

Bradford, Delana

From: Jessica Scerri <jessica@goldenstatelumber.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 12:35 PM
To: ParksRec
Subject: Public Comment - Lucchesi Turf Field Replacement

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Petaluma City Council-

I'm writing to ask you to reconsider replacing the turf field at Lucchesi Park; youth sports in Petaluma does not need another grass field. Anyone with a child in one of the city's sports programs can tell you the burden of helping leagues constantly upkeep grass fields that are supposed to be maintained by Parks & Rec or PCS. Grass fields pose a greater danger of sprained ankles & broken bones when not properly maintained. The many ruts & potholes created during a typical soccer game can lead to serious injuries if they're not immediately tended to. Our son played PYSL last year and we were continuously pulling kids ankles out of potholes during games. If Parks & Rec is having a hard time maintaining current fields, how will they maintain another & ensure our children are safe?

Lucchesi is heavily used by multiple sports organizations because turf is the preferred location for athletes to play on community fields. Turf is minimal upkeep compared to grass, it allows kids year-round access to sports/camps, provides revenue to the city when tournaments & competitions are held, & has already been planned & budgeted for. I understand there are environmental impact concerns & I'm not dismissing them, but artificial turf can be environmentally friendly as it's made of recycled material & uses less water than natural turf. The city needs to move forward with the replacement project and then consider a long-term plan for turf fields in the city.

Thank you,
Jessica Scerri

Jessica Scerri — *Chief Executive Officer*
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