

From: Giulianna Pendleton

Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:34 PM

To: Planning Comment <PlanningComment@osgatosca.gov>

Subject: Planning Commission 12/8/21 Item #5: General Plan DEIR

Hello,

Please find my public comment regarding the General Plan DEIR attached.

Thank you,

Giulianna Pendleton

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December 7, 2021

To: Los Gatos Planning Commission

Re: December 8th Agenda Item 5: Provide the Public with an Opportunity to Give Verbal Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Draft 2040 General Plan

Dear Chair Janoff and Commissioners,

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of birds and other wildlife by engaging people of all ages in birding, education, and conservation. We believe schools should be places for children to learn, grow, and explore - inside the classroom and out. Part of this education includes ensuring children are surrounded by natural spaces, native plants, and trees.

The Los Gatos Union School District (LGUSD) is renovating outdoor spaces for Daves Avenue Elementary, Louise Van Meter Elementary, and Blossom Hill Elementary, and deciding whether or not to include artificial turf for courtyard areas and sports fields (for both these renovations and future school renovations). Within the General Plan Update, Implementation Program C: Artificial Turf "determine the appropriate use of artificial turf" (page 6-34) would have critical implications for future LGUSD decisions.

Within the Draft EIR for the General Plan Update, please analyze the cumulative impact of artificial turf on our open spaces, tree canopy, habitat, and water quality. Expanding artificial turf within Los Gatos could have cumulative impacts on biological resources and public health and safety. Artificial turf can exacerbate microplastics pollution, groundwater recharge disturbances, urban heat island effects, toxic chemicals, habitat loss, and trash accumulation. Artificial turf cannot be recycled into another field and it most often ends up in the landfill every ten years. The field's shockpad can be reused once, but then it will go to the landfill too.

Municipalities, public agencies, and organizations are starting to take action against artificial turf. This year, the City of Millbrae issued a moratorium on artificial turf installations¹. Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center, UCSF Children's Environmental Health Department, Valley Water, and other environmental groups caution against its use.

1

https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/millbrae-enacting-temporary-ban-on-new-artificial-turf/article_faefa35a-3ae9-11ec-87ea-4375ef038f82.html

SCVAS maintains that there is no appropriate use of artificial turf. We hope Los Gatos considers a moratorium on the use of artificial turf in the city. We recommend looking at all the impacts of expanding artificial turf, cradle to grave. This includes impacts to public services, public health and safety, and landfill capacity. Please reach out to Giulianna Pendleton at giulianna@scvas.org with any questions or requests for more information.

Thank you,

Giulianna Pendleton
Los Gatos Resident
Environmental Advocacy Assistant
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

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