



Public Comments Arts, Parks, and City Facilities Committee meeting, 10/21/26; Agenda Item 2, CF 26-1124-S1, C

1 message

Terry Saucier

Wed, Oct 21, 2026 at 12:41 PM

To: armando.bencomo@lacity.org

To: Members of the Arts, Parks, and Facilities Committee
RE: Public Comments for Committee meeting Oct. 21, 2026
Agenda Item 2, CF 26-1124-S1, C - regarding funding for Animal Services to install and replace artificial turf at four Animal shelters.

Please distribute comments electronically to the Committee members to facilitate access to source links and citations.

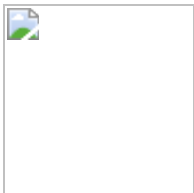
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Dear Councilmembers Rodriguez, Nazarian, and Yaroslavsky:

Please find attached our comments on the above item.

We welcome any questions, concerns, and requests for additional information.

Best regards,
Terry Saucier
SoCal Stop Artificial Turf Task Force, Chair



Albert Einstein "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value..."

<https://climate.nasa.gov/>

<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/>



Public Comment Arts Parks Facilitites Committee_Item 2_ CF 26-1124-S1_C.pdf

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October 21, 2026

To: Arts, Parks, and City Facilities Committee — Councilmember Rodriguez, Councilmember Nazarian, and Councilmember Yaroslavsky

Re: Item 2, CF 26-1124-S1, C. — Animal Services Department funding to install artificial turf and replace existing artificial turf at the East Valley, Harbor, West Los Angeles, and West Valley Animal Shelters

Position: Support with Amendment to use Natural Surfaces

Dear Councilmembers Rodriguez, Nazarian, and Yaroslavsky,

Thank you for your attention to the outdoor spaces at our City's animal shelters. The dogs in Animal Services' care, and the staff and volunteers who look after them, deserve yards that are safe, cool, and healthy, and I support funding to improve these four shelter yards.

I respectfully ask the Committee to **amend the motion so that these funds go toward natural surfaces rather than new artificial turf**, and to request a short report back from Animal Services and GSD comparing the options. I offer the information and questions below in the hope that they help the Committee and staff.

Why natural surfaces are a better fit for shelter yards

- **Heat.** Artificial turf gets far hotter than natural surfaces in direct sun; it can be 60°-80°F hotter than the air and can reach 160°-180°F or more. Hot surfaces can burn dogs' paws and limit how long they can use outdoor spaces. Artificial turf may even need watering to cool it down.
- **Sanitation.** Many dogs use shelter yards every day. Urine and waste can collect in turf fibers, infill, and the base beneath, causing ammonia odors, bacterial buildup, and making it harder to control illnesses. Keeping turf clean also requires regular watering, chemical use, and staff time.
- **Chemical exposure.** Independent testing has found PFAS, phthalates, and other chemicals of concern in artificial turf products. Dogs can absorb these toxins via dermal exposure, ingestion, and inhalation. Because dogs have shorter lifespans and faster metabolisms, and PFAS bioaccumulates, health effects associated with carcinogens and endocrine-disrupting chemicals can appear sooner in dogs than in people.
- **Environment and long-term cost.** Artificial turf is petroleum-based, is not recyclable, sheds microplastics, contributes to the urban heat island effect, is impervious, and limits stormwater recharge. [LA Sanitation advises](#) handling used artificial turf as hazardous waste and disposing of it in Subtitle C hazardous-waste landfills, which adds disposal costs at the end of each replacement cycle.

Natural alternatives used in shelter settings

Shelters and shelter designers use several natural options such as natural drought-tolerant hybrid grass and decomposed granite (DG), often in combination and paired with shade trees or shade sails and good drainage.

Suggested amendment

Instruct the General Services Department and the Department of Animal Services to prioritize natural, permeable surfaces (such as stabilized decomposed granite and natural drought-tolerant hybrid grass, paired with shade) for the East Valley, Harbor, West Los Angeles, and West Valley Animal Shelter yards, and to report on the lifecycle cost, heat, sanitation, and disposal considerations of natural surfaces compared to artificial turf.

Questions that could help inform future recommendations

1. The motion references a 10-year lifespan for artificial turf. Have the existing shelter installations reached that lifespan under warranty? If not, what led to early replacement?
2. How much artificial turf is currently installed on Animal Services properties, and what is the total cost to install, clean, maintain, and replace it over its life?
3. What process and products are used to clean and sanitize the turf, how much staff time does it take, and has the surface been tested for bacteria?
4. How and where is old turf removed, transported, and disposed of, how much does disposal cost, and how does that process align with LA Sanitation's guidance?
5. Has the proposed turf product been tested by an independent third-party laboratory for PFAS, phthalates, flame retardants, and other harmful chemicals?
6. How will runoff, leachate, and microplastics from the yards be kept out of storm drains and LA's watersheds?
7. If the California Department of Toxic Substances Control acts on chemicals of concern in artificial turf, how would the City manage turf already installed?

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of LA's shelter animals. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these questions with your offices, GSD, and Animal Services.

Respectfully,

Terry Saucier

SoCal Stop Artificial Turf Task Force, Chair



For identification purposes only:

Tarzana Neighborhood Council, Board Member

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, Representative

Climate Reality Project, Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Chapters

For more information

- LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance — [artificial turf webpage](#) and fact sheet (including photo of the Whitsett Park turf field at 186°F).
- [CF 24-0602](#), [CEMO Report Back](#), [LASAN Report Back](#)