

ROUTINE COMMUNITY TRASH CLEAN-UP PROGRAM (SWRP PROJECT 59)

Project Information:

- **Existing Program:** Butte Environmental Council currently organizes a large community clean up event once a year. The City currently provides on average \$1,800 of monetary support and \$2,000 of in-kind support for this large clean-up event. Additionally, the City organizes volunteers for creek cleanups every week, estimated at around 45 hours of volunteer work per week.
- **Trash Amendments:** The California State Water Resources Control Board approved the Trash Amendments to the Inland Surface Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries on April 7, 2015. The Trash Amendments require the City to install trash full capture devices (over a 10-year period) in the commercial, industrial, high density, and transportation (e.g. bus stops) land use areas. Full capture devices will capture all trash larger than 5 millimeters in size (about ¼ inch). The City will soon prepare a Trash Master Plan to determine how best to comply with this new regulation. The Routine Community Trash Clean-Up Program could be an important part of the City's compliance with the Trash Amendments. Even if the Trash Clean-Up Program is not included in the Trash Master Plan, the Trash Clean-up Program will result in collection of trash that would otherwise end up in the City's creeks.
- **Routine Community Trash Clean-Up Program Summary:** This program will continue the ongoing, weekly community creek clean-ups the City organizes and will continue to co-sponsor the large annual community cleanup organized by Butte Environmental Council. The project will evaluate expanding the City's current trash removal efforts to include additional mornings for cleaning litter and trash from Big Chico Creek, Lindo Channel, Sycamore Creek, Mud Creek, Little Chico Creek, Comanche Creek, and associated wetlands and riparian habitat. Associated with Butte Environmental Council's annual event, a community outreach and education event could be held to teach the public about how trash impacts storm drains and creeks, and a free afternoon barbecue can be provided to thank the clean-up participants for their work and to build a sense of community ownership of the creeks. This plan will involve preparing an education and outreach plan and budget that includes: 1) opportunities to collaborate with existing watershed protection groups, such as Butte Environmental Council, Stream Team, Friends of Bidwell Park, *etc.* 2) evaluates and monitors the efficacy of the projects for reducing erosion and improving water quality, and 3) provides public education and outreach events.
- **Location and Watershed Area:** Throughout City of Chico, approximately 21,300 acres.

Benefits Resulting from this Project

This program includes the continuation of routine community creek cleanups. As the creek clean-ups are implemented, the following benefits are expected to occur:

- **Water Quality:** Water Quality is expected to be improved because trash will be removed from the creeks. Sometimes trash can include toxic and hazardous chemicals that would also be removed. Additionally, educating the public about trash impacts and building a sense of community ownership of the creeks will reduce the quantity of trash and other pollutants that enter the creeks.
- **Water Supply:** Water supply is not expected to change.
- **Flood Management:** Flood Management will be improved by eliminating trash and debris from the creeks that can clog culverts and reduce the conveyance capacity.
- **Environmental:** The environment is expected to be highly improved because removing trash and other pollutants will improve beneficial uses of streams, including enhancing habitat.

- **Community:** The community is expected to be moderately improved because the events will provide outreach and education to increase knowledge of storm water, watersheds, and pollutants.

Project Costs

- **Estimated Plan Preparation Cost:** The estimated cost of conducting community creek cleanups is To Be Determined (TBD).

Photos:



Trash site prior to trash collection in Chico. Photo courtesy of Butte Environmental Council - <http://www.becnet.org/bidwell-park-clean-up>, accessed February 2018



Trash collection in Chico. Photo courtesy of Butte Environmental Council - <http://www.becnet.org/bidwell-park-clean-up>, accessed February 2018



Trash site prior to trash collection in Lindo Channel (from Chico Community Watch Facebook Group)



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Trash collection in Chico. Photo courtesy of Butte Environmental Council - <http://www.becnet.org/bidwell-park-clean-up>, accessed February 2018