From: david sedeno
To: ParksnRec
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS - Lucchesi Field Turf Replacement
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:49:49 PM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this to show my support for the City of Petaluma's upcoming Lucchesi Turf Field Replacement Project. As a long time Petaluma resident and a proud volunteer of the Petaluma Youth Soccer League, this project is critical for our children and our community. The beautiful Lucchesi Field is at the heart of our community—set next to the Petaluma Boys and Girls Club and our Recreation Center. The current condition of the Lucchesi field is poor and is in need of replacement. There are seams that are coming apart and the field is approaching conditions that could be considered unsafe if not taken care of.

Many organizations and families use this field for sports and outdoor fun activities. It is important that our city provides a safe place for these community activities to occur. Our city maintenance department does the best they can but the maintenance of our other city parks and recreations—especially the natural turf fields—have improved but they are not up to the quality and standards for safe play for sports such as soccer and lacrosse. I understand our state experienced a severe drought the past few years, which contributed to the poor field conditions, but the fields are uneven, peppered with gopher holes, and cost our city thousands of dollars to maintain and use precious water to irrigate the natural turf fields. These fields have caused injuries to our coaches and players due to their poor conditions. Postponing or eliminating the Lucchesi Turf Field Replacement project will only hurt our community.

I am compelled to speak about the irrigation of natural turf. I appreciate the fields we have. It is fantastic that our children have play fields to play. Petaluma is the envy of other neighboring communities that lack adequate play fields for their communities. I have heard that there is a possible scenario that the city could consider replacing the synthetic turf with natural turf. This would be bad. Our field is set up for synthetic turf. And to reiterate why add more work to a city maintenance department that is strapped thin. Our city has begun outsourcing maintenance to contractors. This would add to the cost if we go with natural turf not to mention what would happen to the natural turf when we have the next drought. This is California and our weather is cyclical. It is not a question of IF but WHEN our next drought will happen. We don't want to invest our community's funds in natural turf only to watch it dry up in the next drought. Replace the Lucchesi synthetic turf with synthetic turf.

The synthetic turf will require maintenance but the city already has the equipment and training needed to maintain synthetic turf since that is what we currently have. The project has other wonderful improvements that will help our community ranging from ADA upgrades to site improvements to uneven concrete. My family goes to the Lucchesi Field area weekly with my son's youth sports. I can speak first hand of the poor conditions of the existing hardscape and its need for improvements; especially the abandoned fence posts left in the ground and other trip hazards.

Delaying the project will only hurt our communities and the youth leagues. Please continue with this project immediately and replace the Lucchesi Field Turf for us all.

Thank you for your time,

David Sedeno