

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the LA City Council, I am writing to address concerns regarding the environmental safety of artificial grass, particularly focusing on modern turf that is manufactured without PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). It is important to recognize that if we are genuinely concerned about PFAS exposure, we must consider the broader context of everyday items that contain these substances. For instance, higher levels of PFAS are found in dental floss, prescription medications, and even makeup containers. Additionally, recent tests have revealed significant PFAS content in paper straws, which are often perceived as eco-friendly alternatives. Another critical point to consider is the urban heat island effect. Asphalt, which is ubiquitous in our city, contributes far more to heat generation than artificial turf. If we are to argue that artificial turf is detrimental to the environment based on heat generation, we must then also address the extensive use of asphalt and reconsider many aspects of our urban infrastructure. Let us not forget we live in a state plagued by droughts, artificial grass has proven to save up to 1,000,000 gallons of water per year. This is a significant benefit that should not be overlooked. Moreover, the county of Los Angeles urged and provided homeowners rebates and incentives to switch to artificial grass. In conclusion, while it is crucial to be vigilant about environmental impacts, it is equally important to weigh the relative significance of those impacts. Modern artificial turf, free from PFAS, represents a minimal environmental concern compared to other prevalent sources. Thus, it should not be singled out as a significant issue when there are far more pressing environmental challenges to address. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Sincerely, Victor Lanfranco