



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: July 14, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services
Contact: Jill Van Wie, Capital Program Manager
SUBJECT: **Approval of Waller Park Playfields Master Plan Update;** Fourth District

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JA

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the Waller Park Playfields Master Plan Update for active recreation sports fields at Waller Park; and
- b) Determine that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262 of the State Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA as the project is a planning study for possible future actions, which the County has not approved, adopted or funded.

Summary Text:

The Waller Park Playfields Master Plan Update proposes an update to the Waller Park Playfield Master Plan adopted in 2011 by adapting the active recreation area to include an additional baseball field. The updated master plan maintains the overall concept master plan comprised of baseball fields, soccer fields, a concession stand, restrooms and parking lots to provide facilities for organized activities. Since 2011, members of the public have communicated to District 4 and the Community Services Department their growing desire for public baseball fields that can be used for Babe Ruth baseball play. Additionally, new parks and recreation facilities have been built or planned in the Santa Maria Valley adding to the inventory and variety of active public recreation facilities in the region. These new complimentary facilities and community desire indicate an update to the Waller Park Playfields Master Plan is warranted.

Discussion:

The 2011 Waller Park Playfields Master Plan is a long-term conceptual plan that envisioned two little Babe Ruth baseball fields, four soccer fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, restrooms, parking and circulation (Attachment A). Babe Ruth baseball fields are the same as dimensions as high school, collegiate, and professional baseball with 90-foot bases with 60'6" pitching distance to home plate. Based on community input and in collaboration with District 4, the updated conceptual plan responds to community needs while looking at the facilities across the region. With four new soccer fields under construction in the City of Santa Maria expected to open in spring 2027, the Waller Park Playfields Master Plan Update re-prioritizes the types of active recreation fields that may be constructed at Waller Park. The update includes an additional Babe Ruth baseball field for a total of three ballfields and two soccer fields in-lieu-of the two ballfields and four soccer fields in the original plan (Attachment B and Attachment C). The conceptual master plan update will also retain more of the natural beauty of Waller Park and reduce anticipated costs by eliminating paving for perimeter roads and maintaining the existing location of Morrison Field. The County Park Commission approved the update on June 18, 2026.

Background:

On August 9, 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Waller Park Playfields Master Plan which established a conceptual vision for two Babe Ruth baseball fields, four soccer fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, restrooms, parking and circulation.

In 2025, the City of Santa Maria began construction of a new sports complex on South Depot Street, located 2.5 miles north of Waller Park. The \$20 Million project is projected to open in spring 2027. The 21-acre sports complex includes four multi-use athletic fields, basketball courts, a playground and seating areas. This City project significantly adds to the regional inventory of active recreation facilities.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes.

The updated conceptual Waller Park Playfields Master Plan would reduce construction costs by reducing pavement and maintaining the location of an existing ballfield.

The cost to update the conceptual master plan is budgeted in the Waller Park Playfields project.

Special Instructions:

Please provide a copy of the minute order to Jill Van Wie at jvanwie@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2011 Waller Park Playfields Master Plan Concept Site Plan

Attachment B – 2026 Waller Park Playfields Master Plan Concept Site Plan Update

Attachment C – 2026 Baseball Area Enlargement

Contact Information:

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