



## Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council Press Release Community Beautification of Penitencia Creek Park

**No Embargo**

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### BERRYESSA BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT – TO START PARK BENCH INSTALLATIONS

#### Community Members and Organizations Team with the Boy Scouts to Install 10 Park Benches

On Saturday, December 2, Scout Troop 164 from Christ Community Church Milpitas will partner with the Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council (BCAC) and install the first 5 commemorative benches along the Penitencia Creek Park pathway and then complete the installation on the following Saturday. Funds for these benches were donated by neighbors and local organizations as an expression of their joy in our neighborhood and commitment to its improvement.

“Our community has embraced this beautification initiative,” said Linda Locke, BCAC President. She went on to say, “In January, the BCAC Board selected Penitencia Creek Park benches as our 2017 Beautification Project and seeded it with \$1,000. The San Jose Parks and Recreation Department quickly vetted 10 sites along the park path, and people came forward with funding commitments that amplified our financial leadership.”

Local community members like Jan Hornbeak-Lyle, Robert and Susan Fowle, Assembly Member Kansen Chu and his wife Daisey were the first to fund benches. They were quickly joined by the Berryessa Community Center Advisory Board, the Berryessa Union School District (BUSD), the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), as well as the BCAC. Then San Jose District 4 Council Member Lan Diep embraced the effort and secured city funding for three benches so every vetted site will have a bench.

Sponsors picked from a catalog of benches that met criteria for low maintenance, sturdy materials, and seated use. The BCAC provided turn-key support to the sponsors by ordering the benches and purchasing installation tools and materials. The boys of Scout Troup 164 stepped up to complete the offering, volunteering to assemble and install the benches. So this is great example of community cooperation.

“The BCAC plans to acknowledge all of the people who made this possible at a Community Center dedication ceremony during the December 12<sup>th</sup> General Meeting,” said Will Ector, BCAC Secretary and former Berryessa Union School District Superintendent. “Everyone is invited to join this expression of appreciation for these wonderful sponsors and volunteers.”

These park benches will offer rest for tired legs, spots for peaceful reflection, and opportunities for friendly conversation. Oh, and like the park, the benches are dog friendly.

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Founded in 1973, the Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council (BCAC) is a non-partisan neighborhood association representing the interests of citizens living and working in San Jose City Council District #4 and/or the Berryessa Union School District. The BCAC meets at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of each month (except July and August) at the Berryessa Community Center, 3050 Berryessa Road. Everyone is welcome. Visit our web site at [www.berryessasj.wordpress.com](http://www.berryessasj.wordpress.com)