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August 14, 2025

Mayor Daniel Lurie

San Francisco City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 200

San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Recommendations opposing artificial turf renovation plan at Crocker Amazon Park

Dear Mayor Lurie,

As it is the responsibility of the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare to advise the Office of the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the Office of the City Administrator on animal issues, we want to share our recommendations regarding an upcoming renovation project that will impact wildlife in our city.

The Commission recently learned of the [upcoming renovation plan](#) for Crocker Amazon Park. While the Commission supports the sentiment of this project, we have serious concerns around the proposed use of artificial turf in the park and want to recommend revisions to the renovation plan. These recommendations are built on documented evidence around the plastic crisis impacting both humans and the wildlife that lives among us.

According to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, the Baseball and Softball Renovation Plan for Crocker Amazon would create six state-of-the-art diamonds and associated amenities, five of which will be composed of petroleum-based artificial turf, rendering 75% or more of the 40-acre park surface either plastic or concrete. Along with eliminating the existing nature grass lawn used by the community, coyotes, birds and other wildlife, the plan would remove dozens of established healthy trees and shrubs used for nesting.

The concerns around the plastic crisis are not benign. Just this month, The Lancet Medical Journal published [a report](#) on the harmful impact of plastics to human and planetary health. Plastic-related fatalities in California wildlife [have been documented](#) for decades.

Evidence shows that the ubiquity of plastics is a growing concern:

- Plastic pollution is transforming Earth systems, worsening climate change and biodiversity loss, and making oceans more



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acidic. ([source](#))

- Synthetic turf breaks down into smaller greenhouse gas emissions pieces, is carried long distances by the wind and other mechanisms and is likely a major source of aquatic plastic pollution. ([source](#))
- San Francisco Estuary Institute found microplastic pollution in every part of the Bay, at some of the highest levels measured globally. ([source](#))
- Artificial turf fields must be replaced every 8-10 years. Since there are no U.S. facilities for recycling, the plastic carpets and rubber crumb infill are often dumped or sent back to landfills in a form that is even more environmentally problematic. ([source](#))

Based on this evidence, the Commission recommends revising the Crocker Amazon Park renovation plans to replace artificial turf with natural grass or other natural solution that would reduce harm to local wildlife. We also propose a moratorium on the expansion of artificial turf surfaces in our parks until further evidence is evaluated.

Thank you in advance for your consideration regarding our recommendations. If there are any questions or if there is anything the Commission can do to assist, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Michael Angelo Torres
Chair, San Francisco Animal Commission – Commission of Animal
Control and Welfare

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CC: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Office of the San Francisco City Administrator
San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks