



## BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

October 30, 2025

Jimmy Kim, General Manager  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1550  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Synthetic Turf Policy, CF: 24-0602 and Runnymede Park

Dear Jimmy;

I write to ask for your assistance with two urgent matters. First, I am concerned that the Runnymede Park improvement project (PHASE II), which is already funded and paid for, and which encompasses landscaping and other park improvements, is drastically delayed. The second issue I am writing to you about is to request your assistance in ensuring that hard-working community members who have given their time to the City to support my initiative at regulating artificial turf, CF 24-0602, are not forgotten and can participate in your RFP. Specifically, I ask your attention to both issues.

Runnymede Park improvements are important to me, and to many in the West Valley. As you know, this project consists of two phases, the first of which was completed in November 2023. Since then, my constituents have been patiently waiting for the start of phase II, which was meant to focus on landscaping and other improvements. I request that your Department focus on this project and work with my office to publicly propose and meet a realistic timeline for the project's completion. It is very important to me that this project be completed while I am still in office and before my term expires at the end of next year.

Thank you again for your team's work on the artificial turf/natural turf policy that I introduced in 2024 (CF: 24-0602), in order to ensure that plastics and toxic chemicals are not infecting our soils and watersheds. Your Department released an RFP on September 12th, 2025, and held a mandatory meeting on October 7th, with all submittals needed by November 12th. While the RFP was correctly noticed on the city's procurement process, RAMP, my office, and many community members were not notified, leading many to be surprised at the news. Although not required, meaningful outreach to my office and those who have been meeting with your staff is important. Specifically, I ask that your staff hold a second mandatory meeting, so that folks wishing to submit an RFP proposal can do so by November 11th.

CITY HALL 200 N. Spring St. Room 465, Los Angeles, CA 90012 213.473.7003 fax 213.473.7567

DISTRICT OFFICE 19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335 818.774.4330 fax 818.756.9179

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**Summary of virtual meeting  
to discuss the renewal  
of the Pacific Palisades Recreation Center  
October 30, 2025**

Hosted by Jimmy Kim, General Manager, Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks  
In response to request from the Pacific Palisades Historical Society

**Attending**

For the city of Los Angeles:

Kim

Amanda Daflos, Deputy LA Mayor for Strategic Partnerships

Joyce Dominguez, Office of Strategic Partnerships Executive Officer

For the private funding entities partnering with the City:

Nick Geller, Steadfast LA Managing Director, also representing LA Strong Sports

Rodney Freeman, Project Manager for the planned redesign of the Palisades Recreation Center

For the Pacific Palisades Historical Society:

Donna Vaccarino, President

Randy Young, VP and Curator

Bill Bruns, Board member

Patrick Healy, Secretary

The meeting via Google Meet began at 4:04pm with Kim inviting introductions. Vaccarino introduced herself, Young, Bruns, and Healy, and proceeded with opening remarks. She noted that core to the Historical Society's mission is advocating for preservation of heritage and culture.

She expressed disappointment that Steadfast LA and LA Strong Sports had not sought input from the Historical Society prior to the decision to exclude the original Pacific Palisades Recreation Center building in redesigning the wildfire-damaged park property. Geller noted he had responded to an outreach from the Historical Society and met with Vaccarino and Young to discuss their concerns.

Vaccarino asked Kim to describe his vision for the Palisades Recreation Center. Before answering, Kim called on the other attendees to introduce themselves. Freeman noted his personal ties to the Palisades, including his involvement for many years in the Fourth of July parade and coaching youth sports at the Palisades Recreation Center. He said he is passionate about doing "something great for the community."

Kim then described a holistic approach of insuring high quality recreation programs for all age groups, including adults and seniors. He said this is consistent with all Recreation and Park facilities. Regarding the impact of the wildfire on the Palisades Recreation Center, Kim said his department is working closely with Steadfast LA "to bring the park back...From that perspective, our goal is to bring back normalcy."

Technical challenges caused a delay of several minutes before the next scheduled event, a presentation by Vaccarino on the history of the Palisades Recreation Center, illustrated with historic photographs and clippings, dating to its post World War II origins. The meeting was transferred to Zoom, but then there was a low audio problem. Young took over presenting most of the narration, with comments by Vaccarino that were difficult for the attendees to hear. The presentation highlighted the original vision for the Recreation Center as not only a sports gymnasium, but also a "community clubhouse" with a stage. In addition to youth sports, it has hosted a variety of adult events, from meetings to dances and pageants. Vaccarino noted the distinctive clerestory windows are an architectural signature of the building, and offered her opinion as a licensed architect that the building has historic value. In the same era, the City of LA also built four similar gyms designed by architects Bennett & Bennett. The one in Pacoima has since been remodeled.

## Page 2, Palisades Rec Center Meeting, October 30, 2025

Whether or not the proposed larger, modern gymnasium is built on the Recreation and Parks property in Pacific Palisades, Vaccarino and Young contended the original Palisades Recreation Center building should not be razed, but instead considered for adaptive re-use. It survived the January 7th wildfire with minimal damage, and was quickly put to use by the LA DWP, and since then has served as a meeting site. Vaccarino and Young asserted it should continue to serve as a “central gathering space,” as it did for the October 7th Advisory Board meeting.

Young also voiced concern about how the redesign process is moving forward, and said the Historical Society worries that certain design features of the park renewal are being “locked into place” before facing a public hearing. Young said the Historical Society wants the opportunity to make its presentation to the community and to the city.

Kim thanked Young and Vaccarino for their comments, and suggested a presentation to the community could be made through the Park Advisory Board “or other means.” Kim said requesting a presentation to the Recreation and Parks Commission is “more complicated.” but could be achieved by speaking to the Commission during public comment and requesting a full hearing, or by making the request via email to [rap.commissioner@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioner@lacity.org) and asking for the item to be agendaized.

Young responded that PPHS has reason to worry the Park Advisory Board may not offer a fair forum, given the position it took during its October 7th meeting, and the strong opinions expressed then by the Advisory Board Chairman.

Kim also suggested that the Historical Society can speak further to Steadfast LA.

Kim confirmed that the Historical Society is aware of the process for seeking to nominate a site as a Historic-Cultural Monument, and noted that this process operates outside the Recreation and Parks Department.

Healy stated a three-part summation of the Historical Society’s position:

First: in the Historical Society’s assessment, the recreation center redesign plans made public do not appear to provide adequate and appropriate space for community uses, other than sports, that the Palisades Rec Center historically has provided.

Second: the existing original Recreation Center building already offers that community space, and also has historical value, and therefore should be considered for adaptive re-use for community needs beyond sports. It should not be razed. The Historical Society does NOT oppose construction of a separate, modern sports gymnasium.

Third: these factors need to be considered by the City of Los Angeles and its partners before proceeding with the renewal of the Palisades park property. Now is the time for this consideration, so as not to delay a renewal that meets the needs of a community currently without its park.

Kim said he appreciates the historical context, reiterated his goal of providing programming for all ages, and pledged his openness to listening.

The meeting ended at approximately 4:45pm.

Submitted by  
Patrick Healy  
PPHS Secretary  
10-31-25

# Public Statement to the Los Angeles City Board of Commissioners for Recreation and Parks

Good morning Commissioners,

My name is Kari Weaver, and I have been a proud resident and taxpayer of Los Angeles for the past 26 years. I've raised my family here, worked here, and volunteered within our city's school system. Earlier this year, I experienced the loss of my home in the Pacific Palisades fire — a reminder of how closely our lives are tied to the health of our environment.

Today, I want to address an issue of growing concern to me and many residents: the increasing use of **artificial turf** in our city's public parks and recreational spaces. As a mother of three children who have grown up playing in our community parks, I believe strongly that **we must preserve and expand natural grass areas** — not replace them with artificial materials.

specifically  
the  
discussion  
for AT  
in Palis.  
Rec  
Park  
Playing  
Field

Natural grass plays an essential role in our ecosystem. Like trees and other plants, it removes carbon dioxide from the air and releases oxygen, helping improve the air we breathe. Healthy grass also acts as a natural filter — capturing dust, cooling the surrounding area, and nourishing the soil beneath it. It prevents land erosion and supports biodiversity in ways that artificial turf simply cannot.

There is a misconception that natural grass cannot be water-wise. In fact, when properly maintained, grass can be an efficient and sustainable choice. Facilities such as BMO Stadium — home to LAFC and Angel City FC — maintain lush, natural turf through professional care and best practices. With proper protocols and trained groundskeepers, our city fields can thrive in a responsible, water-conscious way. This also opens **career and educational opportunities** for those interested in sports turf management — a growing and valuable profession.

Perhaps most importantly, natural grass contributes to the **emotional and physical health** of our community. Research shows that exposure to living landscapes — walking barefoot on grass, smelling the earth, seeing green — has measurable benefits for mental health. It reduces stress, promotes happiness, and enhances our overall sense of well-being. Our children deserve to play on real grass — to feel connected to nature in a city already filled with so much concrete.

## In Closing

Our parks are sacred spaces — they are where families gather, children grow, and communities connect. I urge the Board to protect these natural environments and to prioritize **living landscapes** over synthetic surfaces. Natural grass supports not only our air, soil, and water — but also the health and happiness of every Angeleno who steps into a park.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our city's future. I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective and will leave some handouts with additional information for your review.



# Smarter, Safer, and More Sustainable Fields

## Evidence-Based Facts from the “Smarter Natural Grass” Webinar

*Hosted by Resilient Palisades – November 3, 2025*

**Purpose:** To share science-based information about the health, environmental, and economic impacts of synthetic turf — and the proven, sustainable alternatives that protect our kids, our community, and our coastline.

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### HEALTH & SAFETY

**Speaker:** *Amy Griffin, U.S. Deaf Women’s National Team*

- **No safety studies:** Despite decades of use, no independent epidemiological study has proven artificial turf is safe for children or athletes.
  - **Injury risk:** Higher rates of concussions, heat illness, and “turf burns,” which can become infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria (including MRSA).
  - **Cancer connections:** Hundreds of documented cases of blood cancers among young soccer players—especially goalkeepers—who have long, close contact with synthetic turf infill made from ground-up tires containing carcinogens and PFAS “forever chemicals.” (Note: Though crumb rubber is not being used in some new artificial turf options, crumb rubber does not account for all the chemical exposers. The blades of artificial turf are comprised of polyethylene and polypropylene, which are made from petroleum and natural gas.)
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### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

**Speaker:** *Dianne Woelke, Safe Healthy Playing Fields*

- **Microplastics:** Each field sheds 2,000–3,000 lbs. of plastic blades every year, contributing up to 25% of near-surface microplastics in waterways.
- **Toxins:** Synthetic turf releases heavy metals, and other hazardous chemicals that contaminate soil, air, and water.
- **Heat islands:** Turf can reach 160–200°F, emitting methane, CO<sub>2</sub>, and ethylene gases that accelerate climate change and create burn hazards.
- **Non-recyclable waste:** Old fields are piling up in landfills and illegal dumps across California. Most are ultimately burned or abandoned, releasing toxic fumes.
- **Wildfire & runoff risk:** Turf increases heat, by creating a ‘heat island effect’, runoff, and impervious surface area — all worsening local fire and landslide threats.

along with the use of bridge fertilizers, significantly improved soil biology, resulting in healthier turf and reduced input requirements over time.

- **Comparable maintenance:** Organic management costs roughly **\$0.48–\$0.55 per square foot**, similar to or less than the current Palisades budget.
  - **Long-term savings:** Artificial turf must be replaced every 8–10 years, costing **up to 10× more** to install and remove than natural grass.
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## SMARTER SOD & NATIVE SOLUTIONS

**Speaker:** *Robert Sjoquist, Soil Solutions*

- **Native and drought-tolerant sods:** California-developed hybrids use **50–80% less water** and thrive under local sun and soil conditions.
  - **Ecosystem benefits:** Natural grass absorbs water, cools the air, supports soil biology, and reduces runoff into Potrero Canyon and the Pacific Ocean.
  - **Human health:** The “smell of cut grass” releases natural plant compounds that calm and connect us to our environment—something no plastic field can replicate.
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## CONCLUSIONS

- Synthetic turf is a **toxic, heat-emitting, microplastic-shedding, non-recyclable petrochemical product** that threatens both human and environmental health.
  - **Organically managed natural grass** provides safe, cost-effective, and sustainable playfields—cooler for kids, cleaner for the ocean, and better for public health.
  - Across the U.S. and Europe, cities and sports organizations are moving toward **PFAS-free, regenerative, soil-based solutions**.
  - There are sports fields in Los Angeles and other If Scottsdale, Arizona and professional teams like the San Francisco Giants can do it, **so can Pacific Palisades**.
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## Learn More

- Resilient Palisades
  - Safe Healthy Playing Fields
  - Beyond Pesticides
  - LA Waterkeeper
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Our first topic is health and safety. I'd like to welcome Amy Griffin, a former U.S. Women's National Team player and longtime coach who has raised awareness about potential health risks of synthetic turf since 2009.

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## **Health & Safety — Amy Griffin (U.S. Deaf Women's National Team)**

I coached the same demographic of athletes on the same fields for 24 years. For the first 16 years, I didn't personally know any young players with cancer. Then two goalkeepers I coached developed lymphoma. Goalkeepers, in training, hit the ground face-first dozens of times per session, getting black rubber infill ("the dots") in their eyes, mouths, and open scrapes.

Trying to reassure them, I went to colleagues at the University of Washington. What I learned was alarming: the infill comes from ground-up tires that contain carcinogens and other toxic chemicals. Tires are regulated as hazardous waste—yet here they are on children's fields.

I began keeping a list of players with cancer that I personally knew. That list—now nearing 300—has made national and international news. Roughly 59–61% of the soccer players on the list are goalkeepers. Most cancers are blood-related, and the average age at diagnosis is 12–22, far younger than typical. There's even a 14-year-old with lung cancer.

Despite the scale of synthetic turf deployment, there's no epidemiological study proving it's safe. Meanwhile, we see mounting red flags: fields aging and shedding, stockpiles of rolled-up turf near waterways, and documented harm to salmon from tire-related chemicals. When the data matches the lived experience of families and athletes, we need to take it seriously.

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## **Environmental & Public Health Impacts — Dianne Woelke (Safe Healthy Playing Fields)**

Safe Healthy Playing Fields supports banning synthetic turf and replacing it with nature-based solutions—specifically drought-tolerant hybrid Bermudagrasses managed regeneratively with organic practices and zero-emission equipment.

Key points:

groundwater; most drinking water systems do not currently remove PFAS and similar emerging contaminants without very costly treatment.

**Water-savings fallacy:** Artificial fields require regular hosing and cooling with potable water during heat events. Over time, subgrade compaction further reduces infiltration—more runoff, more pollution, and more wasted potable water. By contrast, organically managed natural grass filters and retains water, reducing flooding and improving water quality.

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## Sustainable Field Management — Rika Gopinath (Beyond Pesticides)

We help cities and universities transition to natural grass athletic fields without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers, using a systems approach focused on soil biology.

### Key practices & lessons:

- **Use reality, not marketing:** Artificial turf's "24/7 use, no maintenance" claims don't match field closures for heat and the need for regular cleaning/disinfection. Impact safety testing is essential; many artificial fields become too hard within 3–4 years.
- **Construction + maintenance:** Performance depends on smart field construction (drainage, soil profile) and a maintenance paradigm shift—zero synthetic inputs, feed the soil, grow dense, deep-rooted turf.
- **Results:** Organically managed fields increasingly show **25–35% less water use** and **~25% lower long-term maintenance costs**. Carrying capacity (hours of play) improves over time as soil health builds.
- **Case studies:** From Massachusetts to Colorado, natural grass complexes are meeting or exceeding play demands—often serving multiple schools and tournaments—without replacing sod.
- **Cost comparison:** A 2025 *Sustainability* study comparing three options (replace artificial turf; natural grass with conventional inputs; natural grass organic) found organically managed natural grass had the **lowest cumulative cost** and best environmental profile.

Professional teams are adopting soil-biology methods (e.g., at Oracle Park and MLS venues). This approach scales to municipal budgets and benefits the broader community by reducing heat, runoff, and chemical exposure.

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## Cost, Operations & Soil Health — Jeff Beardsley (Beardsley Consulting)

- **Policy gap:** Unlike parking lots, artificial fields typically lack surrounding biofiltration requirements despite known runoff contaminants.

Conclusion: Select site-appropriate drought-tolerant sods, build the field correctly, and manage organically. This delivers safer play, lower long-term costs, better water outcomes, and tangible public-health benefits.

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## Closing

Natural grass—built right and managed organically—offers a safer, cooler, and more sustainable path for community playfields than synthetic turf. The evidence across health, environment, water, cost, and performance strongly supports choosing soil-based solutions for Pacific Palisades.



an\_petition\_transaction\_report\_preserve-the-dream-keep-our-park-naturally-green\_2025-11-04-22-49

Last name	First name	Zip code	Comments
	shiloh	90024	
Abbott-Wicker	Danett	92865	
Abdel-Jelil	Anissa	90034	Artificial turf is not a climate solution. Let's invest in living green spaces that cool our city and protect our health.
Abdel-Jelil	Anissa	90034	
Alexander	Tracey	90272	
ALLEN	WARREN	90405	
Allnatt	Kelly	90272	
Alper	Michele	90272	
Alyn	Kristen	90272	
Amos	Devyn	90272	
Amos	Christine	90272	No plastic turf!! Horrible idea. Keep our parks and our planet clean and green
Andersen	Beth	90272	Artificial turf is bad for the eco system, bad for the children and burns in a fire. My real grass did not burn, but everything else I owned burned to the ground except an old Magnolia tree.
Antoniuk	Mercedes	90025	
Appelbaum-Sch	Brigitte	90272	
Aranha	Kate	90272	No on plastics!
Arblaster	Gavin	90290	
Attar	Darya	90272	
Auerbach	Beverley	90272	Let the kids play on grass, naturally cool and good for the environment.
August	Jane	90290	
Baak	Tricia	90272	
badt	polly	90402	Artificial turf is too hot and dangerous for children to be playing on!
Baginski	Michael	92702	
Baines	Helen	90403	Why would you force taxpayers to cover the cost of toxic, leaching artificial grass into our beautiful environment? Would you advocate for 10,000 dyed green plastic bags on the field? That is what you are proposing. It kills the environment below it, leaches chemicals into the soil, air and water, and it gets so hot it heats the environment and has to be hosed down to clean it and cool it off. Haven't we had enough environmental disasters? What a hideous idea.
Ballardo	Porfirio	90403	
baron	diana	90272	Terrible for our kids, our environment and the former Field of Dreams. Please don't do this.
Baserga	Fernanda	90272	"I support natural grass that's drought-tolerant, safe, and sustainable for our community."
Bassett	Caroline	90045	
Bassett	Mitch	90272	
Baum	Tracy	90272	
Baxter	Jo	90402	
Bazan	Belinda	90272	
Becker	Julie	90403	
Beegun	Norm	90094	On top of all the other issues, we face in the Palisades with a government that doesn't want to test our soil or our environment, the last thing we need is artificial turf with all the problems it will bring. I cannot understand why government at all levels is doing nothing for our community. Doesn't seem to care about our safety or the safety of our kids or grandkids. We need transparency and answers as to why this is being done.
Bell	Bernice	90272	
Belt	Valerie	90272	
Berger-Davis	Tracey	91016	Less plants means a less healthy environment! We have enough plastic around us without putting it in on our open spaces. All of us living creatures need a natural environment, its so important.
Berggreen	Amy	91411	No to artificial turf.

Capp	Kelly	90403	
Carpinone	Diana	3820	
Cassaro	Nancy	90290	
Cassidy	Maureen	90272	Not healthy for small feet and bodies. Please reconsider.
Caster	Jacqueline	90272	
Ceccon	Dorothy	90272	Grass and trees are the most important part of a park. Please replace artificial turf
Ceccon	Dorothy	90272	Please use grass for our kids!
Chamberlain	A I	90402	
Chase	Kim	90024	
Chase	Kim	90024	
Christian	Sarah	90272	
Chudacoff	Greg	90272	
Citron	Lisa	90402	
Clavin	Jeanette	90049	
Clemens	John	90290	We don't need a toxic and flammable material covering the play fields.
Cohen	Jerry	90272	
Conroy	Roberta	90402	Please don't add more plastics to our environment. Artificial turf has seen it's day! Not for the Palisades.
Conte	Anne	90272	
Conte	Anne	90272	
Conte	Anne	90272	
contis	Denise	90272	
Contr	Anne	90272	
Cooper	Jim	90272	
Corral	Jordan	90272	After everything we've been through, we shouldn't have to fight new sources of toxins. Our community deserves better! this is no time to cut corners or choose convenience over health.
Costin	Anne	90272	My understanding is that artificial grass is very toxic when it burns.
Cotter	Carole	90272	We've had enough landscape altering devastation from January 7th - please keep something the same from before!!!
Cotter	Elaine	90272	
Covey	Nancy	90293	
Craft	Lindsey	90272	
Craig	Ryan	90272	
Crane	Tricia	90403	Parents for Healthy Playing Fields
Crawford	Karen	90272	
Crystal	Janice	90272	
Crystal	Janice	90272	
Crystal	Janice	90272	
Crystal	Michelle	90272	
Csiszar	Theresa	91316	
Cummings	James	92263	Artificial turf is toxic, it melts, its contaminates people, soil & all sentiment creatures. We do not need or want synthetic substances in our parks & recreation areas. It goes against the whole concept of a park. Natural beauty comes from living flora & fauna, not repurposed petroleum products. Temporarily located out of area as our 90272 property is uninhabitable in part from electronic gear & substances vaporized on January 7.
Curland	Louise	90272	Please keep it real and natural! We won't play on fake turf because of the microplastics and toxins :( with zone zero, and now this we are losing so much nature...
Czerniewski	Lily	90272	
Czerniewski	Audrey	90272	
Dahlberg	Steve	90272	
Dahlberg	Stephanie	90272	

farkas	tanya	90290	NO toxic artificial turf !! Green grass can help to regulate temperatures !!  We strongly oppose the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf and urge the city to instead use modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. We also urge the LA Department of
Feld	Kate	90272	
Feldman	Becky	90272	I support natural environments to help our community thrive! We will need all the support we can get from nature after this disaster. Please do not add to the multitude of problems our environment is facing by adding turf to any of our public spaces. Thank you!
Feldon	Mira	90403	
Fell	Allison	90004	Though we do not live in the Palisades area, my daughter does attend school there
Fell	Allison	90004	Though we do not live in the Palisades area, my daughter does attend school there
ferguson	grace	90035	
Fern	Danielle	90272	
Fetter	Margaret	90272	
Filler	Wyatt	90405	
Finger	Stefanie	90069	
Finnerman	Carla	90403	
Fishkin	Erica	90272	
Fitzgerald	Susan	90272	
Flaherty	Isabelle	90272	Thank you for presenting this petition. I remember the painful "turf burns" my kids' teams would get if they took a fall on a turf soccer field. And the particles that come from the breakdown of the turf. Please stick with real grass
Flynn	Rowan	90272	
Foley	Jennifer	90020	I grew up in Pacific Palisades. Please keep it green. No more chemicals.
Foley	Michael	90020	
Ford	Chelsea	90272	We need real grass!!!
Ford	Rich	90272	No fake grass!
Fox	Laurel	94027	We recently visited our former street that was ravaged by the Palisades fire. Amidst the healing ocean breeze, we were overwhelmed by the noxious smell from the plastic playground recently installed at the Palisades Recreation Center. This is a travesty! Please please please after all this community has endured, replace this plastic with natural materials and stop all efforts to use artificial, potentially toxic materials in play areas. Thank you so much!
Fox	Douglas	90025	
Francis	JOyce	90272	No plastic grass at Palisades Park !
Friedman	Janelle	90272	Please.
Friedman	Carol	90272	
Friedman Frank	Aurelia	90272	
Frisch	Randi	90292	
Fry	Patricia	90272	
Fuhrman	Susan	90272	
Funke	Emily	90272	What a bad idea!!!!  REAL green grass is the only grass we want in our park. Fake grass is unhealthy , fades and looks bad and
Gangi	Carolyn	90405	
garcia-toledo	Aida	90272	plastic turf contains: pfas, antimicrobias, gives off microplastics and , depending on the infill, much more
Gardner	Maureen	90292	
Garff	Wendy	90272	
garland	leah	90049	
Garrett	Regena	90292	Exercise on natural turf is far superior to plastic underfoot!
Gedgaudas	Rasa	90272	
Gibbons	Sarah	90272-431	Our kids deserve real grass. Not toxic plastic fields that burn feet and pollute our ocean

Gurlo	Tatyana	90403	
Gurvis	Laurie	90272	
Gutierrez	Barbara	90405	
Hacker	Maurine	90403	
Hall	Lesly	90272	We don't need to add anymore toxic chemicals to this area. Please keep it this area natural and safer for children and families.
Hall	Greer	94501	
Hall	Kaylin	90272	
Handler	Eric	90272	Do not poison the park.
Harelik	Justin	90049	
Harr	Mary-Kathe	90272	
Harrigan	Molly	92211	Keep it green!!
Harris	Lyuba	90265	Plastic also disintegrates with time:, leaking out harmful substances.
Hartnett	Dayle	90094	
Hathaway	Dalena	90272	NO ARTIFICIAL TURF
Hawken	Brittan	90272	
Hayes	Susan	90272	
Hazi	Nora	90272-264	After seeing the ecological damage artificial turf made during the Palisades fires, I can't believe the LA Department of Recreation and Parks is installing artificial turm at the Pacific Palisades Rec Center. This is unconscionable.
Heisler	Eileen	90272	
Heisler	Eileen	90272	
Hieronymus	Vicki	90272-451	Mother nature knew what she was doing. Whole Biosystems depend on natural grass and Wild flowers: Bugs, worms, microorganisms, birds, butterflies, and bees among many, many Other forms of life.
Higgins	Nicole	90272	
Hinton	Susan	95050	Besides reasons highlighted above, burning plastic results in lasting poisonous particulates & gases. Though no one knows if there will ever be urban fire on the scale of this year's earlier set, it's possible to prevent off-gassing of devastating poisons by growing drought tolerant grasses in place of acres of plastic. Then, should there be another fire, you would look like a genius.
Ho	Kerry	90290	Please make sure to keep this a green space. Plastic grass is so bad for the microorganisms in the soil and the trees around the area and the heat radiates from the plastic.  Pediatricians don't like that plastic particles that get into cuts and scrapes when kids fall and crash into this plastic like on artificial turf soccer fields.
Hobson	Courtney	90272	
Holiday	Chase	90272	
Holt	Lorraine	90272	
Hope	Jennifer	90272	
Hopkins	Milly	90272	
hopkins	karen	90272-382	PLS - the more green that is real the better. How can you install without community permission?
Howard	David	90272	
Hudson	Suzanne	90272	

Hume	Suzanne	<p>92054 <a href="http://CleanEarth4Kids.org">CleanEarth4Kids.org</a> asks you to reject all uses of synthetic turf/artificial grass.</p> <p>Doctors, nurses, health professionals, children's health organizations, public health organizations, researchers, and the public are deeply concerned with the toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, heavy metals like lead and cadmium, benzene, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates, styrene, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are found in the plastic blades, backing, underlayment pads and in some plant based infills added to keep the blades upright.,</p> <p>Synthetic Turf/Artificial Grass is PLASTIC</p> <p>Synthetic turf/artificial grass is made of mixed plastics, such as polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, and more.</p> <p>Over 16,000 chemicals are used in plastics, with at least 4,200 (26%) being chemicals that are highly hazardous to human health and the environment, yet only 980 have been regulated anywhere around the world. All major plastic types tested leached hazardous chemicals, including food packaging, which alone can contain over 400 chemicals of concern. Additionally, there is little to no hazard information available for over 10,000 of these chemicals.</p> <p>Chemicals commonly found in plastics, like PFAS and phthalates, can impair reproduction, growth, and cognition. Children are the most vulnerable due to developmental windows, more rapid metabolism, respiratory rates, cardiac output, and greater caloric intake per pound. Chemicals in plastics have been linked to childhood obesity, hyperactivity, ADHD, low IQ, and asthma.</p> <p>Unborn children are especially vulnerable to toxic exposures from plastics in utero, which can "increase risks of prematurity, stillbirth, birth defects in the reproductive organs, neurodevelopmental impairment, impaired lung growth, and childhood cancer."</p> <p>There are many highly toxic chemicals found in synthetic turf, with phthalates and PFAS being some of the most studied.</p> <p>Dangers of Phthalates</p> <p>Phthalates are typically added to most plastics to make them pliable and are commonly found in plastic grass., Phthalates are known to disrupt the endocrine system and be neurotoxic. Men with higher phthalate levels have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. In midlife and postmenopause, women, phthalates can lead to increased body fat, a higher BMI, and increased waist circumference. Phthalates can also cause increased rates of hot flashes.</p> <p>Phthalates are linked to birth defects, infertility, miscarriages, as well as other neurological issues during child development, and can harm the endocrine system.,</p> <p>Women exposed to phthalates during pregnancy are at greater risk of preterm delivery. Human studies have determined that in-utero phthalate exposure can cause later development of type II diabetes, insulin resistance, obesity, asthma, and higher systolic blood pressure. Female offspring are more likely to experience reproductive problems, including pregnancy loss, low birth weight infants, preterm birth, and earlier menopause. Other human studies have linked phthalates to impaired motor skills in children and delayed language development. In male adults, a reduction in sperm quality and quantity has also been observed.</p> <p>PFAS in Synthetic Turf/Artificial Grass</p> <p>PFAS are used to aid the extrusion of plastic yarns for the "grass" blades.</p> <p>Every plastic grass field tested has been found to contain toxic PFAS, with industry stating plastic grass can not be made without PFAS.</p> <p>Turf companies claiming their product is PFAS-free are intentionally misrepresenting their data.</p> <p>There is no safe level of PFAS!</p> <p>PFAS can be absorbed into the body from skin contact with synthetic turf/artificial grass.</p> <p>PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) are a class of almost 15,000 synthetic (man-made) chemicals found in many products like artificial grass/synthetic turf, food packaging, waterproofing sprays, household cleaners, stain-resistant carpet, nonstick cookware, fire fighting foam, clothing, makeup, toilet paper, personal care products, textiles, children's products and much more.,</p> <p>PFAS as a class share many characteristics and toxicities.</p> <p>According to the CDC, EPA, and the European Union Environment Agency, PFAS are linked to low birth weight, thyroid disease, increased cholesterol, liver damage, kidney cancer, and testicular cancer. They are also linked to liver cancer, diabetes, endocrine disruption, and other serious health problems.</p> <p>PFAS bioaccumulate in our bodies, making the risk of cancers and other health problems more likely as we get older.</p> <p>Plastic Is Pollution, Harming the Environment and Our Health</p>
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KOUADIO	Cyriaque	90272	
Kovac	Michael	90272	
Kraft	Arik	90049	
Krikheli	Jerry	90272	We want natural grass on the field!
Krol	Paige	21219	
Kulla-Mader	Shayda	90402	
Kurstin	Catherine	90291	Please keep the Palisades Park naturally green with no astroturf.
Kurtz	Austin	90292	Austin Kurtz
Kuyt	Ilana	90272	
Kyle	Erin	90272	Please keep the regular grass!
Laguna	Christine	90272	Please keep our field green. No plastic.
Lakin	Jess	90272	Heal the land through nature!!
Lando	Kirsten	90272	Honestly, stop f-ing things up. Leave the field of dreams the way it was before the fire, real grass. You took away the sand on the playground, don't ruin this.
Langley	Jane	90272	
Leahy	Janet	90069	
LeBenger	Kelly	90292	
Leichter	Rhoda	90272	
Lempert	Robert	90272	
Lennard	Lisa	90272	
Leshner	Hana	90403	
Leva	Harriet	90094	We lost our house after 50+ years but Palisades remains our home. We have wonderful memories of our son playing on that field. It should not contaminate with more toxic plastics that endanger the health of our kids and anyone enjoying the Field of Dreams.
Levi	Nicole	90049	
Levin	Hope	90272	
Levine	Loren	90291	
Levine	Lorraine	90272	No to artificial grass.
Levitt	Alana	90272	
Levitt	Ellen	90272	Plastic is highly flammable and toxic...
Levy	Hayley	90272	Please do not use artificial turf
Levy	Doug	90272	Please use real grass and not artificial turf. We've already lost so much greenery in the Palisades and artificial turf creates hot islands.
Liss	Mele	90272	
londono	clara	90405	Please do not cover the ground with astroturf. We do not want our children playing directly on synthetic materials.
Long	Jessica	28560	
Loomis	Cindy	90403	
Loughran	Emily	90049	Artificial turf gets hot!!! It is also very slippery and responsible for injuries. I know—my daughter sustained a complex fracture and life long serious issues due to a simple slip and fall on artificial turf!!
Lovett	Nancy	90049	
Low	Joanne	90272	Please no artificial turf in our parks!!
Lueras	Michael	91311-2864	"Earthly life is not The True Life." (Quran 29:64)
Lukasiak	Matthew	90066	Artificial grass causes more injuries and skin abrasions to athletes. This is bad for our kids. After everything that was taken from us after the fires, please don't take away our natural grass.
Lushing	Brian	90272	
Lynch	Susan	90272	
Lynch	Susan	90272	Artificial turf is not appropriate in our parks!

Meis	Brandie	90272	
Meis	Brandie	90272	
Mestres	Tracy	90272	
			if it isn't broken, don't fix it! Plesse stop overthinking, keep it simple and just the way it was!!!! Never a
Metzner	Margot	90272	NO to artificial turf! Let our land breathe with real grass! Better for everyone!
Michels	Kathleen	20902	Please keep all our parks cool and naturally green! No hot I, toxic fake plastic or waste tire rubber !
milgrom	philippe	90272	
Miller	Howie	90036	
Miller	Lindsay	90036	
Miller	Lori	90049	Los Angeles needs to show environmental leadership and stewardship. Making children play sports on a plastic playing field flies in the face of environmental, health, and quality of life concerns.
Miller	Cynthia	90066	
Miller	Charles	90034	
Milne	Hamish	90272	
Milton	Meredith	90272	
Minassian	Johanna	90049	When we lost Palisades Rec Center Park, our lacrosse team lost a field. Will Rogers was also lost. That option was gone. Neither of those parks had turf. Our community opposes turf for parks. It takes the city years to address the sprinkler systems at parks. I imagine ripped-up turf will never be addressed.
			What would serve out community is a Sports Complex upgrades. Upgrading a park into a sports complex involves construction and renovation projects, including new facilities like gyms and pools, upgraded existing sports fields, and enhanced amenities such as lighting, parking, and accessibility. Specific examples include the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex in Los Angeles, which is building new indoor facilities, and El Dorado Park in Long Beach, which is renovating its sports fields.
Mindel	Nancy	90272	Artificial turf becomes too hot and isn't a good, safe surface to play on
Moadeb	Alisa	90272	
Mollica	Anna	90066	
monteagle	jane	90405	
Moore	Jordan	90049	
morovati	Sheila	90272	
Morra	Paris	90024	
Morrison	Allison	90272	
Mourad	Bessma	90272	
Moussavi	Sarah	90272	
Moyer	Evelyn	90272	
Muldaur	Tracey	90403	
Munro	Nanette	90272	Residents should have a say about the turf at Pali Rec center.
Murray	Tracey	90272	
Nacif	Vannessa	91423	
Nadler	Mary	90272-384	Artificial turf is not healthy for kids - please reconsider.
Naim	Holly	90272	No fake grass - we want natural
Nakamura	Angel	90272	
Narysheva	Svetiana	90403	
Nassour	Tripp	90272	
Nathan	Tessa	90036	Adding toxic plastic to the already compromised land would be a disgrace
Nelson	Meredith	90272	
Newburn	Nathan	90036	
Nichols	Rachel	90265	

rodman	simone	90272	Please don't use astroturf at our rec center. It's very unhealthy for people, pets and planet.
Rogers	Michael	90291	
Rokab	Sylvie	90405	Please please please, keep our communities natural and healthy!
Romero	Claudia	90272	Please keep it real.
Roostaeian	Jason	90272	
Rosen	Melissa	90049	
Rosenbaum	Sheryl	90272	
Rosenberg	Colette	90272	
Roum Tittle	Christine	90272	
Ruddy	Catherine	90272	
Ruddy	Catherine	90272	
Ruderman	Jeanne	90272	
Rudolph	Angie	90403	
s	steph	90272	
Sahi	Sonja	90272	
Saidiner	Cathy	90272	How dare you try to put in plastic grass! Shameful. Replace like for like.
Samulon	Danielle	90402	
Sands	Susan	90272	No fake turf for the Palisades
SANTINO	KRISTA	90272	Please no more offgassing turf.
Sasao	Ayu	90272	
Saxon	Reed	90272	
Schaefer	Shannon	33778	
Schaffer	Stephanie	90402	
Schiller	Abbie	90272	Natural grass looks, feels and IS better for everyone.
Schoolnik	Skip	90272	
Schrader	Lara	90272	Please no fake plastic grass at Pali Rec. Please stop changing the parts of the Pali Rec that don't need changing. We want to come home, whatever is left of it. We miss what we had & don't need to spend rebuild dollars on things that don't need to be changed. No to the fake grass.
Schwartz	John	90272	what an idiotic idea the plastic grass is a disaster for humans and our environment!!!
Scruton	Jan	90045	The stuff is horrible. It holds all kinds of nasty bacteria from pet feces to staph. Do we really need to intentionally expose our kids to more toxins?
Serna-Rodarte	Valeria	90272	
Shafai	Lili	90272	Please don't bring plastic turf to our community and to our children's school. This material is a health hazard and should be banned rather than used in public and private facilities.  Thank you,
Shaffer	Tracy	91604	
Shahbazi	Arezou	90272	
Shannon	Steve	90266	Make it better, not worse.
Sharp	Sharon	90272	
Shipley	Nikki	90272	No astro turf in the Palisades! We need nature around us not more exposure to chemicals!
Short	Martin	90272	
Sigworth	Molly	90272	The Pali Rec Center is a focal point for our community, families and kids. Covering it with artificial turf seems like yet another hit when we are all down. There are many natural grass options that could be maintained economically and efficiently.
Silverman	Cathy	90272	
Silverman	Cathy	90272	
Simon	Lisa	90272	Not a good idea this is absolutely crazy after the fire to put plastic there we don't need more toxins for our children
Simpson	Jane	90272	
Sinaiko	Marcie	90272	

Thompson	Regina	66202	
Thompson	Andrea	90272	
thornhill	olivia	90272	
thornhill	olivia	90272	
Tomlinson	Katie	90049	Please keep the grass, for our children.
Treibatch	Eric	90272	no to turf. benefits of grass far outweighs any of turf. the off gassing of the turf fill is not good for the little ones.
Trent	Ramona	90272	Hot plastic doesn't belong anywhere
Tumen	Marion	90272	Please use natural turf.
Udall	Kristine	90049	This is not a good idea. You can't even walk on this stuff when it's hot. It needs to be replaced when it gets funky and worn and gets dumped into the land fill. Dumb idea!
Vaccarino	Donna	90272	Don't be fooled / plastic grass is not GRASS ... Bad for the soil even worse for kids!
Valensi	Gaby	90272	
Vallen	Tracy	90401	
van	Alex	91401	
Vanino	Ann	85719	
Vash	Barbara	90272	This is not the way to have a playground-use drought tolerant grasses
Vernescu	Raluca	90272	
Vogel	Rachel	90272	There are natural, drought-resistant ground coverages that will be much healthier and nicer.
von Goetz	Catherine	90272	The Palisades is and is known for it's beautifully filled nature. It is surprising to me that anyone in the community would want or agree to Plastic grass. Please, please do not put plastic grass on our children's playground.
von Szeliski	Victoria	90272	
Wald	Andrea	94087	As Co-Founder of Community for Natural Play Surfaces I strongly support and urge decision makers to choose natural surfaces over any plastics - NO artificial turf nor PIP please! Better for the environment and health of all.
Wallace	Kelly	90272	Keep the lawn grass and not artificial turf. Turf is made of plastic and our kids should not be playing on it.
Walters	Tara	90272	
Ward	Cole	90290	
Warren	Victoria	90272	Artificial turf is not a climate solution. Let's invest in living green spaces that cool our city and protect our health. The Palisades stands for resilience — not replacing nature with plastic!
Washburn	Victoria	90064	
waters	Richelle	90402	Please no Astro turf!!! Fake grass is awful and so bad for the environment and our kids! Thank you
Watkins	Michelle	90272	
Waxtein	Joan	90272	
Weaver	Kari	90272	Natural grass is so much better for our health and the health of our environment.
Weaver	Jack	90272	
Weinbach	Julie	90272	
Weinhouse	Lori	90403	Besides being aesthetically incredibly unappealing, the environmental risks of artificial turf are well documented. That this is even being considered is outrageous.
Weisblim	Jessica	90024	
Wessling	Judith	90049	Please! No more plastic playing fields. Our children deserve to play on grass!
Wexler	Marilyn	90402-1336	
Wharton-Ali	Firdosi	90272	
Whitaker	Christine	90272-3847	
White	Ivy	17340	Real grass for a real environment. Stop leaching chemicals into the ground at every opportunity!
White	Carole	90272	
White	Carole	90272	

**November 6, 2025**

**Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners**  
**cc: Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Los Angeles District 10**  
[rap.commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org)

**I'm writing regarding the new playground at the Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex. This new playground is an exciting development, as there are limited playground options in the area, and it is wonderful to see this addition to what has become a standout community asset. While many of us in the community are looking forward to the playground's opening, we have safety concerns about the location of the play structures that abut the road, given the fast-moving traffic and the pattern of car collisions into buildings along Obama Boulevard.**

**The current development appears to have a low perimeter fence around the playground. While this creates an inviting scene for the park, the reality is that this small barrier does not reflect the behavior of drivers or the traffic patterns along the boulevard.**



**Caption: Images of play structure at Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex playground construction site.**

**There are other parks in the area directly along high-traffic corridors, such as Leslie Shaw Park and Washington Irving Pocket Park. In both cases, there are protective safety measures that create a greater sense of security. Leslie Shaw Park has berms and plantings along the front perimeter that create a barrier to the street. The sidewalk itself is also wider than the sidewalk in front of the Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex, and the play structures are set farther into the park, with picnic tables positioned between the road and the play areas. Washington Irving Pocket Park has much taller fencing (which is not necessarily preferred) and a gate for entry and exit.**





**Caption: Leslie Shaw Park with wider sidewalk, decomposed granite, plants, cement barrier, and play structures set farther back into the park.**



**Caption: Washington Irving Pocket Park with tall fencing and closed gate for entry and exit.**

**While I understand there was a community engagement process, it seems that process took place several years ago. Since then, we've experienced a pandemic, an increase in young children living in the area, and a rise in traffic collisions estimated at 20–30% compared to pre-pandemic levels. As curiosity—and later concern—about the playground's location arose, I and other community members tried to locate the development plans but have been unable to find updated versions.**

The proposed project characteristics indicate that the intention was to plant hedges to create a physical barrier, preserve existing planters that served as a physical barrier to the road, and that the playground area would be set back from the sidewalk.

To ensure the safety of our children and community, I and other community members have several requests for the Department of Recreation and Parks to improve community engagement and promote safety at this new playground:

1. Publish online and at the site the current development plans for the park.
2. Provide channels for community input as updates to the site are made.
3. Relocate the large play structure adjacent to the sidewalk farther into the site.
4. Completely enclose the playground with fencing around the perimeter and entry/exit doors located away from the main sidewalk to prevent children from running toward the road. Increase the height of the fencing along the perimeter.
5. Add safety measures to protect from fast-moving traffic, which may include bollards, boulders, concrete planters, berms, and vegetation along the section of the playground close to the sidewalk.
6. Work with the council office, planning department, and traffic enforcement to implement and enforce traffic-calming measures, including the posting of "School Zone" and "Children at Play" signs and consistent speed limit enforcement.
7. Install bollards in the parking spaces in front of the playground to create an additional physical barrier.

We thank you for your efforts to expand parks and community spaces across Los Angeles, and for your partnership in addressing this matter of great importance to local residents.

Sincerely,

Angie Jean-Marie

