



Outlook

11/5 City council meeting

From Linda Hutchins-Knowles <[REDACTED]>
Date Mon 11/4/2024 3:57 PM
To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachments (6 MB)

Group letter urging NO artificial turf at Fairgrounds 11.04.24.pdf;

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vicemayor Kamei, and Councilmembers,

We were surprised to learn that you will be voting tomorrow on non-binding term sheet with the Earthquakes. We feel it's **premature to vote on this issue**—even on a non-binding term sheet—until after the County's proposed ordinance to prohibit artificial turf on all County-owned property has been approved or rejected.

So see why we feel so strongly about this, please see the attached letter—signed by 60 organizations—urging the BOS to require that the Earthquakes to install **the safest, healthiest, most cost-effective surface—natural grass.**

It's highly inequitable for the Earthquakes' players and affiliates to get natural grass fields, while the fields for public use are covered in toxic, injury-prone, very hot artificial turf. In fact, it is environmentally racist to increase the toxic burden on our marginalized communities. They are the ones who most need and **deserve professionally-maintained, organically-managed natural turf fields.**

Therefore, we ask you to **vote NO on the non-binding term sheet** and direct Staff to insist that ALL of the soccer fields at the Fairground to be natural grass.

For our children's health and safety and our climate's sustainability,
Linda Hutchins-Knowles
Co-founder and Team Coordinator
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

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COMMUNITY FOR
NATURAL PLAY SURFACES



School of Arts & Culture
Mexican Heritage Plaza





PEER
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITY



NorCal Chapter



A VOICE FOR CHOICE
ADVOCACY



The Climate Reality Project
CALIFORNIA STATE COALITION



Non Toxic
Communities



Green
Schoolyards
America



FOR





November 4, 2024

Subject: 60 organizations support ban on new artificial turf on County-owned property, without exceptions (including for the Fairgrounds)

Dear President Ellenberg, Vice President Lee, and Supervisors:

Since we submitted an earlier version of this letter to you in August, 2024, the 53 signing organizations have been joined by an additional seven groups, bringing the total to 60 organizations (just some of whose logos are shown above). The list includes mainly local organizations joined by some statewide and national ones who wish to support Santa Clara County's leadership on this issue.

We are united in urging you to **protect children's and the community's health and safety, our environment, and the climate** by moving swiftly to **to prohibit the installation of new artificial turf on County-owned property**, including replacement artificial turf [**approve ordinance Version A**]. We also urge you **not to make exceptions [reject Version B]** for projects under discussion but not yet contracted, such as the County Fairgrounds and the Twin Creeks renovation.

This is an issue of equity. Our children and communities, including those in underserved neighborhoods, don't just deserve access to playing fields—**we deserve access to safe and healthy playing fields** that won't harm us or the air, water, soil or climate we all depend on. Please center children's and environmental health in your decision and refuse to allow a product that has not been proven safe and is likely to cause irreparable harm.

Artificial turf is a plastic product made from fossil fuels¹ and contains microplastics and toxic chemicals² linked to cancer and other diseases. These include PFAS³ (forever chemicals) which

¹ <https://www.bpf.co.uk/plastipedia/how-is-plastic-made.aspx>;
<https://www.nontoxiccommunities.com/synthetic-turf.html>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10262297/>

³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HmgG-b4xmMCLhB24INFHsLyOSQeFOBzI/view> [This letter demonstrates that the artificial turf industry cannot currently provide a product without PFAS chemicals and that it seeks to establish an allowed amount of 100 PPM or 50 PPM despite the fact that there is no safe amount of PFAS.]

the EPA⁴ has moved to stringently regulate in drinking water. Multiple recent studies have shown that plastic grass:

- **poses increased health⁵ and injury risks⁶ to athletes,**
- **damages the environment⁷ and climate⁸,**
- **costs more⁹ over its total life cycle than natural alternatives, and**
- **limits play time¹⁰ because its temperature can get so hot¹¹ it's not safe to play on.**

Artificial turf has been promoted by some as a water-saver. However, artificial turf not only needs watering¹², it **requires watering with potable (drinking) water¹³** in order to cool and clean it. Its runoff **contaminates our local watershed¹⁴** with microplastics and PFAS. A California law passed last year (SB 676¹⁵) states that: “*drought-tolerant landscaping’ shall not include the installation of synthetic grass or artificial turf.*” In addition, plastic turf is **not recyclable¹⁶** and is disposed of in landfills or incinerators where it leaches chemicals into the soil or air.

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

⁵<https://mountsinaioxposomics.org/artificial-turf/>;
<https://www.pennlive.com/sports/2023/03/6-former-phillies-have-died-of-brain-cancer-new-report-reveals-a-concerning-link.html>;
<https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/center/updates/dangerous-play-studies-find-harmful-forever-chemicals-in-artificial-turf-fields/>

⁶<https://apnews.com/article/nfl-aaron-rodgers-achilles-grass-artificial-turf-79212f5443cd2a0d30fe8c9d981b13c0>

⁷ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965>

⁸ <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/08/how-plastics-contribute-to-climate-change/>

⁹ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2134/itsrj2016.10.0848>

¹⁰<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/may/synthetic-sports-fields-and-the-heat-island-effect>

¹¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02656736.2019.1605096>

¹²https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Artificial%20Turf%20Fact%20Sheet_042922%20SL.pdf

¹³ See p. 5 (labeled page 2): “Only potable water should be used for irrigation” in https://cdn.ymaws.com/staging-stc.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/guidelines/STC_Guidelines_for_Maintenan.pdf; See also: <https://beachcomber.news/content/soccer-field-tap-drinkable-water-artificial-turf>

¹⁴ <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-Day-Notice-2024-01833>

¹⁵ <https://alcl.assembly.ca.gov/sites/alcl.assembly.ca.gov/files/SB%20676%20%28Allen%29.pdf>

¹⁶<https://www.rogersgardens.com/pages/why-you-should-not-use-artificial-turf#:~:text=Plastic%20lawns%20kill%20soil%20life,microorganisms%20that%20keep%20soil%20healthy>

For these reasons, allowing the continued installation of plastic grass **undermines the County's Sustainability Master Plan**¹⁷, specifically Goals 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Multiple experts recommend against the use of artificial turf, especially for children:

- **The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**¹⁸ states, “until findings are available and conclusively demonstrate the safety of artificial surfaces, **we recommend a moratorium on the use of these materials where children play.**”
- **The Santa Clara County Medical Association** sent a letter¹⁹ in March warning you of the health and environmental dangers of artificial turf. Their Environmental Health Committee: “**strongly recommends that you do *not* place artificial turf, but rather require all soccer fields to be natural grass turf,** to benefit the health and safety of children, athletes and the environment.”
- **Your own Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission** **voted—unanimously—to recommend that you ban all new installation of artificial turf, without exceptions,** and that you invite the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter and Community for Natural Play Surfaces to present to you science-based information about artificial turf and natural alternatives²⁰.

These and other experts agree: the athletic fields where children and adults play should NOT be covered in hard toxic plastic that reaches very high temperatures, nor should we contaminate our water and air with the run-off of toxic chemicals from artificial turf.

It's urgent that you move quickly on this issue. With the County Fairgrounds poised to host several new sports fields, it's essential that policies are put into place **NOW** to ensure that these fields will use organically or sustainably-managed, drought-resistant, durable, and safe natural grass like bermuda grass or other grass hybrids and NOT toxic artificial turf.

The County has a special duty to follow the **precautionary principle**²¹ and **protect our most vulnerable residents: children.** Their growing bodies are particularly sensitive to toxic chemicals such as PFAS in a fashion similar to lead. As Supervisors, you've taken leadership in banning leaded aviation fuel at Reid-Hillview Airport, and we implore you to show the same care for children's and community health by prohibiting the installation of any new artificial turf.

¹⁷ <https://www.sccsustainabilityplan.org/>

¹⁸ <https://mountsinaiexposomics.org/position-statement-on-the-use-of-artificial-turf-surfaces/>

¹⁹ <https://www.sccma.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=C0f6wf5p9uY%3d&portalid=19>

²⁰ https://docs.google.com/document/d/17zZeXqT4JUIQt8gnMk4Rm30ghMzoH9FXI_wMK1mXIT8/edit?pli=1

²¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1240435/>

Yes, we want more playing fields, but only if these fields are healthy and safe—covered with hardy, drought-resistant, professionally-managed natural grass.

Can we count on you to protect our children, communities, environment and climate?

Thank you

Signed by the following 60 organizations:

Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Co-Founder and Team Coordinator
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

Nikki Sachs, Coordinating Committee Member
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

Cheryl Weiden, Steering Committee Member
350 Silicon Valley

Lauren Weston, Executive Director
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

Cheryl Auger, President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)

Taryn Obaid, Co-Founder
Bay Area Natural Turf Advocates

Jenn Engstrom, State Director
California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)

Bruce Karney, Board Chair
Carbon Free Mountain View

Thomas R. Fox, Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, Executive Director
Children's Environmental Health Network

Isabelle Chappuis, Director and educator
Children's Garden Preschool FCC LLC

Piper Primrose, Director
Choosing Nature

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Andria Ventura, Legislative and Policy Director
Clean Water Action

Suzanne Hume, Education Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Janet Cox, CEO
Climate Action California

Andy Hattala, Policy Co-Lead
Climate Reality Project: California Coalition

Pam Allio, Chapter Chair
Climate Reality Bay Area

Charles Miller, Chair
Climate Reality Project: Los Angeles Chapter

Kathy Schaeffer, Legislative Coordinator
Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley

Andrea Wald, Co-Founder
Community For Natural Play Surfaces (Santa Clara County)

Seema Vaid, Founder and President
A Compassionate World

Juan Estrada, Founder and President
District 5 United

Todd Weber, Chapter Co-Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern California (NorCal) Chapter

Lendri Purcell, President, and Catherine Dodd PhD RN, Health Advisor
FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemical & Toxics Safety)

Laura de Tar, Executive Director

Fresh Approach

Patricia Wood, Executive Director

Grassroots Environmental Education

Bridget May, CEO

Green Bee Botanicals

Alice Kaufman, Policy and Advocacy Director

Green Foothills

Sarah Matsumoto, Director of Policy and Government Affairs

Green Schoolyards America

Quyen Vuong, Executive Director

International Children Assistance Network

Jin Yan, Principal Designer

Promised Greenland Landscape Design

Deb Kramer, Founder and Executive Director

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Lucia Garcia, Organizer Manager

La Mesa Verde at Sacred Heart Community Center

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez, Executive Director

Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Darcie Green, Executive Director

Latinas Contra Cancer

Vanessa Armstrong, Co-Chair

Moms Advocating Sustainability

Diana Carpinone, President

Non Toxic Communities

Christina Hildebrand, Interim Director
Non Toxic Schools

rani Jayakumar, Webmaster, teacher
Okachiko.com

Avery Yale Kamila, Co-Founder
Portland Protectors

Jeff Ruch, Pacific Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)

Paul Ruddock, Founder
Resilient Foodsheds

Ruth Merino, Chair
San Jose Community Energy Advocates

Katherine Cushing, Department Chair
San Jose State University's Department of Environmental Studies

Anna Koster, Member
San Jose Friends Meeting's Community Action Committee

Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance

Vanessa Shieh, Co-Executive Director, and Melissa Canela, Director of Strategic Partnerships
School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza

Ted Schettler MD, MPH, Science Director
Science and Environmental Health Network

Maimoona Block, Executive Director
Sea Hugger

Hoi Poon, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor, and Mani Bekele, Co-Lead of the San José team
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

Joanna Thurmann, Member
St Julie's Climate Justice Committee

Anna Grossman, Founder
Sustainable Montclair

Dennis Murphy, Director, Water & Sustainable Life
Sustainable Silicon Valley

Paul Ruddock, Member
Transition Palo Alto

Emily Schwing, Acting Executive Director
Veggielution

Huan Pham, Operations and Development Manager
Vietnamese American Roundtable

Christina Hildebrand, President and Founder
A Voice for Choice Advocacy

Rika Gopinath, Chair
YardSmartMarin

Filibeto Zaragoza, Environmental Justice Campaign Organizer
Youth United for Community



Outlook

FW: 11/5/24 Agenda item 8.3 OPPOSE Memorandum agreement with County and Earthquakes

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 11/4/2024 4:21 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Pam Bond <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:19 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: 11/5/24 Agenda item 8.3 OPPOSE Memorandum agreement with County and Earthquakes

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Dear San Jose City Council Members and Honorable Mayor,

Please vote no on item 8.3 memorandum relating to the proposed San Jose Earthquakes Soccer Complex at the fairgrounds. This proposed complex and multi agency deal has been in progress for quite some time and I do not see a reason to approve of this agreement prior to an early 2025 by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on whether to approve a ban on artificial turf on County property. I believe that regardless of whether the ban on artificial turf happens, the project is problematic with the explicit plan to create 4 artificial turf public fields.

In the non-binding term sheet agreement, it is stipulated in contingencies that the San Jose Earthquakes can terminate the agreement "if the County bans the use of synthetic turf on public property". Therefore, approving this memorandum when the ordinance decision is coming within a few months seems premature. Given that the Board of Supervisors will vote on a possible ban ordinance on artificial turf on County property, and given that the fairgrounds projects were being considered as some of the few that would be affected by the ban, I am not sure why this would be coming up for a vote prior to the ban ordinance.

It seems that the Earthquakes should explain their rationale for the contingency that they can back out if they aren't allowed to use artificial turf. They have decided that the public fields will be artificial turf while their own practice fields will be grass. With the amount of money being put into the project for the public fields alone, they could create 4 high quality natural grass fields with money to spare for maintenance. Since at least 3 out of 4 of their own practice fields will be grass (this agreement does not specify), this means they will already have the infrastructure and equipment to maintain the public fields as well.

The Earthquakes have a great opportunity to showcase a beautiful sports complex with well maintained grass fields which could act as a great South Bay example for cities and schools to follow. FIFA only plays on natural grass. The Earthquakes' stadium is natural grass. Let the youth of the community play on natural grass too.

These artificial turf fields are being painted as an equity issue. The Earthquakes have helped fund artificial turf fields in a few underserved schools and see these public fields at the fairgrounds as being beneficial to the community. I agree that public athletic fields would be beneficial, but they should be natural drought tolerant grass for health and safety. It is possible. It is happening at schools and city parks in our area.

Plastic artificial turf comes with a host of environmental and human health issues that can no longer be ignored. We already know and see articles and research coming more frequently about microplastics found in the human body and contamination of land and waterways with PFAS and other chemicals along with talks of regulation of plastics as well as the deception about plastic and recycling perpetuated by oil companies and plastics manufacturers. In addition there are the better known issues that players and parents complain about such as turf burn, heat, and tracking plastic blades and infill home with them. I checked Saratoga High School's artificial turf field temperatures because one has tire crumb rubber and one has a "new, cooler" infill (cork polymer blend). When the air temperature registered 92°, the newer infill field surface temperature registered 151°. The older crumb rubber field registered between 151°- 162°. No matter the possible, negligible difference, artificial turf gets hot and it's due to the plastic as much as or more than the infill product.

Another unseen part of this equation is the pollution where the plastic grass is manufactured as well as where the chemical recycling plants are located - in low income communities. Life cycle costs need to consider all of this if we are going to talk about equity. I do not see where the equity lies with artificial turf. We trade purported increased hours of play for future and current health issues and environmental consequences.

Kids will track home plastic blades, some form of infill (generally still plastic because the plant infills are proving challenging or require too much water), turf burns that risk infection, and more fatigue and body aches from the extra heat and different traction of artificial turf. Their homes and cars become more contaminated than they would be with natural grass fields! Again, I wonder about the equity.

There is no regulation or oversight as to where used artificial turf goes and some uses for it have been listed as erosion control (!), batting cages, day care centers, and other landscaping uses. The County recently fined a property on rural land in the south county with storing used artificial turf. I am guessing this used microplastic and chemical shedding product will end up in any number of low income communities either for storage or for reuse to continue to create an unseen burden.

One artificial turf company is leading a major campaign to say that if kids can't have plastic fields, they won't be able to play sports. This is a lie perpetuated to keep them in business. I drive around San Jose and the South Bay generally and I see a lot of grass fields. Many of them look great. I think there is a solution to the deficit of fields and part of that is better maintained grass fields and better collaboration. Another part of that is accepting the reality that soccer is a no-cut sport, so you will always have high demand.

Usage is called out as a rationale for needing artificial turf but in reality, 250 free hours promised in the agreement equals less than an hour a day (though it won't be scheduled that way) and the rest of the time those public fields will be used for paid rentals. I would like to see how many hours the fields would actually be used considering soccer seasons, intense heat shutting down fields, and when teams would actually reserve them when it's hot even if fields aren't shut down. If player safety is a priority, then I can guarantee it won't be as many hours as they are projecting for usage. The fields will be more comfortable to play on when it's 70°+ if they were natural grass.

Please vote No on the memorandum and consider adjusting the agreement to include natural, drought tolerant grass public fields. I believe that the Earthquakes' contract needs to be reconsidered without the stipulation against natural grass fields for the public fields. I worry not only about the players' health and safety and continuing environmental issues related to microplastics, heat islands, and chemicals in our waterways and soil, but also the massive burden down the road when the fields need to be replaced with no effective means to recycle sans further environmental damage. What does the County do years from now if the Earthquakes back out? The County is left with acres of plastic as well as unquantified health burdens.

Sincerely,

Pam Bond
Santa Clara County Resident and parent
Aunt of soccer player

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Outlook

11/5 City council meeting

From Andrea Wald <[REDACTED]>

Date Mon 11/4/2024 4:42 PM

To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

2 attachments (231 KB)

The Problems with Artificial Turf 2-pager by Steve.docx; Harms of AT - English.png;

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vicemayor Kamei and Councilmembers,

I've just been advised that you will be voting tomorrow on the non-binding term sheet with the Earthquakes for their proposed project at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. There are so many issues that still need to be addressed regarding those plans and how they will affect the environment and communities that will be using them. It is definitely too early to formalize any agreement - even if non-binding - until the County's proposed ordinance to prohibit artificial turf on all County-owned property has been voted on in early Jan. 2025.

The communities surrounding the Fairgrounds have not had a chance to learn more about what is planned and voice their opinions. Community outreach should be a priority. There is so much known harms caused by Artificial Turf that will affect generations to come. If the Earthquakes have chosen natural grass for their use, why would they expose younger kids to toxic, plastic grass? Its definitely not equitable. Plus, younger kids are still developing and are so much more susceptible to the harms of AT. I've attached a simple one page document that researchers have created and believe to be quite accurate. I urge you to take a look.

Rather than overwhelm you with a multitude of researched articles, reports, etc. from respected environmentalists, medical professionals, scientists, and other, I've attached one short file that lists the problems with AT in a very concise manner.

Please do not vote on the term sheet and insist that all the soccer fields be natural grass. Its what all those youngsters and community members who will be using the fields deserve for better health and a

cleaner, safer environment.

Thanks.

Andrea Wald
Co-Founder of Community for Natural Play Surfaces

[REDACTED]

C: [REDACTED]

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Problems with Artificial Turf

Background

Artificial Turf has been used as a landscaping method to reduce water consumption.

Scientists discovered the plastic blades contain unsafe levels of carcinogenic forever chemicals.

There is now a movement to prohibit new installations of Artificial Turf:

- a) Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill SB676 in October 2023 giving local jurisdictions authority to ban Artificial Turf installations.
- b) Valley Water advocates against Artificial Turf and their rebate program does not provide any rebate if one chooses this material.

Problems with Artificial Turf

1. Contains a class of chemicals called PFAS.

The F stands for fluorine. Fluorine atoms combine with carbon atoms in the polyethylene grass blades to create chemicals known to be harmful to humans.

CDC found PFAS chemicals in the blood 97% of Americans and in mother's milk.

2. Negative health effects from PFAS chemicals (NIH).

Epidemiological studies have revealed associations between exposure to specific PFAS and a variety of health effects, including:

- Liver disease
- Kidney disease
- Cancer
- Lipid and insulin dysregulation
- Adverse reproductive and developmental outcomes
- Altered immune and thyroid function.

3. Artificial Turf is considered a hardscape.

- Rainwater runs off and the biome in the soil beneath it dies.
- Does not sequester carbon like natural grass – rather emits CO₂ and methane.
- Plastic 'blades' degrade into microplastics and nanoplastics that infiltrate sources of drinking water and leach toxic chemicals used to make the Artificial Turf. Also, they are washed into the Bay where they can be consumed by aquatic life thinking its food.

4. Emits climate warming gases methane and ethylene and is much hotter than the ambient air around it causing a "heat island" effect.

5. Cannot be recycled and ends up in landfill, burned or simply dumped.

Request

→ Support a City ban on new residential Artificial Turf installations using authority under SB676.

Problems with Artificial Turf

The following will damage Artificial Turf fields or cause human harm and need to be prohibited:

Usage on hot days

Bare feet

Food and drinks (water is OK)

Golfing

Chewing gum

Sunflower seeds

Smoking

Dirty or muddy shoes

Driving stakes

Lawn furniture, beach chairs, folding chairs

Bicycles, vehicles, skateboards, and scooters

Smoking, barbecuing or open fires

Spikes or metal cleats and spiked heels

Dogs or other pets

Fireworks

Maintenance activities for Artificial Turf (requires special equipment)

- Fields need to be kept free of debris, leaves, paper, and windblown material.
- Complete inspection: weekly
 - Spot if need minor repairs, infill touchups, and sweeping needs.
 - Remove weeds and moss.
- Infill top dressing: needed to maintain proper infill depth. As needed.
- Infill escape: use leaf blower to clear infill lying outside perimeter of field.
- Cleaning and sanitizing: annually.
- Anti-static conditioning: as needed.
- Brushing: rejuvenates matted plastic fibers and levels infill. Every 2 to 3 weeks.
- Aerating: (Equipment requires a tow vehicle) loosen infill to avoid compaction. Up to 3 times per year.
- Sweeping: (Equipment requires a tow vehicle) remove foreign material. Every 3 to 4 weeks.
- Raking. Every 4 to 6 weeks.
- Water treatment for infill. As needed.
- Spray with water on hot days or shut down the field.
- Perform GMAX tests to measure hardness and determine when unsafe and needs replacement.

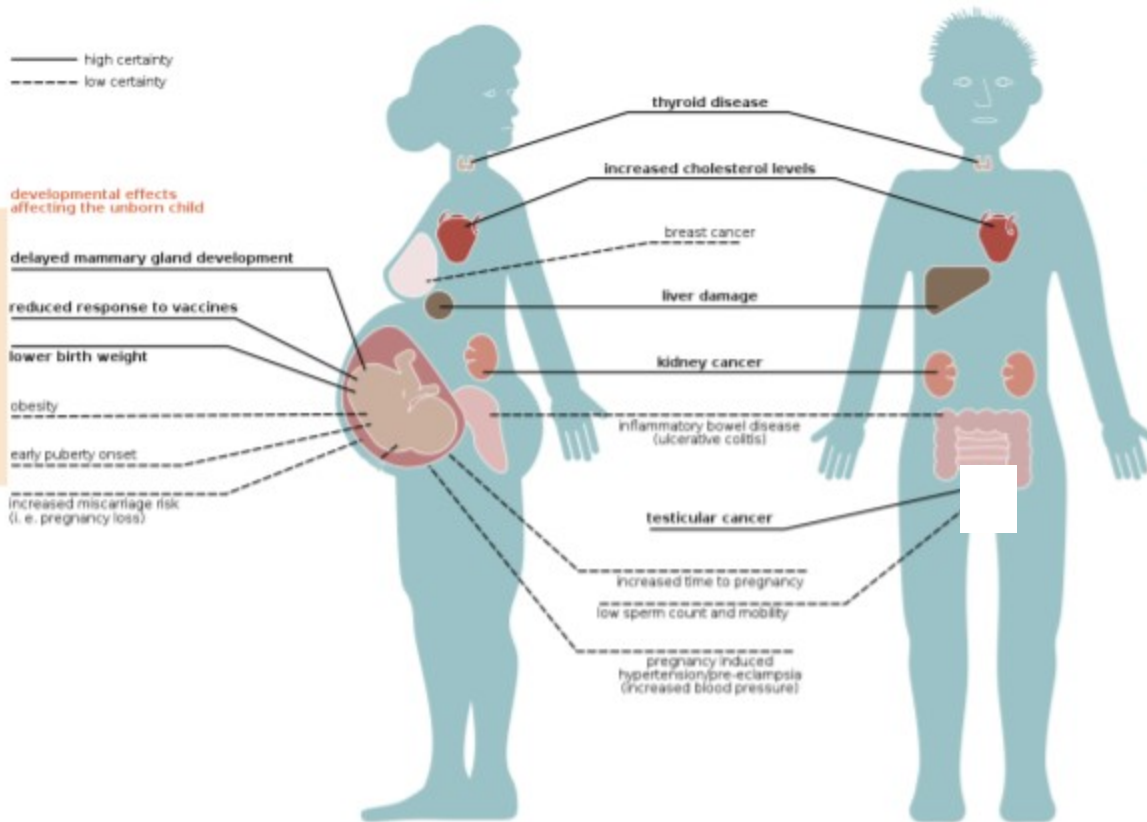
Conclusion: Artificial Turf is not as maintenance free as claimed by the industry

Request

→ Pledge to oppose installation of Artificial Turf in City parks

Harms of PFAS

We don't know enough about PFAS to be able to say we've found a "safe" PFAS



*The more we learn about PFAS chemicals, the more we learn that certain PFAS can cause health risks even at very low levels.

*<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf>

*At least one type of PFAS was detected in 44% of the Total Diet Study seafood samples and in 74% of the samples from our 2022 targeted seafood survey.
*<https://www.fda.gov/food/environmental-contaminants-food-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

11/5/24 City Council Meeting - \$6 million for Fairgrounds Fields

From Cynthia Fan <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 11/5/2024 8:01 AM

To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachments (2 MB)

2024 Nov 5 SOLUTION TO FAIRGROUNDS FIELDS.pdf;

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[Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please see the attached letter I submitted to the County Supervisors regarding the Fairgrounds Athletic Fields.

It's relevant to you as well.

Please don't put city money towards more plastic turf.

Use it for natural grass.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Thank you,
Cynthia Fan

11/5/24

Re: fairgrounds athletic fields, [agenda item 20](#) of the [November 5, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting](#)

County Supervisors,

If active links do not appear in the version of this document you are reading, find the original document at <https://tinyurl.com/fairgroundsfix>

You are, of course, not the first local-governance body challenged with appeasing the sports organizations lobbying for artificial turf fields and the environmentalists lobbying for natural grass. This is happening around the world.

Be inspired by this success story of a local-governance body (in Sydney) that brilliantly resolved the local “turf war” by delighting both camps. It’d be best to just watch the [4 minute ABC News video](#), but in case you haven’t time, I’ll introduce it then provide a synopsis down below.

What was going on in that community was the same thing that is going on here.

A soil scientist there used his professional knowledge and municipal compost to vastly improve soil conditions.

The players LOVE the much-improved grass field and so do the environmentalists!

In the more detailed [Case Study video](#) (screenshoted below),

we learn the field is proving to sustain 55 hours a week of use!

This is comparable to the level of use that plastic turf warranties max out at.

(By the way, “football” in this context means soccer.)



The [findings](#) were presented in a paper at Ozwater, one of the largest water conferences in the world.

The community’s mayor described (at timestamp 5:40 of the case study) the process:

“Council had to manage the tension between the sporting groups wanting more capacity, which every single councilor understood,

versus the interests of the environmental groups.

What we did was we listened to the science,

we worked with industry experts,

we connected with our council staff that work in the environment space,

and we brought the community on board,

so that essentially we all went on a journey together

and we ended up coming to a place that I don’t think initially we thought we would.

I think there was a strong drive to put synthetic turf on this oval.

In actual fact, we had a complete turnaround and it’s been a wonderful result.”

Here's the ABC News Video Synopsis:



The soccer club and other users subjected their natural grass field to heavy use. It kept wearing out.



Rain, flooding, and mud were also problems.



So the soccer club asked council for artificial turf so they could train and play in most weather.

**BUT
NOT EVERYONE
WAS HAPPY.**

000 NEWS



“The sports people wanted the synthetic turf, and the environmentalists, and I think the general public, did not.”

**THE LOCAL COUNCIL
DECIDED TO SEE
IF THERE WAS
ANOTHER SOLUTION.**

000 NEWS



[Soil scientist, Dr. Mick Battam](#), was called in to give advice on how to reconstruct the field according to best practice. He found the soil was very hard, “crying out for organic matter.”
“In agriculture, they’ve known this for years, but in sports turf, they just seem a bit more resistant to using organics.”

**300 TONNES
OF COMPOST MADE
FROM GARDEN WASTE
WAS SPREAD
ACROSS THE OVAL.**

ABC NEWS



Food waste, diverted from the landfill, is turned into compost.
Compost was mixed into the soil profile.



The result: the soil can now be dug into fairly easily.
There's no longer layers in the soil, so there's nothing to impede water flow.



1/3 of what was going to landfill was food waste.
Now it's turned into treasure.



This has delivered a great playing surface for the soccer club!
Enabling 49 hours per week of play time on that field!
"A win win!"



The reaction: SHOCK!
"Everyone was REALLY SURPRISED at how well the field stood up."



The soccer club president said:
"I'm actually very surprised.
We've had more games played here than any other ground in [the area],
which is a testament to the actual quality of the pitch."

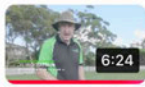


"Everyone loves it!
We are SOOO delighted with the outcome!"

The End.

So how did they do it?
They followed the science — Soil science.

The fact that the San Jose Earthquakes don't have first-hand experience economically building and maintaining safe condition, high carrying capacity, natural grass fields for the public doesn't mean it's infeasible; it just means their experts have more to learn. Encourage the Earthquakes to have their experts learn from agronomist Dr. Mick Battam.



Improving Environmental Outcomes for Sporting Fields - Dr Mick Battam (AgEnviro Solutions)
mick battam



MIDDLEHEAD OVAL CASE STUDY - AgEnviro Solutions (Dr Mick Battam)
mick battam



Improving local sporting fields
mick battam



Fast drainage and other benefits of well built sporting fields
mick battam

The above [4 videos](#) can explain in a bit more detail.

Dr. Battam's input was clearly instrumental in guiding the reconstruction and maintenance of that field so that it now safely sustains, according to one of those videos, approximately 55 hours per week use. That's on par with the [2427 hours](#) the City of Irvine is getting on their *synthetic turf* fields! 55 hours per week play time on natural grass is much more than the [1758 hours](#) the City of San Jose is getting on their synthetic turf fields!! (2427 & 1758 come from attachment C of [the Aug 27, 2024 County staff report](#).)

(I'm not sure where staff got 1758 annual hours of use for City of San Jose synthetic fields, but if this number is recalculated, be sure to keep the comparison realistic by looking at hours of actual use, not booked hours and not warrantied hours. If our community's existing artificial turf fields are not being used at the carrying capacity we're expecting out of the fairgrounds fields, we need to explore why we're underutilizing our existing assets before we build more.)

This field has remained level and in safe condition for years, gets rave reviews by the very user groups that had been lobbying for plastic fields, and it has been done on a budget for construction and operation that is much smaller than that needed for synthetic turf.

The excellent playability of this natural grass field is the result of being well built and well managed, following the best practices for constructing, amending and maintaining natural turf sporting fields detailed in this peer-reviewed resource guide:

<https://www.hunterwater.com.au/home-and-business/information-for-business/best-practice-guidelines>.

The guide was developed, with Dr. Battam's assistance, under a grant from an Australian governmental Environmental Protection Agency and Australian-state-owned drinking water supplier for the benefit of public agencies throughout the state. Our climate, year-round playable weather, and soils are similar to theirs and the guidance is based in soil science.

We could make this a 6-way win:

1. a win for the county's youth sports organizations,
2. a win for the Earthquakes,
3. a win for the environmentalists,
4. a win for the fairgrounds neighborhood,
5. a win for the kids in your districts, and
6. a win for the other counties, cities, and school districts that go on to follow your lead.

Supervisor Chavez, please use your networks and leverage to help make high use natural grass fields at the fairgrounds your parting gift to all 6 before you leave for Bernalillo.

Not to get ahead of ourselves, but just imagine if we someday eventually replicated this success on all of the county's poor condition grass fields. The dramatic improvement in playability could really put a dent in what is currently perceived as a lack of fields.

Well-built, well-managed natural grass fields may currently be a rarity for nonprofits and local governments (counties, cities, school districts), but the climate crisis, plastics crisis, and PFAS crisis dictate that we change that. Rarity is not a good enough reason to dismiss this proven feasible, science-based option.

SUMMARY:

Grass fields, when built and managed according to [these science-based best practices](#) to address both sustainability and heavy use, can [support](#) the [level of usage](#) our community's existing artificial turf fields are getting.

The foundational argument of artificial turf advocates is that natural grass can't support the play time they get out of artificial turf. With this evidence to the contrary, the arguments stacked on top fall away. There's nothing left to support a case for artificial turf.

Here's how to respond to all the artificial turf advocate emails and public comments you're getting...

Santa Clara County Supervisors' guide to responding to the claims of artificial turf advocates.

Claims of artificial turf advocates	Response.
The kids want artificial turf. Just look at all the kids from the sports orgs packing the meeting chambers.	<p>What the kids want is a consistent, level surface to play on. From preschool to pro, athletes overwhelmingly prefer safe condition natural grass fields to plastic fields. However, they're likely unaware that safe condition natural grass is an option.</p> <p>These kids are also likely unaware of other newsworthy facts...</p> <p>Our own county's medical association, just this past summer, published a 100 page citation-packed report justifying their recommendation to stop installing artificial turf.</p> <p>A government issued warning was recently published about the risk that artificial turf is potentially contaminating drinking water with toxic Forever Chemicals (PFAS).</p> <p>Researchers have discovered large amounts of artificial turf's microplastics in the sea.</p> <p>Our state, citing environmental risks, recently denied U.C. Santa Barbara's request to install an artificial turf field.</p>

	<p>Our own water supplier has called for our county to stop installing plastic grass in order to help safeguard the sources of water coming out of our taps</p> <p>How many grownups plugging plastic even know all this? Kids are entrusting grownups to assess and manage risk. They just want to play.</p>
<p>Pro players like artificial turf too.</p>	<p>Did the pro players see the brand new study showing chemicals in artificial turf can harm your endocrine & cardiometabolic systems?</p> <p>Do the pro players realize those systems are key for optimizing performance, energy, muscle, & heart health?</p>
<p>The decision should be up to the field users and/or neighborhood.</p>	<p><i>Everyone</i> gets a say, because the decision to increase urban heat islands, reduce climate resilience, and risk polluting the environment with chemicals and microplastics effects everyone.</p>
<p>The natural grass fields in our schools and cities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in unsafe condition - compacted - uneven - full of rodent holes - full of bare spots - weedy - muddy - too long - closed for extended periods 	<p>Those fields were most likely not well-built and/or well-managed*.</p>
<p>Artificial turf offers orders of magnitude more play time than natural grass.</p>	<p>When grass fields are well-built and well-managed*, they can support the level of usage many local artificial turf fields are getting.</p> <p>Data suggesting otherwise likely proves the natural grass field was not well-built and/or well-managed*.</p> <p>Note that limited playability of natural grass is often not the fault of the field manager. In many cases, field managers inherit poorly built fields and/or are given nowhere near the financial resources that the field owner would allocate to the field if it were artificial turf.</p>
<p>Artificial turf is more cost effective.</p>	<p>Well-built, well-managed* natural grass costs no more to own and operate than artificial turf.</p>
<p>We don't have enough fields.</p>	<p>Adding a well-built, well-managed* natural grass field can address this just as much as adding an artificial turf field.</p>
<p>We can't afford cancellations due to rain.</p>	<p>Well-built, well-managed* natural grass fields can be played on within hours of heavy rain.</p>
<p>Modern artificial turf is less toxic than predecessor products.</p>	<p>Artificial turf continues to contain chemicals of concern. That's why the Department of Toxic Substances Control</p>

	just started evaluating it.
Modern artificial turf gets less hot than predecessor products.	Only marginally. Natural grass remains nearly air temp.
Artificial turf technology has improved.	Turfgrass management technology has also improved. Turfgrass cultivars have also improved, now with greater wear-tolerance and greater drought tolerance.
Artificial turf technology will continue to evolve.	The body of research indicting artificial turf will also continue to evolve.
Painting lines on natural grass takes too much time.	75% of school districts with natural grass are using robotic line painters .
I am an expert in natural grass fields and their limitations, because for years I have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a professional player - a coach - a field designer - a field builder - a field manager - a facilities director - a parks & rec manager - a youth sports org board member 	Science evolves and even experts can learn new things.
Injuries are a bigger risk with natural grass than with artificial turf.	Well-built, well-managed* natural grass is safer than artificial turf.
Artificial turf conserves water.	Plastic turf does not conserve water. Legitimate water conservation entails more than reducing consumption; it critically also entails protecting our water sources from microplastic pollution and toxic chemicals.
Mowers generate emissions.	Explore zero-waste emissions equipment.
Natural grass requires pesticides.	Sustainable IPM practices minimize pesticide usage. Organic management can be considered.
Stop using other plastic items instead.	Better idea: Stop using plastic turf and, in addition, stop using other plastic items we can also easily make do without. Disadvantaged communities, domestically and abroad , suffer the harms of plastic's lifecycle, from fossil fuel extraction to manufacturing to plastic waste and incineration; they are pleading for reductions in plastic production. How can we dismiss the consequences of our unnecessary plastic consumption ?
Manufacturers now offer artificial turf with “no intentionally added PFAS” and have shared their “PFAS-free” test results.	Industry's latest greenwashed claims have been debunked by experts. Because plastic grass is unavoidably contaminated with PFAS during the manufacturing process, even the most modern versions of plastic grass on the market, including those being marketed as “PFAS-free”, will soon be illegal in some

	states (like CO , NY , RI , VT).
There's more PFAS in dental floss, and I put that in my mouth.	<p>Putting PFAS-laced dental floss in your mouth is your choice. Most people have little choice over where they get their drinking water. PFAS accumulates in the environment and in our bodies so it's in our best collective interest not to unnecessarily introduce additional PFAS into the watershed.</p> <p>Scientists and the federal government are asking local governments to help stop the spread of PFAS.</p>
The amount of PFAS in artificial turf is extremely small.	PFAS accumulate, and adverse health effects are linked to extremely small amounts of PFAS.
If artificial turf were toxic, it'd be illegal.	The government can not keep up with regulating all the chemicals on the market, much less products made with them. It also can not keep up with enforcement of existing regulations. There are active lawsuits in California challenging the claim that artificial turf's toxicity is insignificant.
Artificial turf is Prop 65 compliant.	The government does not confirm compliance with Prop 65 , the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act. Compliance is a manufacturer-asserted claim. There are active lawsuits challenging the claim of artificial turf Prop 65 compliance.
Artificial turf is recyclable.	<p>Despite industry's longstanding, repeated promises of being on the verge of solving plastic turf recycling, non-polluting closed loop recycling at scale still is not happening anywhere in the country. Burning waste is not recycling.</p> <p>The volume of plastic waste being generated is staggering. Each plastic field becomes due for replacement every 8-10 years, generating 40,000 pounds of plastic carpet waste each time.</p>
If you ban turf, you ban play.	Why? All of the concerns have been addressed above.
Low income kids are victims.	Why? All of the concerns have been addressed above.
We're not asking for all fields to be artificial, just some of them.	Why? All of the concerns have been addressed above.

* References to "well-built, well-managed" natural grass fields are references to fields built and managed according to [these science-based best practices](#) for both sustainability and heavy use.

Thank you for the consideration,
Cynthia Fan
county resident

Item 8.3, November 5, 2024 San Jose City Council Meeting

From Leanne McAuliffe <[REDACTED]>

Date Mon 11/4/2024 5:43 PM

To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.]

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei, and Council Members,

Regarding Item 8.3: Memorandum of Agreement with County of Santa Clara and San Jose Earthquakes for Public Soccer Fields at the San Jose Earthquakes Sports Complex at the County of Santa Clara Fairgrounds, please do not approve this agreement as it is now.

As a parent of 4 children that have played soccer on various fields in Santa Clara for over a decade, I am well aware that the county absolutely needs more safe, GRASS sports fields for kids. But recent media articles are not being transparent about the joint fairgrounds project funded by both San Jose City and the Earthquakes.

The latest San Jose Spotlight op-ed by one of the Earthquakes young players, Edwyn Mendoza, which implores players to support an agreement being presented to the County Supervisors tomorrow does not even mention that the community fields will be PLASTIC grass while the Earthquakes get REAL grass. And NO information is given about all the negative effects of heat retaining, plastic grass with toxic pollutants that contaminate our soil, water and air and by extension living beings, (Add to that the fact that there is no viable recycling solution so it practically all gets dumped to pollute further). Even the digital rendering in the op-ed falsely looks like all fields are equal when they are not. The Earthquakes are even indicating their proposal is conditional on plastic grass for communities even though safe, real grass is doable. Where is the equity in that? It also seems inequitable to request players to support something that they are not being fully informed about.

Communities (kids) everywhere deserve healthy, safe real grass sports fields. EQUITY will only happen if both the Earthquakes and the community (kids) get real grass fields. Support and approval of the Earthquakes fairgrounds proposal should be CONDITIONAL on all fields being well maintained REAL grass, That is equity. That is what the community and kids deserve! Please request the agreement between San Jose City and the Earthquakes also be amended to reflect equity.

Leanne McAuliffe
Concerned soccer parent of Santa Clara County,

Reject Agenda Item 8.3 (24-2187) in Nov 5 San Jose City Council meeting

From Cortney Jansen <[REDACTED]>

Date Mon 11/4/2024 8:45 PM

To District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 2 attachments (1 MB)

Temperatures_Fair Oaks Park 2024 Summer.pdf; The Top 10 Myths of Artificial Turf.pdf;

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.]

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Dear San Jose Mayor and Councilmembers,

My name is Cortney Jansen. I'm a soccer parent and resident of Sunnyvale. I am asking you to reject the Memorandum in Agenda Item 8.3 and to request the following revisions:

Increase the hours of free public field use.

The City is voting to contribute \$6,000,000 towards this project. Page 2 of the summary states that the Earthquakes "will allocate 250 hours of free public field use to underserved community groups, adjacent neighborhood use, and other public uses." This is not even ONE HOUR PER DAY of free public field use, which hardly seems fair in exchange for a \$6M contribution from the City. If one of the goals of this project is to provide "equitable access...for league play from underserved communities" (page 3), I do not see how one hour per day of play meets this objective.

Require natural grass instead of artificial turf.

Artificial turf fields are unhealthy, unenvironmental, and unsustainable for our kids. In addition to their known health and environmental concerns, they cannot be used on hot summer days. There are many hot summer days in San Jose - and there will be more with continued climate change. For comparison, Sunnyvale recently installed artificial turf at Fair Oaks Park. This is a new field with current-generation "premier" artificial turf technology. Attached are slides from recent measurements, with these measurements:

- On an 89degF day (July 10), the grass measured 91degF. The artificial turf was 151degF
- On an 80degF day (Aug 27), the grass measured 80degF. The artificial turf was 139degF

Artificial turf does not provide year round play. It cannot be used when it gets this hot. As just two additional examples:

- **In Lynn, MA on May 28, eleven 5th graders were taken to the hospital with overheating and dehydration symptoms caused by playing on an artificial turf field.** The article is

here: <https://whdh.com/news/11-children-taken-to-hospital-with-dehydration-overheating-symptoms-during-athletic-event-in-lynn/>

- **In Portland, OR, on July 9, three artificial turf fields were closed for safety reasons due to the extreme heat.** The article is here: <https://www.kptv.com/2024/07/10/portland-turf-fields-closed-due-danger-heat-wave/>

Myths of Artificial Turf

Finally, you have probably heard a lot about claims that artificial turf is "better" for us than grass. Please see the attached "Top 10 Myths of Artificial Turf" for current scientific research that debunks many of the current claims of the artificial turf and plastics industry.

Thank you,
Cortney Jansen
Sunnyvale resident
Co-Founder, Community for Natural Play Surfaces

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

The Top 10 Myths of Artificial Turf (AT)

by Community for Natural Play Surfaces (July 2024)

#	Myth	The Facts
1	Artificial turf is drought friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Senate Bill 676 (passed 2023) states “drought-tolerant landscaping’ shall not include the installation of synthetic grass or artificial turf”¹ Santa Clara Valley Water’s “Landscape Rebate Program” considers AT to be a non-qualifying material and does not offer rebates for its use²
2	Artificial turf does not contain PFAS chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding AT, the Consumer Products Safety Council White Paper on PFAS notes “Even among products labeled as ‘PFAS-free’ or ‘PFOA/PFOS-free,’ there are sometimes detectable levels of PFAS due to several potential factors”³ Melanie Taylor, CEO of the lobbyist organization Synthetic Turf Council, wrote a letter to a California State Senator in June 2023 opposing AB1423. Her letter stated “The bill <is> a ban on the sale of artificial turf containing intentionally added PFAS on January 1, 2024 to certain public entities and by January 1, 2025 for all sales in California. These dates do not provide enough time for manufacturers and suppliers to develop viable alternatives for the market place”
3	Artificial turf allows more hours of play than grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Recreation and Park Association recommends⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anytime the outdoor temperature exceeds 80°F, coaches exercise caution in conducting activities on artificial turf fields When outdoor temperatures exceed 90°F, coaches may hold one regular morning or evening practice (before noon or after 5 pm) When the heat index is between 91–104°F between the hours of noon and 5 pm, school athletic activities are restricted on artificial turf fields to one hour, with water breaks every 20 minutes On May 28, 2024, in Lynn, MA, eleven fifth graders were taken to the hospital with overheating and dehydration symptoms caused by playing on an artificial turf field on a warm (mid-80°F) artificial turf field⁵
4	Artificial turf is recyclable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies claim AT can be recycled via pyrolysis (which heats things to separate them into components), but this method uses more energy than is needed to make new AT⁶ A March 2023 article noted “To this point, no companies in the U.S. can fully recycle [artificial turf rolls], according to a turf trade association president”⁷
5	Artificial turf is better because it doesn’t require fertilizer or pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT maintenance procedures use harsh chemicals or heavy equipment. Current natural grass maintenance instructions require far less fertilizer or pesticide intervention than previously specified; organic natural grass fields are also an option
6	Artificial turf is better for the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT is plastic, which comes from petroleum just like gasoline does.⁸ AT breaks into pieces and smaller particles migrate into storm drains and watershed, and in one study, “artificial turf fibers accounted for up to 15% of meso- and macroplastic abundance”⁹
7	Artificial turf is cheaper to maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT costs more to install than grass The cost of maintenance for artificial turf is comparable to the cost of maintenance for natural grass¹⁰ AT must be replaced every 8-10 years¹¹

8	Artificial turf requires no maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 2017 FieldTurf maintenance manual lists several required maintenance steps, including¹² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete Field Inspection - weekly ○ Infill Top Dressing - as needed (up to once a week) ○ Spraying weed killers like Round Up - as needed ○ Surface Raking - every 3-4 weeks at least ○ Surface Aerating - Up to 3 times/year
9	New artificial turf technology keeps artificial turf fields cool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New cooling products don't work. T°Cool, a proprietary cooling agent, is subject to a lawsuit by a South Carolina school district, which states, "Independent testing obtained by the district found that the T°Cool infill was 'no different' that the non-T°Cool infill on other fields, and that the T°Cool fields 'did not perform any better than the field without T°Cool with regard to high temperatures'"¹³ ● Research shows that the primary source of heat on an AT field is the plastic blades, not the infill. AT with no infill is almost as hot as AT with infill (either crumb rubber or the new plant-based infills)^{14, 15}
10	Artificial turf does not pose injury risks to athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 2021 review of high school athlete injuries found "athletes were 58% more likely to sustain an injury on AT. Football, soccer, and rugby athletes were at a significantly greater injury risk on AT. Upper and lower extremity and torso injuries also occurred with higher incidence on AT"¹⁶ ● In a 2023 summary article covering two decades of research, the National Center for Health Research found a higher incidence of injuries among college and professional athletes for knees, ankles, concussions, heat and abrasions on AT than on natural grass, as well as an indication that injury on AT is more severe¹⁷

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Fair Oaks Park (Sunnyvale) Temperatures at 2:30pm on Wednesday, July 10

Measured temperatures:

- Grass 91.2°F
- Light gray concrete 121.1°F
- Mulch 122.9°F
- Dark gray concrete 128.7°F
- Artificial turf (with plant-based infill) 151.5°F



Fair Oaks Park (Sunnyvale) Temperatures at 3:00pm (Tuesday, August 27, 2024)

**“Cooler”
does not
mean
“cool”!**

New, “cooler” plant-based infill.

Measured temperatures:

- Grass 80°F
- Artificial turf with plant-based infill = 129-141°F

Google

weather 94085

Results for Sunnyvale, CA 94085 · Choose area

Weather

Now
94°
Feels like 94°

Mostly sunny
Precip: 0%
Humidity: 24%
Wind: 11 mph
Air quality: Good

Overview Precipitation Wind Humidity

NOW	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM
94°	94°	90°	84°	79°	75°	72°

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
94°/61°	86°/60°	83°/61°	81°/59°	79°/59°	77°/59°

See more details >

Home Search Saved



Updated comment: Agenda Item #8.3 - Insist that ALL playing fields at the Fairgrounds are natural grass

From Linda Hutchins-Knowles [REDACTED]
Date Tue 11/5/2024 9:01 AM
To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachments (6 MB)

Group letter urging NO artificial turf at Fairgrounds 11.04.24.pdf;

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.]

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vicemayor Kamei, and City Councilmembers,

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, with 2500 local supporters, enthusiastically supports access to safe, healthy playing fields for all children and community members. We think that the Earthquakes' proposed soccer complex at the old County Fairgrounds will be a great addition to our city—IF the fields are natural grass, NOT artificial turf.

Before committing to spend \$6,000,000 on this project—a huge sum for a City experiencing budget shortfall—we ask that you insist that ALL of the playing fields at the Fairgrounds be natural grass with NO plastic grass. That's because our community deserves to play on the safest, healthiest, most cost-effective playing surface—natural grass.

Plastic grass—a petroleum product—is NOT a desirable playing surface.

Artificial turf is harmful to players because:

- It is made of toxic chemicals, including microplastic and PFAS (forever chemicals) that have been linked to cancer, reproductive harms, and other health issues.
- It gets extremely hot, making it unsafe (even deadly) to play on.
- It is associated with a higher rate of non-contact injuries.
- It causes painful turf burns (see attached photos).

Artificial turf is harmful to the environment and climate because:

- It intensifies the urban heat island effect, getting as hot as 180°-200°F.
 - It contaminates our air with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and our water with microplastics and PFAS chemicals, possibly violating EPA regulations.
 - It wastes precious drinking water since only potable water can be used to clean and cool it.
 - Its manufacture, transportation, installation, and disposal release large amounts of climate pollution, undermining our Climate Smart goals.
- [See this slide deck](#) for more info on the climate and environmental harms of plastic grass.

Covering the public-access fields at the Fairgrounds in plastic grass is inequitable because:

- It's a double standard for the Earthquakes' players and affiliates to get natural grass fields, while the fields for public use are covered in toxic, injury-prone, very hot artificial turf.
- It is environmentally racist to increase the toxic burden on our marginalized communities.
- It wastes taxpayers' money, because it is more costly in the long run given the need to maintain it and replace it every 8-10 years.

Our community needs and deserves professionally-maintained, organically-managed natural turf fields. That's not too much to ask, especially if we're footing the bill for 6 MILLION DOLLARS!

Therefore, we echo the asks of Cortney Jansen, a leader with the local group Community For Natural Play Surfaces, that you make the following revisions to the MOU before approving it:

(1) Increase the hours of free public field use:

250 hours per year of free public field use is less than one hour per day. This is not a fair exchange for \$6,000,000.

and

(2) Require natural grass instead of artificial turf on all fields at the Fairgrounds:

Artificial turf fields are unhealthy, unenvironmental, and unsustainable for our kids. In addition to their known health and environmental concerns, they cannot be used on hot summer days. There are many hot summer days in San Jose - and there will be more with continued climate change.

Please protect our community and climate and by requiring ALL of the soccer fields at the Fairground to be natural grass.

For our children's health and safety and our climate's sustainability,

Linda Hutchins-Knowles
Co-founder and Team Coordinator
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

P.S. We are joined by 60 organizations who support on ban on artificial turf in Santa Clara County—including at the Fairgrounds. See attached letter for the list of groups, including the Sí Se Puede Collective.

Rugby players with turf burns from artificial turf





COMMUNITY FOR
NATURAL PLAY SURFACES



School of Arts & Culture
Mexican Heritage Plaza

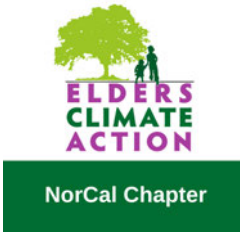




CALPIRG



PEER
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITY



Non Toxic Communities 





November 4, 2024

Subject: 60 organizations support ban on new artificial turf on County-owned property, without exceptions (including for the Fairgrounds)

Dear President Ellenberg, Vice President Lee, and Supervisors:

Since we submitted an earlier version of this letter to you in August, 2024, the 53 signing organizations have been joined by an additional seven groups, bringing the total to 60 organizations (just some of whose logos are shown above). The list includes mainly local organizations joined by some statewide and national ones who wish to support Santa Clara County's leadership on this issue.

We are united in urging you to **protect children's and the community's health and safety, our environment, and the climate** by moving swiftly to **to prohibit the installation of new artificial turf on County-owned property**, including replacement artificial turf [**approve ordinance Version A**]. We also urge you **not to make exceptions [reject Version B]** for projects under discussion but not yet contracted, such as the County Fairgrounds and the Twin Creeks renovation.

This is an issue of equity. Our children and communities, including those in underserved neighborhoods, don't just deserve access to playing fields—**we deserve access to safe and healthy playing fields** that won't harm us or the air, water, soil or climate we all depend on. Please center children's and environmental health in your decision and refuse to allow a product that has not been proven safe and is likely to cause irreparable harm.

Artificial turf is a plastic product made from fossil fuels¹ and contains microplastics and toxic chemicals² linked to cancer and other diseases. These include PFAS³ (forever chemicals) which

¹ <https://www.bpf.co.uk/plastipedia/how-is-plastic-made.aspx>;
<https://www.nontoxiccommunities.com/synthetic-turf.html>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10262297/>

³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HmgG-b4xmMCLhB24INFHsLyOSQeFOBzI/view> [This letter demonstrates that the artificial turf industry cannot currently provide a product without PFAS chemicals and that it seeks to establish an allowed amount of 100 PPM or 50 PPM despite the fact that there is no safe amount of PFAS.]

the EPA⁴ has moved to stringently regulate in drinking water. Multiple recent studies have shown that plastic grass:

- **poses increased health⁵ and injury risks⁶ to athletes,**
- **damages the environment⁷ and climate⁸,**
- **costs more⁹ over its total life cycle than natural alternatives, and**
- **limits play time¹⁰ because its temperature can get so hot¹¹ it's not safe to play on.**

Artificial turf has been promoted by some as a water-saver. However, artificial turf not only needs watering¹², it **requires watering with potable (drinking) water¹³** in order to cool and clean it. Its runoff **contaminates our local watershed¹⁴** with microplastics and PFAS. A California law passed last year (SB 676¹⁵) states that: “*drought-tolerant landscaping’ shall not include the installation of synthetic grass or artificial turf.*” In addition, plastic turf is **not recyclable¹⁶** and is disposed of in landfills or incinerators where it leaches chemicals into the soil or air.

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

⁵<https://mountsinaieposomics.org/artificial-turf/>;
<https://www.pennlive.com/sports/2023/03/6-former-phillies-have-died-of-brain-cancer-new-report-reveals-a-concerning-link.html>;
<https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/center/updates/dangerous-play-studies-find-harmful-forever-chemicals-in-artificial-turf-fields/>

⁶<https://apnews.com/article/nfl-aaron-rodgers-achilles-grass-artificial-turf-79212f5443cd2a0d30fe8c9d981b13c0>

⁷ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965>

⁸ <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/08/how-plastics-contribute-to-climate-change/>

⁹ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2134/itsrj2016.10.0848>

¹⁰<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/may/synthetic-sports-fields-and-the-heat-island-effect>

¹¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02656736.2019.1605096>

¹²https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Artificial%20Turf%20Fact%20Sheet_042922%20SL.pdf

¹³ See p. 5 (labeled page 2): “Only potable water should be used for irrigation” in https://cdn.ymaws.com/staging-stc.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/guidelines/STC_Guidelines_for_Maintenan.pdf; See also: <https://beachcomber.news/content/soccer-field-tap-drinkable-water-artificial-turf>

¹⁴ <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-Day-Notice-2024-01833>

¹⁵ <https://alcl.assembly.ca.gov/sites/alcl.assembly.ca.gov/files/SB%20676%20%28Allen%29.pdf>

¹⁶<https://www.rogersgardens.com/pages/why-you-should-not-use-artificial-turf#:~:text=Plastic%20lawns%20kill%20soil%20life,microorganisms%20that%20keep%20soil%20healthy>

For these reasons, allowing the continued installation of plastic grass **undermines the County's Sustainability Master Plan**¹⁷, specifically Goals 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Multiple experts recommend against the use of artificial turf, especially for children:

- **The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**¹⁸ states, “until findings are available and conclusively demonstrate the safety of artificial surfaces, **we recommend a moratorium on the use of these materials where children play.**”
- **The Santa Clara County Medical Association** sent a letter¹⁹ in March warning you of the health and environmental dangers of artificial turf. Their Environmental Health Committee: “**strongly recommends that you do *not* place artificial turf, but rather require all soccer fields to be natural grass turf,** to benefit the health and safety of children, athletes and the environment.”
- **Your own Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission** **voted—unanimously—to recommend that you ban all new installation of artificial turf, without exceptions,** and that you invite the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter and Community for Natural Play Surfaces to present to you science-based information about artificial turf and natural alternatives²⁰.

These and other experts agree: the athletic fields where children and adults play should NOT be covered in hard toxic plastic that reaches very high temperatures, nor should we contaminate our water and air with the run-off of toxic chemicals from artificial turf.

It's urgent that you move quickly on this issue. With the County Fairgrounds poised to host several new sports fields, it's essential that policies are put into place **NOW** to ensure that these fields will use organically or sustainably-managed, drought-resistant, durable, and safe natural grass like bermuda grass or other grass hybrids and NOT toxic artificial turf.

The County has a special duty to follow the **precautionary principle**²¹ and **protect our most vulnerable residents: children.** Their growing bodies are particularly sensitive to toxic chemicals such as PFAS in a fashion similar to lead. As Supervisors, you've taken leadership in banning leaded aviation fuel at Reid-Hillview Airport, and we implore you to show the same care for children's and community health by prohibiting the installation of any new artificial turf.

¹⁷ <https://www.sccsustainabilityplan.org/>

¹⁸ <https://mountsinaiexposomics.org/position-statement-on-the-use-of-artificial-turf-surfaces/>

¹⁹ <https://www.sccma.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=C0f6wf5p9uY%3d&portalid=19>

²⁰ https://docs.google.com/document/d/17zZeXqT4JUIQt8gnMk4Rm30ghMzoH9FXI_wMK1mXIT8/edit?pli=1

²¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1240435/>

Yes, we want more playing fields, but only if these fields are healthy and safe—covered with hardy, drought-resistant, professionally-managed natural grass.

Can we count on you to protect our children, communities, environment and climate?

Thank you

Signed by the following 60 organizations:

Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Co-Founder and Team Coordinator
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

Nikki Sachs, Coordinating Committee Member
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

Cheryl Weiden, Steering Committee Member
350 Silicon Valley

Lauren Weston, Executive Director
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

Cheryl Auger, President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)

Taryn Obaid, Co-Founder
Bay Area Natural Turf Advocates

Jenn Engstrom, State Director
California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)

Bruce Karney, Board Chair
Carbon Free Mountain View

Thomas R. Fox, Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, Executive Director
Children's Environmental Health Network

Isabelle Chappuis, Director and educator
Children's Garden Preschool FCC LLC

Piper Primrose, Director
Choosing Nature

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Andria Ventura, Legislative and Policy Director
Clean Water Action

Suzanne Hume, Education Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Janet Cox, CEO
Climate Action California

Andy Hattala, Policy Co-Lead
Climate Reality Project: California Coalition

Pam Allio, Chapter Chair
Climate Reality Bay Area

Charles Miller, Chair
Climate Reality Project: Los Angeles Chapter

Kathy Schaeffer, Legislative Coordinator
Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley

Andrea Wald, Co-Founder
Community For Natural Play Surfaces (Santa Clara County)

Seema Vaid, Founder and President
A Compassionate World

Juan Estrada, Founder and President
District 5 United

Todd Weber, Chapter Co-Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern California (NorCal) Chapter

Lendri Purcell, President, and Catherine Dodd PhD RN, Health Advisor
FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemical & Toxics Safety)

Laura de Tar, Executive Director

Fresh Approach

Patricia Wood, Executive Director

Grassroots Environmental Education

Bridget May, CEO

Green Bee Botanicals

Alice Kaufman, Policy and Advocacy Director

Green Foothills

Sarah Matsumoto, Director of Policy and Government Affairs

Green Schoolyards America

Quyen Vuong, Executive Director

International Children Assistance Network

Jin Yan, Principal Designer

Promised Greenland Landscape Design

Deb Kramer, Founder and Executive Director

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Lucia Garcia, Organizer Manager

La Mesa Verde at Sacred Heart Community Center

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez, Executive Director

Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Darcie Green, Executive Director

Latinas Contra Cancer

Vanessa Armstrong, Co-Chair

Moms Advocating Sustainability

Diana Carpinone, President

Non Toxic Communities

Christina Hildebrand, Interim Director
Non Toxic Schools

rani Jayakumar, Webmaster, teacher
Okachiko.com

Avery Yale Kamila, Co-Founder
Portland Protectors

Jeff Ruch, Pacific Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)

Paul Ruddock, Founder
Resilient Foodsheds

Ruth Merino, Chair
San Jose Community Energy Advocates

Katherine Cushing, Department Chair
San Jose State University's Department of Environmental Studies

Anna Koster, Member
San Jose Friends Meeting's Community Action Committee

Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance

Vanessa Shieh, Co-Executive Director, and Melissa Canela, Director of Strategic Partnerships
School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza

Ted Schettler MD, MPH, Science Director
Science and Environmental Health Network

Maimoona Block, Executive Director
Sea Hugger

Hoi Poon, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor, and Mani Bekele, Co-Lead of the San José team
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

Joanna Thurmann, Member
St Julie's Climate Justice Committee

Anna Grossman, Founder
Sustainable Montclair

Dennis Murphy, Director, Water & Sustainable Life
Sustainable Silicon Valley

Paul Ruddock, Member
Transition Palo Alto

Emily Schwing, Acting Executive Director
Veggielution

Huan Pham, Operations and Development Manager
Vietnamese American Roundtable

Christina Hildebrand, President and Founder
A Voice for Choice Advocacy

Rika Gopinath, Chair
YardSmartMarin

Filibeto Zaragoza, Environmental Justice Campaign Organizer
Youth United for Community

Agenda Item #8.3 - Require natural grass for ALL playing fields at the Fairgrounds

From Emily Becker <[REDACTED]>
Date Tue 11/5/2024 9:49 AM
To District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Batra, Arjun <arjun.batra@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Councilmember Batra, Mayor Mahan, and staff:

As a resident of San Jose District 10 and a member of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, I urge you to **require that ALL playing fields at the Fairgrounds are natural grass**, thus ensuring that San Jose residents have equitable access to the safest, healthiest, most cost-effective playing surface.

Plastic grass poses a significant health risk due to the use of artificial chemicals including PFAS, a known carcinogen. Its use also contributes to water pollution and increases the urban heat island effect, as it can reach much higher surface temperatures than natural grass. In addition, it damages the climate due to the use of fossil fuels in its production and its displacement of natural grass, which naturally draws down carbon pollution.

This is important to me because all children deserve a safe space to play. Today's children are poised to bear the brunt of so many poor environmental decisions made by their elders. San Jose has the ability to avoid the further production and use of plastic, and instead prioritize natural grass and its many environmental advantages - from the lack of fossil fuels and toxic chemicals, to the increased carbon and rainfall absorption - a unique opportunity to protect children's health today, while simultaneously lessening their future burden.

Therefore, I echo the ask of Cortney Jansen, a leader with the local group Community for Natural Play Surfaces, that you **make the following revisions to the MOU prior to approval**:

1, Increase the hours of free public field use, as a mere 250 hours per year is a horrible return on the City's proposed \$6,000,000 investment.

2, Require natural grass instead of artificial turf on ALL fields at the Fairgrounds. It is a gross double standard for the Earthquakes and their affiliates to get natural grass fields while the public are relegated to toxic, injury-prone, very hot artificial turf, and increases the toxic burden on our marginalized communities. Natural grass is also the more fiscally responsible choice, as the cost required to maintain and regularly replace artificial turf far exceeds that of professionally-maintained, organically-managed natural turf fields.

Please protect our community and maintain San Jose's standing as a climate leader by **requiring ALL soccer fields at the Fairgrounds to be natural grass**.

Thank you,

Emily Deal Becker, PhD

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Proposed Artificial Grass

From Harriet Kawamata [REDACTED]

Date Tue 11/5/2024 11:55 AM

To District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei, and City Councilmembers,

I know you want what is best for the people. Please consider what is best in the overall scheme of things.

I, along with 2500 local supporters, enthusiastically support access to safe, healthy playing fields for all children and community members. I think that the Earthquakes' proposed soccer complex at the old County Fairgrounds will be a great addition to our city—IF the fields are natural grass, **NOT** artificial turf.

Before committing to spend \$6,000,000 on this project—a huge sum for a City experiencing budget shortfall—we ask that **you insist that ALL of the playing fields at the Fairgrounds be natural grass with NO plastic grass.** That's because our community deserves to play on **the safest, healthiest, most cost-effective playing surface—natural grass.**

Plastic grass—a petroleum product—is NOT a desirable playing surface.

Artificial turf is harmful to players because:

- It is made of toxic chemicals, including microplastic and PFAS (forever chemicals) that have been linked to cancer, reproductive harms, and other health issues.
- It gets extremely hot, making it unsafe (even deadly) to play on.
- It is associated with a higher rate of non-contact injuries.
- It causes painful turf burns.

Artificial turf is harmful to the environment and climate because:

- It intensifies the urban heat island effect, getting as hot as 180°-200°F.
- It contaminates our air with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and our water with microplastics and PFAS chemicals, possibly violating EPA regulations.
- It wastes precious drinking water since only potable water can be used to clean and cool it.
- Its manufacture, transportation, installation, and disposal release large amounts of climate pollution, undermining our Climate Smart goals. [See this slide deck](#) for more info on the climate and environmental harms of plastic grass.

Covering the public-access fields at the Fairgrounds in plastic grass is inequitable because:

- It's a double standard for the Earthquakes' players and affiliates to get natural grass fields, while the fields for public use are covered in toxic, injury-prone, very hot artificial turf.
- It is unethical to increase the toxic burden on our marginalized communities.
- It wastes taxpayers' money, because it is more costly in the long run given the need to maintain it and replace it every 8-10 years.

Our community needs and **deserves professionally-maintained, organically-managed natural turf fields. That's not too much to ask, especially if we're footing the bill for 6 MILLION DOLLARS!**

Therefore, we echo the asks of Cortney Jansen, a leader with the local group Community For Natural Play Surfaces, that you **make the following revisions to the MOU before approving it: (1) Increase the hours of free public field use: 250 hours per year of free public field use is less than one hour per day. This is not a fair exchange for \$6,000,000.**
and

(2) Require natural grass instead of artificial turf on all fields at the Fairgrounds: Artificial turf fields are unhealthy, not environmentally conscious, and unsustainable for our kids. In addition to their known health and environmental concerns, they cannot be used on hot summer days. There are many hot summer days in San Jose - and there will be more with continued climate change.

Please protect our community and climate and **by requiring ALL of the soccer fields at the Fairground to be natural grass. And protect all the individuals who will play on these fields.**

Thank you!

Harriet Kawamata

Sent from my iPad

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(No subject)

From Adrienne Iwanaga <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 11/5/2024 2:14 PM

To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Batra, Arjun <arjun.batra@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei, and City Councilmembers,

I, along with 2500 local supporters, enthusiastically support access to safe, healthy playing fields for all children and community members. I think that the Earthquakes' proposed soccer complex at the old County Fairgrounds will be a great addition to our city—**IF** the fields are natural grass, **NOT** artificial turf.

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Our community needs and **deserves professionally-maintained, organically-managed natural turf fields**.

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and

(2) Require natural grass instead of artificial turf on all fields at the Fairgrounds: Artificial turf fields are unhealthy, not environmentally conscious, and unsustainable for our kids. In addition to their known health and environmental concerns, they cannot be used on hot summer days. There are many hot summer days in San Jose - and there will be more with continued climate change.

Please protect our community and climate and **by requiring ALL of the soccer fields at the Fairground to be natural grass.**

Thank you!

Adrienne Iwanaga

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Support and insist that ALL playing fields at the Fairgrounds are natural grass

From Meghna Varma <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 11/5/2024 3:25 PM

To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vicemayor Kamei, and City Councilmembers,

As a mother of two young children who love play competitive sports, enjoy natural grass, and as the founder and CEO of a company dedicated to eliminate the single-use plastics and disposable waste streams from polluting our landfills and oceans – I plead to you to take a pause, a moment to stop to think of what you vote on today will impact many many generations to come in the future. This is a sincere request to vote NO on the non-binding term sheet, and NO to artificial turf.

Quick Facts:

- An average single 80,000 sq ft. field contains **40,000 lbs of plastic carpeting** and 400,000 lbs of infill. This means for just 4 fields that equates to 320,000 sq ft. if you vote yes, you would be
 - Greenhouse gasses like ethylene and methane¹ are emitted from the plastic carpets continuously throughout their lifespan²
 - These fields have a heat island effect with surface temperatures reaching as high as 180°-200°F.
 - Each synthetic turf field loses 0.5 to 8.0% of its blades annually, yielding 200 to 3200 pounds of plastic waste to our environment per year.³ This runoff pollutes our oceans - and even

For generations natural grass fields have been used in all seasons, around the world. Professional players will not play on artificial turf, so why expose little children and underserved teams to highly toxic, hazardous materials and emissions. In my opinion, this is not equitable or fair to the underserved teams and local childrens. We need to solve the field space issue and not support plastic lobbyists and change the natural grass to artificial turf. Yes, we need fields for our children and they need to be natural grass, safe for their environment and safe for their health. Worldclass, high-quality fields and infrastructure are those that are well maintained natural grass, like they have been for centuries.

Many adults including yourself have probably not grown up or been exposed to playing on artificial turf as the injuries and long term health impacts are so bad, that you would not advocate for it. Rethink the revenue model that you expect to get from these artificial turf. The true math of plastic is always negative and a loss of revenue due to the impact it has on the community and environment in the long term. The 20 acres of land can either be a heat island, greenhouse gas emitting and microplastic generating space or it can be a space with natural grass that is good for the health of the children and the environment. It absorbs carbon, holds water and stabilizes the climate.

Please be responsible with your vote and rethink your decisions for the sake of future generations and ban artificial turf and look to install natural grass fields for the public.

Sources:

1. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane traps heat and warms the planet 86 times more than carbon dioxide over a 20-year horizon.
2. <https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/synthetic-turf>
3. <https://www.beyondplastics.org/fact-sheets/synthetic-turf#:~:text=Each%20synthetic%20turf%20field%20looses,to%20our%20environment%20per%20year.>

Kind regards,
Meghna Varma

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