



# *PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT*

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MEETING DATE: January 22, 2015

ITEM NUMBER:

**SUBJECT: PORTABLE TURF**

**DATE: JANUARY 12, 2015**

**FROM: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**PRESENTATION BY: TRAVIS M. KARLEN, RECREATION MANAGER**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: TRAVIS M KARLEN, RECREATION MANAGER  
714-754-5052**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission review the portable turf information provided and provide direction to staff.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The City of Costa Mesa allocates City and School District athletic fields for the various youth sports groups in the community. The City is faced with a shortage of lit facilities primarily during the daylight savings time of the year (October to March).

At the September 30, 2014 Special Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, Vice Chair Peterson requested staff to research portable turf options to use on lit parking lot areas. Mr. Peterson mentioned the Orange County Fairgrounds as a potential site to take into consideration.

## **ANALYSIS:**

Per the Vice Chair Peterson's direction, staff contacted two companies that fabricate and install portable or modular turf for temporary use.

Syn Lawn carries a product that is sold in 15 foot rolls. The product can be seamed to create large playing surfaces. This product is utilized annually for a tournament in Los Angeles which is sponsored by Nike. The product works well for this temporary application.

The company recommends a pad which provides a safer playing surface and a drainage system. The cost of the turf plus recommended padding ranges from approximately \$6.65 - \$10.65 per square foot depending on the quality and thickness of the pad. Company installation ranges from \$7 - \$10 per square foot. Installation may also be done by the City, however the company does not recommend this option.

Staff also contacted Blue Sky Turf. Blue Sky provides product in rolls that also has a rubberized backing. The recommended product is fabricated with a 5/8" pad. The cost of

this product ranges from \$6 - \$8 per square foot and installation is estimated at \$6 - \$10 per square foot.

Some items to consider:

1. Both companies claimed that because of installation and removal several times a year, the product will likely wear quickly and replacement will be required frequently.
2. The playing surfaces are not as safe as permanent fields and the companies indemnify themselves from any potential liability issues.
3. The playing surfaces do not perform as well as permanent fields.
4. The thickness of the pads make the storage of this equipment difficult.

At this point, staff have only researched cost and feasibility of use of portable turf for parking lot areas. Staff has not looked into possible use of private or public property for this type of use.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

1. The Commission may give direction not to continue research on a potential portable turf project due to the unbudgeted costs involved.
2. The Commission may give direction to seek council approval to move forward with the RFP process to solicit bids for portable turf.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

The cost to turf a 54,000 square foot playing surface, ranges from \$737,000 to \$1.1 million. The cost for this project is not in the current fiscal year's budget. If the City moves forward with incorporation of portable turf, there will have to be a discussion regarding the priority of this in regards to the other pending projects on the list. In addition, staff could seek other non-General Fund funding sources.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review required at this time.

**RECOMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission review the portable turf information and provide direction to staff.

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TRAVIS M. KARLEN  
Recreation Manager

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TAMARA S. LETOURNEAU  
Assistant Chief Executive Officer

**DISTRIBUTION:** ~~Chief Executive Officer~~  
~~Finance and IT Director~~  
~~City Clerk~~