

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Myung-Soo Seok, on behalf of the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36

**Date Submitted:** 09/18/2024 12:51 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** REVISED LETTER. PLEASE DELETE THE PREVIOUS LETTER THAT WE SUBMITTED ON SEPTEMBER 16TH. Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36 advocates for establishing regulation standards for artificial turf, not a ban. Please see our official letter that is attached.



# Painters & Allied Trades District Council 36

**Luis F. Robles**

Business Manager

DRYWALL FINISHERS, FLOORLAYERS, GLAZIERS, PAINTERS, TRADESHOW & SIGNCRAFT

September 16, 2024

## Los Angeles City Councilmembers

District 1 - Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez

District 2 - Councilmember Paul Krekorian

District 3 - Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

District 4 - Councilmember Nithya Raman

District 5 - Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky

District 6 - Councilmember Imelda Padilla

District 7 - Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

District 8 - Marqueece Harris-Dawson

District 9 - Curren D. Price

District 10 - Heather Hutt

District 11 - Traci Park

District 12 - John Lee

District 13 - Hugo Soto-Martinez

District 14 - Kevin de Leon

District 15 - Tim McOsker

Re: City of Los Angeles's proposed Study on Regulation on Artificial Turf

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your efforts to impose a study of regulation on artificial turf in the County. We are a labor union that represents construction workers that install artificial turf throughout California. While we appreciate the genuine concerns that the Councilmembers have, an outright ban of artificial turf is both irresponsible and unnecessary in alleviating environmental concerns. While there are many studies available which show no impact to the environment from chemicals leaching from artificial turf, there are NO studies that show that any chemicals leach from artificial turf or from crumb rubber infill.

Having said that, there seems to be an assumption that all artificial turf is made up of same materials and that is not the case. Case in point is the artificial grass manufactured by TenCate.

TenCate is the leading manufacturer of artificial turf in the world. Their artificial turf has proactively eliminated PFAS materials in 2023 before any PFAS legislation has been passed. This eliminates widespread concern of PFAS impact on the environment.

In order to address the concern of micro plastics entering the environment due to migration of rubber infill, TenCate created a new turf system called Pivot that eliminates the need for rubber infill. Historically, an artificial turf field required 200,000 pounds of crumb rubber, which can migrate from the field. Pivot requires NO rubber infill or any infill at all.

Pivot turf is also much cooler than turf with rubber infill, typically up to 30 to 40 degrees cooler than rubber. If you add TenCate's GeoCool material to a Pivot field, you can reduce the temperature another 10 to 20 degrees. GeoCool is made from a renewable inorganic mineral that is 100% renewable and non-toxic. Other organic and natural infills made with cork or walnut shells have been incorporated by other manufacturers and these infills will lower the temperature of a field drastically vs. rubber infill.

It is important to remember that each artificial turf field saves between 500,000 and 1,000,000 gallons of water annually. This leads to over 1 billion gallons of water being conserved each year in the State of California. Water is not necessary in cleaning or cooling Pivot turf.

Finally, TenCate is actively recycling end of life artificial turf. TenCate is the first in United States to recycle old synthetic turf into feedstock that can be used to create new turf and other products. In 2023, TenCate completely recycled the practice soccer field that they replaced at Stanford University through their subsidiary TenCate Turf Recycling Solutions. So, the latest developments in artificial turf are already being established in State of California.

While we commend the Councilmembers for initiating this important discussion about the impact of artificial grass on the environment, an outright ban will lead to losses of small businesses and jobs that were encouraged to be created during our drought crisis. Our union will lose thousands of jobs throughout California if such ban is passed throughout the state.

Rather than banning an entire industry, implementation of thoughtful regulation of eliminating harmful materials and creating an industry standard should be considered. We look forward to participating in such a dialogue with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My contact information is listed below.

Regulate, don't Ban

Thank you.



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