

Chico

Chico, the most populous city in Butte County, was founded by John Bidwell, a member of one of the first wagon trains to reach California in 1843. He acquired "The Rancho del Arroyo Chico" from which he deeded the land which became the City of Chico in 1860.

In the 2000 Census the population was listed at 59,954 but was estimated to have grown to 87,713 as of 2009. It is home to both Chico State University and Bidwell Park which ranks 13th among the 25 largest municipally-owned parks.

The original inhabitants of Chico were the Mechoopda Maidu Native Americans whose descendants are still active in the community.