

May 5, 2023

City of Petaluma

Attn: Parks and Rec
Sub: Public Comments
Lucchesi Soccer Field

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Petaluma resident for over 50 years. I started playing soccer at age 6 when we had limited grass fields. I spent my younger years playing at Wiseman (which became very unsafe due to pot holes, etc with many of my players being injured due to such conditions). Lucchesi was the first turf field I played on and it was a breath of fresh air. We could play rain or shine, day or night. Turf fields are safer than grass fields, anyone who has ever dodged a gopher hole at Prince or Wiseman knows that.

Soccer has become so much bigger in Petaluma since I was a child. We desperately need to not only re-turf Lucchesi but add more fields throughout the city. Not only would it be good for the kids (and adults that still play), it would be a good revenue source for the city as well.

Our children need access to fields all year around. Lucchesi adds availability along with the newer fields.

With all due respect to Parks and Recreation, the city doesn't have the resources to maintain a high-quality grass field. It would be hard to keep a grass field in safe condition and permit open public use.

I have played at the new Petaluma Complex, and those fields are fabulous and always packed with players and fans.

Thanks for your time.

Eileen Thomson

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