

**AGENDA DATE:** December 9, 2010  
**TO:** Santa Barbara County Park Commission  
**FROM:** Juan M. Beltranena – Capital Projects Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Conceptual Plan for Development of Waller Park Sports Playfields  
Waller Park Playfields – Orcutt Sports Commission

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Park Commission:

1. Receive a report from the Orcutt Sports Commission regarding the Development of Waller Park Sports Playfields.
2. That the Parks Commission recommend that the project proceed upon completion and recommend to the Board of Supervisors the Commission's position on the project.

*approved to go to the BOS for further development.*

***Background***

On January 13, 2009 upon the request of 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Joni Gray the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors established the Orcutt Sports Commission (OSC). The OCS is comprised of seven community members and staff from P&D and Parks. The Commission was established to address the demand for sports fields and recreational areas within the unincorporated area of Orcutt, particularly in light of: 1) the recent and pending growth of the community; and 2) changing dynamics of the Orcutt Union School District (OUSD) space needs. Growth within the OUSD, which has provided the majority of area currently and historically utilized by Orcutt youth sports leagues for organized outdoor activities, is expected to displace many or all of the existing fields in the near future. In May of 2010, upon recommendation of the Parks Commission, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Parks department to proceed with a contract for design services of new playfields at Waller Park with RRM.

After several months of work and numerous meetings with stake holders, including representatives from the Parks Department, Planning and Development, Friends of Waller Park, the soccer and baseball communities in Santa Maria and Orcutt and the local YMCA, the design group has proposed this alternative as one that meets the needs and respects the constraints of all the stake holders.

The proposed alternative is the result of meeting the programmatic needs from all represented parties as well as significant compromises in programmatic requirements to achieve a common vision for the development of the western end of Waller Park. The alternative proposed includes two baseball fields and six soccer fields and parking, while providing a dual use open space in the Don Potter Area of the Park. The Don Potter area will remain as open space except on occasion, when it will be temporarily used for

soccer. The merit of this alternative is that the proposed configuration does not eliminate any significant trees or any existing memorial trees in the park.

The project will now proceed with a final round of consultation with all the stake holder groups, to ascertain their support for the proposed alternative, and the refinement and development of an opinion of probable cost. Development of the project is on schedule (task 8.03 - Selected Design Alternative Plan); this task was originally scheduled to be complete by December 15, 2010. Task 8.04 (Refined Design Plan & Opinion of Probable Cost) is scheduled to start December 1, 2010 and be completed by January 15, 2010.

*Next Step*

At this time, Parks' staff and the Orcutt Sports Commission request that the Parks Commission recommend that the project proceed upon completion and recommend to the Board of Supervisors the Commission's position on the project.