

The following organizations support Motion 24-0602 to Ban and Replace Artificial Turf in LA.



Initial Submittal, Energy and Environmental Committee: June 27, 2024

Resubmittals, LA City Council: August 16 & 23, 2024

September 16, 2024

Dear LA City Council President Krekorian and Honorable Councilmembers,

49 local, state, national and international organizations and 30 individuals are writing in support of [CF 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 often 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 and contributing to warming temperatures
- impacting the health of users and others
- increasing the cost of maintenance

A Brigham Young University found:

- The surface temperature of 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

- off gasses methane and ethylene and contains PFAS and has known public health dangers, especially to our youth who have prolonged exposure to these fields. A
- is being assessed for its health impacts from known carcinogens & neurotoxins: lead, mercury, cadmium, PAHs, VOCs, SVOC, phthalates, benzene, toluene, and carbon nanotubes.

A National Library of Medicine study:

- identified 306 chemical constituents of crumb rubber infill

- 197 of the identified 306 chemicals met their carcinogenicity criteria.
- 52 of these chemicals were also classified as known, presumed or suspected carcinogens by the US EPA and ECHA.

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 snow packs forecasted, capturing groundwater will be imperative for future water supplies and artificial turf interferes with groundwater capture.

Artificial turf sports fields require a lot of maintenance and water. Here's a summary from a letter submitted to Glendale Community Services and Parks

"A well-maintained artificial 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 48 hours of play ~4-5 days or the condition of the infill and 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 is a particular concern. Blood and saliva rinse off real grass, but not off synthetic grass. Messes that could be a health hazard need to be cleaned and the surface sanitized.
- (5) 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 warmer months the vendor recommends watering the field for 5-10 minutes each morning to mitigate surface temperatures. 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 planting these areas with well designed and installed natural grass fields 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.

Sincerely,

**Regional LA Groups:**

**Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Sierra Club**

Eric Edmunds, Chair,

**Los Angeles Climate Reality Project**

Charles Miller, Chair

**LA Forward**

David Levitus, Executive Director

**Surfrider Foundation**

Eugenia Ermacora, Los Angeles Chapter Manager

**Angelenos for Green Schools**

Ashleigh Lewis

**Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance**

Lisa Hart (she/her), Executive Director

**Glendale Environmental Coalition**

Elise Kalfayan, Board Member,

**Indivisible Westside LA**

Amy Woodson-Boulton

**East Area Progressive Democrats**

Hans Johnson, President

**Canyon Back Alliance**

Tom Freeman, President

**Brentwood Alliance of Canyons & Hillside**

Wendy-Sue Rosen, Co-founder

**Silver Lake Couch Collective**

Roseanne Costantino

**Hang Out Do Good**

Polly Esterbrook, Los Angeles

Helen Eigenberg, Los Angeles

Jennifer Levin, Los Angeles

**Active San Gabriel Valley**  
David Diaz, Executive Director

**NELA CLimate Collective**  
Emily Spokes

**Onward Towards Progress, Los Angeles**  
Angel Treinen, Founder

**Urban Ecology Project, Council District 14**  
Chris Peck, President  
Business Owner: Peck Architectural, Structural, & Civil

**Indivisible California Green Team**  
Jennifer Tanner

**Rooted In Resistance**  
Ruth Richardson

**Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)**  
Cheryl Auger, President  
Business Owner: My Zero Waste Store

**Indivisible Alta-Pasadena**  
Anita Ghazarian, Environmental Lead

**Transition South Pasadena**  
Dr. Marina Khubesrian

**Habitable Designs**  
Robert Haw

**301 Organics**  
Christine Lenches-Hinkel

**Civic Sunday's**  
Cherie Shore, Co-Lead

**Chop Wood, Carry Water**  
Jessica Craven, Los Angeles  
LACDP member, AD 52

**Resilient Palisades**  
Valeria Serna

**Habitable Designs**

Robert Haw

**Groups with LA Presence and LA Members:**

**5 Gyres Institute**

Alison Waliszewski, Director of Policy and Programs

**CALPIRG**

Jenn Engstrom, State Director

**Climate Action California**

Ashley Craig

**Plastic Pollution Coalition**

Dianna Cohen, Co-Founder & CEO

**Other Organizations:**

**Plastic Free Future**

Alejandra Warren, Executive Director

**Safehealthyplayingfields.org**

Diana Edensworth Conway, President

**CleanEarth4Kids.org**

Suzanne Hume, Educational Director and Founder

**North County Equity and Justice**

Yusef Miller, Founder,

**Eco Sustainability Peeps**

Jim Wang, Founder

**Wholly H2O**

Elizabeth Dougherty, Ph.D, Executive Director

**Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety**

Catherine Dodd PhD RN

**California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice**

Barbara Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAAN, Leadership Council

**Environmental Working Group**

Bill Allayaud, Calif. Director of Government Affairs

**Mothers Out Front California**

Alicia Nichols-Gonzalez, California State Manager

**North County Climate Change Alliance**

Joe Houde, President

**Center for Environmental Health**

Thomas R. Fox

Senior Legislative Counsel

**Moms Advocating Sustainability**

Rika Godpinath, Co-Founder

**Grandparents4Action**

Virginia Greenwald

**Non-Toxic Communities**

Diana Carpinone, President

**The Last Plastic Straw**

Jackie Nunez, Founder

**San Diegans - Sequel**

Dr. Ronald Askeland, PhD

Analytical Chemist, retired.

**LA Area Residents:**

1. Monica Campagna, Campus Gardens Caretaker  
Franklin Elementary (GUSD)
2. Kate Grodd, Los Angeles
3. Katherine Palardy, Los Angeles
4. Andrew Hansen, Los Angeles
5. Eileen Hatrick, Los Angeles  
Retired School Principal
6. Wendy Legacki, Los Angeles  
350 Southland Legislative Committee
7. Beth Elder  
Ban SUP member  
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ACT Pasadena member
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9. Isabel Storey  
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  11. Glo Moss
  12. Candace Seu
  13. Natalie Freidberg  
Resident, Council District 14
  14. Isela Vazquez, Los Angeles  
Zero Waste Specialist
  15. Selina Herman, Burbank
  16. Alex Arciniega, Burbank  
AD 44 delegate  
Small business owner, Bloom Dammit!
  17. Isabella Edwards, CD 11
  18. Lisa Kaas Boyle, CD 11  
Environmental Attorney
  19. Michele Forrest
  20. Jef Bouville
  21. Brad Davies
  22. Joclyn Rabbitt-Sire
  23. Annette Holloway
  24. David Giron
  25. Valerie Hurt
  26. Heather Guillen
  27. Molly Mansfield
  28. Rev. Charlotte Bear
  29. Sam Ford
  30. Elliot Smith Hastie, Soccer Player   
2016 Gatorade State Player of the Year  
Boston College Midfield, 2016-2018