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June 27, 2024

Katy Yaroslavsky
Chair
City of Los Angeles
Energy and Environment Committee
200 N Spring St., Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chair Yaroslavsky,

On behalf of the Synthetic Turf Council (STC), I am writing in regard to the Energy and Environment Committee's recent motion on synthetic turf. As the trade association representing the synthetic turf industry, we strongly believe in the importance of bringing diverse perspectives to the table in the policymaking process, including that of the thousands of individuals working in our industry and the many more who utilize the benefits of our products in communities in Los Angeles and across California and the nation. Public-private collaboration is one of the most important ways to drive the policymaking process and we are committed to playing our part. To that end, STC would like to be a resource and partner to the Committee in this process.

On STC:

The Synthetic Turf Council (STC) is a 501(c)6 non-profit trade association serving the synthetic turf industry. Its mission is to lead, educate and advocate for the synthetic turf industry. Founded in 2003, the STC assists buyers and end users with the selection, use and maintenance of synthetic turf systems in sports fields, golf, municipal parks, airports, landscape and residential applications. It is a resource for current, credible, and independent research on the safety and environmental impact of synthetic turf, as well as technical guidance on the selection, installation, maintenance, and environmentally responsible disposal of synthetic turf. Membership includes builders, landscape architects, testing labs, maintenance providers, manufacturers, suppliers, installation contractors, infill material suppliers and other specialty service companies.

On synthetic turf safety:

Synthetic turf is a highly researched and safe product that gives tens of millions of people additional access to various forms of recreation. Synthetic turf fields, including their components such as recycled rubber and alternative infills, have been reviewed by independent experts and government bodies to ensure synthetic turf's safety and viability as an option in addition to grass.



Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a multi-agency [report](#) and the largest research effort on crumb rubber ever conducted in the United States, in which it reaffirmed synthetic turf's safety. "In general, the findings from the entire playing fields portion of the FRAP activities (both the Tire Crumb Characterization Part 1 and the Tire Crumb Exposure Characterization Part 2 combined) support the conclusion that although chemicals are present (as expected) in the tire crumb rubber and exposures can occur, they are likely limited."

On the manufacturing front, STC has worked with its members to ensure their products contain no intentionally-added PFAS constituents. STC members are committed to finding a standardized testing method to confirm that their products contain no intentionally-added PFAS constituents. As an example, STC member [Tencate](#) announced it removed even trace amounts of PFAS from its products.

- **On a standardized testing method:** STC members are working through ASTM International in formalizing a testing process to confirm that our members' products do not contain intentionally-added PFAS.

On synthetic turf's benefits:

There are significant advantages to using synthetic turf, which is why schools, families, and communities across the nation are choosing to utilize it.

- **Turf expands year-round access while increasing access.** This is especially critical in urban areas where, typically, there is less space available to promote year-round enjoyment and activity for children of all ages. A typical synthetic turf field can be used three times as much as a comparably sized grass field. A grass field simply cannot remain lush if it is used more than three to four days a week, or in the rain. In such conditions, a field may become rock-hard and unsafe for play. Since synthetic turf is built to last and can withstand so much wear and tear, many schools can even rent their synthetic turf fields to local sports teams and organizations to bring in extra funding. This frees up new funds for the classroom.
- **Of particular importance to California, synthetic turf requires much less water to maintain compared to grass systems.** One full-size synthetic turf sports field can save over 1 million gallons of water each season. Synthetic turf also offers a number of other environmental benefits, including eliminating the need for chemical pesticides and fertilizers that might runoff into communities' water systems.

The STC supports the continuous advancement of the safety, performance and growth of recycling opportunities of synthetic turf systems. The use of reclaimed and recycled materials from synthetic turf fields is growing. Our industry takes seriously our commitment to sustainable practices and is working hard toward more recycling and responsible end-of-life solutions. To that end, many of our members have already put in place recycling programs, while our industry is working together with regulators and lawmakers in states nationwide to align on the best practices for end-of-life processes. We are committed to continuing to move the industry toward a more sustainable future.

We value the role of the Energy and Environment Committee and other regulatory bodies in ensuring the safety of the surfaces we use, and the Synthetic Turf Council looks forward to partnering with the Committee on this and other related issues.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melanie Taylor'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melanie Taylor, CAE
President and CEO
Synthetic Turf Council (STC)