

## Communication from Public

**Name:** LIONEL MARES

**Date Submitted:** 09/13/2024 11:44 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Council: I write to SUPPORT this motion. Please see attached document. 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 and wildlife. We also need to implement nature-based solutions like drought-tolerant California native plants in our landscaping.

I urge the Los Angeles City Council to adopt a **ban** on plastic grass.

The truth is finally out; plastic grass is bad for our health, the environment, and **it doesn't even save money when lifecycle cost is factored in**. That's why local agencies are taking action to **ban artificial turf**:

- The **Santa Clara County Medical Association** <sup>1</sup> recommends *against* plastic turf playing fields citing "the health and safety of both your students and the environment."
- The **California Coastal Commission** *rejected* an artificial turf field at U.C. Santa Barbara <sup>2</sup>, citing the impacts of microplastics on the marine environment.
- The **City of Millbrae** has *banned* new artificial turf <sup>3</sup> on all property – *public and private* - to "protect water quality...pursuant to the Clean Water Act."
- Cities and counties regain power to ban artificial turf for environmental push<sup>4</sup>

The **Sierra Club** sent this letter to [Santa Clara County Supervisors](#), urging them to adopt an ordinance against the installation of artificial turf on "*all property* within County jurisdiction, whether for landscaping or athletic fields."

[Santa Clara Valley Water District](#) has declared that artificial turf is "*not a living landscape,*" "*is not water free,*" and "*runoff from artificial turf may contain pollutants like heavy metals and chemicals that can reach surface water or groundwater.*"

Scientific studies show the impacts of plastic turf outweigh the benefits:

- As plastics degrade, **microplastics** permeate the air and soil and wash into our watersheds. Microplastics are now found in the food we eat and even in newborns.
- Fake turf is a petroleum product, and **all** turfs are made using **Fluorine**, a component of PFAS, known to be toxic to humans.
- The turf industry admits turf is **not recyclable**; it's comprised of layers of different petroleum products that can't be separated. After its 10-year lifespan it's buried in a **landfill or incinerated**, releasing CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

- Water does not permeate the plastic mat as it does natural grass or mulch. Instead of recharging aquifers, heavy rains run off, polluting waterways and **burdening storm drains**.

Living grass and shrubs clean our air, reduce surrounding temperatures, sequester carbon and recharge our groundwater and soils naturally. We don't need to "beautify" nature with vivid green plastic carpet. Rapidly proliferating plastic turf poses a looming environmental debacle.

Please join the **City of Millbrae** in passing an ordinance **banning artificial turf on all property within your jurisdiction, or consider passing a moratorium while you study the issue more.**

### **Sources:**

#### **<sup>1</sup> Santa Clara County Medical**

**Assn:** <https://www.sccma.org/Portals/13/Artificial%20Turf%20-%20Final.pdf?ver=R-TnPJEEZMQXQ5EcASVNVg%3d%3d>

#### **<sup>2</sup> California Coastal**

**Commission:** <https://www.independent.com/2023/12/20/coastal-commission-rejects-uc-santa-barbaras-request-for-artificial-turf-at-baseball-stadium/>

#### **<sup>3</sup> Millbrae Artificial Turf**

**Prohibition:** <https://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/276/Prohibition-of-Artificial-Turf>

#### **<sup>4</sup> Cities and counties regain power to ban artificial turf for environmental push**

**push:** [https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/environment/2024/03/22/cities-and-counties-allowed-to-ban-artificial-turf-?cid=share\\_clip](https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/environment/2024/03/22/cities-and-counties-allowed-to-ban-artificial-turf-?cid=share_clip)

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karen Stasevich  
**Date Submitted:** 09/15/2024 09:42 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a landscape architect and person residing in the Vista Hermosa neighborhood for 11 years, I want to express my support of eliminating new installations of artificial turf. My opposition to artificial turf stems from its much overlooked negative impacts on the environment, which far outweigh the convenience over even natural turf grass. Heat island amplification, chemical leaching/off-gassing from plastics, creation of dead zones that disrupt the vital role of healthy soils, impaired water infiltration, and elimination of habitats for insects and animals are just some of the problems artificial turf exacerbates. Even in small parkways, artificial turf placed over street tree root zones suffocates our valuable trees and deadens the soils plants need to survive. It is also a misconception that artificial turf requires no maintenance — relatively expensive to install compared to plants or even just mulch, it quickly deteriorates in the sun and collects trash, broken glass, dog feces and urine, and other pollutants that are hard to clean without the natural processes that natural soil and plants provide. Please help us repair our city's environment and ban it!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maryam Zar  
**Date Submitted:** 09/15/2024 08:32 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0602  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please do not encourage the use of artificial all turf or synthetic grass. We will regret this trend in due time. Best, Maryam

## Communication from Public

**Name:** LIONEL MARES  
**Date Submitted:** 09/15/2024 10:40 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Lionel. I am a constituent living in Council District 6. I'm writing to urge you to support CF 24-0602 and begin transitioning the City of Los Angeles away from artificial turf in order to protect people and the environment. Unfortunately, artificial turf has not delivered the promised water savings and has created many unintended consequences: ? Artificial turf is primarily plastic, manufactured with fossil fuel-based petrochemicals, and harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been associated with cancer as well as respiratory and other health issues; ? Children and infants are especially susceptible to the bioaccumulation of these chemicals, which have been linked to growth, learning and behavioral problems. Athletes who play on synthetic grass are also at increased risk; ? Toxic runoff from artificial turf contaminates drinking water, rivers, and oceans with microplastics as well as PFAS. The EPA has recently reported that there is no safe amount of these "forever chemicals" in drinking water; ? Studies have found that 12 to 15% of microplastics found in rivers, lakes, and oceans are from artificial turf; ? Artificial turf reaches temperatures much higher than natural grass (160°180°F or more) causing heat-related injuries and requiring surface cooling with water before use; ? The increase in temperature caused by artificial turf also contributes to the urban heat island effect, raising ambient temperature at the site and nearby; ? Artificial turf leads to increased sports injuries, and must be cleaned of contaminants such as blood and other fluids; ? Cleaning and cooling artificial turf can require more water than would be needed for drought-tolerant grass fields; ? Artificial turf kills the biome in the soil below and takes away critical food and habitat from insects, birds and wildlife, contributing to species loss and reducing biodiversity; ? Artificial turf is an impervious surface (per the EPA) that contributes to flooding when water is not absorbed for groundwater recharge; ? Artificial turf is made of mixed materials, making it extremely difficult and expensive to recycle. At the end of its 8- to 15-year lifecycle, it is sent to landfills, illegally dumped, or sent out of state to be incinerated. Artificial turf is a danger to the health of our communities and our environment, and fails to produce promised water savings. I urge you to support a ban on new and replacement installations of

artificial turf in both public and private applications. Please continue the leadership that the Los Angeles City Council has shown on sustainability and vote to protect human and environmental health by voting YES in support of this motion. Please do the right thing... BAN artificial turf.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dianna Cohen

**Date Submitted:** 09/15/2024 10:45 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** Synthetic Turf is bad for people's health and for the planet. Plastics are made from fossil fuels and contribute to climate change and air, water, and soil pollution. A 2019 study by the EPA acknowledged the presence of toxic chemicals in synthetic turf. Chemicals like PFAS, which are used to harden the blades of grass, have been found by the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and The Ecology Center. 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 and pregnancy complications. Detectable levels of lead, a neurotoxin especially toxic to children, have been found in synthetic turf, due to lead-based pigments being used to give plastic grass the illusion of its healthy green luster. Synthetic turf is also a contributor to climate change, as the production of a 2-acre artificial turf field generates 55.6 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. 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. Individuals and governmental bodies needn’t turn to polluting plastic grass in the face of historic droughts, in California or anywhere else. Many species of natural grasses such as bluegrass, ryegrass, and fescues make for strong turf requiring little need for watering and no need for replacement. There is also a growing trend to replace the traditional “green” lawn with edible gardens, as well as native-plant gardens that attract butterflies and other pollinators, supporting healthy ecosystems that are necessary for us to grow food plants. These natural landscapes can also help restore wildlife corridors and migration paths that have been disrupted by the “concrete jungles” of highways, cities, and subdivisions. Proper care of natural grasses, avoidance of toxic fertilizers, and reduction of water waste—such as preventing irrigation runoff and repairing leaky irrigation pipes—will also help us get through droughts while minimizing our impact on the planet and our health. Like many sustainable and healthy options which are supplanted needlessly by toxic plastic alternatives, oxygenating, natural grass is being replaced across the U.S. by synthetic turf fields, creating more pollution, and a host of unnecessary injuries and other impacts. When one peels back the layers of synthetic turf, it's costly, toxic truths become easier to see. Don't be fooled by the synthetic turf industry's greenwashing: It's best for nature and our health to replace lawns with natural and native drought-tolerant wildflowers and other plants. But when we do choose to create lawns or playing fields, the best option remains drought-tolerant, organic, natural grass. Say NO to synthetic turf, bad for people and planet. More information in the following links:  
<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2022/6/3/pass-on-plastic-grass>  
<https://mountsinaiaexposomics.org/position-statement-on-the-use-of-artificial-turf-surfaces/>

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Daryl Bassin

**Date Submitted:** 09/16/2024 01:51 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing to urge you to support CF 24-0602 and begin transitioning the City of Los Angeles away from artificial turf in order to protect people and the environment. Unfortunately, artificial turf has not delivered the promised water savings and has created many unintended consequences: - Artificial turf is primarily plastic, manufactured with fossil fuel-based petrochemicals, and harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been associated with cancer as well as respiratory and other health issues; - Children and infants are especially susceptible to the bioaccumulation of these chemicals, which have been linked to growth, learning and behavioral problems. Athletes who play on synthetic grass are also at increased risk; - Toxic runoff from artificial turf contaminates drinking water, rivers, and oceans with microplastics as well as PFAS. The EPA has recently reported that there is no safe amount of these "forever chemicals" in drinking water; - Studies have found that 12 to 15% of microplastics found in rivers, lakes, and oceans are from artificial turf; - Artificial turf reaches temperatures much higher than natural grass (160°180°F or more) causing heat-related injuries and requiring surface cooling with water before use; - The increase in temperature caused by artificial turf also contributes to the urban heat island effect, raising ambient temperature at the site and nearby; - Artificial turf leads to increased sports injuries, and must be cleaned of contaminants such as blood and other fluids; - Cleaning and cooling artificial turf can require more water than would be needed for drought-tolerant grass fields; - Artificial turf kills the biome in the soil below and takes away critical food and habitat from insects, birds and wildlife, contributing to species loss and reducing biodiversity; - Artificial turf is an impervious surface (per the EPA) that contributes to flooding when water is not absorbed for groundwater recharge; - Artificial turf is made of mixed materials, making it extremely difficult and expensive to recycle. At the end of its 8- to 15-year lifecycle, it is sent to landfills, illegally dumped, or sent out of state to be incinerated. In conclusion, artificial turf is a danger to the health of our communities and our environment, and fails to produce promised water savings. I urge you to support a ban on new and replacement installations of artificial turf in both public and private applications. Please

continue the leadership that the Los Angeles City Council has shown on sustainability and vote to protect human and environmental health by voting YES in support of this motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David Rosenstein  
**Date Submitted:** 09/16/2024 09:17 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** Artificial turf should be banned in Los Angeles!!! Too many environmental problems. I'm writing to urge you to support CF 24-0602 and begin transitioning the City of Los Angeles away from artificial turf in order to protect people and the environment. Unfortunately, artificial turf has not delivered the promised water savings and has created many unintended consequences: ? Artificial turf is primarily plastic, manufactured with fossil fuel-based petrochemicals, and harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been associated with cancer as well as respiratory and other health issues; ? Children and infants are especially susceptible to the bioaccumulation of these chemicals, which have been linked to growth, learning and behavioral problems. Athletes who play on synthetic grass are also at increased risk; ? Toxic runoff from artificial turf contaminates drinking water, rivers, and oceans with microplastics as well as PFAS. The EPA has recently reported that there is no safe amount of these "forever chemicals" in drinking water; ? Studies have found that 12 to 15% of microplastics found in rivers, lakes, and oceans are from artificial turf; ? Artificial turf reaches temperatures much higher than natural grass (160°180°F or more) causing heat-related injuries and requiring surface cooling with water before use; ? The increase in temperature caused by artificial turf also contributes to the urban heat island effect, raising ambient temperature at the site and nearby; ? Artificial turf leads to increased sports injuries, and must be cleaned of contaminants such as blood and other fluids; ? Cleaning and cooling artificial turf can require more water than would be needed for drought-tolerant grass fields; ? Artificial turf kills the biome in the soil below and takes away critical food and habitat from insects, birds and wildlife, contributing to species loss and reducing biodiversity; ? Artificial turf is an impervious surface (per the EPA) that contributes to flooding when water is not absorbed for groundwater recharge; ? Artificial turf is made of mixed materials, making it extremely difficult and expensive to recycle. At the end of its 8- to 15-year lifecycle, it is sent to landfills, illegally dumped, or sent out of state to be incinerated. Artificial turf is a danger to the health of our communities and our environment, and fails to produce promised water savings. I urge you to support a ban on new and replacement installations of

artificial turf in both public and private applications. Please continue the leadership that the Los Angeles City Council has shown on sustainability and vote to protect human and environmental health by voting YES in support of this motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lee Lindenlaub

**Date Submitted:** 09/16/2024 09:27 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** As parents, we cannot believe that our City of LA government has not already seriously acted to end the use of artificial turf...in public spaces, public parks, public schools, as the 'science' backing how unhealthy exposure to artificial turf is for children, has been proven. Stop protecting corporate interests in pushing this. Start protecting those that can't give YOU money to be re elected, but who will inherit the world.... Our children!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sharon Ungersma

**Date Submitted:** 09/16/2024 10:37 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly support this measure to begin the process of phasing out artificial turf in Los Angeles. This work is long overdue, and the information gathered for these reports will guide LA in making this necessary transition. The dangers of artificial turf to our children, our communities, and our environment have long been apparent. Now is the time to clearly assess the damage that has been caused by artificial turf installations in Los Angeles and take steps to mitigate that damage and prevent additional harm.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shanti Rao

**Date Submitted:** 09/16/2024 10:41 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a volunteer soccer coach with AYSO, I recognize that there is a place for artificial turf -- you can play on it when it's raining. But, it's extremely unpleasant to be on when it's sunny. Between the oppressive heat, the noxious fumes, and turf burn injuries, I think that artificial turf is not helping with the ongoing decline in participation in sports by teenagers. For LA's limited recreation space, I'd actually rather have kids play on an ugly, weedy sandlot than more artificial turf.