

**From:** frankbattung@gmail.com [mailto:frankbattung@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 11, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Cc:** 'Nextdoor The Plaza-Emerson' <reply@rs.email.nextdoor.com>  
**Subject:** El Dorado Park

**-EXTERNAL-**

Drove to the baseball fields at El Dorado Park today. Rode over 20 potholes, some over a foot deep and wide but the city has over 3 millions dollars for a plastic soccer field. Insane.....

**From:** Yahoo [mailto:achris259@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 3:59 PM

**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Tom Modica <Tom.Modica@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; council.district1@longbeach.gov <council.district5@longbeach.gov>; Ann Cantrell <anngadfly@aol.com>

**Subject:** No on Agenda Item 54, City Council Meeting 12/6/2020

**-EXTERNAL-**

Sierra Club, Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force and Long Beach Area Group, oppose the use of artificial turf and support all arguments made by Ann Cantrell, attached.

December 8, 2020 Agenda Item 54

Dear Decision Makers:

You are being asked to approve a total budgeted amount for the project of **\$3,111,644**, which are mostly Measure A funds. This money could be better used for park maintenance at El Dorado and other places in the City.

Before you vote on this, please Google **Field Turf law suits** and see the many cities across the nation who have sued this company because of faulty fields, warranties and lack of deposit promises.

In September, **2013**, the Council voted to approve \$3,257,000 for the **Renovation** of soccer fields at Admiral Kidd, Seaside and El Dorado Parks. The words **artificial turf** were not used in the approved motion, however, the money was used for plastic grass fields in the above parks and Drake/Seaside, but not El Dorado.

I have long argued natural turf should have been considered and a bid requested to build a grass field which would address the problems of gopher and mud holes. This would include the same leveling as is required for an artificial turf, with a sand base for drainage, and wire covering to keep out gophers. There are hybrid grass turf which can hold up to play by youth teams. (Good examples can be found at CSULB).

Although Councilmember Mungo does not cite a source, she states the cost of a natural grass field is \$500,000; our research in 2015 showed \$300,000. Two natural grass fields could be constructed for the price of one plastic field. This would allow for rest and reseeding as is done in the El Dorado Dog Park.

**One of the arguments for artificial grass was the savings on water use and cost.** Plastic grass needs **potable** water to clean and cool it.. Because the plastic harbors staph germs, it should be washed of dirt, blood, sweat, food, drinks, dog pee and poop before and after every game. High-powered water cannons (and lots of water) are required to cool surface temperatures to safe levels. On hot days this must be done repeatedly to reduce risk of serious heat related illness in the players.

Currently **Reclaimed Water** is being used at El Dorado. Replacing the pipes and sprinkler system is an unnecessary cost, not to mention the additional cost to buy potable water.

**Another argument is that Plastic Fields are useable every day of the year. This is false.**

**Playing in the rain is dangerous on artificial turf as the plastic blades get slick when wet.**

**Playing time is reduced on hot days.**

According to **Safe Healthy Playing Fields:**

At ambient air temperature of **90** degrees and full sun: Natural Grass will be approximately **100** degrees; Crumb Rubber will be approximately **130** degrees; Sand/Cork will be approximately **110** degrees. This is hot enough to burn through the soles of players' cleats and cause heat stroke. Would you want your child to have to play on a 110 degree field?

Long Beach has been a leader in getting rid of plastic. Council has banned plastic bags, straws and styrofoam containers. It is difficult to understand why you would even consider installing another environmental disaster like this plastic soccer field. **Plastic shreds and ends up in the air and water.** When washing this field, the plastic shreds will be washed into the gutter and end up in the ocean, which is already 6 times more plastic than plankton. Plastic field must be disposed of in a toxic land fill, which adds to the cost and is harmful to the environment.

In Conclusion:

Downsides of Artificial Turf

1. Limited life
2. Periodic Cleaning Requirements
3. Petroleum Use
4. Toxic Chemicals from Infill
5. Heightened Health Concerns
6. Increased Injuries
7. Extreme Heat
8. More Expensive than Natural Turf
9. Disposal of Artificial Waste Problems [https://www.ydr.com/in-depth/news/2019/11/18/old-artificial-turf-fields-pose-huge-waste-problem-environmental-concerns-across-nation/2314353001/?fbclid=IwAR39FWiprwMM0a74ufD9yV4y322EfKJJzpUVyuODh-43MQ\\_rz0l-3wuThPo](https://www.ydr.com/in-depth/news/2019/11/18/old-artificial-turf-fields-pose-huge-waste-problem-environmental-concerns-across-nation/2314353001/?fbclid=IwAR39FWiprwMM0a74ufD9yV4y322EfKJJzpUVyuODh-43MQ_rz0l-3wuThPo)

<http://selvainternational.org/artificialturf.htm>

## Plastic is Not Fantastic

In a nutshell:

- replacing biological organisms with plastic in our environment is aesthetically, ecologically, and morally disturbing in an array of ways
- plastic leaches toxins in landfills
- plastics contain toxins

- plastic turf adds to urban heat island effect
- plastic turf is NOT permeable nor does it retain water on site
- plastic turf needs to be watered to cool it down
- plastic turf is more harmful to players
- plastic ends up in the ocean even when we don't intend it to
- plastic turf creates no habitat and provides no ecosystem services

Links:

[Artificial Turf: What It Is, Its Harmful Impacts, And The Watershed Approach](#)

[Why Artificial Turf is Not the Answer](#)

[Why Artificial Turf is Not Rebated in Santa Monica](#)

[Microplastics in the Marine Environment](#)

Long Beach's children should have soccer fields as playable and well-watered as our golf courses. Please provide them with healthy, natural grass fields.

Sincerely,  
Ann Cantrell

December 8, 2020 Agenda Item 54

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[Microplastics in the Marine Environment](#)

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Sincerely,  
Ann Cantrell



**From:** Grace [mailto:ge720@aol.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2020 5:02 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

**Cc:** davidzanatta@jcaresources.com; Valerie Davis <Valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov>; Brent Dennis <Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** El Dorado Park Soccer Field Project

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Mayor and City Council Members -

*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."*

—American proverb

The Long Beach City Council banned plastic straws in Oct. 2019.

Will that same council do anything so public to out-and-out ban the spread of this plastic turf before it covers hundreds of thousands of yards of Long Beach land and creates an environmental nightmare every bit as big, or bigger, than plastic straw use?

Long Beach residents sucked it up for this city by eliminating plastic straws, yet how many straws does that equate to in a single plastic soccer field?

Here's what can be found on the internet: the estimated equivalent in single-use plastic bottles of a standard soccer field is about 3 million.

If there are about 20 straws worth of plastic in such a bottle that equals 60 million straws worth of plastic. Since five to 10 percent of that disintegrates into bits that disperse into air, soil, and water every year this directly results in 5,000 pounds—*more than two tons every year is lost into the environment.*

Problems:

- Plastic grass pieces will pollute soils for centuries
- Astro turf has a big carbon footprint from manufacture, transport and installation
- Astro turf kills soil life beneath it
- Artificial turf uses huge volumes of plastic
- Plastic grass can't or won't be recycled
- Fake turf has no wildlife benefit whatsoever
- Fake plastic AstroTurf deprives people from contact with a natural surface

For a healthier environment for our children, please do not vote for the plastic playing field.

Grace Earl,  
El Dorado Park South Neighborhood

**From:** corlisslee@aol.com [mailto:corlisslee@aol.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:21 PM

**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>

**Cc:** City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>; John Gross <John.Gross@longbeach.gov>; cityauditor@longbeach.gov

**Subject:** Dec 8 2020 Agenda item 54. 20-1200 Artificial Turf Soccer Field

**-EXTERNAL-**

City Clerk,

Please ensure all City Council members receive a copy of the attached comments on the artificial turf soccer field and also provide copies to Parks, Recreation & Marine, the City Auditor, City Manager, Parks Commission members, and the Finance Dept.

Respectfully,

Corliss Lee

President Eastside Voice

**From:** Charles George Roberts [mailto:charlesgeorgeroberts@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Opposition to plastic grass soccer field in El Dorado Park

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear City Clerk,

The vote to authorize a ridiculous amount of our money to install plastic grass comes before you [this Tuesday](#). I hope I can count on your NO vote for this project. There is overwhelming community opposition to this.

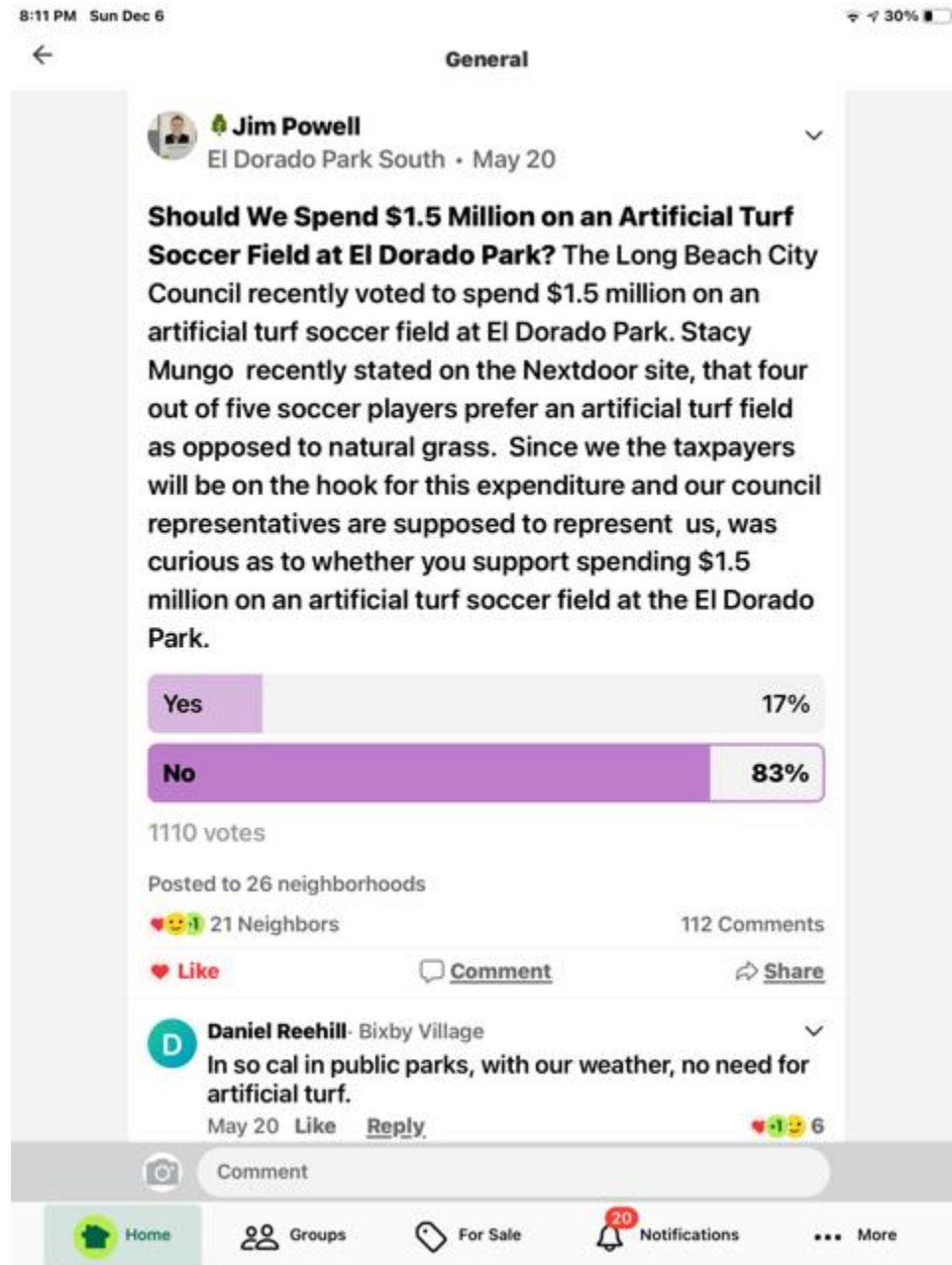
There are urgent infrastructure needs that could be addressed with this money. What comes to mind for me is repaving streets in our area. I have been asking about this for many years.

Thank you for your attention to my request for you to vote NO on the plastic grass soccer field in El Dorado Park.

Sincerely  
Charles Roberts

**From:** Charles George Roberts [mailto:charlesgeorgeroberts@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:14 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Opposition to plastic grass soccer field in El Dorado Park

**-EXTERNAL-**



On Dec 6, 2020, at 11:46 AM, Charles George Roberts <[charlesgeorgeroberts@gmail.com](mailto:charlesgeorgeroberts@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear City Clerk,

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There are urgent infrastructure needs that could be addressed with this money. What comes to mind for me is repaving streets in our area. I have been asking about this for many years.

Thank you for your attention to my request for you to vote NO on the plastic grass soccer field in El Dorado Park.

Sincerely  
Charles Roberts

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

From: Kevin McCormick [mailto:kvmccormic@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:54 PM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Subject: No Artificial Turf

-EXTERNAL-

No artificial turf at El Dorado Park. Bad for people, animals, and environment.

Lynn McCormick

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Greg Shea [mailto:gshea50@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:00 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; davidzanatta@jcaresources.com; Valerie Davis <Valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov>; Brent Dennis <Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov>; Eric Lopez <Eric.Lopez@longbeach.gov>; Laura Doud <Laura.Doud@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** City Council Meeting AGENDA ITEM #54 El Dorado Park Synthetic Turf

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Mayor, Council and City Officials,

The proposed \$1.85 million synthetic turf soccer field at El Dorado Park will provide increased playing time but may come with larger than expected financial and environmental costs.

El Dorado Park has a half century old tradition as a natural refuge for residents.

The park renews our spirits, our bodies and even more importantly, it renews our environment.

The COVID-19 Pandemic, economic slow down, reduced tax revenue, and growing effects of Climate Change confront us all.

The Council's intent to provide a high quality soccer field to provide more playing time and year round use was very well intended.

The product selection, field design and construction at Drake, Cabrillo and Molina parks have been well received by residents.

It is clear that Councilwoman Mungo has worked to achieve a middle ground between the needs of young soccer families who want a quality playing field vs residents concerned with environmental and health impacts of synthetic turf.

Synthetic turf will provide at least 90 extra playing days per year more than natural grass. The sand/cork infill is much safer than the crumb rubber based products of earlier years. The sprinkler system will address the issue of elevated surface temperatures being a problem. Previously planned lighting and fencing have been eliminated and redesigned to meet resident requests.

The proposed Eldorado Park project will clearly meet the Councils intent to provide a high quality, year-round playing field *but it will come with financial and environmental costs.*

***The problem is that the current cost does not reflect the Total Lifecycle Cost (TLC) to our community.***

***TLC = Initial Cost+Maintenance Cost+ Replacement Cost+Environmental and Health Impacts.***

Initial Cost of \$1.32 M for Construction, \$530K for Turf, \$144K for 8 yr Maintenance, \$177K for Maintenance years 9-15 and \$450K for Refurbishment (at year 15) for a total of \$2.56 million are clearly



understood.

**What is less understood are the Environmental Impacts** of losing a natural grass carbon sink and the related cooling effects of natural grass in a time of rising temperatures and Green House Gases (GHG). Less understood are the effects due to outgassing of the plastic turf and the introduction of micro plastics into the environment.

Less understood are the end of life impacts of 80 tons of plastic turf and base tiles into a landfill or the undefined process of repurposing or recycling.

***This project was determined to be exempt from an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under section 15302 of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it was deemed a replacement or reconstruction.***

Natural grass is being replaced by synthetic turf which will clearly result in an impact to the environment. I think residents would like to understand that the proposed project is environmentally safe.

***Our City has worked hard to establish and communicate a Climate Change Action Plan. The introduction of synthetic turf in El Dorado Park seems contrary to our stated goals for this plan.***

We researched and shared with our Councilwoman and Parks and Recreation Department Manager data from CSULB and the LB Parks Department itself how a well designed, well constructed natural grass field can provide lower initial costs, lower regular maintenance costs and superior health and environmental benefits to the entire community.

Local communities such as Yorba Linda and Irvine have reconsidered the use of synthetic turf in favor of sustainable, organic, natural grass field solutions.

We respectfully ask that you pause to consider the Total Life Cycle cost and environmental impact of this decision, and ***complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the synthetic turf to show this proposed plan is safe*** and consistent with the vision of our Long Beach Climate Change Action Plan.

Best Regards,  
Greg Shea

Long Beach

Sent from my iPhone