Public Comments - Arts, Parks, Facilities Committee Meeting, 9/16/26: CF 26-1212 and CF 26-1216

1 message

Terry Saucier Wed, Sep 16, 2026 at 1:49 PM
To: "armando.bencomo@lacity.org" <armando.bencomo@lacity.org>

Dear Councilmembers.

Re: CF 26-1212 and CF 26-1216

We ask that, when approving funding for the projects listed in CF 1212 and CF 26-1216, this committee specify that the surfacing in these parks, including the proposed soccer fields in Whitsett Park, is drought-tolerant hybrid natural grass that is sustainably managed.

The reasons to not install artificial turf are many - it's a petroleum-based product that contributes to climate change from cradle to grave and harms frontline communities during its "lifecycle," contains many hazardous chemicals (e.g. PFAS and microplastics) that are toxic to people and pollute our air, water, and soil; it gets dangerously hot harming those who use it and heating up nearby communities, results in increased injuries, doesn't save water, is impervious thereby preventing stormwater recharge, increases the risk of flooding and landslides; is flammable increasing the risk of wildfire; harms biodiversity; and is not recyclable.

This aligns with the Artificial Turf Council file 24-0602 and the goal of transitioning away from artificial turf and toward nature-based solutions. Every community deserves access to safe, healthy, and cooler natural green spaces and playing fields.

Thank you for your consideration. We would be happy to discuss this further.

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

For more information:
LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance - artificial turf webpage, fact sheet.
Photo: Whitsett Park artificial turf field at 186 degrees

CF 24-0602

- Climate Emergency Mobilization Office points out problems with artificial turf and calls for a moratorium on installations until further studies can be done.
- LA Sanitation says it should be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- LA Recreation and Parks is seeking City funding to conduct a study comparing artificial turf to natural grass.
- LAUSD recently passed an extreme heat resolution that bans artificial turf installations in Middle schools and lower grades (due to toxicity and extreme heat), and they are doing a study to compare artificial turf to natural grass on high school athletic playing fields.