Center
Corner of W. 4th St & Cherry St., Chico, 898-5033
Sa 10-2:30, www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle
- 4) Berry Creek Rental & Recycle
10 Menzie Lane, Berry Creek, 589-4828, Tu-Su 9-6

- 5) California Vocations (C.O.V.E.)
Curbside recycling in Magalia, Paradise,
Paradise Pines, west side of Skyway to Nimshu
877-0937, M-F 8-4
- 6) Chico Scrap Metals, Chico Scrap Metal South & Nor-Cal Recyclers
Auto bodies (call first), 878 E. 20th St., Chico,
343-7166, M-F 8-12, 1-4, Sa 8-12; 766 Oroville-
Chico Hwy., Durham, 345-6241, M-F 8-4
1855 Kusel Rd., Oroville, 532-0262
M 8-4, Tu-F 9-4, Sa 8-12
- 7) Chico Transfer & Recycling
2569 Scott Ave., Chico, 893-0333,Tu-Sa 10-4:30
www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 8) Butte Co. Household Hazardous Waste
Collection Facility /AC Industrial Services
1101 Marauder St. (at Chico Airport)
895-4829 or 343-5488, Fri-Sat. 9-1
Free to City of Chico residents.
- 9) Country Roads Disposal
Curbside recycling in Bangor, Berry Creek, Feather
Falls & Palermo, 589-3680, M-F 8-5
- 10) Fair St. Recycling-Work Training Center
2300 Fair Street, Chico, 343-8641
M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-3:30, www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm

- 11) Joe Verni Recycling
4980 Lincoln Blvd., Oroville, 534-7402
M-F 9-3:30, Sa 9-1
- 12) Neal Road Landfill
345-4917, Daily 7-4, www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 13) NorCal Waste Systems Curbside Recycling in Chico 342-4444
- 14) NorCal Waste Systems Oroville Recycling Center & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site
2720 S. 5th Ave., Oroville, 533-5868; Recycling
Center M-Sa 8:30-3:30; Hazardous Waste F 1-6
Free to City of Oroville residents.
- 15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley Household Hazardous Waste Recycling
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley, 846-0810; Transfer Station Sa-Su 9-4; Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of month, Gridley residents only 9-4
- 16) Paradise Elementary School
588 Pearson Rd., Paradise; Drop boxes open 24 hrs.
- 17) Recycle Paradise
951 American Way, Paradise
Holiday Mkt, 14001 Lakeridge Cir., Magalia
(CRV, newspapers only); Stratton’s Mkt.

- 5760 Sawmill Rd., Paradise (CRV, newspapers only) 877-2777, M-Sat 10-4
- 18) TOMRA Pacific
Collins & Denny Mkt, 434 Plumas Ave., Oroville
Raley’s Supermarket, 2325 Myers St., Oroville
(916) 381-6861, Tu-Sa 9:30-5, closed 1-1:30
- 19) Waste Management-North Valley Disposal
Curbside recycling in Chico (893-4777), Biggs,
Durham (by Appt), & Gridley (846-0810)
www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 20) Westside Recycling & Wood Products
2669 Hwy. 32, Chico, 892-2262, M-Sa 10-6, Su 10-4

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Yard Waste: Compost Facility
Cohasset Rd (west headed toward airport),
624-3529, 8-4 Tu-Sa, \$19 per cubic yard.

Septic Problems: Butte County Environmental Health Dept.
Chico: 891-2727; Oroville: 538-7282

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

A.S. Recycling Program

BMU 002, CSU Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0763
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978
www.aschico.org; Barbara Kopicki

A.S. Environmental Affairs Council

BMU 212, CSU Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0750
530/898-5701 fax: 530/898-6014
www.csuchico.edu/eac
asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

Altacal Audubon Society

PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927
530/824-0253
www.altacal.org
Jacksons3@aol.com
Jackson Shedd, Chapter President

American Lung Association

10 Landing Circle, Suite #1
Chico, CA 95926
530/345-5864 fax: 530/345-6035
www.lungusa.org/superiorbranch/index.html
patty@alacsb.org
Kelli Sarti

Arboretum Management Club, CSUC

Big Chico Creek Restoration
First & Normal Streets
Chico, CA 95929
530/345-4542
www.csuchico.edu/amc
mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu
Mike Lennox, President

Avenues Neighborhood Association

1627 Arcadian Ave.
Chico, CA 95926
530/343-8334
www.theavenues.org
avenues@infostations.com
Kasey Merrill

Bidwell Environmental Institute

CSU Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0555
530/898-6317 fax: 530/898-4363
www.csuchico.edu/bei

Bidwell Park 2005 Centennial Celebration

PO Box 88
Chico, CA 95927
530/891-5559 ext. 307
bpcc@sbcglobal.net
Ann Schwab, Chair

Bidwell Park Endowment Fund

PO Box 3223
Chico, CA 95927-3223
530/345-7265
ptombarrett@sbcglobal.net
Tom Barrett

Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927
530/343-9004 (WildlifeHelpPhone)

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

PO Box 461
Chico, CA 95927
530/894-1308
www.bigchicocreek.org
bigchicocreek@digitalpath.net
Susan Strachan, Chair

Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy

PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927
530/893-5399
www.buttecreekwatershed.org
creek@inreach.com
William Johnson, Coordinator

Butte Environmental Council, Inc.

116 W. Second St. #3, Chico, CA 95928
530/891-6424 fax: 530/891-6426
www.becnet.org, staff@becnet.org

Butte Humane Society

2579 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
530/343-7917 fax: 530/343-3734
www.buttehumane.org
shelter@buttehumane.org

California Conservation Corps

2345 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
530/895-4336 pager: 916/592-6500
www.ccc.ca.gov

Bill Reeves

California Native Plant Society

2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
916/447-2677
cnps@cnps.org
www.cnps.org

California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter

PO Box 3212
Chico, CA 95927
530/342-6053
woodyelliott@digitalpath.net
Woody Elliott, President

California Oak Foundation

1212 Broadway, Suite 810
Oakland, CA 94612
510/763-0282; fax: 510/208-4435
www.californiaoaks.org
oakstaff@californiaoaks.org
JanetSantosCobb, Executive Director

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html
cspa@psln.com
510/526-4049
Jim Crenshaw

California Wilderness Coalition

1212 Broadway, Suite 1700
Oakland, CA 94612
510/451-1450 fax: 510/451-1445
www.calwild.org
info@calwild.org
Mary L. Wells, Executive Director

Cherokee Preservation Society

530/534-0400; fax: 530/534-0400
Ellen Simon & Lee Edwards

Chico Creek Nature Center

In Bidwell Park
1968 E. 8th Street
Chico, California 95928
(530) 891-4671 fax: 530/891-0837
www.chico.com/naturecenter
naturecenter@chico.com

Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program

PO Box 68
Forest Ranch, CA 95942
530/895-0866
rwcole@jps.net
Roger Cole

Chico Velo Cycling Club

PO Box 2285
Chico, CA 95927-2285
530/343-8356 fax: 530/342-4646
800/482-2453
www.chicovelo.org
ed@chicovelo.org
Ed McLaughlin

Community Legal Information Center, CSUC

Chico, CA 95926
530/898-4354x16 fax: 530/898-4911
www.csuchico.edu/clic/ea
clic@csuchico.edu

Environmental Action & Resource Center

418 Ivy St., Chico, CA 95928
530/898-5676
www.csuchico.edu/earc
earc@csuchico.edu

The Esplanade League

PO Box 4868
Chico, CA 95927-4868
www.esplanadeleague.org
eleague@shocking.com
Diana Dwyre, President

Farm Sanctuary

PO Box 1065, Orland, CA 95963
530/865-4617 fax: 530/865-4622
www.farmsanctuary.org
west@farmsanctuary.org
Diane Miller

Friends of Bidwell Park

PO Box 3036
Chico, CA 95927-3036
530/892-1666
www.friendsofbidwellpark.org
info@friendsofbidwellpark.org
Susan Mason, President

Friends of Butte Creek

PO Box 3305
Chico, CA 95927

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

530/879-0887
www.buttetecreek.org
friends@buttecreek.org
Allen Harthorn

**Friends of Plumas
Wilderness**
POBox1749,Quincy,CA95971-0207
530/283-1230
Ruth Jackson

Friends of the River
915 20th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.friendsoftheriver.org
info@friendsoftheriver.org
916/442-3155 fax: 916/442-3396

Habitat for Humanity
3880 Benetar Way #1, Chico, CA
95928
Mailing address: PO Box 3073
Chico CA 95927
530/895-1271 fax: 530/895-0432
www.habitat.org
Pam Easterly, Director

Humanity Rising
PO Box 528, Chico, CA 95927
530/899-7719
jomaha@sunset.net
John Omaha

Kids & Creeks
113 W. 19th Street
Chico, CA 95928
www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/kid-
screaks.html
rbaxter@ci.chico.ca.us
Roxanne Baxter

**Lassen Forest Preservation
Group**
6802 Rexdale Ln.
Paradise, CA 95969-2922
530/876-1391
sayhart@infostations.com
Stephen Sayre

**Little Chico Creek
Watershed Group**
Dept. of Biological Sciences, CSUC
Chico, CA 95929-0515
530/898-5684 fax: 530/898-4363
jhubbell@csuchico.edu
Jean Hubbell

**Middle Mountain
Foundation**
Sutter Buttes Naturalists
PO Box 483, Live Oak, CA 95953
530/634-6387
www.middlemountain.org
middlemountain@yahoo.com
Janice Schmide

Mill Creek Conservancy
POBox 188, LosMolinos, CA96055
530/595-4470 fax: 530/595-4470
milerk1@aol.com

**The Nature Conservancy,
Northern Central Valley**
500 Main Street, Suite B
Chico, CA 95928
530/897-6370 fax: 530/342-0257
Davit Zeleke

**Neighbors for
Environmental & Fiscal
Responsibility**
2300 B Estes Road
Chico, CA 95928
530/345-7590
mike4pax@aol.com
Michael Pike

**Northern California
Regional Land Trust**
167 E. Third Ave., Chico, CA 95926
530/894-7738 fax: 530/894-7738
www.landconservation.org
ncrlt@shocking.com

Plumas Forest Project
PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103
530/836-0461
John Preschutti

Protect Our Watershed
PO Box 1223, Paradise, CA 95967
530/873-6383
cont103@aol.com; Jean Crist

River Partners
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fax: 530/894-2970
www.riverpartners.org
info@riverpartners.org
John Carlon, President

**Sacramento River
Preservation Trust**
PO Box 5366, Chico, CA 95927
530/345-1865 fax: 530/899-5105
www.sacriverttrust.org
jmerz@sacriverttrust.org
John Merz, Chair

**Sacramento River
Watershed Program**
500 Orange Street
Chico, CA 95928
530/879-0887
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Allen Harthorn, Education Coord.

Sierra Club, Yahi Group
PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927
530/824-2588
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/
gmradm@aol.com;sierralives@aol.
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**Sierra Nevada Forest
Protection Campaign**
915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814
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Sierra_Campaign@friendsoftheriver.org
Scott Hoffman

**South Bidwell Park
Neighborhood Association**
P.O. Box 2057, Chico CA 95927
530/879-5339
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Phil Smith

**South Campus
Neighborhood Association**
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530/898-2623
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Charles Preusser, Chair

**South Chico Neighborhood
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Betty Volker

Streaminders
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Eric Pooler

Valley Water Protection
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530/343-0916 fax: 530/894-7829
cofarm@shocking.com
Linda Cole

**Vallombrosa Avenue
Neighborhood Association**
2096 Vallombrosa Ave.
Chico, CA 95926
Dan Cook

Young Life Woodleaf
PO Box 397
Center Country School
Challenge, CA 95925
530/675-2252 fax: 530/675-0458
www.woodleaf.yl.org
Woodleaf@Woodleaf.YoungLife.Org
Shelly Miller

Become a BEC Member!

What does BEC do?

- Hosts the Endangered Species Faire
- Participates in public hearings on proposed developments
- Hosts cleanups of Chico creeks
- Helps thousands of residents with recycling and toxics questions
- Monitors wetland losses

What BEC membership brings you:

- A subscription to the quarterly *Membergrams*.
- The right to serve on and vote for BEC's Board of Directors.
- Invitations to special BEC events and the Environmental Banquet.
- Most importantly, the opportunity to join more than 800 local environmental activists who help support the movement to preserve and enhance our natural world.

Sign me up for a BEC membership!

- ☐ \$500 Cougar Cadre (Receives 4 tickets to the Environmental Banquet)
- ☐ \$150 Energy Elite
- ☐ \$35 Individual
- ☐ \$100 Wetlands Watch
- ☐ \$20 Low income
- ☐ \$50 Household

Become a BEC Angel!

I would like to become a "BEC Angel" by pledging \$ _____ per ☐ month or ☐ quarter to BEC. Enclosed is my first payment.

Method of payment

- ☐ Electronic Funds Transfer now available. Call BEC at 891-6424 for details.
- ☐ Check, made payable to BEC.
- ☐ Credit card (circle one) Visa Mastercard Amex Discover

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- ☐ Please don't share my name with other groups.
- ☐ I prefer not to be thanked in the *Membergram* for my donation.

Make checks payable to Butte Environmental Council. Mail this form to BEC, 116 W. Second Street., #3, Chico, CA 95928. Contributions to BEC are tax-deductible (less the cost of any premiums).

BEC Members Mailing Option

If you would rather pick up the *Environmental News* in town, or if you are receiving more than one and would like us to take you off of the mailing list, please let us know. Send us this page, with your name and address below, send a postcard, or give us a call. Thank you!

Please take me off of the *EN* mailing list: NAME _____

Help Row the BEC Boat!

The local environment needs your contribution!

You can make a difference. With the Environmental Banquet, the Endangered Species Faire and the various Creek Cleanups, our small staff and Board of Directors has its hands full. If you can volunteer your time (no matter how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. If you've volunteered in the past, but aren't sure whether we have your name and current phone number on file, you can also submit an updated form. Thank you!

Mail this form to: BEC, 116 W. Second St., #3 Chico, CA 95928

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

- ☐ Weekday mornings
- ☐ Weekday afternoons
- ☐ Weekday evenings
- ☐ Weekends

I am interested in helping with the following activities (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)
- ☐ Various Creek Cleanups
- ☐ 26th Annual Endangered Species Fair (Spring 2005)
- ☐ Publicity
- ☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations
- ☐ Booth construction & set-up (the day before the Faire)
- ☐ Clean-Up
- ☐ *Environmental News*, BEC's quarterly newspaper
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Office work
- ☐ Mailings
- ☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)
- ☐ Phones
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Photography (taking photos of our events and activities; nature photography)
- ☐ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies