

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Bates

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 09:11 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support passage of CF 24-0602 for all the following list of reasons. An intangible which resonates with me is I have seen flocks of Western Meadowlarks feeding on our natural turf sports fields. You will never see that on artificial turf - nothing lives there. It is hot, sterile, and destroys the underlying soil. ? 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: Mihran Kalaydjian

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 01:30 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Council File 24-0602 is an excellent start for the eventualelimination of artificial turf. We need to pass a motion forbidding the use of artificial turn and move away from the notion that replacing lawns with artificial turf is a positive environmental measure. . I strongly urge expedient passage of this motion and hope that this is only the beginning of an effort to ensure that people and the environment are not harmed by artificial turf.

Communication from Public

Name: Duncan McIntosh

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 03:06 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: prohibition of AstroTurf, the sooner, the better! Like too many convenience technologies that are promising to lower maintenance, they create long-term health threats while not really saving on maintenance, and having unsustainable and hazardous installations. It's also based on the premise that we are in a drought, which is inaccurate. We have a seasonal climate here, and there are periods when there is plenty of rain for normal live turf installations. And there are factors that can dramatically reduce watering volumes, with only positive health outcomes. Prohibit new astroTurf; the sooner the better!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 03:45 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Artificial turf has become increasingly popular over the years for the sake of appearance. But at the same time, artificial turf will only continue to inhibit our efforts to make our world cleaner, safer, and greener. It has dangerous chemicals, contributes to plastic pollution, and who mostly play on it? Children. Instead of giving them stiff plastic that will contaminate their bodies and their world, we need to give them natural grass that will help out the environment way more than plastic turf. We shouldn't use unsustainable solutions to make our houses and lawns look good. Survival, health, and sustainability should always come before aesthetics.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelly Shannon McNeill

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 03:50 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LA Waterkeeper), I am writing to support Item #2, CF 24-0602 a motion to transition way from use of artificial turf, due to it's relationship with PFAS contamination, in favor of California drought-friendly landscaping that can provide multiple benefits to our communities and environment. PFAS are linked to increased incidence of cancer, liver and kidney disease, reproductive issues, immunodeficiencies, and hormonal disruptions. Though experts estimate that more than 200 million Americans are exposed to PFAS through drinking water, the EPA and other regulators are just now looking at ways to address this serious health hazards prevalence within our nation's waters. To address this troubling lack of information about the presence of PFAS in US surface waters, 113 Waterkeeper groups across the United States took on an unprecedented initiative to test US surface waters for PFAS contamination. In 2022, 83% of the samples showed detection of at least one PFAS compound, and in LA Waterkeeper's tests in the LA River over the last 2 years, all but one site tested positive for between 7 and 15 types of PFAS. This is troubling for both the health of our communities and our environment. All artificial turf product are known to contain hazardous PFAS chemicals, amongst other petroleum products and additives. We have even seen independent testing of supposedly "PFAS Free" products shown to contain harmful levels of these substances. Because of this, artificial turf is not a safe playing surface for children or animals (it is significantly hotter than natural groundcover), and it risks further polluting our waterways. As every time it rains or water is otherwise applied to artificial turf, it leaches PFAS, microplastics and more into our storm drains which empty completely untreated water into the LA River, its tributaries, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. This puts wildlife and water recreators at risk of harm. Additionally, artificial turf does not provide the multiple benefits we'd hope to be achieved through the turf replacement process. Whereas California drought-friendly landscaping adds to local biodiversity, provides habitat for native wildlife, and can facilitate the capture of rainwater (preventing runoff pollution and creating water supply benefits), as well as help sink carbon.

Communication from Public

Name: Sheda Morshed

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 04:07 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Artificial turf is a lose-lose option for the goal of drought tolerance. Aside from the myriad issues of plastics — from Palafox production to microplastic pollution and end-of-life landfill issues — artificial turf will increase radiant temperatures and add to our urban heat effect, which will only exasperate our public health and environmental problems. We can't possibly look at this as a solution in any form.

Communication from Public

Name: Gail

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 04:11 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Dear sirs We know so much about the hazards of artificial turf! Artificial turf out gasses ethylene & methane contributing to the climate crisis. Native grasses are the way to go here in LA & all of California. You know what's best. Do it! Thanks Gail Wirth

Communication from Public

Name: Miles Lewis

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 04:35 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: As a constituent in the west San Fernando Valley, I strongly endorse Blumenfield's motion against artificial turf. The adoption of artificial turf is a clear example of a poorly informed and hasty cultural shift. After years of experimenting with local and state drought-responses and messaging, we know that incentivizing native planting and more nature-based drought-tolerant landscaping is a far more holistic and multi-benefit approach to our water concerns. In 2022, I started the Tarzana Native Plant Fair and the Tarzana Community & Cultural Center in partnership with local conservancies and native plant advocacies as well as Blumenfield's office. It was an unexpected blockbuster event that showed us just how excited the public is for solutions that beautify community, support biodiversity, and accomplish water conservation goals - not just saving water while doubling down on plastic pollution, single-minded problem solving, and sterile aesthetics. I support any additional work that the city, county, and resource management can economically do to encourage the holistic and positive change we need (and that people are ready for).

Communication from Public

Name: Rhonda K Plank-Richard

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 04:42 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: This motion is important, and we need to pass it now! 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 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. Show the leadership on this issue that we urgently need for our children's health and our planet's health!

Communication from Public

Name: Deborah Robbins

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 04:51 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass LA City Council File 24-0602 so that we as a city can move away from artificial turf and toward drought tolerant landscaping. There are so many reasons to make this change, from the hazardous PFAS and microplastics released by artificial turf into our environment and our water (especially dangerous to the children who play on artificial turf playgrounds) to the fact that it is an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. In addition, artificial turf can become as much as 80 degrees hotter than the air temperature, creating a heat sink, and reinforcing heat islands which threaten public health. As a concerned citizen of Los Angeles and a consistent voter, I urge you to support this important motion proposed by Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld. Thank you,
Deborah Robbins

Communication from Public

Name: Michele Ringler
Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 04:55 PM
Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Hello L.A. City's Energy & Environment Committee, Please support Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's artificial turf motion which calls for LA to move away from the use of artificial turf and towards drought-tolerant landscaping. 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 Thank you,
Michele Ringler

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 04:59 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Maryam Zar

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 05:01 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Please move away from the use of Astro or artificial turf in our environs. They are undoubtedly less healthy for kids and people of all ages than natural grass, and can be a carcinogen. They need to be maintained and changed out over time (sometimes in short intervals) and have been tried at schools in our community before without great success. The particles get deposited into kids shoes/cleats and heat up the ground causing great pain to feet and knees. They raise the temperature in their environs, look horrendously fake and can easily be dismissed in favor of the heartiest of natural grass which needs little water and maintenance. In return, the environment and its inhabitants, including humans, fare better!

Communication from Public

Name: Mark Rhomberg
Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 05:23 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: No more artificial turf! It's expensive, polluting, dangerous to play on, does not support native wildlife, etc. There is no good reason for using artificial turf instead of natural grass or other natural groundcovers.

Communication from Public

Name: Sherrell Cuneo

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 05:50 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to ask your support for Council File Number 24-0602, Council Member Blumenfield's motion which calls for Los Angeles to move away from the use of artificial turf. Artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, neurotoxins, and leach dangerous microplastics. Children and athletes who play on artificial turf are at increased risk from exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate, it is especially harmful to young children who are still developing. Artificial turf contains petroleum products, it 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. Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and is not a sound investment. We should choose native plants and grasses that take in carbon and provide oxygen. 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. Please choose native plants and grasses over artificial turf.

Communication from Public

Name: Eugenie Lewis

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 06:18 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge the passage of LA City Council file 0602 and requesting that Los Angeles move away from the use of artificial turf and towards drought tolerant landscaping. Artificial has negative health effects and is not good for the environment. Drought tolerant plants support a healthy water cycle and upholds nature by creating more green natural space.

Communication from Public

Name: Anne LaForti - That Soil Nerd

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 06:40 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Artificial turf is detrimental to the well being of Angelenos and our ecosystem. Artificial turf gets hot, even on 80F days the surface of the artificial turf can be 145F or hotter, burning any sports player/kiddo/pet's skin! It holds on to highly infectious germs and when sports players slide on the artificial turf it can cause extensive wounds and bleeding, and falling on the material may have an increased likelihood of concussion. Artificial turf is not recyclable and must be discarded to the landfill. It has toxic chemicals like PFAS (forever chemicals that show an increased risk for testicular, thyroid, and hormone-related cancers) that leach into our water and the soils below it. Artificial turf causes extreme compaction of the soil beneath it, killing most beneficial microorganisms and degrading the soil to a point that it will likely need remediation (which is expensive and time consuming) after it is replaced with living organic turf grass. We should halt the installation of new artificial turf and replace degraded artificial turf with living organically managed turf grass managed with locally produced compost.

Communication from Public

Name: Joan Carpenterc
Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 06:55 PM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: I support this motion. 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.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 07:20 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Please support biodiversity, healthy soil, pollinators, CA native plant habitats, and humans, by moving away from the use of artificial turf. Life on earth is all interconnected, human and more-than-human alike, from the smallest animal, to the freshly sprouted plant, to the tiniest mushroom, and we need each other in order to survive. The more we heal our land, water and air, bit by bit, the more we will support a livable planet for future generations to come. Artificial plastic turf is not the answer. Fauna, flora, and funga are!

Communication from Public

Name: Eric M. Appleman

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 07:31 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned L.A. resident, I strongly support Councilman Blumenfield's motion to reduce and hopefully eliminate use of artificial turf in public spaces. As we learn more about artificial turf, it is clear that it has a lot of environmental downsides.

Communication from Public

Name: Daryl Bassin

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 08:32 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of the motion. I ask that you pass this motion now. I have serious concerns about artificial grass and hope that natural alternatives can be found and used. 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 outgasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis. It is also too hot and contributes to "heat island effect." 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 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. Lastly, artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills.

Communication from Public

Name: Carry Kim

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 08:35 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I urge City Council to adopt this measure to prohibit/redirect away from artificial turf in favor of drought-tolerant and regenerative landscaping. Doing so will prevent ecosystem and public health repercussions that would ensue with continued and more widespread use of synthetic turf. Biodiversity, native habitats of flora, fauna and fungha and public health will be best served by this action. We need to cool the Earth, reduce toxicity in our bodies and environment, and restore our local and global ecosystem; this measure is a move in the right direction for all.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 09:01 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: 1) Artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. 2) Children, athletes and adults who play on artificial turf are at increased risk of exposure, to PFAS chemicals , which are especially harmful to healthy children development. 3) Artificial turf negatively impacts our climate, becoming much hotter than the air temperature, creating a heat sink. 4) Artificial turf adversely affects the health and the environment and wildlife, polluting our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. 5) Hazardous PFAS “forever” chemicals and microplastics from artificial turf have been found in LA’s drinking water and wells and groundwater. 6) Artificial turf creates an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding and adversely impacting plants and insects needed to keep our environment healthy. 7) Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills. 8) Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and contributes to injuries, and the build up and spread of bacteria.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 10:14 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: In my practice as an environmental attorney during the past 30 years, I have dedicated myself to reducing the harms of our addiction to fossil fuels and their byproducts, especially wasteful and toxic plastics. Unfortunately, while we have been able to pass some restrictions on plastics, we cannot keep up with their proliferation into all aspects of our lives. This is due to the fact that fracking, a huge contributor to climate change, air pollution and ground water pollution, has made us the number one producer of fossil fuels on the planet. Plastic is so cheap now that its use has doubled in the past 20 years and it is set to double again in the next 20 if we don't make serious policy changes to limit its proliferation. The impacts are now well known. We have plastic in our water cycle- there is plastic in rain that falls on the most remote regions of earth. There is plastic in our soil and in the air we breathe. There is plastic throughout the ocean as deep as the Marianas Trench. Our seafood is poisoned with plastic. Babies are born pre-polluted with the chemicals from plastic and then drink breast milk with more of the same. A recent study found plastic chemicals in human sperm. Plastic is made with estrogenic, endocrine disrupting chemicals that can curtail our reproductive capacity and cause cancer. While we transition into electric transportation, the fossil fuel/ plastics corporations seek other outlets for their product. Now we have plastic grass. Plastic grass may be one of the worst applications of plastic to date as it invites leaching into our environment and robs us of a healthy natural ecosystem, interfering with the water cycle and natural climate and air processes. Children who play on this plastic turf are exposed to a wide array of chemicals that may impact their health and longevity. We have known this about plastic in carpets for a long time, and now we are debating whether it is healthy to carpet parks and playing fields? It's astounding. Plastic grass is the ultimate "thneed" from the wonderful parable *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess about things we don't need that destroy our environment. I am here to speak for nature that has no voice. Carpeting nature in plastic is an insult to the planet, and to this and future generations who will have to deal with the health and climate impacts from these petrochemicals. The fact sheets on this stuff are alarming, but it all comes down to common sense. We need less plastic, not more. Plastic pollutes. It's a forever problem and not a solution to

our drought problems or the cost of maintaining parks and playing fields - it's terrible additional cost to human health and the environment.

Communication from Public

Name: Jerry Yang

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 10:36 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: As a high school student within the Los Angeles Unified School District, I have seen my fair share of heat related injuries. Artificial Turf is toxic and unhealthy for students to be around. I have many friends who play on artificial turf fields because they have no alternatives because there are no safer spaces around where they live. Knowing that there are all these damaging carcinogens and forever chemicals within the grass and not being able to do anything is one of the worst feelings, and I cannot begin to describe how devastating it is to the families. Imagine if you knew that your kid and family were being exposed to carcinogens, and you couldn't do anything because you couldn't afford any better alternatives. In a push for more green space across the nation, it is disappointing that LA, one of the most progressive cities, has still allowed for artificial turf to pollute the bodies of students, water, and land, preventing animals or plants from thriving in a biodiversity hotspot. If you want a better, healthier, safer future for your kids, your students, your constituents, you will get rid of artificial turf. Make the right decision for your people. Do what you know is right.

Communication from Public

Name: LISA GUO

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 10:39 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: As a parent, I strongly vote against artificial turfs. It has many hazardous chemicals. We can not let our children exposed to this. We need to bring the nature back to our community, not some fake grass made with chemicals.

Communication from Public

Name: Bei Ning Zhang

Date Submitted: 06/26/2024 11:02 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Astro turf should be banned entirely in the city - it has been shown to have negative health and environmental effects due to leeching microplastics into the watershed, heats up more than natural grass (contributing to urban heating effect in a climate of increasing temperature), is made of plastics derived from fossil fuels, and destroys the soil and further erodes our already fragile ecosystem that we depend on to survive. Native, drought resistant plants (there are native drought tolerant grasses!) should be used instead. Native plants are not only water-wise, but they are also beautiful, habitats for the local ecology, absorb water to refill our depleted aquifers (depleted due to paving over so much of our city's surface), help with erosion, and are adapted to the climate zone that we're in. We cannot afford to continue installing glorified plastic sheets over our land and increase the pollution and poison to Angelenos (human and more-than-human). It would be indefensible.

Communication from Public

Name: Sam Miyamoto

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 12:08 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council members, thank you for the opportunity to submit a public comment. I support that the Council move to pass this motion as soon as possible to enable healthy, evidence-driven solutions regarding artificial turf management and phase-out that support the future and health of Angelenos.

Communication from Public

Name: Louise Woo
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 04:49 AM
Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council, PLEASE pass the proposed artificial turf ban! 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. Please end this wasteful use of plastic replacements for beneficial living grass! Ban astroturf and restore our soils! Thank you,
Louise Woo Los Angeles (Little Tokyo)

Communication from Public

Name: Jesse Sanford

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 07:40 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the LA City Council to adopt Council File 24-0602 to transition away from artificial turf and toward drought tolerant, native, nature-based landscaping. This motion is supported by various Los Angeles environmental organizations, including the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, and the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Chapters of The Climate Reality Project. These organizations support a ban on new installations of artificial turf, due to the various human health hazards, environmental contamination, and negative impacts on wildlife. Compared to natural turf, California native plants, and drought-tolerant grasses, artificial turf is NOT a safer playing surface, does NOT significantly reduce water usage, and is NOT a sound investment. As a result, these organizations strongly support the installation of natural grass fields and the planting of native California plants. Again, I urge you to follow the science on artificial turf and encourage a swift transition away from artificial turf towards nature-based solutions.

Communication from Public

Name: Pilar Reyanldo

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 08:02 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning members of the council, I am urging you to support Councilman Blumenfield's motion for the City to move away from artificial turf. Below is a list of reasons this issue is so important. 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 groundwater 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. Lastly, the

earth underneath all this turf once removed is scorched nothing is living in it, it is vital to keep worms and other insects alive so the soil does not become dust which then does not absorb water when it rains. Sincerely, Pilar Reynaldo

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Elizabeth

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 08:40 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Artificial turf is not only bad for the environment by replacing the natural environment and creating polluted runoff but also for human health. After my high school replaced grass with artificial turf the heating has affected the use of the stadium. A senior picnic was cancelled this year because even though the weather was in the low 90 degrees, the day before with the same temperature conditions, several students experienced heat related stress resulting in one student passing out. Also, talking with some parents they have indicated that they are worried and don't like their children playing on artificial turf because the types of injuries have increased in degree as well as many other injuries related to surficial abrasions. I understand that some people have invested in the artificial turf business and do not want any restrictions. I don't know about you all, but I certainly have made costly errors and that is part of the risks of business. We should not have the harms to continue business as usual but instead should look for opportunities that are more sustaining of our values to protect children's health. They are our future. Thank you for your efforts to make L.A. a safer place to live and work.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 09:15 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I am in support of this motion that tries to end what should have never begun. It was clear more than a decade ago before installations began that cutting up tires for playing fields had many obvious inherent risks all of which were dismissed. The identification of PFAs in tires is reason enough to end this environmental and health disaster since "forever" chemicals remain in the environment and in bodies causing continual harm to both. There should also be a motion to remove current installations and find a place to pile all the toxic waste without it leaching into water systems. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Richard Wener

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 09:30 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly urge you to reject any attempts to add synthetic (plastic) grass fields in Los Angeles. This city is characterized by its natural elements and the use of plastic playing fields would only reinforce of worst and most outmoded stereotypes of the city. Synthetic turf fields are a bad choice for many reasons. They are less pleasant and riskier to play on with respect to injury (note that professional athletes in many sports have argued against these fields), they use materials that have been shown to be toxic and, in some cases, carcinogenic. Their surfaces get dangerously hot on very warm days – 160 degrees F or more (see recent scientific study listed below). On very hot days these fields need to be washed down frequently to achieve tolerable temperatures. Moreover, these are a poor choice with regard to climate change both in the carbon produced in their manufacture and transport, and with regard to the carbon that natural grass sequesters Please choose cooling, environmentally friendly natural grass for Los Angeles Fields.

6/27/2024

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to strongly urge you to reject any attempts to add synthetic (plastic) grass fields in Los Angeles. This city is characterized by its natural elements and the use of plastic playing fields would only reinforce of worst and most outmoded stereotypes of the city.

Synthetic turf fields are a bad choice for many reasons. They are less pleasant and riskier to play on with respect to injury (note that professional athletes in many sports have argued against these fields), they use materials that have been shown to be toxic and, in some cases, carcinogenic. Their surfaces get dangerously hot on very warm days – 160 degrees F or more (see recent scientific study listed below). On very hot days these fields need to be washed down frequently to achieve tolerable temperatures. Moreover, these are a poor choice with regard to climate change both in the carbon produced in their manufacture and transport, and with regard to the carbon that natural grass sequesters

Please choose cooling, environmentally friendly natural grass for Los Angeles Fields.

Thank you,

Richard E. Wener, Ph.D.

VYRLAS, P., KOUTRAS, M., & LIAKOS, V. (2024). Surface Temperature Experienced and Irrigation Effects on Artificial Turf. *WSEAS TRANSACTIONS on ENVIRONMENT and DEVELOPMENT*, 20, 194-202.

Communication from Public

Name: Katherine Niemela
Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 09:41 AM
Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Please support the motion to decrease use of artificial turf. Artificial turf is too hot and too toxic. 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 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. Planting native trees, native pollination gardens and native grasses in our public places take in carbon and provide oxygen, provide cooler surfaces, support our urban wildlife. We need to choose nature-based solutions like natural grass playing fields that are safer and sustainable – our children deserve better. Protect our health, the environment and wildlife – get rid of toxic plastic outdoor carpeting that pollutes our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. Thank you, Katherine Niemela

Communication from Public

Name: Erin Bullen

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 09:45 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Artificial turf contains PFAS. PFAS is associated with higher rates of cancer. PFAS is linked to infertility. Artificial turf sheds micro plastics. Artificial turf is the biggest contributor of ocean micro plastics on the planet. Artificial turf is not sustainable. Artificial turf is NOT recyclable. Artificial turf is a dangerous petrochemical product. Grass should not be replaced with toxic plastic. SAY NO TO ARTIFICIAL TURF/SYNTHETIC TURF/CHEMICAL GRASS/PLASTIC CARPETING.

Communication from Public

Name: suzanne york

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 09:50 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I highly recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution that would regulate synthetic turf installations. This would support Assembly Bill 1423 and Senate Bill 414. AB1423 would empower consumers to avoid the installation of artificial turf that uses toxic chemicals in manufacturing. Whilst these products have been used as a way to save water, there is much evidence that significant health and environmental problems may occur as a result of their use. Although data in this field is still “in the early stages”, we believe that we must not make the mistake of compromising the healthiest choices for our health and environment, in lieu of smaller economic gains, provided by the perceived cost and maintenance benefits of these products. We believe that we can lead by example in a field that will surely gather more and more evidence of the dangers imposed by these products over time (remember when cigarettes were “physician tested”?). An ongoing study by the California Office of Health Hazard Assessment has determined that artificial turf and synthetic grass contain a wide range of chemicals which have the capability to leach into the environment and cause irreparable harm to our eco system and watershed. Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, the author of Assembly Bill 1423, has done a significant amount of research and study of these hazards and I have attached a brief summary of specific hazards and the impact of supporting the bill. Artificial turf has been found to have an adverse effect on public health and safety. Synthetic turf is built by layering various plastics with polyurethane adhesives. Sometimes layers of acrylic resin are attached to plastic fibers made from polypropylene, polyurethane and nylon. Often a top layer mix of sand and toxic styrene-butadiene rubber (“crumb rubber” or SBR, made from shredding old tires) is added. Chemicals, like PFAS are often used to harden the grass blades. PFAS are chemicals that do not break down in the environment or the human body and have been associated with diseases like cancer and birth defects. People and animals that walk and play on synthetic turf absorb some of these plastic particles through their skin, inhalation and ingestion. Detectable levels of lead have been found in synthetic turf, due to lead-based pigments to color it. Synthetic turf wastes and contaminates water. Artificial turf still requires water to keep it clean and to reduce its’ temperature. Because the turf can easily

heat up to 40-70 percent hotter than the surrounding air, even hotter than asphalt, it is a contributor to climate change. Injuries called “turf burn” occur because of this heat, and the heating of the turf has been found to release toxic gases including carcinogenic benzene and formaldehyde. Synthetic turf is often marketed as being designed to provide drainage. This is very misleading. Artificial turf prevents groundwater recharge. When rain falls on synthetic turf, the water absorbs chemicals from it and runs off, typically entering stormwater systems that drain into lakes and oceans. In addition, artificial grass kills the biome beneath it and creates “dead zones” where the soil can no longer absorb CO₂ or stormwater. Unlike natural grass, most synthetic turf is not biodegradable or compostable, which means that it will remain in the environment for a very long time. Depending on the type of materials used to manufacture it, it can take anywhere from 20-500 years to decompose completely. It is difficult, if not impossible, to repurpose it into new “turf”. The falsely given perception that it is recyclable solely benefits manufacturers of it, and very little has been done to figure out how to dispose of it, and at whose cost. While more data and insight on this issue is gathering, I recommend monitoring the progress of state regulations and recycling programs for artificial turf. In the mean-time, at the very least, perhaps a moratorium on installations is warranted. This will help us reach our goals of becoming carbon neutral and help eliminate potential health and environmental risks. Suzanne York

Communication from Public

Name: Kristy Pace

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 10:16 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Artificial turf contains forever chemicals they poison our families ourpets our children our neighbors our community. Please ban Astroturf and any type of plastic artificial grass. in addition, to poisoning people, it gets really really hot and burns people and pets ...has to be cooled down with water when it gets too hotsmells horrible ...kills the soil underneath it. There is zero reason to have artificial turf or grass anywhere in this city, there are such better ways with natural solutions like native plants and grasses. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Andrea

Date Submitted: 06/27/2024 10:32 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: As a new mom who is trying to provide a better world and environment for my kids, I do not believe artificial turf is the way for our future. We have had an increase amount of autism in our economy, and putting out more products with hazardous PFAS chemicals that have proven to have carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics that are extremely harmful to children who are still developing. Not only are these chemicals released into the air, but when it rains we are putting these chemicals into our waters and wells. And, artificial turf is not recyclable. Once it gets used up, we send it straight to our landfills. I don't want my kids to grow up in an even more polluted world that I grew up in. If we can do something with what we can now, hopefully we can help reduce the amount of issues that our children have grown up with for future generations.