

My name is Terry Saucier, I am Chair of the SoCal Stop Artificial Turf Task Force, I represent a coalition that includes the Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Chapters as well as other coalition partners. We support CF 24-0602.

This motion is a logical and necessary first step to make informed decisions on a product that is cropping up in our schools, homes, businesses and parks. We need to understand the real impacts and costs of using artificial turf not only financially but on our health, the environment and wildlife. We also need to implement nature-based solutions like drought-tolerant California native plants in our landscaping.

This motion is also important because science and real-world experience shows us that artificial turf does not live up to its promises:

1. All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals, contaminants, and microplastics. PFAS “forever chemicals” are known carcinogens, neurotoxins, and hormone disruptors. Children and athletes who play on it are at increased risk of exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate - it is especially harmful to children who are still developing.
2. Artificial turf pollutes our air, water and soil. Runoff from artificial turf contaminates our drinking water, rivers and oceans with microplastics as well as PFAS. The PFAS also leaches into our groundwater. PFAS has been found in our wells and the EPA has reported there is no “safe” amount of PFAS.
3. Artificial turf gets too HOT! It can reach temperatures 80 degrees higher than the air temperature, readily reaching 180 degrees F or more. This can create a heat island effect raising the temperature in the surrounding area, as well as lead to increased injuries, e.g. skin burns and heat stress. This is an environmental justice issue.
4. Artificial turf is an impervious surface that impedes groundwater recharge and increases the risk of flooding. The opposite of what we should be doing - we need to convert L.A. into a sponge city. Artificial turf also off-gasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis versus grass and plants that produce oxygen and are a carbon sink.
5. Nothing lives in plastic. Artificial turf can kill the soil microbes and living organisms beneath it, as well as take away habitat from insects, birds and local wildlife contributing to the loss of biodiversity.
6. Finally, it cannot be recycled. At the end of its 8–10-year lifecycle the field will end up in our landfills where it will continue polluting the environment.

We need real world solutions that takes into account our health, the environment and wildlife; and will result in a more live able and sustainable L.A. Please do the right thing and vote yes on CF 24-0602.

(Here is our [fact sheet](#))