



City of Sierra Madre

Office of the City Clerk

232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,

Sierra Madre, CA

(626) 355-7135

THE BROWN ACT PROVIDES THE PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS AT ANY PUBLIC MEETING.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING AND WILL BE POSTED ONTO THE CITY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY. ANY ATTACHMENTS TO THE E-MAILS MAY BE PUBLICLY INSPECTED BY CONTACTING THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

THE COMMENTS ATTACHED ARE SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THE CITY DOES NOT CONFIRM THE VERACITY OF THE STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

From: [bobby leary](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ban of artificial turf opposition
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 10:22:04 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

B. Leary



9/08/2025

To the Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed ban on artificial turf. As a resident who has already invested significant time, money, and effort to replace my natural grass with artificial turf, I find this proposal not only irresponsible but also insulting to those of us who made that decision in good faith to support water conservation.

The City has consistently urged residents to save water during our recurring droughts. I took that message seriously. I paid thousands of dollars to remove my natural grass—an expensive, labor-intensive process—because I believed it was the right thing to do for both my household and the community. I installed artificial turf to drastically reduce water consumption, eliminate chemical fertilizers, and lower ongoing maintenance. Now, the suggestion that artificial turf should be banned sends a contradictory and unfair message: that residents who complied with the City's call to conserve water are being punished for it.

Banning artificial turf directly undermines our water-saving efforts. Lawns are among the single largest consumers of household water in our region. Artificial turf solves this problem completely. To prohibit it now is not only short-sighted but also an irresponsible step backward in the fight against water waste.

I urge you to reconsider this ban. As someone who has already borne the high cost of replacing natural grass to support the City's water conservation goals, I should not be penalized for making the very choices the City once encouraged.

How about you draft up a "grandfather" clause that would allow pre-existing artificial turf lawns to remain, without a time limit, and adopt a new policy for all new artificial turf installation? Best of both worlds.

Respectfully,
Bobby Leary

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Jim & Martha Walsworth



To the Sierra Madre City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ban on artificial turf.

When the city mandated a 30% reduction in water usage, my family responded proactively. We invested in removing our front yard grass and replaced it with a combination of artificial turf and drought-tolerant plants. This change reduced our water consumption from 24 units per month to just 5–6 units—a significant and sustained improvement that directly supports the city’s conservation goals.

Beyond water savings, artificial turf offers several environmental benefits that are often overlooked. It eliminates the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, which can contaminate local groundwater and ecosystems. It also reduces the use of gas-powered lawn equipment, cutting down on noise and air pollution. In our case, the turf is paired with drought tolerant plants, making it a low-impact, sustainable solution.

We made this investment in good faith, responding to the city’s call for responsible water use. A blanket ban would unfairly penalize residents who took meaningful steps to reduce their environmental footprint. I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and explore more flexible approaches—such as regulating materials or usage zones—rather than eliminating a tool that has helped many of us meet the city’s sustainability goals.

Sincerely,

Jim & Martha Walsworth

From: [Andrew Garcia Schneider](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Spencer Vodnoy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dapper Field and Synthetic Turf on SM Public Property
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 3:57:46 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

September 9, 2025

Dear Members of the Sierra Madre City Council,

On behalf of the Sierra Madre Pony Colt Board of Trustees, we are writing to share our perspective as the city considers future policies regarding synthetic turf on public property.

Recently, our league completed a \$60,000 investment in a new turf infield at Dapper Field, which was fully approved by the city. This project was carefully planned to provide Sierra Madre youth with a safe, reliable playing surface for the next decade and beyond. The turf infield is designed for long-term durability, with a lifecycle of approximately 10–12 years before replacement would be needed, making it a sustainable and cost-effective choice for both the league and the city.

For our program, the infield is not cosmetic — it is a community resource that supports hundreds of families by:

- Enabling year-round play that natural grass cannot sustain under heavy use.
- Providing safe, consistent conditions for athletes of all ages.
- Conserving significant amounts of water compared to natural grass.

Because this installation was city-approved, it was completed in good faith, with the expectation that it would remain a functional community facility for its full lifecycle. We understand the Council is evaluating environmental and health concerns regarding synthetic turf. At the same time, we respectfully ask that youth sports facilities be part of the conversation and considered separately from ornamental or decorative turf. Athletic fields play a unique role in promoting health, equity, and community life.

As this process moves forward, we respectfully request:

1. Grandfathering of existing athletic fields, including Dapper Field, through the full lifecycle of the turf (approximately 10–12 years).

2. Clarification on how potential policies will apply to existing athletic fields, especially those that were city-approved.

3. Consideration of exemptions or accommodations for youth sports facilities.

4. Opportunities for collaboration, so local leagues can be partners in finding safe and sustainable solutions.

The Sierra Madre Pony Colt Board of Trustees is proud to provide a space where children grow, learn teamwork, and stay active. We want to work alongside the city to protect both the environment and the future of youth sports in our community. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
The Sierra Madre Pony Colt Board of Trustees