

6/28/24, 11:04 AM

City of Los Angeles Mail - ATTN Chairwoman of Energy & Environment Committee Council File 24-062



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## ATTN Chairwoman of Energy & Environment Committee Council File 24-062

3 messages

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anngadfly@aol.com <anngadfly@aol.com>

Thu, Jun 27, 2024 at 5:29 PM

Dear Decision Makers:

I became familiar with artificial turf when my grandchildren played soccer from age 5 through high school. They would complain of their shoes, socks and clothes being full of rubber crumbs and especially of the extreme heat. My granddaughter said her feet were burned through her cleats. I witnessed several of her team mates become ill and even faint on hot days when the plastic was 20 to 50 degrees hotter than natural grass fields. Hosing down the fields gave only brief relief.

Worse than the heat, PFAS is routinely used in the production of artificial turf and is emitted as part of the dust as the fields age. PFAS or forever chemicals are highly toxic and highly persistent in the environment. PFAS have been linked to severe health problems including kidney and liver damage developmental harm and immune system disruption.

This product is dangerous to human health and the environment; it must be banned today. I urge you to approve this motion to eliminate artificial turf.

Sincerely,

Ann Cantrell, co-chair  
Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force  
Sierra Club CA Coastal Committee member



## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

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June 28, 2024

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair  
Energy and Environment Committee  
LA City Council c/o City Clerk  
200 North Spring St, Room 395  
Los Angeles CA 90012

RE: Support for Motion to Transition Away from Artificial Turf (CF 24-0602)

Honorable Councilmember Yaroslavsky and Energy and Environment committee members:

The Theodore Payne Foundation, whose mission is to inspire and educate Southern Californians about the beauty and ecological benefits of California native plant landscapes, strongly supports today's motion, authored by Councilmembers Blumenfield, Yaroslavsky and Hernandez, to transition the city away from the use of artificial turf on city property, and city wide. We now know the harms that synthetic turf causes—from damaging ecosystem health to increasing heat effects where this blanket of plastic is installed, and so we applaud efforts to cease installations, consider how to remove existing turf, and encourage residents and businesses city wide to make this switch.

Theodore Payne Foundation further suggests that the ideal replacement for artificial turf is California native plants. LA residents are increasingly affected by rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and heightened wildfire risks. Our region needs more greenspaces not only to benefit residents' physical and mental well-being, but also for carbon sequestration, heat-island mitigation, wildfire defense, and natural resource conservation. Having adapted to our local climate over thousands of years, California native plants are drought-tolerant and beneficial to the local ecosystem, making them uniquely suited to the climate challenges Angelenos face. Following this motion, we encourage the city council to continue along the path of strengthening the city's commitment to protecting biodiversity and saving water, and consider strategies to convert city landscapes to California native plants.

Sincerely,

Katie Tilford, Interim Executive Director



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**ATTN: Chairwoman of Energy and Environment Council File 24-062**4 messages

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**Kathleen Smith** <kataphn@yahoo.com>  
To: david.giron@lacity.org, <

Thu, Jun 27, 2024 at 4:17 PM

My name is Kathleen Smith. 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.

- 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.
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