



# County of Santa Cruz

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## PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

October 6, 2000

AGENDA: October 24, 2000

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON ARTIFICIAL. TURF USAGE  
IN THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARR SYSTEM

Dear Members of the Board:

On March 7, 2000 your Board directed the Parks Commission to develop a specific policy recommendation on the use of artificial turf in the Santa Cruz County Parks system.

At the Commission's August 2000 meeting, Andrew Rowley, Field Turf, made a presentation on their product to the Commission. The Commissioners were able to see an actual example of the artificial surface material and had the opportunity to ask questions of the Field Turf representative. Several of the Commissioners were concerned about safety and maintenance. The answers to their questions reassured the Commissioners that the artificial turf products currently on the market are extremely safe and relatively maintenance free. Mr. Rowley also informed the Commission that the San Francisco Forty Niners played on the surface the previous weekend and are considering installing the surface. Cabrillo College may use Field Turf on their athletic fields and the owners of Soccer Central, in Watsonville, are going to install a similar product at that facility when it moves to Ramsey Park.

The Commissioners did discuss the need to take several factors into account when the County considers using an artificial surface at a future park site. They felt that the benefits of year round use by the community needed to be considered in light of the potential impacts to the adjacent neighborhoods. Additionally, the water conservation aspect, reduction in pesticide use and the reduced maintenance demands should play a significant role in the decision making process.

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After deliberation, the Commission unanimously passed the following motion:

MOTION: A motion was made to recommend considering the use of Field Turf at a future park facility.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report and direct staff to assess the potential use of Field Turf at future park sites in light of neighborhood, environment, and maintenance-related issues.

Sincerely,



Barry C. Samuel  
Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer

cc: CAO, Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, Parks, Parks Commission