



Date: April 18, 2016

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *P. West*

From: Craig Beck, Director of Public Works  
Marie Knight, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Drake/Chavez Soccer Field - Council Agenda Item #28 (April 19, 2016):  
Artificial Turf Fact Sheet**

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Anticipating questions from the public on the subject City Council item, staff has compiled the following list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding the artificial turf for the soccer field at Drake/Chavez Park.

**Q:** *Why is the City considering use of artificial turf (vs. grass) for play fields?*

**A:** Use of artificial turf is proposed for new play fields primarily to:

- Reduce water use to achieve State conservation mandates. The City cannot appropriately maintain existing grass play fields with the reduced water allocations.
- Turf doesn't require regular closure to allow for reseeding and rejuvenations that grass fields do, resulting in increased playable hours per field, longer lifespans and lower maintenance costs.

**Q:** *Why is the City using cork/sand infill artificial turf vs. other types available?*

**A:** Artificial turf options considered by the City include: Crumb rubber; coconut fiber matrix; and cork/sand. Based on a June 16, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation to use organic material, City staff adopted organic cork/sand as the preferred choice based on the following key properties:

- Does not require irrigation or hydration to maintain material integrity
- Good resiliency
- Lower first costs and maintenance cost (relative to coconut fiber matrix)
- Superior heat dissipating properties
- Natural material/renewable

**Q:** *How will the proposed artificial turf be maintained?*

**A:** The estimated annual costs to maintain the Drake/Chavez project is \$40,500, which includes daily trash removal, irrigation repair, plant trimming and replacement, weed abatement, and artificial turf preventative maintenance. The frequency of artificial turf maintenance is roughly:

- Brushing: To rejuvenate matted fibers (every 4 – 6 weeks)
- Aerating: To avoid minor compaction of infill (every 4 months)
- Raking: To prevent matted fibers and infill compaction (every 4 – 6 weeks)
- Sweeping: To remove litter/foreign material (frequency as needed)

**Q:** *How long does artificial turf last?*

**A:** The Drake/Chavez project organic cork/sand field has an eight-year warranty, which is consistent with industry standards. Similar fields have been observed to last up to 13 years before needing refurbishment.

**Q:** *What is the impact of artificial turf on players relative to grass fields?*

**A:** Existing grass play fields in Long Beach are problematic for players based on damage from gophers, insufficient water for irrigation, and high demand usage. These conditions create uneven playing surfaces and hazardous conditions for players. Parks, Recreation & Marine routinely receives complaints from individual players, as well as organizations (e.g. American Youth Soccer Org) regarding these deficiencies. By contrast, artificial turf provides:

- A level playing surface, designed with appropriate resilience or “give”
- A playing surface impervious to gophers; therefore, free from associated ruts/holes
- A consistent playing experience from game to game

**Q:** *What is the scope and current status of the project?*

**A:** The Drake/Chavez project is located at a currently undeveloped location below the Drake Park bluff, adjacent to the Los Angeles River. The 8.75-acre project provides for multiple improvements including a striped artificial soccer field (representing 15 percent of the total project area), a large grass area, landscaped open space, a pedestrian trail and on-site parking. The project is expected to be completed in February 2017.

**Q:** *Who is the contractor for this project?*

**A:** The contractor for this project is CS Legacy.

**Q:** *Who is the turf manufacturer for this project?*

**A:** The turf manufacturer for this project is Field Turf USA, Inc.

For additional information, please contact Craig Beck, Director of Public Works, at (562) 570-6771, or Marie Knight, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, at (562) 570-3170.

CB:TR/sc/jc

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