

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/12/2024 08:59 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: With synthetic turf there are still the problems of increased orthopedic and skin injuries, increased infections and inhalation lung disease even with crushed cork underlayment. The pervasive problems of unhealthy land and ocean contamination with micro and nanoplastics continues, as do the untenable problems of long term waste storage and the obliteration of all organisms covered by plastic glass. And of course the increased development of urban/suburban heat islands (do we want to add even more heat to global warming) and the elimination of oxygen production and elimination of CO₂ capture (photosynthesis) is promulgated. So many destructive and harmful problems arise from artificial turf. It is hard for me to understand why, with just a little bit of knowledge, that anyone would deliberately choose to impose upon a trusting public and a precious living planet such a harmful and destructive product such as artificial turf, unless there exists some other secondary gain that blinds them to the truth? Plastic grass poisons people and the planet. Thanks, Doug Douglas A Smith MD MPH

Communication from Public

Name: LIONEL MARES

Date Submitted: 08/12/2024 09:50 PM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: Dear L.A. City Council members, I urge you to consider placing a BAN on Artificial Turf on public and private property. Artificial Turf has negative effects for both humans and for the environment. Please see attachment for sources and an explanation as to why Artificial Turf should be BANNED. Thank you.

I urge the Los Angeles City Council to adopt a **ban** on plastic grass.

The truth is finally out; plastic grass is bad for our health, the environment, and **it doesn't even save money when lifecycle cost is factored in**. That's why local agencies are taking action to **ban artificial turf**:

- The **Santa Clara County Medical Association**¹ recommends *against* plastic turf playing fields citing "the health and safety of both your students and the environment."
- The **California Coastal Commission** *rejected* an artificial turf field at U.C. Santa Barbara², citing the impacts of microplastics on the marine environment.
- The **City of Millbrae** has *banned* new artificial turf³ on all property – *public and private* - to "protect water quality...pursuant to the Clean Water Act."
- Cities and counties regain power to ban artificial turf for environmental push⁴

The **Sierra Club** sent this letter to [Santa Clara County Supervisors](#), urging them to adopt an ordinance against the installation of artificial turf on "*all property* within County jurisdiction, whether for landscaping or athletic fields."

[Santa Clara Valley Water District](#) has declared that artificial turf is "*not a living landscape,*" "*is not water free,*" and "*runoff from artificial turf may contain pollutants like heavy metals and chemicals that can reach surface water or groundwater.*"

Scientific studies show the impacts of plastic turf outweigh the benefits:

- As plastics degrade, **microplastics** permeate the air and soil and wash into our watersheds. Microplastics are now found in the food we eat and even in newborns.
- Fake turf is a petroleum product, and **all** turfs are made using **Fluorine**, a component of PFAS, known to be toxic to humans.
- The turf industry admits turf is **not recyclable**; it's comprised of layers of different petroleum products that can't be separated. After its 10-year lifespan it's buried in a **landfill or incinerated**, releasing CO₂ into the atmosphere.

- Water does not permeate the plastic mat as it does natural grass or mulch. Instead of recharging aquifers, heavy rains run off, polluting waterways and **burdening storm drains**.

Living grass and shrubs clean our air, reduce surrounding temperatures, sequester carbon and recharge our groundwater and soils naturally. We don't need to "beautify" nature with vivid green plastic carpet. Rapidly proliferating plastic turf poses a looming environmental debacle.

Please join the **City of Millbrae** in passing an ordinance **banning artificial turf on all property within your jurisdiction, or consider passing a moratorium while you study the issue more.**

Sources:

¹ Santa Clara County Medical

Assn: <https://www.sccma.org/Portals/13/Artificial%20Turf%20-%20Final.pdf?ver=R-TnPJEEZMQXQ5EcASVNvg%3d%3d>

² California Coastal

Commission: <https://www.independent.com/2023/12/20/coastal-commission-rejects-uc-santa-barbaras-request-for-artificial-turf-at-baseball-stadium/>

³ Millbrae Artificial Turf

Prohibition: <https://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/276/Prohibition-of-Artificial-Turf>

⁴ Cities and counties regain power to ban artificial turf for environmental push

push: https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/environment/2024/03/22/cities-and-counties-allowed-to-ban-artificial-turf-?cid=share_clip

Communication from Public

Name: Ann Cantrell

Date Submitted: 08/12/2024 11:40 AM

Council File No: 24-0602

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to ban plastic grass, especially for sports fields. My grandchildren played soccer from age 5 through high school. They hated playing on artificial turf. They complained about the rubber infill pellets in their shoes and clothes; they hated the slickness, which caused numerous scrapes and falls; most of all, they complained about the heat, which on many days burned their feet through their cleats and caused heat stroke for a number of their team mates. I consider making children play sports on 130 degree plastic fields a form of child abuse. Please require cooler, safer, environmentally safe natural grass fields for our children.
Respectfully, Ann Cantrell, Sierra Club