Communication from Public

Name:	Alexandra
Date Submitted:	06/28/2024 08:22 AM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	AstroTurf is just plain bad, let's recap just a few reasons: 1. Actually makes the ground hotter 2. Full of microplastics and chemicals that are bad for kids and pets (those that are closest to it on a daily basis). 3. It's not recyclable or sustainable! 4. It's ugly as sin. A much better solution are drought tolerant and natural grasses. Please, let's just stick to the real thing and move away from installing more fake turf. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Andy Hattala
Date Submitted: 06/28/2024 11:24 AM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: My name is Andy Hattala, I am a representative of a broad coalition and task force aimed at minimizing the harmful effects associated with artificial turf. I am specifically the Vice Chair and Water Committee Chair of The Climate Reality Project: Los Angeles Chapter, consisting of over 1,500 members. The coalition and I strongly support CF 24-0602. This motion is a logical and necessary first step to make informed decisions on a product that is cropping up in our schools, homes, businesses, and parks. We need to understand the real impacts and costs of using artificial turf not only financially but on our health, the environment, wildlife, and water safety and security. Instead of artificial products and solutions, we need to implement nature-based solutions like drought-tolerant California native plants in our landscaping. This motion is critical because science and real-world experience have demonstrated that artificial turf fails to live up to its promises: 1. All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals, contaminants, and microplastics. PFAS “forever chemicals” are known carcinogens, neurotoxins, and hormone disruptors. Children and athletes who play on it are at increased risk of exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate - it is especially harmful to children who are still developing. 2. Artificial turf pollutes our air, water and soil. Runoff from artificial turf contaminates our drinking water, rivers, and oceans with microplastics as well as PFAS. The PFAS also leaches into our groundwater. PFAS has been found in our wells and the EPA has reported there is no “safe” amount of PFAS. 3. Artificial turf reaches extreme temperatures! It can reach temperatures 80 degrees higher than the air temperature, readily reaching 180 degrees F or more. This can create and amplify the heat island effect raising the temperature in the surrounding area. Additionally, artificial turf amplifies and exacerbates the heat dome effect currently raising temperatures throughout California and the U.S. The additional heat is also linked to increased injuries, particularly burns and heat stress. This is also an environmental justice issue given where it is frequently installed. 4. Artificial turf is an impervious surface that impedes groundwater recharge and increases the risk of flooding. The opposite of what we should be doing - we need to convert L.A. into a sponge city. Artificial turf ultimately wastes water. It

requires water to maintain versus conserving and reduces water retention versus increasing it. Artificial turf, therefore, cannot be an aspect of the city's drought and flood mitigation efforts. 5. Artificial turf also off-gasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis versus grass and plants that produce oxygen and are a carbon sink. Exacerbating the climate crisis further exacerbates the current heat and water issues being experienced in the city of Los Angeles. 6. Nothing lives in plastic. Artificial turf can kill the soil microbes and living organisms beneath it, as well as take away habitat from insects, birds and local wildlife further contributing to biodiversity loss. 7. Finally, it cannot be recycled. At the end of it 8–10-year lifecycle the field will end up in our landfills where it will continue polluting the environment. Artificial turf takes the city of Los Angeles further away from achieving its zero waste goals by increasing waste and pollution. We need real-world and natural solutions that factor in our health, the environment, and wildlife; and will result in a more livable and sustainable Los Angeles. Please do the right thing and vote yes on CF 24-0602.

Communication from Public

Name:	Peggy Painton
Date Submitted:	06/28/2024 11:26 AM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	Los Angeles should move away from the use of artificial turf and toward drought-tolerant landscaping. * All artificial turf contains dangerous microplastics and hazardous chemicals known to be carcinogens and harmful to children and others who play on it. * Artificial turf is hot! It can get up to 80º hotter than the air temperature. * Los Angeles can do better than this! We should choose native plants and grasses for many reasons: they take in carbon and breathe out oxygen, they provide cooler surfaces, they actually use less water than the manufacture of artificial turf, they provide habitat and food for local wildlife. In sum, native plants protect our health, the environment, and local wildlife.

Communication from Public

Name:	Polly Estabrook
Date Submitted:	06/28/2024 11:28 AM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	Dear City Councilmembers, I urge you to support this motion which would allow the City to transition away from future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass, and continue to incentivize the transition towards California drought-friendly landscaping broadly. Here are my reasons: - All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. - Children and athletes who play on artificial turf are at increased risk of exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate, it is especially harmful to children who are still developing. - Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills. - Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and is not a sound investment. Installing artificial turf does not take into account the true cost to our children's health and the health of our environment. Nature-based solutions are better in every respect – California native plants and drought-tolerant grasses that use less water, thrive in our climate, recharge our groundwater and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. - When we install artificial turf, we are installing a product with a limited functional lifespan that cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries. Let's move our City away from the use of this harmful product. Years ago, we thought this was a viable, low water, solution to maintaining grass playing fields and spaces, but in the ensuing years, we have learned that artificial turf poses harmful health hazards to our citizenry, damages the ecosystem and its creatures in the soil underneath it, is not recyclable and hence is not a sustainable solution. Please help us turn Los Angeles into a more healthy and sustainable city. Thank you, Polly Estabrook

Communication from Public

Name:	Caitlin Brown
Date Submitted:	06/28/2024 12:27 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	Please consider not only a transition from but an outright ban on future artificial turf installations. The water savings on the turf does not offset the impact on groundwater, the introduction of PFAS and the harm to nearby trees. These effects will ultimately make us less climate resilient when urban areas need to be looking to the greener future.

Communication from Public

Name: Carol Felix
Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 11:06 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, There is so much wrong with artificial turf that I barely know how to begin this plea. So, I will start close to home and hopefully on a topic that most of you who are reading this can relate. I am a mother of one child...a boy named Nicholas. Like you, I want the best for my son and will protect him with everything I am made of; my hope is that he will have a long, healthy, happy life. Nic grew up playing on grass and wandering amid flowers, trees and chaparral. He was NOT exposed daily to the endocrine disruptors, neurotoxins and dangerous microplastics of artificial turf. He is lucky in this. We cannot in good conscience cover our football and baseball fields, yards and parks with this toxic artificial turf. We just cannot allow PFAS to bioaccumulate in our children's developing bodies. We cannot carpet their world in a petroleum-based product that sullies their drinking water with forever chemicals, pollutes the air they breathe, and contributes to our climate crisis. I wish good health to my son and to all of our children and through our actions I hope to leave them a planet in which they can thrive. Artificial turf is antithetical to these wishes. It is antithetical to the future you want for your children too.

Communication from Public

Name: Jinesse Reynolds
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 10:22 AM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE BAN ARTIFICIAL TURF. Note my key arguments: Environmental Impact Heat Island Effect: Artificial turf absorbs and retains heat, making it significantly hotter than natural grass. On sunny days, temperatures on artificial turf can soar to dangerous levels, often exceeding 150°F. This extreme heat not only creates an uncomfortable and unsafe environment for athletes but also contributes to the urban heat island effect, exacerbating local climate change impacts. Microplastic Pollution: The synthetic materials used in artificial turf, such as polyethylene and crumb rubber, can break down into microplastics. These microplastics can be washed away by rain into local waterways, posing a threat to aquatic life and potentially entering the food chain. This pollution is a growing environmental concern with long-term ecological consequences. Resource-Intensive Production: The production of artificial turf requires significant amounts of energy and petroleum-based products. This process contributes to carbon emissions and depletes non-renewable resources. In contrast, natural grass sequesters carbon dioxide and provides oxygen, offering a more sustainable solution. Health and Safety Concerns Injury Risk: Studies have shown that playing on artificial turf can increase the risk of certain injuries, such as abrasions, turf burns, and joint injuries like ACL tears. The harder surface of artificial turf does not have the same shock-absorbing properties as natural grass, which can lead to more severe impacts during falls or tackles. Chemical Exposure: Artificial turf often contains potentially harmful chemicals, including heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in crumb rubber infill. Athletes, particularly children, may be exposed to these substances through skin contact, inhalation, or accidental ingestion, raising concerns about long-term health effects. Ecological Impact Biodiversity Loss: Natural grass fields provide habitat for various microorganisms, insects, and small animals, contributing to local biodiversity. Replacing these fields with artificial turf eliminates these habitats, reducing biodiversity and disrupting local ecosystems. Water Runoff and Drainage Issues: Unlike natural grass, which absorbs and filters rainwater, artificial turf can exacerbate water runoff issues. The impermeable surface can lead to increased flooding and erosion, as well as strain on local stormwater management systems. Economic Considerations

High Initial Costs: Installing artificial turf is a costly endeavor, with expenses running into hundreds of thousands of dollars for a single field. While proponents argue that maintenance costs are lower, the initial investment is often prohibitive for many schools, communities, and sports organizations. Maintenance and Replacement: Although artificial turf requires less frequent mowing and watering than natural grass, it is not maintenance-free. It needs regular cleaning to prevent the buildup of bacteria and mold, and the infill material often needs replenishment. Additionally, artificial turf has a limited lifespan, typically 8-10 years, after which it must be replaced, incurring further costs. Conclusion In summary, while artificial turf may offer some conveniences, the environmental, health, ecological, and economic drawbacks make it a less desirable option compared to natural grass. Investing in sustainable landscaping practices, improving natural grass care, and exploring alternative natural options such as drought-resistant grass varieties can provide safer, more environmentally friendly, and economically viable solutions for sports fields and recreational areas.

Communication from Public

Name:	Frances Lee
Date Submitted:	06/26/2024 04:38 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	I agree with this motion to move away from artificial turf and toward drought tolerant landscaping. I have seen firsthand how artificial turf is a dangerous playing surface for soccer when my son played the sport. Professional athletes refuse to play on it because of increased injuries. The turf also creates heat island conditions, hot enough to melt the glue in cleats as we experienced. Now we know that artificial turf contains forever chemicals, PFAS, that are released into nearby waterways that pollutes our environment and affects our health, especially our children's health as most schools think it's a good alternative. But, it still requires water to clean it and cool it down, and at the end of life it goes into the landfill. Not a good or safe investment for schools or neighborhoods and should be eliminated.

Communication from Public

Name:	Linda gibbs
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 01:22 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	Please ban artificial turf all together. Artificial turf is hot and increases surface temperature by 50%. Hotter surface temperatures contribute to interruption of the small water cycle which makes droughts more extreme. Artificial turf is too hot to play on. Artificial turf contains chemicals know to interrupt the endocrine system of all living humans and animals. Especially toxic to children. Artificial turf suffocates soil microbes and is detrimental to soil health.

Communication from Public

Name: Li Gad
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 01:24 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. Children and athletes who play on artificial turf are at increased risk of exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate, it is especially harmful to children who are still developing. Artificial turf is too hot and too toxic. We need to choose nature-based solutions like natural grass playing fields that are safer and sustainable – our children deserve better. Artificial turf contains petroleum products. Artificial turf outgasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis. Artificial turf can become as much as 80 degrees hotter than the air temperature, creating a heat sink. We should choose native plants and grasses that take in carbon and provide oxygen, as well as cooler surfaces. Protect our health, the environment and wildlife – get rid of toxic plastic outdoor carpeting that pollutes our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. Hazardous PFAS "forever" chemicals have been found in LA's drinking water and wells. All artificial turf contains PFAS and microplastics. It leaches PFAS and other contaminants into our drinking water and groundwater. It sheds microplastics into our environment and aquifer. It is also an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills. Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and is not a sound investment. Installing artificial turf does not take into account the true cost to our children's health and the health of our environment. Nature-based solutions are better in every respect – California native plants and drought-tolerant grasses that use less water, thrive in our climate, recharge our groundwater and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. When we install artificial turf, we are installing a product with a limited functional lifespan that cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 01:26 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I believe we should ban and replace Artificial Turf In LA City with native plants and grasses. The material contains carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and neurotoxins. Artificial turf cannot be recycled or reused and the next generation will have to suffer its poisons. We can do better.

Communication from Public

Name: Robin
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 01:42 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: June 27, 2024 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield LA City Council District 3 Dear Mr. Blumenfield and Energy and Environment Committee Members, We are writing in support of LA City Agenda Item 2, Motion 24-0602 to transition away from future installations of synthetic grass / artificial turf citywide, and identify incentives and rebate programs tremove and replace synthetic turf / artificial grass, and encourage the transition to California friendly landscaping; With the growing awareness of the climate crisis, cities and agencies are implementing artificial grass as a means to reduce water consumption. While initially it seems like a great way to save water, this solution is actually mired in unintended consequences including: killing microorganisms, wildlife habitats and biodiversity below every artificial turf installation emitting toxic leachate in runoff to nearby fields and storm drains creating heat islands as the heat is absorbed by these fields which is exacerbated by the fact that trees and other shade plants don't grow in artificial turf contributing to warming temperatures impacting the health of users increasing the cost of maintenance A study conducted at Brigham Young University found that "The surface temperature of the synthetic turf was 37° F higher than asphalt and 86.5° F hotter than natural turf."[1] Artificial turf is a silent but significant contributor to our climate demise. Research indicates we need more real turf and have shown reduced global warming in countries where agriculture has intensified.[2] Synthetic turf, which off gasses methane and ethylene and contains PFAS, has known public health dangers, especially to our youth who have prolonged exposure to these fields. Artificial turf is being assessed for its health impacts from known carcinogens & neurotoxins: lead, mercury, cadmium, PAHs, VOCs, SVOC, phthalates, benzene, toluene, and carbon nanotubes. A study published by the National Library of Medicine identified 306 chemical constituents of crumb rubber infill from 20 publications. Utilizing a computational program to predict carcinogenicity and genotoxicity, 197 of the identified 306 chemicals met their carcinogenicity criteria. Of these, 52 chemicals were also classified as known, presumed or suspected carcinogens by the US EPA and ECHA.[3] [4] In addition, cities and agencies prefer artificial turf for its low maintenance but in reality, the cost to implement and maintain

these fields is almost equivalent to installing and maintaining natural turf fields. Also the impacts of heavy rains and winds are more disastrous for artificial turf.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Bernice Helm
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 01:51 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: With the growing awareness of the climate crisis, cities and agencies are implementing artificial grass as a means to reduce water consumption. While initially it seems like a great way to save water, this solution is actually mired in unintended consequences including: killing microorganisms, wildlife habitats and biodiversity below every artificial turf installation emitting toxic leachate in runoff to nearby fields and storm drains creating heat islands as the heat is absorbed by these fields which is exacerbated by the fact that trees and other shade plants don't grow in artificial turf contributing to warming temperatures impacting the health of users increasing the cost of maintenance Studies show that the non-intuitive process of planting these areas with grasses actually contribute to a healthier environment including reducing climate emissions. Adding artificial turf to fields will reduce our ability to capture stormwater, sink carbon and host vast amounts of biodiversity at each site. It will also reduce the microclimates that are able to hold and release moisture to help preserve biodiversity and reduce warming. It is for these reasons that we urge LA City Councilmembers to pass Motion 24-0602 to replace artificial turf.

Communication from Public

Name: Piper Perreault
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 01:53 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Piper Perreault. I am a California resident and board member of Pesticide Free Zone. We applaud Blumenfield for taking the lead in protecting residents' health and safety. A few years ago, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) exposed the fact that all artificial turf contains PFAS, even though the industry long denied it. We have too much information now to continue allowing plastic grass installations; they destroy our soil and contaminate our water supply and waterways. The state of Vermont, and cities like Millbrae and San Marino have already banned toxic plastic grass in order to protect their residents' health and communities' water and soil. We urge L.A. city council to ban the future installation of synthetic grass / artificial turf, or any “non-functional” or decorative lawns on private property citywide, to reduce health and environmental risks from PFAS and other contaminants, and protect our children from the burns and toxic exposures that result from playing on artificial turf. I'm attaching the position statement of Mt. Sinai's Children's Environmental Health Center against artificial turf due to the likelihood of harm to children. Thank you for putting residents first and seeing through industry greenwashing.

Communication from Public

Name:	Mimi
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 02:12 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	Protect our health, the environment and wildlife – get rid of toxic plastic outdoor carpeting that pollutes our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. Hazardous PFAS "forever" chemicals have been found in LA's drinking water and wells. All artificial turf contains PFAS and microplastics. It leaches PFAS and other contaminants into our drinking water and groundwater. It sheds microplastics into our environment and aquifer. It is also an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. Please pass this motion now to mitigate further harm from artificial turf! Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 02:47 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: Please move toward drought tolerant plants and away from fake turf

Communication from Public

Name:	Leigh Adams
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 03:02 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	I am vehemently opposed to the use of artificial turf. It is a toxin leaching toxins into our soils. It adds to the heat index wherever it is used. It breaks down and adds more burden to our landfills and microplastics to our soils. It dries out soil, reduces infiltration, increases ant populations and destroys soil organisms. It is an egregious act to use this unethical, petroleum based product in our city, most especially around our children. Consider instead, please, USING NATIVE PLANTS and supporting the pollinators critical to our food supplies. Make the work of the City of Los Angeles be work that is admired and imitated, not embarrassingly outdated and ill advised. Seriously! We can do better than to rely on "cartoon thinking" of Jetson-like landscapes.

Communication from Public

Name: Jackie Nuñez

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 03:09 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Plastic Pollution Coalition supports the passage of this important motion for LA to move away from the use of artificial turf and towards drought-tolerant landscaping. Some of the points shared from our blogpost on the subject: https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2022/6/3/pass-on-plastic-grass ? Synthetic "Turf" Costs More Than Natural Grass “Synthetic turf costs more to install, almost as much to maintain, and has to be replaced once it wears out,” according to Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc., an advocacy organization that sheds light on the health and financial costs of synthetic turf compared to natural grass. The costs of installing synthetic turf can be as high as a million dollars for municipal and institutional applications such as playing fields and parks. Homeowners may pay many thousands of dollars to cover their yards in plastic grass, much more than the cost of planting and maintaining natural grass. And synthetic turf fields’ constant degradation necessitates its costly replacement every decade or so with entirely new synthetic turf. ? Synthetic "Turf "Sheds Microplastics, PFAS, and Other Chemicals Like all plastic materials, synthetic turf doesn’t last forever—instead, it breaks up and sheds massive amounts of tiny plastic particles into the environment and our bodies. A 2018 report by the European Commission showed that athletic fields composed of synthetic turf shed an annual average of 18,000-70,000 tons of microplastics each year into surrounding air, soils, and waters. This includes huge quantities of crumb rubber, which leaches toxic lead, PFAS, phthalates, and other dangerous chemicals. People and other animals who walk and play on synthetic turf absorb plastic particles and their toxins through the skin, inhalation, and ingestion. ? Synthetic Turf Wastes and Contaminates Water Ironically, synthetic turf still requires regular watering, especially on hot days where it can heat up to 40-70 times hotter than the surrounding air—getting even hotter than asphalt. This is because unlike real organic, cooling, and oxygenating grass, synthetic turf is heat absorbent. The temperatures of plastic grass can get so hot it has been known to cause contact injuries called “turf burn.” Heated synthetic turf has also been found to release toxic gases, including carcinogenic benzene and formaldehyde. Synthetic turf manufacturers market their products as being designed to provide drainage. However, materials experts report major drainage issues linked to plastic grass. These issues worsen droughts by preventing groundwater—which many people depend on for drinking—from naturally recharging. When rain falls onto synthetic turf, research shows it absorbs chemicals and runs off—typically entering stormwater systems that drain to large water bodies like lakes and oceans. During the California drought of 2011-2019, many synthetic turf companies descended into towns, school boards, and city council meetings with slick presentations making promises of lower water and maintenance costs and coming up with bids that magically matched their budgets. As an ecological landscaper at the time, who defended natural drought-tolerant well designed and maintained fields, I personally witnessed a few of these presentations for a nearby middle school in my hometown of Santa Cruz, CA. I equated these representatives with their proposals and promises to snake-oil salesmen that often preyed upon people’s misfortune. Most often these companies were from out-of-state, and preyed upon our local governments and school districts in their time of need and were able to successfully secure rebates to incentivize homeowners, schools and public fields to

switch from natural turf to plastic grass. Lastly it is time to stop the continued installations of these dangerous and toxic fields and to undo the damage done to our environment and our bodies by plastic grass fields, and replace them with the appropriate toxic free natural drought tolerant and safe playing fields, parks, and public landscapes throughout the state of CA. We urge the Energy and Environment Committee to vote in favor of this motion protecting our communities and insures safe healthy drought tolerant fields and landscapes, and to lead by example to undo the pollution and damage done in our communities throughout CA starting with LA. Thank you, Jackie Nuñez Advocacy & Engagement Manager, Plastic Pollution Coalition Founder, The Last Plastic Straw

Communication from Public

Name: Valeria
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 03:24 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City CouncilI am writing with a heavy heart to express my deep concern about the use of artificial turf in our beloved community of Los Angeles. As an Recycling and Resource Manager, Environmentalist of over 15 years and Team Leader for Zero Waste and Water Conservation for Resilient Palisades, who cares deeply about the health and well-being of Angelenos, especially our children and youth, I feel compelled to address the serious implications of artificial turf on both our health and the environment. Artificial turf is not only environmentally harmful but also poses significant human health concerns. The typical lifespan of an artificial turf field is 8 to 15 years, but in areas like Pacific Palisades, exposure to marine salinity and sun deterioration may significantly reduce this lifespan. This introduces natural budgetary cycle considerations. Artificial turf is considered an impervious surface, meaning it prevents or significantly impedes the infiltration of water into the underlying soil- recharging the aquifer . The installation of artificial turf can lead to increased stormwater runoff and associated flooding risks. For example, just this year, the Palisades received 12 inches of rain in less than 24 hours. According to Penn State Extension, one inch of rainfall on an acre of impervious surfaces produces 27,000 gallons of stormwater to manage. Stormwater runoff from one acre of impervious surface is equivalent to the runoff from 20 acres of grassland. A properly designed and maintained grass field would eliminate approximately 30:1 ratio of stormwater management, reducing millions of gallons of stormwater runoff per year.Soil are an ecosystem of microorganism- bacteria, fungi, and other microscopic organisms that break down "waste" and (re) cycle it into nutrients for vegetation= (soil food web -Nature based solutions/compost). Artificial turf, being an impermeable surface, seals off the soil, preventing these communities from performing their essential functions such as evapotranspiration and water retention.Given the current arid environment due to climate challenge and the city's efforts to cool communities, it seems incomprehensible to install artificial turf. It produces more heat, does not allow water retention, and off-gases significantly more than methane. Additionally, it increases biodiversity loss, kills trees, and significantly harms the environment, air, and water

quality, not to mention the devastating human health concerns. In coastal communities such as Pacific Palisades, we are additionally subject to marine environments and flood protocols. The California Coastal Commission conditioned a 3-acre baseball field at UCSB for natural grass only, citing concerns about microplastics (Dec 13, 2023). Fields with natural turf grass managed organically can actually collect, filter, and store stormwater, serving as a piece of stormwater management.Artificial turf is made from plastics, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a class of thousands of synthetic forever chemicals that are not easily broken down and are known carcinogens. Over time, artificial turf breaks down into microplastics, which then enter our air and water cycles. Current water filtration systems, whether municipal or home-based, struggle to filter these particles out of our drinking water. Recent EPA findings state that no levels of PFAS are safe. Estimates suggest that, between our water and the food we eat, each of us consumes between 0.1 to 5 grams of plastic per week—roughly the volume of a credit card. Filtered water is a privilege that not all Southern California or Los Angeles communities have. CA's biodiversity, in one of the five worldwide biodiversity hotspots, we should take all measures to protect this significant funga,flora and fauna not harm it by reducing its viability and our own. Our municipal water (Hyperion Water Reclamation) doesn't have the ability to filter PFAS. These micro-plastics will persist in our waterways for generations without solid science leading the way. All astroturf fields tested + PFAS, even the ones that stated they had none.Artificial turf has been shown to cause more injuries to recreational users, including leg, ankle, and foot injuries, as well as burns. National Football League players pressured the league in 2022 ban AT. The surface of artificial turf can be up to 37 degrees hotter than asphalt and 86.5 degrees hotter than natural turf grass. Anything over 120 degrees Fahrenheit can cause skin burns/ infections within seconds of contact. Without regular watering, the soil beneath artificial turf becomes compacted and as hard as concrete, increasing the risk of injuries for users of these field raising liabitly concerns. In addition having to cool a plastic carpet and then clean with potable water does not seem cost effective given all the ecological negative impacts. I hope LA city council will move to halt the use of Astroturf in LA!

Communication from Public

Name: Oliver Powell
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 03:30 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: As a Palisades resident I oppose the use of artificial turf for public recreational fields. Rather than echo the facts given regarding the sustainability concerns and inflated cost associated with artificial turf I caution the people in charge to listen to athletes and aspiring athletes who have been forced to play on artificial turf. I believe many palisadians are looking out for the future of their kids and when enrolling them in sports programs and the risks associated with artificial turf to the athletes playing on the surface are significant. Major ligament injuries occur at much higher rates (16% according to studies cited in an AP article) on artificial turf as a result of it not having the same mechanical compliance of a natural turf surface. The grass doesn't rip out when significant force is applied and this results in much higher forces on athletes joints. At the professional athletes across multiple sports are seeking to ban artificial turf from competition. Currently athletes in the NFL are asking to move back to natural turf. In addition the Womens World Cup held in Canada in 2015 raised major concerns about the well being of athletes as playing on artificial turf causes major injuries during the games, leading people to reflect on the fact that the mens World Cup would have never taken place on artificial turf pitches because of player sentiment. If you include injury prevention into the cost analysis of this development I think the choice becomes clearer as it compounds with the other longer term benefits of maintain a natural turf field for recreation. I believe that the young athletes in our community deserve surfaces to play on that will help protect their bodies for a long heathy career in sports if they so choose.

Communication from Public

Name:	Sue Chow
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 03:53 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	Dear LA City Officials: I hope you will seriously consider banning artificial turf as it is a source of toxic runoffs that have and will continue to contaminate our water systems, soil, and air. Not only does artificial turf have such devastating effects while it is on covering our lawns, playgrounds and athletic fields, but because virtually no artificial turf can be fully recycled, old turf just sit in landfills, emitting greenhouse gases and continuing to produce toxic runoffs as the plastic breaks down into small microplastics that end up in our waterways. The health harms--the links to cancer, organ/immune system damage, endocrine disruption and more--are even more alarming. We are not talking just about PFAS, the highly toxic "forever chemicals." The grass blades themselves are full of heavy metals such as lead, mercury, and chromium. Furthermore, the heat island effect from plastic fields that increase temperatures anywhere from 4o to 70 degrees and the higher injury rates should be enough for public officials to ban synthetic turf even if they refuse to take seriously the environmental devastation artificial turf brings. Please protect public health and our environment by banning artificial turf in LA. Thank you for listening!

Communication from Public

Name: Joyce Calagos
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 04:11 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: June 27, 2024 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield LA City Council District 3 Dear Mr. Blumenfield and Energy and Environment Committee Members, We are writing in support of LA City Agenda Item 2, Motion 24-0602 to transition away from future installations of synthetic grass / artificial turf citywide, and identify incentives and rebate programs to remove and replace synthetic turf / artificial grass, and encourage the transition to California friendly landscaping; With the growing awareness of the climate crisis, cities and agencies are implementing artificial grass as a means to reduce water consumption. While initially it seems like a great way to save water, this solution is actually mired in unintended consequences including: killing microorganisms, wildlife habitats and biodiversity below every artificial turf installation emitting toxic leachate in runoff to nearby fields and storm drains creating heat islands as the heat is absorbed by these fields which is exacerbated by the fact that trees and other shade plants don't grow in artificial turf contributing to warming temperatures impacting the health of users increasing the cost of maintenance A study conducted at Brigham Young University found that "The surface temperature of the synthetic turf was 37° F higher than asphalt and 86.5° F hotter than natural turf." Artificial turf is a silent but significant contributor to our climate demise. Research indicates we need more real turf and have shown reduced global warming in countries where agriculture has intensified. Synthetic turf, which off gasses methane and ethylene and contains PFAS, has known public health dangers, especially to our youth who have prolonged exposure to these fields. Artificial turf is being assessed for its health impacts from known carcinogens & neurotoxins: lead, mercury, cadmium, PAHs, VOCs, SVOC, phthalates, benzene, toluene, and carbon nanotubes. A study published by the National Library of Medicine identified 306 chemical constituents of crumb rubber infill from 20 publications. Utilizing a computational program to predict carcinogenicity and genotoxicity, 197 of the identified 306 chemicals met their carcinogenicity criteria. Of these, 52 chemicals were also classified as known, presumed or suspected carcinogens by the US EPA and ECHA. In addition, cities and agencies prefer artificial turf for its low maintenance but in reality, the cost to implement and maintain these fields is

almost equivalent to installing and maintaining natural turf fields. Also the impacts of heavy rains and winds are more disastrous for artificial turf fields, and unquestionably, our futures are filled with atmospheric rain and wind storms. In addition, with lower snowpacks forecasted, capturing groundwater will be imperative for future water supplies and artificial turf interferes with groundwater capture. In addition, artificial turf sports fields actually need to be watered to keep temperatures down during summer months. Here's a summary from a letter submitted to Glendale Community Services and Parks showing the reality of maintaining an artificial turf field. "A well-maintained Shawgrass field requires the following. (1) The field must be swept with a machine, once per week. (2) The field must be groomed with a towed apparatus after each 48 hours of play (approximately every 4-5 days). If this grooming is not done, the condition of the infill and overall feel of the field will be affected, and it will shorten the lifespan of the installment. (3) Artificial turf fields may require patching of damaged areas and drainage repairs. (4) Sanitation of the artificial grass is a particular concern. While contaminants like blood and saliva rinse off real grass, synthetic grass doesn't share this trait. Messes that could potentially be a health hazard need to be cleaned and the surface sanitized. (5) Though not required, it is recommended that the field be watered regularly to maintain the safest level of play, as the field will hold more moisture. If the field is not watered regularly, the turf will harden. (6) In the warmer months, to mitigate surface temperatures, Shaw recommends watering the field for 5-10 minutes each morning when the dew point has not been reached to satisfactorily moisten the field. If the field is watered in this way, it can cool approximately 20-30°F, which may in fact not be enough to cool the field to below 120°F or the cooling may not last the entire day. (7) Lastly, artificial turf surfaces need to be replaced after 8 years, on average.". Studies show that the non-intuitive process of planting these areas with grasses actually contribute to a healthier environment including reducing climate emissions. It is for these reasons that we urge LA City Councilmembers to pass Motion 24-0602 to replace artificial turf.

Communication from Public

Name: Kathleen Smith
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 04:12 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: I have been a resident of the city of Los Angeles for my whole life. I am 71 years old. I am a retired Los Angeles County public health nurse. I am a Sierra Club member I strongly support the follow statement from the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club stands in strong support of this motion from City Councilmember Blumenfield. This is a crucial step for preventing widespread contamination and protecting public health, we ask that you pass this motion today We support the use of compostable, healthy natural materials in urban, suburban and landscaped areas, and oppose the use of petroleum based products, such as, poured-in-place, or other plastics in ground covers, weed barriers, sporting surfaces, and in areas that constitute landscapes Microplastics and PFAS should have no place in our waterways ? All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. ? Children and athletes who play on artificial turf are at increased risk of exposure and 3rd degree burns, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate, it is especially harmful to children who are still developing. ? Artificial turf is too hot and too toxic. We need to choose nature-based solutions like natural grass playing fields that are safer and sustainable – our children deserve better. ? Artificial turf contains petroleum products. ? Artificial turf outgasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis. ? Artificial turf can become as much as 80 degrees hotter than the air temperature, creating a heat sink. ? We should choose native plants and drought tolerant grasses and groundcover, such as yarrow and clover, that take in carbon dioxide and provide oxygen, as well as cooler surfaces. ? Protect our health, the environment and wildlife – get rid of toxic plastic outdoor carpeting that pollutes our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. ? All artificial turf contains PFAS and microplastics. It leaches PFAS and other contaminants into our drinking water and groundwater. It sheds microplastics into our environment and aquifer. It is also an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. ? Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills. ? Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and is not a sound investment. Installing artificial turf does not take into account the

true cost to our children's health and the health of our environment. Nature-based solutions are better in every respect – California native plants and drought-tolerant grasses that use less water, thrive in our climate, recharge our groundwater and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. ? When we install artificial turf, we are installing a product with a limited functional lifespan that cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries. In April 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the Environmental Protection Agency, categorized PFAS and other "forever chemicals" as hazardous substances dangerous to human health. The EPA has concluded that exposure to PFAS may lead to reproductive effects, developmental delays, and risks of some cancers. Exposure can occur through inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, and mucous membrane exposure, including microplastic dust kicked up on artificial turf fields.

Communication from Public

Name:	Robyn Beck
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 04:21 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. I believe the people of Los Angeles deserve better than this. Please pass immediately councilmember Blumenfield's artificial turf resolution now and protect or environment and the people who live here. I believe the needs of the people of Los Angeles for an healthy environment are more important than the corporate interest that want to sell poisonous artificial turf and I hope you do too!

Communication from Public

Name: miranda vaniderstine
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 04:29 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. Children and athletes who play on artificial turf are at increased risk of exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate, it is especially harmful to children who are still developing. Artificial turf is too hot and too toxic. We need to choose nature-based solutions like natural grass playing fields that are safer and sustainable – our children deserve better. Artificial turf contains petroleum products. Artificial turf outgasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis. Artificial turf can become as much as 80 degrees hotter than the air temperature, creating a heat sink. We should choose native plants and grasses that take in carbon and provide oxygen, as well as cooler surfaces. Protect our health, the environment and wildlife – get rid of toxic plastic outdoor carpeting that pollutes our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. Hazardous PFAS "forever" chemicals have been found in LA's drinking water and wells. All artificial turf contains PFAS and microplastics. It leaches PFAS and other contaminants into our drinking water and groundwater. It sheds microplastics into our environment and aquifer. It is also an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills. Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and is not a sound investment. Installing artificial turf does not take into account the true cost to our children's health and the health of our environment. Nature-based solutions are better in every respect – California native plants and drought-tolerant grasses that use less water, thrive in our climate, recharge our groundwater and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. When we install artificial turf, we are installing a product with a limited functional lifespan that cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries.

Communication from Public

Name:	Kathy Kennedy
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 04:36 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	To Whom it May Concern, I am submitting this message in support of the Pasadena Environmental Advisory Commission moving an Artificial Turf resolution forward for the City of Pasadena. Artificial turf gets too hot in the summer and often isn't great for people playing on it. Best, Kathy Kennedy

Communication from Public

Name: Diana Gonzalez
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 04:42 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: It is of the utmost importance that we ban/move away from the use of artificial turf asap and move towards the use of native drought tolerant plants! California native plants and drought-tolerant grasses use less water, thrive in our climate, recharge our groundwater and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. In addition, all artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. Hazardous PFAS "forever" chemicals have been found in LA's drinking water and wells. All artificial turf contains PFAS and microplastics. It leaches PFAS and other contaminants into our drinking water and groundwater. It sheds microplastics into our environment and aquifers. It is also an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Campisi
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 04:57 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: When I first moved to LA 24 years ago, I was struck by how natural beauty is woven into the fabric of the vast urban sprawl. It's one of the things about Los Angeles I find so inspiring and unique — the Hollywood Bowl and the Greek Theatre embraced by the surrounding mountains. Just one example of many. Nature and culture intertwined. Over the years, I've learned more about this area's natural habitat, how precious and threatened it is, and how we have to make conscious efforts to sustain it. One important way we can do that is to grow native plants in place of grass. It's healthier for the ecosystem, for the air, for people and wildlife. Artificial turf was once considered a good solution for saving water but now we know how misguided that was, solving one problem while compounding others, addressing drought with a "solution" that contributes to climate change, plastic pollution, excessive heat, health hazards, and harm to wildlife. These are the truths about artificial turf: * All artificial turf contains hazardous (PFAS) chemicals (if it burned it would create a toxic nightmare). * Artificial turf is too hot, too hard, and may come with liability Issues. * Artificial turf pollutes local waters, soil, and air. * Nothing lives in plastic grass. * Artificial turf playing fields cost more than natural grass fields. Can we please take the path of wisdom and choose natural grass fields and planting of native California plants? It's better for people, the planet, wildlife and future generations. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Carrie Burckle
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 05:28 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: I fully support banning and replacing Artificial Turf in LA City. All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals which are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and neurotoxins. Artificial turf contains petroleum products which bioaccumulate and are especially harmful for children who are still developing. We should be using native plants and grasses that take in carbon, provide oxygen, support pollinators, as well as cooler surfaces. Artificial turf cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries.

Communication from Public

Name:	Andra Janieks
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 05:30 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	I'd love to see Los Angeles transition away from plastic turf and instead support the planting of native plants that take in carbon, provide oxygen, and benefit local ecosystems. Artificial turf pollutes our air, water, and soil, and harms biodiversity. I respectfully ask you to please pass this motion and support the transition to drought-tolerant, native landscaping in Los Angeles. Thank you for your time!

Communication from Public

Name:	Anne Bergman
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 06:43 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	We are writing in support of LA City Agenda Item 2, Motion 24-0602 to transition away from future installations of synthetic grass / artificial turf citywide, and identify incentives and rebate programs to remove and replace synthetic turf / artificial grass, and encourage the transition to California friendly landscaping; With the growing awareness of the climate crisis, cities and agencies are implementing artificial grass as a means to reduce water consumption. While initially it seems like a great way to save water, this solution is actually mired in unintended consequences including: killing microorganisms, wildlife habitats and biodiversity below every artificial turf installation emitting toxic leachate in runoff to nearby fields and storm drains creating heat islands as the heat is absorbed by these fields which is exacerbated by the fact that trees and other shade plants don't grow in artificial turf contributing to warming temperatures impacting the health of users increasing the cost of maintenance Thank you for your time! -Anne Bergman

Communication from Public

Name:	Marilyn Price
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 08:17 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	What a wonderful idea to ban synthetic turf. I hope this passes and that others will follow your lead! People need to find other substitutes for grass that are not bad for our environment. Marilyn Price

Communication from Public

Name:	Yayoi Koizumi
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 10:00 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	I urge you to oppose all artificial turf projects. Artificial turfs are a plague on earth. I share with you the following four studies for your reference. De Haan, William P., Rocío Quintana, César Vilas, Andrés Cózar, Miquel Canals, Oriol Uviedo, and Anna Sanchez-Vidal. "The Dark Side of Artificial Greening: Plastic Turfs as Widespread Pollutants of Aquatic Environments." Environmental Pollution 334 (2023): 122094. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2023.122094. This Barcelona study found that artificial turf blades made up to 15% of the larger microplastic pieces in the environment. This significant fiber loss contributed to the University of California, Santa Barbara's decision to choose natural grass over artificial turf, supported by the California Coastal Commission, on December 13, 2023. Golijanin, Petar, Ryan James Whalen, Mark Cote, Tyler Joseph Zajac, and Matthew T. Provencher. "The Comparison of Injuries in National Football League Players (2016–2021) Based on the Playing Surface: Natural Grass versus Artificial Turf." American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. 2024. https://aaos.scientificposters.com/epsAbstractAAOS.cfm?id=1 Ragnarsdóttir, Oddný , Mohamed Abou-Elwafa Abdallah, and Stuart Harrad. "Dermal Bioavailability of Perfluoroalkyl Substances Using in Vitro 3D Human Skin Equivalent Models," Environment International. June, 2024. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2024.108772 A study of 17 commonly-used synthetic 'forever chemicals' has shown that these toxic substances can readily be absorbed through human skin. Sánchez-Sotomayor D, Martín-Higuera A, Gil-Delgado JA, Gálvez Á, Bernat-Ponce E. "Artificial Grass in Parks as a Potential New Threat for Urban Bird Communities." Bird Conservation International. Cambridge University Press, July 26, 2022. doi:10.1017/S0959270922000119 https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bird-conservation-international/article/artificial-grass-in-parks-as-a-potential-new-threat-for-urban-bird-communities/55B131F50206D3DD485A57DE975C120C This study demonstrates that replacing natural grass with artificial turf in urban parks in eastern Spain negatively impacts bird diversity. Parks with artificial grass show reduced species richness, abundance, and gamma diversity compared to parks with natural grass. These findings highlight the harmful effects of artificial turf on urban bird communities and its threat to bird conservation, despite its water-saving benefits. Tarafdar, Abhrajyoti, Min-Ju Oh, Quynh Nguyen-Phuong, and Jung-Hwan Kwon. "Profiling and Potential Cancer Risk Assessment on Children Exposed to PAHs in Playground Dust/Soil: A Comparative Study on Poured Rubber Surfaced and Classical Soil Playgrounds in Seoul." Environmental Geochemistry and Health. May 27, 2019. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10653-019-00334-2 This Korean study found that children who play on used tire crumb playgrounds, commonly referred to as PIP (poured in place), are 10 times more likely to develop cancer than those who played on soil surfaces.

Communication from Public

Name:	Nancy Okada
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 11:10 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	Thank you for your legislation that will get synthetic turf out of our environment. The proliferation of plastics in our environment is exacerbating climate change. The heat island effect, caused by acres of plastic grass,is well-documented, with heat illness on the rise among all age levels. Recently the California Coastal Commission required UC Santa Barbara to install a natural grass baseball field, rejecting the proposed synthetic turf field. It is wonderful to see our lawmakers and public agencies protect our environment by standing up to the powerful synthetic turf industry. Thank you for your courage! Sincerely, Nancy Okada Sent from my iPhone

Communication from Public

Name:	Rosalie Preston
Date Submitted:	06/27/2024 11:30 PM
Council File No:	24-0602
Comments for Public Posting:	I am a resident of the Harbor Gateway and strongly support the phase out of artificial turf in public areas and home gardens. It is a plastic product which eventually will degrade and cause micro-plastic particles, of which there are already too many. Furthermore, it contains PFAS, the “forever” chemicals, which are carcinogenic, and therefore a danger to children and pets who play on the artificial turf. An easy natural replacement for small parkway areas and lawns is lippia, which is easily started from cuttings, fills in quickly, and never needs watering after it roots. It can be kept neat and flat with a trimmer, which will also reduce any weeds that come up in the area. And it remains green all year.

Communication from Public

Name: Catherine Dodd PhD RN
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 11:58 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: I am an RN and environmental health advisor for FACTS Families Advocating for Chemical & Toxics Safety commenting in support of this item. There is no denying that artificial grass contains hazardous chemicals that are absorbed through the skin, inhaled & ingested as both off gassing fumes & as micro & nanoplastic particles. As the plastic wears down it contaminates ground water in rain & when it's washed off to cool it down or clean it from contaminants. PFAS, are a category of chemicals with multiple fluorine atoms bonded to a chain of carbon atoms. PFAS are called forever chemicals because they they are highly persistent in the environment (lasting hundreds of years or longer) and they "bioaccumulate" (or remain) in plants, animals & humans. PFAS is present in the blades and backing, (even if it is marketed as PFAS free e.g. Portsmouth NH 2021) it is added to the non-fluorinated plastic polymers as an "extrusion aid" to prevent the polymer from sticking to the extrusion equipment. The plastics in fake grass contain thousands of harmful compounds (Fast Company 6-24-21) many of which have not been tested for safety in humans or animals. The infill (used as a cushion between blades) is often made of tire crumb rubber or synthetic polymers both plant and mineral-based all contain some chemicals of concern (New Solutions: A Journal of Environmental & Occupational Health Policy Vol 30 Issue 1) including arsenic, VOCs, PAHs, Phthalate esters, Vulcanization compounds, lead, & other metals many were present in fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Health effects of PFAS are numerous they include: effects on the endocrine system including liver and thyroid as well as metabolic effects, developmental effects, neurotoxicity and immunotoxicity-including reducing the effects of vaccines in children. Health effects of other chemicals are similarly concerning. The health effects of microplastics are just beginning to be understood. A review for the CA state legislature "Microplastics, Occurrence, Health Effects, and Mitigation Policies by the CA State Policy Evidence Consortium presented in Jan 2023 found that: exposure to microplastics is suspected to be a digestive hazard to humans including cancer, a hazard to the human reproductive system and harm to the respiratory system. Exposure outcomes had the key characteristics of carcinogens: oxidative stress, chronic inflammation, immunosuppression,

receptor mediated effects (hormones) & cell proliferation (goblet cell count). There are many other reasons to avoid plastic fake grass: extreme heat exposure and injuries to athletes. Our most vulnerable residents, children, are especially at risk because of their inability to adjust metabolically to heat, their proximity to the ground, their fast respiratory/inhalation rates, & the percentage of chemical exposure to body size and bioaccumulation. The popularity of soccer among LatinX children who frequently use of plastic grass fields in under-resourced neighborhoods add an environmental justice consideration to these exposures. PFAS water contamination is a municipal concern throughout the country; the EPA has set strict limits and the filtering process is very expensive. Rinsing and rain on plastic grass fields contaminates local watersheds and eventually drinking water. Groundwater is also contaminated by disposal of worn out turf (after 8 years according to National Turf Council) which is NOT recyclable-"advanced recycling" is a highly problematic and highly polluting technology currently operating in Tx. Last year the California Legislature passed SB 676 which explicitly states that "drought-tolerant landscaping shall not include the installation of synthetic grass or artificial turf". Organic natural grass fields are a viable safer alternative which contributes to climate resilience. Over time the costs of care and installation are similar. The cost of safety from exposure to chemicals to our children over time has not been quantified. The city has a special duty to protect our most vulnerable residents: our children. Please practice the precautionary principle and avoid fake PFAS and dangerous chemical laden plastic grass. Thank you for considering this, we rely on your leadership. Catherine Dodd PhD RN Health Advisor, Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety Member, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments former US Health & Human Services Regional Director appointed by President Clinton

Communication from Public

Name: Natalie Freidberg
Date Submitted: 06/28/2024 12:33 AM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: Dear Committee Chair Blumenfield and Committee members, thank you for considering this important motion on artificial turf. There are many compelling reasons to pass this motion and elevate it to the full Council: ? All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. ? Children and athletes who play on artificial turf are at increased risk of exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate, it is especially harmful to children who are still developing. ? Artificial turf is too hot and too toxic. We need to choose nature-based solutions like natural grass playing fields that are safer and sustainable – our children deserve better. ? Artificial turf contains petroleum products. ? Artificial turf outgasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis. ? Artificial turf can become as much as 80 degrees hotter than the air temperature, creating a heat sink. ? We should choose native plants and grasses that take in carbon and provide oxygen, as well as cooler surfaces. ? Protect our health, the environment and wildlife – get rid of toxic plastic outdoor carpeting that pollutes our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. ? Hazardous PFAS "forever" chemicals have been found in LA's drinking water and wells. All artificial turf contains PFAS and microplastics. It leaches PFAS and other contaminants into our drinking water and groundwater. It sheds microplastics into our environment and aquifer. It is also an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. ? Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills. ? Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and is not a sound investment. Installing artificial turf does not take into account the true cost to our children's health and the health of our environment. Nature-based solutions are better in every respect – California native plants and drought-tolerant grasses that use less water, thrive in our climate, recharge our groundwater and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. ? When we install artificial turf, we are installing a product with a limited functional lifespan that cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries. I urge you to support this motion for the sake of future

generations. Artificial turf is an irresponsible choice - only a ban will protect the residents of the City and the environment from the dangerous chemicals it contains and the excessive heat it adds to our city. Respectfully, Natalie Freidberg