

**From:** Erin [REDACTED]  
**To:** -- City Council; Healy, Mike; Shribbs, John; McDonnell, Kevin; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Please pause before installing additional synthetic turf playing fields in Petaluma  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 1:04:10 PM

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---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear City of Petaluma,

It has come to my attention that Petaluma is about to utilize tax-payer money to install new synthetic turf fields laden with toxic chemicals like PFAS. As someone who grew up in Petaluma, played on many a green grass field sports like Lacrosse and Soccer, and is a professional in the water conservation area, I know that your decision is probably coming from a good place, but synthetic turf is NOT the solution. The solution is using recycled water on turf fields to ensure our Petaluma children and residents have access to all-natural, safe, health green spaces to play.

More progressive places like Boston are banning the use of synthetic turf due to dangers to the players and the environment. (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/30/boston-bans-artificial-turf-toxic-forever-chemicals-pfas>). There is strong research that artificial turf breaks down pretty quickly and creates massive pollution in our waterways. Actually, there are tons of reasons we don't want more of this stuff around (climate, health, etc.). There is a nationally renowned natural turf expert coming to Marin this spring through a grant and he is able to train our city staff and officials for free on how to manage turf naturally which turns out is most cost effective in the long-run. Please pause these imminent field installations ASAP. We need a thoughtful solution for the long term not a knee-jerk response.

Please see this

brief: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/11iJ\\_PN6Z9fFYs9qrc40gSlv5\\_EnPYQ-houy082keFYk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11iJ_PN6Z9fFYs9qrc40gSlv5_EnPYQ-houy082keFYk/edit)

Erin Axelrod

Partner / Worker Owner, [LIFT Economy](#)

I acknowledge that my home office sits within the xučyun-‘awwašte land today that is the unceded traditional ancestral homelands of the xučyun, an Ohlone people.