

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I strongly advocate for the city to ban artificial turf. While it may appear to be a quick fix for water conservation, the long-term environmental and health risks associated with artificial turf far exceed its benefits. Firstly, artificial turf contributes to the urban heat island effect, exacerbating the already high temperatures in our city. Unlike natural grass, which cools the air through evaporation, artificial turf absorbs and radiates heat, making our neighborhoods hotter and less comfortable for residents. Industry falsely claims that the type of infill used can substantially reduce/eliminate this heat island effect, but this is not true. It is primarily the plastic grass blades that are responsible for increasing temperatures 50° F or more than grass. Moreover, all artificial turf brands tested contain toxic PFAS chemicals, known as "forever chemicals," due to their persistence in the environment and resistance to breaking down. Indeed, the Synthetic Turf Council testified to the California legislature in 2023 and claimed they needed years to find a viable alternative to the PFAS used in artificial turf. These chemicals pose serious health risks, including cancer, liver damage, and developmental issues. As artificial turf degrades, PFAS can leach into the soil and contaminate our water supply, further endangering public health. Additionally, artificial turf is made from plastic that breaks down over time, releasing hundreds of pounds of microplastics into our environment annually. These harmful particles can enter our waterways, impacting marine life and human health. Artificial turf also has a limited lifespan and will eventually end up in landfills, contributing to waste and pollution. Despite industry claims, there is no recycling facility for artificial turf in the United States. Finally, artificial turf is not a water saver. Studies done in New Mexico show that artificial turf actually requires more water than natural grass. Well-designed grass fields using drought-resistant grasses will save Los Angeles more water than hot plastic. Natural grass, in contrast, plays a vital role in supporting local ecosystems. It provides a habitat for insects and small animals, enhances soil health, emits oxygen, and filters pollutants from the air. Moreover, it offers a safer playing surface for children, reducing the risk of injuries caused by the harder, hotter artificial turf. In a city like Los Angeles, where environmental sustainability is a priority, we must make decisions

that protect our communities and the planet. Banning artificial turf, especially considering its connection to toxic PFAS chemicals, is a crucial step in this direction. Let's prioritize real, sustainable solutions that benefit our environment and residents.