



Butte Environmental Council

Educating and advocating for the land, air and water

October 2012

Butte Environmental Council e-News *Your Environmental Sentinel*

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Dear Robyn,

Thank you for your ongoing support of BEC. There are lots of fun ways for you to support BEC in the next few weeks. Hope to see you there!

November 3rd: Film Screening of "Over Troubled Waters"

"Over the last thirty years, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a once thriving ecosystem, has been in steady decline. One of the main causes of the Delta's decline has been the excessive export of water to other areas in the state. A great deal of this water has been sent to large-scale corporate agribusiness on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and in Kern County. But this part of the story regarding the Delta's decline is often overlooked by mainstream media."

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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THE FATE OF CALIFORNIA
IS IN YOUR HANDS...

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
& RESTORE THE DELTA PRESENT:

OVER TROUBLED WATERS

Narrated by Ed Begley Jr.

FREE SCREENING

+ PANEL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING

Saturday, November 3rd
2:30-4:30pm

Pageant Theatre
351 E. 6th St.

Yahi Group



Learn How You Can Help Protect Our Local National Treasures...

BEC, along with Sierra Club, Friends of Butte Creek, Citizens Water Watch, and Sacramento River Preservation Trust, is bringing this critically acclaimed documentary to the Pageant Theater on **Saturday, November 3rd at 2:30 PM.**

A panel discussion will follow, highlighting the impact that the Delta issues are having on the northern Sacramento Valley region.

If this energizes you to learn more about water, see our [Calendar](#) which features other water forums and panels on November 6th and 7th at CSU Chico, or join the Stream Team on the 10th. BEC members are also encouraged to join the BEC Advocacy Committee meeting on November 6th at 5:30--and we've always got water on the brain!

Come watch with us, and "**share this story...not just for the Delta, but for the future of California.**"

Helena Chemical Plant in Nelson

by Nani Teves, BEC Advocacy Consultant



BEC has been working to move the proposed Helena Chemical storage and distribution plant from the small community of Nelson to the environmentally preferred location, an industrial site in Gridley. Well, it turns out that despite the 'significant and unavoidable' loss of prime agriculture lands, the domino effect of rezoning setting off leap frog development (which has already begun), and the very real loss of a rural community lifestyle, the Planning Commission unanimously decided to recommend this project be approved. According to Commissioner Fernando Marin, "this is a feather in the cap of Butte County" and the community of Nelson will come to see this 10 acre Chemical Plant with truck traffic and the threat of ground water pollution of the shallow ground water table as "a blessing".

BEC's position on this project is that it is ill-advised for an out-of-town Chemical Company to purchase inexpensive prime agricultural lands, lobby for a rezone, direct growth away from incorporated areas, bypass environmental regulations required by these industrial zones, and negatively change the direction of an entire community.

Our concern is that the County made a commitment to protecting ag lands and promoting development within already developed areas. Now they are making an exception that only benefits the pocket book of one company, sets off a domino effect of rezones that results in leap frog development and, in the County's own words, "reduces the future viability of working agricultural lands."

Although the Helena Chemical Plant and the Planning Commission see this as a done deal, there will be two more opportunities for public comment. The **first** is on **November 8th** at the next **Planning Commission** meeting, and the **second** is at the **Board of Supervisors Meeting** in mid-November where they will either approve or deny the project.

Thank You Annie B's Donors!



North Valley Community Foundation is wrapping up their 6th Annual Community Drive. Donations made through NVCF get an extra 9% this year, and this year's Annie B's raised more than \$800,000 for 250 local nonprofits. We're so very grateful for NVCF's investment in community, and for all of you who believe in BEC and the work we do.

When you show your commitment with a donation, we know that we are on the right track.

...And Thank You, Birthday Bashers!



We took time out from eating, drinking, making merry and bidding on cool Silent Auction gear to honor our Environmentalist of the Year and BEC Service Award winners: **Tony St. Amant** (pictured), **2011 Environmentalist of the Year Award** winner, led the initiative for the Water Element in the County General Plan for 20 years. He has helped shape the NSV IRWM and pushed the county to reshape a vital scientific investigation of our ground water recharge processes.

Pamm Larry, winner of the **2012** award, is a political activist whose monumental efforts helped develop Proposition 37, an

initiative for the upcoming ballot that requires GMO products to be labeled.

Former BEC Board Chair **Jim Gregg** is being recognized as **2011 BEC Service Award** recipient for his years of service to the council and personal commitment to keeping the organization afloat financially. The **2012** award recipient is **Jon Luvaas**, a former Chico Planning Commissioner. He is being recognized for his service to BEC in the area of land use planning, and was key in latest efforts on the Butte County General Plan, sharing his knowledge and serving as a personal ambassador.

And **how about that dinner?** Whoot! It was fantastic. **Donna Garrison, Mama Rose** and their merry band of **kitchen elves and penguins** (that's "servers" to you who've never enjoyed the FunFest that is restaurant work) put together a simply stupendous meal for our dining pleasure. Another round of **thanks** are in order, too, to **our growers and grocers** who donated food:

- [Berkeley Olive Grove](#)
- [Chico Natural Foods Co-op](#)
- [Chris' Egg Farm](#) (He's in the Best of Chico this week!)
- [GRUB](#)
- [Hearth & Stone Bakery](#)
- [Pyramid Farms](#)
- [Raley's](#)
- [Riparia](#)

Additionally, a giant **THANKS to our Sponsors**

- [**Sierra Nevada Brewery**](#),
- [**Ag Mart**](#)

And to those supporters who donated **Scholarship Tickets** so that students could attend the Bash:

- Mark Adams of [North Star Engineering](#),
- Michele Carter of [Interwest Insurance](#),
- Steve O'Brien of [Pullins Cyclery](#),
- the [Law Offices of Mike Bush](#),
- and an anonymous donor

Grateful thanks to [JP Gutierrez](#) and [Three Fingers Whiskey](#) for swinging and rocking us from start to finish...

And, saving the best for last: Thanks to **YOU**, members and allies, for bidding extravagantly, sharing a fantastic evening, and being part of this vibrant community we call home.

Get Active: Join the BEC Board

BEC's newly expanded board has vacancies to fill



We're pleased to announce that after revising our bylaws to expand the number of seats on the BEC board, we now have a space for YOU. All BEC members are eligible to apply. Interested? Here's what it entails:

- Monthly Board meeting (2 hours)
- Serve on one committee (2 hours/month)
- Additional time commitments for events or projects as your availability allows.
- Estimated time commitment is about 10 hours per month

BEC Committees include Advocacy, Events, Garden, or the Executive Committee. We are also seeking a replacement for our Secretary who recently had to step down. Serving on the BEC Board of Directors is possibly the greatest contribution you can make to help protect our region's environment.

To apply, contact Robyn DiFalco at staff @ becnet.org
Or consider attend our next Board meeting (Oct 23) to check it out.
(See the BEC Calendar for all Board and Committee meetings.)

This Way To Sustainability Conference VIII Call for Proposals

The annual ***This Way to Sustainability Conference*** will take place at CSU, Chico March 7-8, 2013. Proposals for presentations are currently being accepted with a deadline of **Wednesday, October 31.**

Topics for presentations include Sustainable Lifestyle Solutions, Sustainable Solutions for Food and Agriculture, Business and Economic Solutions, Energy and Water Solutions, Educational Solutions, Climate Solutions, and a Speaker's Corner.



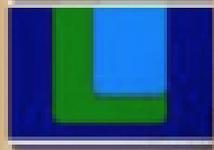
If you want to share your knowledge and expertise with a presentation at TWTS, click on the image to the left to go to the application page. Be a part of one of CSU Chico's best projects!

Hope to see you at our upcoming events. Together we can accomplish what is impossible alone.

Sincerely,

Robyn DiFalco

Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council



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