



# Butte Environmental Council

*Educating and advocating for the land, air and water*

July 2012

## Butte Environmental Council e-News *Your Environmental Sentinel*

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### Dear Robyn,

This monthly newsletter is coming to you because we know you care about the health of the planet and want to see Butte County's land, air and water protected. **Please consider joining BEC.** It is member support from individuals like you that makes it possible for us to continue doing this work on behalf of the environment.

It's a very short Environmental Sentinel this month--mainly we just want to check in and provide information and support for your comments on the Butte County General Plan zoning proposals. If you haven't already sent a letter, please consider doing so--**it is vitally important to make county officials aware that their decisions are being watched and evaluated--that they are accountable.**

Whew! Enough intensity for July. Get out and go swimming!

## Final Phase of Butte County General Plan Amendments & Zoning Ordinance

**By Nani Teves**

Butte County is in the final stretch of completing the Zoning Ordinance (ZO), General Plan Amendments (GPA), and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). We at BEC are working hard to make sure these documents uphold the ambitious environmental and social goals of the General Plan. Some parts, such as changing the minimum agriculture parcel size from 5 acres to 20, are commendable. But rezones and parcel size reductions have been recommended (nearly 1000); and many (such as rezoning of oak woodlands to residential) are developer-driven, not policy-driven.

**We are very concerned that these rezones are coming after the public process that helped develop the General Plan, and that these changes are proposed without the guidelines of an agriculture mitigation plan and a climate action plan in place.**

BEC will be submitting comments on these documents. If you are passionate about Butte County's future and environment, please also let the county know by submitting a letter or e-mail by **Monday, July 16th**. You can see our **sample letter** [here](#).

### For more information:

[BEC Info sheet](#) on key issues (BEC has the latest draft of the fact sheet on line already)

Butte County ZO, GPA, and EIR (BEC has this [link](#) already on the web as well).

Due Date **Monday July 16th**, 2012  
Send letter and e-mails to:  
**Dan Breedon, Principal Planner**

**Butte County Department of Development Services**  
**7 County Center Drive**  
**Oroville, CA 95965**  
**(530)538-7629**  
[dbreedon@buttecounty.net](mailto:dbreedon@buttecounty.net)

## **Sweat, Glow, Perspire**

**From the BEC Wellness Team**



Much like embarrassing dreams of being naked in high school, the embarrassing moment of realizing that you really shouldn't have skipped your shower that morning...is enough to make most of us quite uncomfortable. Many of us turn to anti-perspirants or deodorants to avoid that embarrassment; but which should we choose?

**Anti-perspirants** always contain aluminum. It's the ingredient that keeps us from sweating. Sweating is one of the primary mechanisms for flushing toxins from the body. That right there may give you pause; but also disturbing for women is that research suggests aluminum affects estrogen receptors in the breast that may promote breast cancer.

**Parabens** are another estrogenic compound commonly found in both anti-perspirants and deodorants that may promote the growth of cancer in the breast.

**Propylene Glycol** is a humectant (keeps products from drying out); it also is the main ingredient in antifreeze. It also is a neurotoxicant, liver toxicant and skin irritant that is absorbed through skin very rapidly.

**Triclosan** is a very common anti-bacterial ingredient in household and personal care products. It is a skin irritant and possible thyroid disruptor, and can be a precursor to the formation of dioxins and chloroform; it accumulates in waterways, harming aquatic life, and can lead to the creation of resistant bacteria strains.

- **Consider using deodorants rather than anti- perspirants;** do you really want to deny your body its ability to rid itself of toxins?
- As with all personal care products, **look for products that are vegetable- or mineral-(crystal) based.** However, the misleading "mineral oil" is a petroleum product, and some grades are classified as carcinogenic by the World Health Organization.
- **Avoid the ingredients listed above, as well as "fragrance,"** which can be any number of unregulated, unlisted, unsafe ingredients.

A summary of the chemicals associated with anti-perspirants and deodorants, with citations of the available scientific literature, can be found at [Natural Cosmetic News](#).

## Feather River Clean-up July 28

One last shout-out for the very first Feather River Clean-Up! Please go [here](#) to the Facebook event page for more information and maps. "I was at the very first Feather River Clean-Up"--you can't buy bragging rights like that.

Wear boots, bring your water container, and we'll see you at the River!



## Annie B.'s Around the Corner



The Annie B's Community Drive encourages giving to a wide variety of local non-profits, including the Butte Environmental Council.

**You can join or renew your BEC Membership by donating to Annie B's.**

If you are due to renew, we will count your Annie B's donation as your renewal.

We receive **100% of the amount you contribute from August to September through Annie B's**, plus a **percentage of**

**extra funds** divided between the participating organizations.

Look for additional information and web links in the August Membergram. Thanks to the North Valley Community Foundation for offering such a great way to invest in our community!

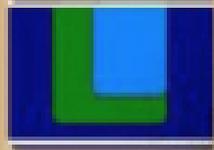
We're reaching out to you with this newsletter because we believe you care about protecting the land, air, water, and residents of Butte County. Consider becoming a BEC member in August, when you can join through Annie B.'s and maximize your membership dollars.

Together we can accomplish what is impossible alone.

Sincerely,

*Robyn DiFalco*

Executive Director  
Butte Environmental Council



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