

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the health and environmental risks from polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other contaminants, the transition away from use of synthetic turf or artificial grass, transition towards California drought-friendly landscaping, and related matters.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Blumenfield - Yaroslavsky – Hernandez):

1. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report with the following:
  - a. In coordination with the City's Chief Heat Officer and the Climate Emergency Management Office (CEMO), a summary of policies regarding synthetic grass or artificial turf in jurisdictions with climate and water supply issues analogous to Los Angeles, and their heat impacts citywide.
  - b. Recommendations to effectuate a transition away from future installations of synthetic grass and artificial turf citywide.
  - c. In coordination with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), and the Department of General Services (GSD), an analysis of lifecycle costs (installation, operation and maintenance) for different types of turf surfaces, and recommendations to halt future installation of synthetic grass or artificial turf on City-owned property, including athletic fields, and a plan to remove and replace all current synthetic sports fields.
  - d. In coordination with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, (LADWP) recommendations for incentives and rebate programs to remove and replace synthetic turf and artificial grass, and encourage the transition to California friendly landscaping.
  - e. In coordination with the City Administrative Officer (CAO), RAP, GSD, and other impacted departments as needed, report on the budgetary and policy changes needed in order to ensure that all city agencies adhere to the intent of this policy.
  - f. In consultation with the Los Angeles Unified School District, The Los Angeles Community College District, private schools, and commercial properties, provide options and recommendations to incentivize the replacement of synthetic grass or artificial turf on school playgrounds, athletic fields, and other uses.
  - g. In coordination with the LADWP, recommendations to end the practice of watering of synthetic turf and artificial lawns.

2. INSTRUCT the RAP, and LADWP to immediately begin work on a study that will reveal true maintenance costs needed to keep active recreation fields in good condition and provide citywide access across all districts. This study shall include the following:
  - a. Comparisons between synthetic and natural fields in the areas of water consumption, weed and pest abatement, field wear, including downtime for field repair and replenishment, heat mitigation comparisons between natural and synthetic surfaces, and potential liability concerns between material types and state of good repair.
  - b. Overview of what RAP has done to address disparities between synthetic and natural fields. RAP staff shall engage with a variety of active sports associations, youth sports associations, parents associations, and environmental organizations in this study.
3. INSTRUCT the CAO, RAP, and LADWP to identify partners and funds for the study needed.
4. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation, with the assistance of the LADWP, to report with recommendations on the environmental and financial impacts associated with the processing of synthetic grass waste in order to not affect the recharge of groundwater aquifers, soils, and biodiversity within the Los Angeles region.
5. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division, and the Investigation and Enforcement Division, to work with the CLA, CEMO, and all agencies with respect to the artificial turf policy 24-0602, with regard to the City's tree canopy and soil health.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes.

For:  
Pico Union Neighborhood Council  
Mar Vista Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On June 28, 2024, your Committee considered Motion (Blumenfield - Yaroslavsky – Hernandez) relative to the health and environmental risks from PFAS and other contaminants, the transition away from use of synthetic turf or artificial grass, transition towards California

drought-friendly landscaping, and related matters. The Motion attached to the Council file includes some background on the matter.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations reflected above. This matter is now forwarded to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
YAROSLAVSKY:	YES
MCOSKER:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
DE LEON:	ABSENT
RAMAN:	YES

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