

Jericho Moulder

From: Anais Muller-Cohn <anaismc4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:38 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: To city council- item 19

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Council Members,

I oppose synthetic turf. It's harmful and toxic and, as a mother, I would not let me child play on plastic turf.

Also, it's terrible for the environment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Anais Muller-Cohn

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:22 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: Please vote against synthetic turf at El Corazon



Thomas Schmiderer
Assistant City Clerk
City of Oceanside

tschmiderer@oceansideca.org
+1 (760) 435-3004
300 N. Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054
www.oceansideca.org

From: Anne Ongyod <anne.ongyod@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 7:07 PM
To: City Council <council@oceansideca.org>
Subject: Please vote against synthetic turf at El Corazon

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Mayor and Oceanside Counsel Members,

Please do not install synthetic turf in El Corazon.

It is a toxic, microplastic material with many known negative health impacts including hormone disruption. It gets too hot for players, causing burns and dehydration and creates overly hot temps in our city. (We actually learned this from the city of Oceanside when we participated in the low water landscape project). Synthetic turf pollutes our soil, waterways and oceans with microplastics as well.

I have 2 young children and I would not allow them to play sports on a field with synthetic grass. The health and environmental impacts are that concerning to me.

Please make the healthy choice for our kids and environment and go with natural grass.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Anne Ongyod

Resident of 92056

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 4:38 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: Item # 19: NO plastic turf in El Corazon!



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From: Anne-Catherine Roch-Levecq <acrochlevecq@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 4:37 PM
To: City Council <council@oceansideca.org>
Cc: Barbara Collins <becollins92@gmail.com>; info@preservecalavera.org
Subject: Item # 19: NO plastic turf in El Corazon!

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Mayor Sanchez and Councilmembers of the City of Oceanside,

As a resident of Oceanside and a member of the Sierra Club and on behalf of Preserve Calavera, and like many other environmental organizations, I am writing to urge you to oppose plastic turf, forever chemicals and forever waste.

It is indeed shocking to see on the agenda the proposal of "installing synthetic turf at the Supul/El Corazon Park athletic fields to support their prioritized use as the permanent home fields for Oceanside Pop Warner Football and Thunder Rugby", while plastic turf is banned nationwide: As a matter of fact, the Los Angeles Unified School District recently banned plastic turf on their playing fields, joining the nationwide movement against plastic turf. <https://www.lausd.org/apps/news/article/2140971?categoryId=23516>

This is in direct conflict with the goals for the City of Oceanside stated in its Climate Action Plan, and in particular the goal to sustainability: Plastic turf is absolutely NOT sustainable! Plastic turf is a petroleum industry product that sheds microplastics and toxins, exacerbates the heat island effect, reaching temperatures of 160 - 180+ degrees F and retaining heat after sunset. Manufacturing of plastic grass

and underlayment pads result in the emissions of GHGs, particulate matter, VOC's and hazardous air pollutants. In use, plastic turf emits methane and other GHGs. At the end of life, plastic turf continues to off gas GHG for approximately 450 years. In contrast, natural grass, which would be removed as part of this project, sequesters carbon.

For this reason alone, and there are many other valid and scientifically supported reasons as put forward by other residents and members of environmental organizations, I strongly oppose the installation of plastic turf at El Corazon!

We at Oceanside must show better stewardship of our parks and playing fields. Natural turf that is well maintained is the only sustainable choice. Given the toxicity, microplastics, high temperatures and other environmental concerns surrounding the plastic alternative, the choice is clear. What we do need is a ban on installing any plastic grass on our playing fields and playgrounds. We need to stop exposing our kids and athletes to the dangers of plastic turf!

Thank you for your consideration,
Anne-Catherine Roch-Levecq
317 Diamante Way
Oceanside, CA 92056

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 11:45 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: Item #19



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From: beverly kanawi <bev.kanawi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 11:44 AM
To: City Council <council@oceansideca.org>
Subject: Item #19

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

I am writing to urge you to take a rational decision for the youth of San Diego County by rejecting a proposal to install plastic turf at El Corazon sports fields. Plastic turf is hot, unsustainable, detrimental to the environment, and wrong for Oceanside's commitment to the environment and the health of its citizens. Please read the letter from Barbara Collins of the Sierra Club, as she lays out all the myriad reasons why this is a terrible idea.

Bev Langlois Kanawi

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:24 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: No Plastic Turf in Oceanside's Playing Fields and Parks



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From: ramblin@cox.net <ramblin@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 6:02 PM
To: City Council <Council@oceansideca.org>
Subject: No Plastic Turf in Oceanside's Playing Fields and Parks

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Plastic Turf Is Poison !

Plastic turf is a petroleum industry product that sheds microplastics and toxins, exacerbates the heat island effect, reaching temperatures of 160 - 180+ degrees F and retaining heat. Manufacturing of plastic grass and underlayment pads result in the emissions of GHG's, particulate matter, VOC's and hazardous air pollutants. In use, plastic turf emits methane and other GHG's. At the end of life, plastic turf continues to off gas GHG's for approximately 450 years. In contrast, natural grass, which would be removed as part of this project, sequesters carbon.

Oceanside must show better stewardship of our parks and playing fields. Natural turf that is well maintained is the only sustainable choice. Given the toxicity, microplastics, high temperatures and other environmental concerns surrounding the plastic alternative, the choice is clear. What we do need is a ban on installing any plastic grass on our playing fields and playgrounds.

Thank you for allowing us to address this matter.

Kindest regards,...

Charlene Kerchevall
Oceanside Home Owner
760-967-7673 telephone
ramblin@cox.net email

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:22 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: Agenda Item #19: Plastic Turf for our city's parks and playgrounds



Thomas Schmiderer
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From: Chiwah Slater <awritetoknow@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 7:52 PM
To: City Council <Council@oceansideca.org>
Subject: Agenda Item #19: Plastic Turf for our city's parks and playgrounds

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Oceanside City Council,

I am writing to encourage you to ban plastic turf in Oceanside's parks and playing fields. Natural grass is much better for kids and adults playing sports than plastic turf, which can reach temperatures over 180 degrees in summer heat — temperatures high enough to cause a serious burn, especially to a child. Even brief contact can injure the skin. For a child who is crawling, sitting, falling, lying down, playing barefoot, or spending hours on the turf, the temperature of the actual playing surface matters considerably.

Furthermore, sliding on plastic turf (for example, sliding into home base in a baseball game) can embed nano particles of plastic turf into the skin. And it's toxic.

Though it's true that not all plastic turf is the same, and some are safer than others, it is also true that nearly all artificial turf contains plastic, a petroleum product whose manufacture results in the emissions of GHG's, particulate matter, VOC's and hazardous air pollutants. Even after removal at the end of its life, plastic turf continues to off gas GHG's for approximately 450 years.

Natural grass, on the other hand, sequesters carbon. Why dig it up and replace it with plastic? To save water? Yes, it saves water, though not as much as you might think, as it needs to be washed periodically.

I agree with the need to save water. So what about watering less and letting the grass slowly wilt away? Kids have played on sand and dirt lots for millennia! And when it comes to park areas that are not playing fields, the best solution is not artificial turf but rather drought-tolerant plants, trees, mulch, and a small area of living groundcover or low-water grass, all of which feeds the soil and keeps the carbon where it belongs: underground.

Oceanside needs to stand up for the safety of our children while making choices that favor the natural environment. Given the toxicity, microplastics, high temperatures and other environmental concerns surrounding the plastic alternative, the choice is clear. We need to ban on plastic grass on our playing fields and playgrounds and then we need to make wise choices that minimize water use.

Sincerely,
Chiwah Slater
Oceanside resident and Sierra Club volunteer

Jericho Moulder

From: Diana A <dra805@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 9:12 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Opposition to Agenda Item #19 26-127

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Hi, I'm a neighbor that lives in Carlsbad CA. As a certified CA naturalist - I request Oceanside city council to vote against turf surfaces.

My main reason is because there is evidence that turf harms the environment hence harming our communiites. In addition, the plastic run off caused by turfs to the ocean is concerning.

I know many soccer families want turf but in the long run it's not the best for our health and environment.

Natural grass is the way to go - just ask FIFA!

thanks, Diana Aguirre lover of Oceanside, Carlsbad resident, certified CA naturalist & Sierra club member

Environmental Impact: Synthetic turf is a petroleum-based product that breaks down into microplastics and nanoplastics, which pollute our oceans, waterways, and have been found in human organs and disrupt cell function.

- **Chemical Exposure:** The plastic blades contain harmful chemicals and toxins, including PFAS, phthalates, and flame retardants. Harmful bacteria can also attach to the blades, risking direct contact with children and leaching into local soil and water.

- **Heat Risk:** Unlike natural grass, synthetic turf absorbs heat. Surface temperatures can reach 140 to 180 degrees, significantly increasing ambient temperatures and risking severe burns.

- **Injury Rates:** High school sports see a higher incidence of injuries on synthetic turf compared to natural grass. Notably, NFL players prefer natural turf, and FIFA required natural grass for the World Cup.

References:

- ESPN: https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_id/49030490/fifa-world-cup-grass-nfl-stadiums-debate-field-surface

- Plastics and Your Health: calnursesforehj.org

- Sports Field Management: <https://www.sportsfieldmanagement.org/natural-grass-athletic-fields/>

- MDPI Case Study: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/17/14/6292>

- Safe Healthy Playing Fields: https://us01.z.antigena.com//5S2EqkOh9tI4TOOrVQdnbBuj2Xm_vpg-nlPkyiUuioUIQ4zgroSfBpSf8-

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Jericho Moulder

From: D Woelke <dmwoelke@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 11:38 AM
To: Esther Sanchez; Eric Joyce; Peter Weiss; Jimmy Figueroa; Rick Robinson
Cc: City Clerk; Jonathan Borrego
Subject: 19 Aug 2026, City Council meeting; item#19. FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD.
Attachments: Oside letter Aug 2026.pdf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Good morning, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council Members:

Please find attached our letter submitted in strong OPPOSITION to the above item.

City Manager Jonathan Borrego appointed Friends of El Corazon (FELC) to be the advisory body to El Corazon. In consultation with the City, FELC was assured there would be no synthetic turf in Supul Park.

Synthetic turf flies in the face of Oceanside's environmental accomplishments.

We would be willing to provide a complete in-service on this topic.

Respectfully,

Dianne Woelke MSN, Board Member
Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc.

<https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org>

SHPFI is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501-c-3



Letter accessible [HERE](#)

19 August, 2026
City Council Meeting, Item#19

OPPOSE

Mayor Sanchez, Deputy Mayor Joyce, and Council Members Weiss, Figueroa, and Robinson:

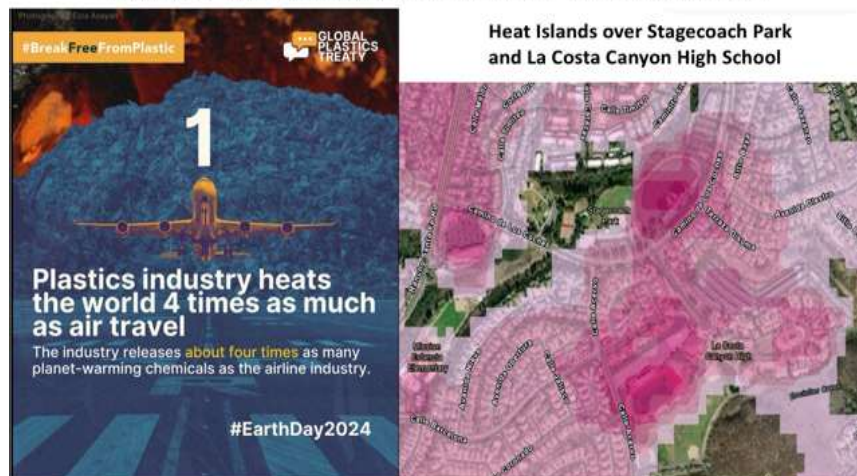
The item proposed by 2 council members is inconsistent with Oceanside's goals:

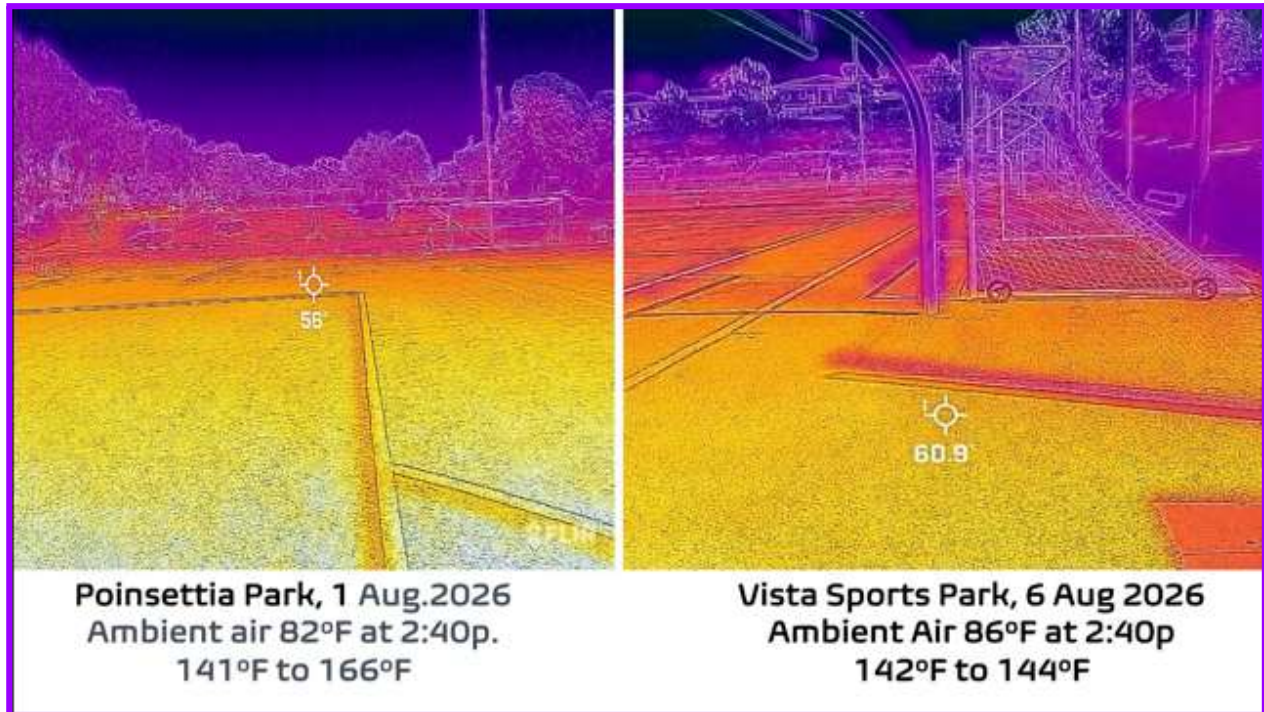
- Sustainability
- Climate Action Plan
- Blue City certification
- Marine pollution ordinance
- El Corazon Master Plan
- Zero Waste Plan
- Bag Ban
- Unanimously supported HR2862-Levin, a bill to ban new oil and natural gas leasing and drilling, which supports the plastic industry.

Synthetic turf does not meet any definition of sustainability. It exploits unrennewable natural resources, and is not recyclable. It is a petrochemical product.

Synthetic turf contributes to climate change by overheating the planet. It offgasses methane, ethylene, and CO₂, contributing 527 tons of CO₂e per 7800 square feet of plastic every 10 years...and continues for the predicted 1,000 years required to fully degrade. It creates massive heat islands, and contributes to the weather extremes associated with climate change. This year's super El Niño is predicted to be the strongest in the 80 year history of climate data.

Plastic Turf Creates Massive Heat Islands





Blue City certification does not square with the proposal to cover the earth in plastic in El Corazon...or anywhere in Oceanside. Synthetic turf is NOT consistent with an environmental focus, protection of waterways and the ocean. Synthetic turf loses 2k to 3k pounds of microplastic blades (newer products have 16 times more blades), 600 pounds of microplastics from the carpet backing, 1.5 to 5 tons of infill, and an untold amount of microplastics from the underlayment pad...PER YEAR. It also contributes 27,000 gallons of toxic leachate to our waterways for every acre of plastic for every inch of rain.

The El Corazon Master plan repeatedly calls for permeable surfacing. You have been previously informed that synthetic turf is considered an impervious, not a permeable surface by both the US EPA and the state. Additionally, the plan states:

“Grass should be focused on areas of the park that have foot traffic and are used for play surfaces. Otherwise, native and/or drought tolerant plants, and not turf grass, should be used to vegetate the site.”

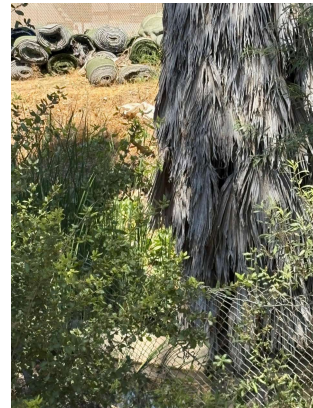
Synthetic turf systems are not recyclable. They do not meet Zero Waste goals. The plastic turf industry, consultants, landscape designers, and those who haul the tons of toxic plastic waste away from schools and parks all know this...they chose to greenwash you with their “wishcycling” schemes in their marketing tools. Their end game is profit...keep you, or more precisely the taxpayers, on the hook for high priced plastic carpet and materials with a life expectancy that often ranges 5+ years.

This is where San Marcos, Carlsbad, and even Pacific Palisades used fields have gone:



A complaint was filed in late February, and has been under HazMat investigation since then. You can purchase the used plastic carpet, and even bucket fulls of used tire crumb to contaminate your garden.

You may want to check with the former manager of Parks and Recreation as to why 3 used plastic turf fields in Escondido were never “recycled”, and left to contaminate the soil, creek, and air.



Synthetic turf is made from the same materials as plastic bags and straws. A regulation sized soccer field has the equivalent of 3.2 million plastic trash bags, or 42 million plastic straws. Shock pads under the plastic carpet are made from EPS, EPP, or XPE...all expanded or cross linked toxic, petrochemical polyethylene or polypropylene beads.

Your unanimous support of HR2862-Levin does not square with the use of petrochemical plastic turf. With the decreasing demand for oil and gas, plastics are plan B. Synthetic turf is the cash cow of the petrochemical plastic industries, valued at approximately \$7.31 billion to \$7.88 billion, and predicted to reach \$13 billion to \$16.5 billion over the next decade.

Synthetic turf is a major point source of plastic pollution. A regulation sized plastic field carpet weighs over 40k pounds. Newer versions have 16x more blades, and can weigh 2.5 to 3 times more.

Research from 5 countries has shown that plastic turf blades constitute 12-15% of the microplastics in our oceans, and over 50% in near surface waters in waterways. Synthetic turf has not been allowed in the Coastal Zone since 2023, and used tire crumb surfacing since 2024. Moving it inland does not make either less toxic.

Microplastics have been found in virtually every human organ and bodily fluid.

Each year, 600 quadrillion microplastics are released from land based plastics into our atmosphere. In the coastal region, research has shown an increased risk of cardiometabolic disease from microplastics in sea spray.

**In humans, micro-
and nano-plastics
have been found in:**

- Arteries (clots)
- Blood
- Brain
- Breastmilk
- Bone marrow
- Feces adult/newborn
- Heart
- Kidneys
- Liver
- Lungs
- Lymph nodes
- Ovarian follicular fluid
- Penis
- Placenta fetal/maternal
- Semen
- Skeletal muscle
- Spleen
- Stomach
- Testes
- Tonsils- children
- Uterus



They are known to cause myriad non-communicable diseases and cancers. Babies are born pre-polluted with microplastics, PFAS and other chemicals of concern. They leach toxic chemicals, adsorb other chemicals, and bacteria. They are posing a threat to our food chain.

The chemicals in plastics negatively impact public and environmental health. Synthetic turf has PFAS and phthalates. The industry plays whack-a-mole with PFAS. One manufacturer was found to be attempting to hide its PFAS in still toxic short/ultrashort chain PFAS.

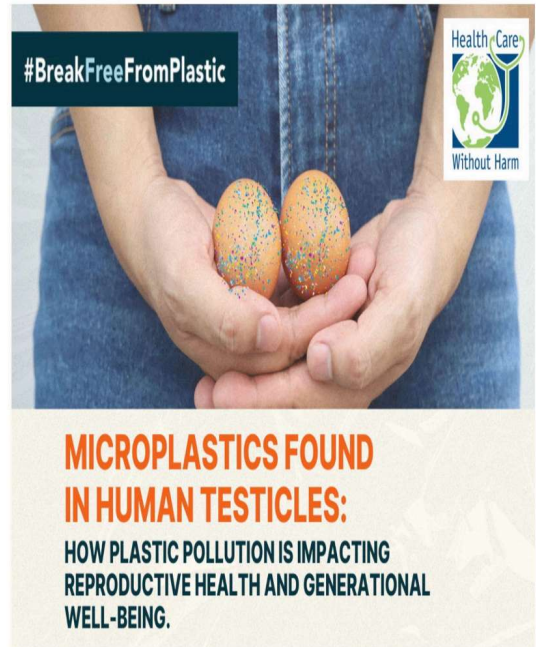
PFAS can cross the blood brain barrier

PFAS can cause:

- Reproductive disorders
40% decrease in female fertility
62.3% decrease total sperm count in males)
- Crohn's disease
- Cancers breast, testicular, kidney, prostate, liver, thyroid
- Autism spectrum disorder
- ADHD
- Impaired immune response to vaccines
- Obesity
- Type 2 Diabetes, insulin resistance
- Disrupt lipids
- Increase risk of death from Parkinson's, Alzheimer's diseases

PFAS are bioaccumulative, impacts multiple generations.

Babies are born pre-polluted with PFAS and microplastics



Endocrine Disrupting, Neurotoxic!

***Phthalates on CA Prop.65 List:**

- DINP (diisononyl phthalate)*
- DEP (diethyl phthalate)
- DBP (dibutyl phthalate)*
- DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate)*
- BBP (benzyl butyl phthalate)*
- DNOP (di-n-octyl phthalate)
- DMP (dimethyl phthalate)
- DIDP (diisodecyl phthalate)*
- DnHP (di-n-hexyl phthalate)*





An ever growing number of health care organizations and independent researchers are calling for an end of use of synthetic turf. This is a short list. We can provide more.

Council Member Figueroa:

We draw your attention to the mental health benefits of natural grass playing fields and open green space, highly relevant to your work with youth.

The lack of open true green, not fake green spaces, negatively impacts academic success, mental health, and violence. Natural green spaces have been shown to mitigate aggressive behavior in adolescents¹ and significantly reduce the growing risk of psychiatric disorders,² and suicide mortality.³ Natural green spaces also reduce health risks such as asthma.⁴

¹ Younan, D., Tuvblad, C., Lianfa, L. et al (2016). "Environmental Determinants of Aggression in Adolescents: Role of Urban Neighborhood Greenspace." J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry; 55(7):591–601.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27343886/>

² Engeman, K., Pedersen, C.B., Arge, L., Svenning, J.C. et al (2019). "Residential green space in childhood is associated with lower risk of psychiatric disorders from adolescence into adulthood." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS.org) of the United States of America

<https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1807504116>

³ Asri, AK, Tsai, HJ, Wong, PY et al (4 Jul 2022). "Examining the Benefits of Greenness on Reducing Suicide Mortality Rate: A Global Ecological Study." Front. Public Health, Sec. Environmental Health and Exposome;;(10)902480.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.902480>

⁴ Dong, Y, Liu, H, Zheng, T (13 Jan 2021). *The Impacts of Green Space Structure on Asthma in Toronto, Canada*. Med. Sci. Forum; 4(1), 6.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ECERPH-3-09123>

The American Psychological Association finds:⁵

“...exposure to nature has been linked to a host of benefits, including improved attention, lower stress, better mood, reduced risk of psychiatric disorders and even upticks in empathy and cooperation.”

Initially published in Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment, Harvard:⁶

“Studies have found that students who attend schools with green spaces tend to have better grades, higher test scores, and better attendance rates than those who do not.”

Chief Robinson, we draw your attention to the combustibility of petrochemical plastic turf:

Research in three countries has shown it is neither ember or flame resistant.^{7,8,9}

“Glowing embers, as are commonly blown in front of an advancing bushfire, have a temperature of around 700-800°C, and the flame of a burning leaf has a temperature of around 700°C. Strips of polyethylene can be ignited with the flame of a match which has a temperature of around 700°C.”¹⁰

“Over the past two decades, we saw a 250 percent increase in fire speed across the West that I don’t see slowing down anytime soon.” Fire ecologist, Jennifer Balch.¹¹

⁵ Weir, K. (2020). Nurtured by nature: Psychological research is advancing our understanding of how time in nature can improve our mental health and sharpen our cognition. American Psychological Association.

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/04/nurtured-nature>

⁶ Bowning, M, Rigolon, A (1 Feb 2019). “School Green Space and Its Impact on Academic Performance: A Systematic Literature Review.” Int J Environ Res Public Health;16(3):429.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6388261/>

⁷ Kukfisz, B (2018). “The Degree of Flammability for an Artificial Grass Surface System.” The Main School of Fire Service, Faculty of Fire Safety Engineering, Warsaw, Poland.

<https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/20184500038>

⁸ Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (Apr 2020). “Living Turf Fire Benefits Study - Literature review.” GHD Australia.

<https://www.horticulture.com.au/globalassets/hort-innovation/resource-assets/tu17008-literature-review-living-turf-fire-benefits-study.pdf>

⁹ Paturel, A (2021). “Fire performance of artificial turf structures : small-scale testing and development of fireproofing strategies.” Material chemistry. Université de Lille, France. Doctoral thesis.

https://theses.hal.science/tel-03561379v1/file/These_PATUREL_Angeline.pdf

¹⁰ Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (Apr 2020). “Living Turf Fire Benefits Study - Literature review.” GHD Australia.

<https://www.horticulture.com.au/globalassets/hort-innovation/resource-assets/tu17008-literature-review-living-turf-fire-benefits-study.pdf>

¹¹ Deng, J (11 Jan 2025). “The Dichotomy of a Deadly Paradise—How Urban Sprawl and Climate Change Fuel LA’s Fires.” Inside Climate News.

Synthetic turf manufacturers seek to mislead the public, and you, into believing that their product is fire safe.¹² They promote their products as having met standards for fire testing, yet provide no proof. There are no international testing standards, including ASTM International, that subject materials to the temperature or wind extremes that occur in wildfire events:

- ASTM E108
- UL 790
- ASTM E136
- ASTM E84-26a
- ASTM E648-25a
- ASTM D2859-06

None of these tests have temperature thresholds, nor methods, that replicate the speed or heat of a wildfire. We are able to provide you with additional information should you wish. Burning of synthetic turf increases toxic exposures during wildfires.^{13,14}



Pacific Palisades

Concord, CA

Altadena

OCEANSIDE IS NO STRANGER TO WILDFIRES

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/11012025/los-angeles-wildfires-in-altadena-and-pacific-palisades/>

¹² ASTM E108, Standard Test Methods for Fire Tests of Roof Coverings. Artificial turf manufacturer SynLawn.

<https://synlawnsandiego.com/blog/class-a-fire-rated-san-diego-artificial-turf/>

¹³ Schlanger, Z (15 Jan 2025). "What Happens When a Plastic City Burns." The Atlantic.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2025/01/los-angeles-fire-smoke-plastic-toxic/681318/>

¹⁴ Staff writer (17 Jan 2025). "Plastic Chemicals in Wildfire Smoke and How to Protect Yourself." Plastic Soup Coalition.

<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2025/1/17/plastic-chemicals-in-wildfire-smoke-and-how-to-protect-yourself>

Synthetic turf requires potable water...and lots of it. The industry itself notes that plastic turf must be cooled to a safe temperature for play- to a temperature consistent with natural grass, which is within a degree or two of ambient air. It must also be cleaned of the many bacteria that can survive on it, including life threatening MRSA, animal and wildlife waste. To not clean it will void the warranty. So will failure to follow the maintenance guidelines and warranty information to the letter. Maintenance agreements cost \$10k to \$15k+ per field per year.

Synthetic Turf Does Not Save Water

- Requires ~989 gallons of water to produce 1 meter² of plastic turf
- Water for cleaning; required per warranty
- Potable water is required to avoid discoloration, degradation of the plastic
Reclaimed water has higher salt content
- Water to cool the surface "to a temperature comparable to natural grass"
2,200 gallons, begin 1 to 2 hours prior to a game
Repeat throughout play (effect lasts 20-50 mins).
- Plant based infill requires potable water for hydration. Per 80k sq ft:
3,200 gallons every 3 to 4 days
Others require 6,500 to 8,000 gallons every 3 to 4 weeks based on humidity
- Toxic runoff from synthetic turf contributes 27,000 gallons per one inch of rain per acre of plastic.

High use Bermuda hybrids can be save 30 to 60% water. They don't require potable water, that you are restricting use of for residents. They don't require storm water management systems, which can add large amounts of microplastics and toxic leachate themselves. Why would the city waste this valuable resource...for private teams that want to privatize our public land?

Other greenwashing that no doubt the some at the City have fallen prey to must also be dispelled. Plastic turf is significantly more costly than high use Bermuda hybrid playing fields:

20 Year Cost of Ownership		
	Artificial Turf	Natural Grass
Field Construction	\$2,700,000	\$430,000
Stormwater Management*	\$670,000	\$670,000
Contingency (15%)	\$505,171	\$165,000
Annual Maintenance (x20)	\$506,000	\$1,194,000
Carpet Replacement (x2)	\$1,400,000	\$0
Debt Service	\$1,355,541	\$442,750
Total Costs	\$7,136,712	\$2,901,750

* Natural grass is permeable. Stormwater management likely not required

Image credit: G Lemberg

TRUE Costs from Natural Grass Experts: **Expectations drive decisions. Commitment drives success!!**

Low End:

\$3 - \$5/sq. ft.
Native soil
irrigation
Crown with min.
1% gradient

Mid Range:

\$5/sq.ft.
Native soil, amendments to 8"
irrigation
\$8 - \$10/sq.ft.
Native soil amendments to 8"
irrigation
drainage system
sand cap

High End:

\$12 - \$13/sq.ft.
"All the bells and whistles"

***Amortized over 24 years, a high end field with all of the "bells and whistles":
\$43,333 per year***

Natural grass fields can and do provide adequate playable hours:

Decision Making Criteria	Regenerative/Organic Maintenance	Conventional Grass	Synthetic Turf
20 Year Total Cost	\$180k - \$390k	\$210k - \$410k	\$1.35M - \$2.0M +
Maintenance costs / Year	\$1500 - \$4500 / acre	\$4,000 - \$6,000 / acre	\$10k - 15k / field
Hours of maintenance / Year	75 - 100	250	350
Playable Hours	1500 - 3630 ¹	650 - 800*	2,000 - 2,500**
Water Use	40 to 60% less Bermuda hybrids	Moderate - High	High Potable water required Cleaning; cooling; hydration of plant based infills
Water Contamination	None; no synthetic inputs; is not a "product swap"	Mod to High Synthetic fertilizer, Pesticide use	High toxic leachate with rainfall, cleaning, hydration

* Unverified claims made by synthetic turf industry.

** All monitoring and maintenance systems show playable hours ~30% of claims made; closures for heat and particulate matter are not playable hours.

PLAYABLE HOURS

"Several manufacturers were contacted and asked to verify this statistic. As of the writing of this report, no response has been received. Likely, it is an estimate based on the assumption that artificial turf can withstand round-the-clock play and would be played on for almost the entirety of the year over 8 hours a day."

https://www.veronanj.org/media/Sustainable%20Verona%2024/Centennial%20Field%20-%20Turk%20Study/Verona%202024%20Final%20Report_.pdf

These fields are even found in major sports complexes in NV, AZ, inland desert CA and more.

Is the city willing to commit our taxpayer dollars to a full EIR? To chemical testing of every component of these plastic play systems? Other jurisdictions have removed plastic fields and playgrounds from bond measures. Why should the public pay for products that harm their children, families, and the environment?

Section § 21002 of CEQA: APPROVAL OF PROJECTS; FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE OR MITIGATION MEASURES

CEQA prohibits the approving a proposed development if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect which the activity may have on the environment

Any claims that a project was approved by the Division of State Architect (DSA) and meets CEQA requirements are untrue. The DSA is limited to reviewing school construction projects for building code compliance and structural safety. They play no role in CEQA, and have no authority to approve any projects under CEQA.

Grants have shifted towards nature based solutions. Will Oceanside miss out?

Make no mistake about it...there is broad support for a ban on this climate change inducing; air, water and soil polluting, public and environmental health harming, wholly unnecessary plastic waste products.

The solution is clear. A permanent ordinance to avoid revisiting this same topic every time the city cycles through new Council Members.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Conway, President
Dianne Woelke MSN, Board Member
Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc.
<https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org>
SHPFI is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501-c-3



Organizations in CA in support of banning plastic turf. We're just getting started!







PEER
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITY



**CITIZENS FOR
LOS ANGELES
WILDLIFE**



*Institute for Climate Change,
Environmental Health, and
Exposomics*



**Glendale
Environmental
Coalition**



**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY
ALLIANCE**



**Indivisible
California
GREEN
TEAM**



CALPIRG



CA NURSES
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & JUSTICE



BACH BRENTWOOD
ALLIANCE OF
CANYONS &
HILLSIDES



**Know your Environment.
Protect your Health.**
ewg



**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY
ALLIANCE**



**Non Toxic
Communities**

SD-SEQUEL
San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping

Jericho Moulder

From: Don Christiansen <donaldchristiansen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 12:31 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: NO on proposal to replace natural grass at the El Corazon Park athletic fields with synthetic turf.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Oceanside City Elected Officials and Staff,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Agenda Item #19, the proposal to replace the natural grass at the SoCal/El Corazon Park athletic fields with synthetic turf.

While providing dedicated space for local sports teams is important, the benefits do not outweigh the negative impacts of synthetic turf on the broader Oceanside community. Please consider the following environmental and health concerns:

- Environmental Impact: Synthetic turf is a petroleum-based product that breaks down into microplastics and nanoplastics, which pollute our oceans, waterways, and have been found in human organs and disrupt cell function.
- Chemical Exposure: The plastic blades contain harmful chemicals and toxins, including PFAS, phthalates, and flame retardants. Harmful bacteria can also attach to the blades, risking direct contact with children and leaching into local soil and water.
- Heat Risk: Unlike natural grass, synthetic turf absorbs heat. Surface temperatures can reach 140 to 180 degrees, significantly increasing ambient temperatures and risking severe burns.
- Injury Rates: High school sports see a higher incidence of injuries on synthetic turf compared to natural grass. Notably, NFL players prefer natural turf, and FIFA required natural grass for the World Cup.

I urge the City Council to reject the proposal to convert these fields to synthetic turf. Please maintain natural, living green turf at El Corazon Park to ensure a safe and beneficial environment for the Oceanside community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Don Christiansen

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:24 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: Agenda Item 19- Plastic Turf



Thomas Schmiderer
Assistant City Clerk
City of Oceanside

tschmiderer@oceansideca.org
+1 (760) 435-3004
300 N. Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054
www.oceansideca.org

From: Hayley White <hayleymichele.white@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 5:08 PM
To: City Council <council@oceansideca.org>
Subject: Agenda Item 19- Plastic Turf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Oceanside City Council Members,

I am writing regarding **Agenda Item 19** and to urge you to reject the installation of plastic turf on Oceanside's playing fields and playgrounds.

Artificial turf is not a sustainable alternative to natural grass. It is a petroleum-based product that sheds microplastics and can contain toxic chemicals. Its extreme surface temperatures—potentially reaching 160–180°F or higher—create an especially concerning environment for children and athletes who play on these fields.

There are also significant environmental costs throughout its lifecycle. Manufacturing plastic turf and its underlayment produces greenhouse gases, particulate matter, VOCs, and other hazardous air pollutants. Unlike natural grass, which can sequester carbon, plastic turf contributes to environmental pollution from production through disposal and can remain in the environment for centuries.

Oceanside should be a leader in responsible environmental stewardship. Our parks and recreational spaces should provide safe, healthy places for children and our community—not expose them to unnecessary microplastics, extreme heat, and potentially harmful chemicals.

I urge the City Council to establish a ban on installing plastic turf on Oceanside’s playing fields and playgrounds and instead invest in well-maintained natural turf and sustainable landscaping practices.

Our children and athletes deserve better, and Oceanside has an opportunity to make a responsible choice for both public health and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hayley White

Jericho Moulder

From: Janis Jones <jjones@sandiego.surfrider.org>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 3:21 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item #19

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Mayor Sanchez and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to urge you to reject any proposal to install synthetic turf on sports fields in Oceanside due to concerns about plastic pollution and its broader environmental impacts.

As the Plastic Pollution Program Lead for the San Diego Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, I am particularly concerned about microplastic pollution. Synthetic turf is made from plastic, and most installations still use rubber or plastic infill. Surfrider Foundation has raised concerns that plastic and rubber particles from artificial turf can enter storm drains and waterways, contributing to microplastic pollution.¹ This is especially concerning for a coastal community like Oceanside.

As a retired educator, I recognize that sports fields are an important community resource, used extensively by schools, youth sports, adult leagues, and recreational programs. Oceanside's Parks and Recreation Department notes that its multipurpose sports fields are heavily used throughout the year and require periods of closure for rest, repair, aeration, restoration, and other maintenance.² The need for durable, well-maintained playing fields is real, but durability should not come at the expense of our waterways and coastal environment.

If we want to protect our beaches and ocean, we should prevent plastic pollution at its source rather than installing unnecessary plastic material outdoors where it can break down and be carried by wind and stormwater into the environment.

Importantly, Oceanside's own environmental guidance recognizes several concerns with artificial turf. The City's Non-Functional Turf guidance states that artificial turf is not recommended as a replacement for non-functional turf because its typical installation can compact the soil and prevent stormwater infiltration. The City also notes that synthetic turf provides no habitat or pollination benefit, can heat its surroundings, and ultimately becomes hazardous waste when it reaches the end of its useful life.³

These concerns are consistent with the broader goals of Oceanside's Climate Action Plan, which emphasizes climate resilience, protection of natural lands, urban greening, and environmental sustainability.⁴ Replacing living landscapes with synthetic turf can also reduce opportunities for habitat and biodiversity. Research has found that urban parks with natural grass supported greater bird diversity, species richness, and abundance than parks with artificial grass.⁵

Heat is another concern. Synthetic turf surfaces can become substantially hotter than natural grass, and research has found higher surface and air temperatures above synthetic grass. These effects may contribute to localized heat and the urban heat-island effect.⁶ Natural grass does not provide shade, but as a living surface, it can moderate temperatures through evapotranspiration when adequately maintained.⁷

I respectfully ask the City Council to carefully consider whether installing synthetic turf on sports fields is consistent with Oceanside's goals for reducing plastic pollution, protecting stormwater and coastal resources, supporting biodiversity, and building climate resilience. I urge the Council to prioritize natural-grass solutions that can provide high-quality recreational fields without introducing polluting plastic materials into our environment.

Oceanside can provide excellent sports facilities while also protecting the waterways, beaches, and natural environment that make our community special.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janis Jones

Footnotes

1. Surfrider Foundation, "Artificial Turf: Why We Shouldn't Choose Plastic Over Plants." This resource discusses artificial turf, plastic and rubber infill, stormwater runoff, and the potential for plastic and rubber particles to enter waterways as pollution.
[Surfrider Foundation — Artificial Turf Resource](#)
2. City of Oceanside, "Park Maintenance." The City states that Oceanside's multipurpose sports fields are heavily used by youth and adult activities, programs, and leagues and require periodic closures for rest, repair, aeration, fertilization, overseeding, restoration, and watering.
[City of Oceanside — Park Maintenance](#)
3. City of Oceanside, "Non-Functional Turf (NFT) Regulations." The City states that artificial turf is not recommended as a replacement for non-functional turf and identifies concerns including reduced stormwater infiltration, lack of habitat and pollination benefits, heat, and end-of-life disposal.
[City of Oceanside — Non-Functional Turf Regulations](#)
4. City of Oceanside, "Climate Action & Sustainability." The City's updated Climate Action Plan addresses climate resilience, sustainable development, natural lands, urban greening, and environmental sustainability. The updated CAP was adopted by the City Council in June 2026.
[City of Oceanside — Climate Action & Sustainability](#)
5. "Artificial grass in parks as a potential new threat for urban bird communities," *Bird Conservation International*. The study found greater bird diversity, species richness, and abundance in parks with natural grass compared with parks using artificial grass.
[Research article — Bird Conservation International](#)
6. Singh et al., "The effect of synthetic grass sports surfaces on the thermal environment: A systematic review," *International Journal of Biometeorology*. The review found that surface and air temperatures were generally higher above synthetic grass than natural grass.
[Systematic review — International Journal of Biometeorology](#)

7. University of Minnesota Extension, “Environmental Benefits of Healthy Lawns.” The resource explains that healthy turfgrass can create a cooling effect during warm weather and that evapotranspiration contributes to cooling.

[University of Minnesota Extension — Environmental Benefits of Healthy Lawns](#)

--

Janis Jones

Plastic Pollution Program Lead

Surfrider Foundation | San Diego County Chapter

<https://sandiego.surfrider.org/>

jjones@sandiego.surfrider.org

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 9:02 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: NO PLASTIC TURF

-----Original Message-----

From: leslie davis <nopuppymills59@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 8:01 AM
To: City Council <council@oceansideca.org>
Subject: NO PLASTIC TURF

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Oceanside City Council,

As one of the hottest summers on record continues, clearly the last thing we need is artificial turf on our playing fields and in El Corazón. Climate change is not a hoax. Plastic turf is a petroleum product that sheds, micro plastics and toxins, and exasperates climate change. Please ban plastic turf on our playing fields and in our parks.

Sincerely,

Leslie Davies

Oceanside, CA 92054

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:24 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: # 19 on Aug. 19 Agenda



Thomas Schmiderer
Assistant City Clerk
City of Oceanside

tschmiderer@oceansideca.org
+1 (760) 435-3004
300 N. Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054
www.oceansideca.org

From: linda spanski <lspanski@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 5:57 PM
To: City Council <council@oceansideca.org>
Subject: # 19 on Aug. 19 Agenda

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Mayor Sanchez and Council Members:

Please set aside the idea that plastic grass is a healthy option for youth sports. Los Angeles' school district banned it in favor of natural turf which is water permeable, non toxic, and emits no oil-derived pollution. It is not compatible with our city's climate plan.

Scrap this idea in favor of cool, carbon-neutral, non-toxic grass that protects our kids' health.

Thanks you,

Linda Spanski
2154 S Coast Hwy

Stephanie Rojas

From: Michelle <penguinfun101@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 2:15 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item #19 26-127 Opposition

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Oceanside City Elected Officials and Staff,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to Agenda Item #19.

Synthetic turf leaches microplastics and holds onto heat, leading to surfaces sometimes dozens of degrees hotter than natural grass.

While the installation is in El Corazon Park, the impact reaches the larger community through the shedding of plastic material while the field deteriorates over time.

I strongly recommend that the city maintain natural grass in our public fields for the health and safety of users as well our beautiful city and environment.

Respectfully submitted,

--

Michelle Taylor



Agenda Item Position Slip

City of Oceanside

Submitted On:

Aug 18, 2026, 12:51PM EDT

Add Image	
Email	2mmcmahon@gmail.com
Council Meeting Date	August 19, 2026
Agenda #	19
Subject	Evaluate the feasibility, sustainability, and costs of installing synthetic turf
Position	In Opposition
Name	First Name: Mike Last Name: McMahon
Oceanside Resident	
Full Address	State: CA
Comments	Honorable Mayor and City Council: I urge you to use natural grass in Oceanside's Supul/El Corazon Park athletic fields. Major leagues are specifying the use of natural grass for playing surfaces and they continue to be preferred because of their safety for athletes and surrounding ecosystems. Please, do not install hundreds of square yards of plastic in our parks. Synthetic surfaces: Are toxic and greenhouse gas emitters from their manufacture through their eventual disposal in a landfill. From the day these items are installed, these toxic plastic surfaces start to break down and cause micro-plastic pollution. Are 40-70 degrees hotter than their natural counterparts creating a massive heat island effect impacting all who are nearby and extending into neighboring residential areas. Independent peer reviewed research has found, have a higher incidence of sports injuries compared to natural grass and poses an increased risk of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection. Reduce soil biota, grass seeds and insects with a trophic impact on local biodiversity. Additionally, a new law in California allows cities to ban synthetic turf because of PFAS, UV stabilizers, heavy metals, plasticizers, and microplastics that harm the community and wildlife. Runoff from the

break down turf fields as they age contaminates rivers, lakes and oceans and is especially toxic to many aquatic species.

Jericho Moulder

From: Paige DeCino <pdecino@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 11:40 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: 8/19/26 council meeting item #19

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear mayor and city council members,

Item 19 is asking you to consider converting playing fields at El Corazon to artificial turf. I'm asking you to oppose such an action. The pervasive nature of microplastics in our environment and throughout our bodies should wake up anyone to act to minimize exposure from this fossil fuel product. Especially if you care about the health of our children. People come from all over to play on those fields and you should provide a safe environment for them.

Thank you.

Paige DeCno

Jericho Moulder

From: Thomas Schmiderer
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:25 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: FW: Opposition to Agenda Item #19 26-127

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanessa Forsythe <vforsythe13@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 6:16 PM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@oceansideca.org>
Subject: Re: Opposition to Agenda Item #19 26-127

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding. When in doubt, please contact CustomerCare@oceansideca.org

Dear Oceanside City Elected Officials and Staff,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Agenda Item #19, the proposal to replace the natural grass at the SoCal/El Corazon Park athletic fields with synthetic turf.

While providing dedicated space for local sports teams is important, the benefits do not outweigh the negative impacts of synthetic turf on the broader Oceanside community. Please consider the following environmental and health concerns:

- Environmental Impact: Synthetic turf is a petroleum-based product that breaks down into microplastics and nanoplastics, which pollute our oceans, waterways, and have been found in human organs and disrupt cell function.
- Chemical Exposure: The plastic blades contain harmful chemicals and toxins, including PFAS, phthalates, and flame retardants. Harmful bacteria can also attach to the blades, risking direct contact with children and leaching into local soil and water.
- Heat Risk: Unlike natural grass, synthetic turf absorbs heat. Surface temperatures can reach 140 to 180 degrees, significantly increasing ambient temperatures and risking severe burns.
- Injury Rates: High school sports see a higher incidence of injuries on synthetic turf compared to natural grass. Notably, NFL players prefer natural turf, and FIFA required natural grass for the World Cup.

I urge the City Council to reject the proposal to convert these fields to synthetic turf. Please maintain natural, living green turf at El Corazon Park to ensure a safe and beneficial environment for the Oceanside community.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Forsythe, RN, MSN
Co-Chair, Policy Committee
California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice

References:

- ESPN: https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/49030490/fifa-world-cup-grass-nfl-stadiums-debate-field-surface
 <https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/49030490/fifa-world-cup-grass-nfl-stadiums-debate-field-surface>

- Plastics and Your Health: calnursesforehj.org
 <https://us01.z.antigena.com/l/gvqO9WEQ2zC1poEPqZoXf0aUQ7LRbgG8LQ1CaMuPG4MKK5Fkyq8XLOSHEBDvqY1IZa6eqx2dBW3wV2xbOvMSk2R5WLmO3iRhoERUSjKsi3gx1p2zYdyT23RXTIqVTGCpH1LHQ2uKeykQaBEsAkMhgdL8_aRVFxKWfufjEiWRKvnOXdJ59NAdAbk18ogyqOhzoxGH5Mtx5d4>

- Sports Field Management: <https://www.sportsfieldmanagement.org/natural-grass-athletic-fields/>
 <<https://www.sportsfieldmanagement.org/natural-grass-athletic-fields/>>

- MDPI Case Study: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/17/14/6292>

- Safe Healthy Playing Fields: safehealthyplayingfields.org
 <https://us01.z.antigena.com/l/DibPlkOUTtr_LBCQfwNHxzWH-AQ-bScSWI-P5rw_yzEhEQCuhqH3XaH5PEkemVgUdDbYpPGMzsBECvGycCrSJE~Zb5wib158SD3tg0~mNEID3dOAOP9dXR1IX-k72tTPIEoPU_2qICUZdLIO3Y7yOy9aL4EfCR2JNrfJtZkLiZ0A47WhZx4UrXVAKL7BkUvL4j8a60-TUg0KKkzDv9U5Gy66~j5~ihQz6~-r>