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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RELEASE DATE:** THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2013

**RUN THROUGH DATE:** FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013

**FROM:** **McKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
JASON SEHON, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR  
(707) 839-9003**

**SUBJECT:** **BOCCE BALL COURTS AT PIERSON PARK CONVERTED TO  
DECOMPOSED GRANITE SURFACE**

McKinleyville, CA – The bocce ball courts at Pierson Park have been converted to a decomposed granite (D.G.) surface. When the courts were first installed, MCSD staff held a series of public meetings to ask the bocce ball court community what type of courts they would prefer. Drainage and court surface were the most important items brought up in the meetings. Many court surface ideas were considered, such as synthetic surface, turf grass, and oyster shell. Ultimately, the bocce ball community decided at that time that crushed oyster shell and oyster shell powder was the preferred surface.

The courts were made possible by a generous matching grant from the Mad River Rotary Club. The project was built by MCSD staff and completed on April 16, 2010. A grand opening for the courts was held on April 29, 2010.

In the last couple years, many communities with bocce ball courts have converted their oyster shell surface to D.G., which is a granite rock that has weathered to the point that it readily fractures into smaller pieces or chunks of weak rock. Over the course of the last year or so, many avid players have approached our staff about considering converting our courts to D.G.

After further research and discussions with members of the local bocce ball community, our staff decided to give them what they wanted. After all, MCSD places high priority on meeting the needs of our community.

A group of local bocce ball players have been helping staff make these improvements to the bocce ball courts. In fact it was the hard work of those local volunteers that really helped make it possible. Both court surfaces have now been replaced with decomposed granite,

and local players are very excited. I would like to commend our dedicated staff and members of our community for volunteering their time to get these courts up and ready.

Our staff is in the process of putting together a bocce ball club, which will host bocce ball leagues and tournaments. For more information on how you can become involved, please call Rachel Fusi at 839-9003.

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