

Robert [REDACTED]
To: Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor)
Wed 6/18/2025 7:55 PM

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I'm concerned about the proposed Crocker Amazon Baseball and Softball Fields Renovation by San Francisco Rec/Park given the adverse effects of artificial light at night (ALAN) on migrating birds as well as the plastic artificial turf playing surface that robs habitat from wildlife. You can [read about the proposal here](#).

The San Francisco Bay area is located directly on the Pacific Flyway, a major bird migratory route. An estimated [billion birds travel through this flyway](#) during spring and fall migratory seasons. The majority of these migrants are songbirds who take flight primarily at night. Skyglow, or the artificial brightening of the night sky by light pollution, affects their nighttime migration by luring them to areas where they are at greater risk of colliding with buildings and potentially disorienting them, throwing them off course and disconnecting them from their migratory paths.

I also have concerns over the choice plastic playing fields while we're in the midst of a climate crisis. Oil-based turf often contains heavy metals, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), and other chemicals that can leach into the environment. Birds may be exposed through direct contact or by consuming contaminated water and insects. In fact, many artificial turfs contain plastic fibers and rubber infill (like crumb rubber from recycled tires). Over time, these break down into microplastics that can be ingested by birds, leading to health issues.

Unlike natural grass, artificial turf prevents soil from supporting worms, insects, and microbes that birds rely on for food. That means San Franciscans will experience fewer American Robins, Northern Flickers and sparrows foraging for food or flycatchers making sorties over the field for insects.

Some artificial turfs even have reflective properties that could disorient birds or increase the risk of window strikes in urban areas. For these reasons I urge you to oppose SF RPD's proposal to expand its already huge plastic footprint.

Sincerely,
Bob [REDACTED]
94117

SF ACC!

[REDACTED]
To: Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor)
Wed 7/2/2025 2:59 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Michael,

I would like to convey my profound concern regarding the significant challenges presently confronting Animal Care and Control, particularly within the current economic climate. As an unofficial volunteer, I previously communicated with our current Mayor, following the ABC 7 news coverage that highlighted the severe overcrowding at the shelter. I am grateful that the Mayor, accompanied by Carmel Chu, her administrative assistant, did visit the shelter.

However, I believe that further action is necessary to address the escalating problems, and I am confident you share this perspective. The persistent issues of insufficient space, funding, sponsors, foster care, and staffing shortages have, in my view, contributed to an increase in the euthanasia of otherwise healthy animals.

As a social worker and animal rights advocate with many years of experience, I am deeply distressed by this situation. It is particularly disheartening to witness animals being euthanized without the opportunity for a second opinion or access to fully qualified animal behaviorists. While I am eager to contribute to a resolution, I am unfortunately unable to attend meetings in person [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued dedication to this critical issue. IF YOU Wish TO CONNECT ME, I CAN BE REACH BY EMAIL. [REDACTED]

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]