



## Board of Education Report

**File #:** Rep-426-14/15, **Version:** 1

### **Amendment to the Facilities Services Strategic Execution Plan to Define and Approve Six Projects that Address Defective Synthetic Turf Fields**

#### **Action Proposed:**

Staff proposes that the Board of Education approve an amendment to the Facilities Services Division (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve six projects that address defective synthetic turf fields at six schools with a combined project budget of \$8,432,758 as identified in Attachment A.

#### **Background:**

The District has installed 65 synthetic turf fields during the last 15 years. All of these fields contain a variety of “infill” material between turf fibers to offer cushioning and imitate the natural grass-feel. When synthetic turf fields emerged on the market, the common infill material that was installed was crumb rubber (ground-up recycled tires). However, because of the environmental and health concerns associated with this material, the District has stopped using crumb rubber as infill material and revised its specification to include a greener alternative known as thermoplastic elastomer (TPE). TPE material from a Chinese manufacturer known as Regalfill was installed at twelve LAUSD school sites in the period from 2010-2012. Unfortunately, Regalfill has been found to lose consistency and clump together. In two cases, this caused a hardened condition which resulted in a failed G-Max test, a test conducted to determine if a field is soft enough to absorb the impact when a player falls. The District’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) ordered the closure of these two fields until this issue is resolved. In addition to the hardened surface, the infill is also sticking to athletes’ cleats causing another health and safety risk. The District has determined that this particular brand of TPE is a defective product. Corrective measures to address the defect need to occur at sites that are in the poorest condition immediately. The product has been excluded from the District specifications for future synthetic turf installations, and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is assisting to evaluate the District’s options to seek recourse from the manufacturer among others.

The two schools where synthetic fields have been restricted from use due to failed G-Max tests are Sonia M. Sotomayor Learning Academy and Sandra Cisneros Learning Academy. It is imperative that these fields be reopened as they are important to the instructional and extracurricular programs at the schools. Therefore, construction at these two sites will commence immediately in Q2 2015 and is anticipated to be completed during Q3 2015. The conditions at four other sites continue to worsen as this issue is left unaddressed. Construction will begin on the other four sites (identified in Attachment A) in Q2 2016 and is anticipated to be completed during Q3 2016. The remaining six other sites that contain TPE infill will be closely monitored for a change in their condition, and projects will be brought to the Board if they need to be replaced.

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

It is expected that the Board will approve this action and the six defective fields will be replaced with ones that contain an infill that has proven to perform better.

If this proposed action is not approved, two fields will remain closed and will not be available for instructional use or for extracurricular activities, and this health and safety risk will persist at all six sites.

**Board Options and Consequences:**

Should the Board approve this proposed action, staff will proceed with removal and replacement of the defective fields. If the Board does not approve the proposed action, unsafe conditions will continue to exist at these sites.

**Policy Implications:**

These actions are consistent with the District's commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment.

**Budget Impact:**

The projects will be funded with Bond Program funds associated with the School Upgrade Program Critical Repair category of need. The total budget for the six projects is \$8,432,758.

**Bond Oversight Committee Recommendations:**

This item was considered by the School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting of March 26, 2015. Staff has concluded that this proposed SEP Amendment will facilitate implementation of the SEP, and therefore, it will not adversely affect the District's ability to successfully complete the SEP.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A

**Informatives:**



**Attachment A**

**1. El Camino Real Charter High School – Project to Address Defective Synthetic Turf Field**

*Independent Charter, Board District 3 - Galatzan*

- *Project Background and Scope* – This project will replace the approximately 110,800 Square Foot synthetic turf field.
- *Project Budget* -- \$1,767,435.
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2 2016, and conclude in Q3 2016.

**2. Fairfax Senior High School – Project to Address Defective Synthetic Turf Field**

*Educational Service Center West, Board District 4 - Zimmer*

- *Project Background and Scope* – This project will replace the approximately 115,000 Square Foot synthetic turf field.
- *Project Budget* -- \$1,833,532.
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2 2016, and conclude in Q3 2016.

**3. Rivera Learning Center – Project to Address Defective Synthetic Turf Field**

*Intensive Support and Innovation Center, Board District 7 - Vladovic*

- *Project Background and Scope* – This project will replace the approximately 100,000 Square Foot synthetic turf field.
- *Project Budget* -- \$1,597,475.
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2 2016, and conclude in Q3 2016.

**4. Sandra Cisneros Learning Academy – Project to Address Defective Synthetic Turf Field**

*Independent Charter, Board District 2 - García*

- *Project Background and Scope* – This project will replace the approximately 17,300 Square Foot synthetic turf field.
- *Project Budget* -- \$313,532.
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2 2015, and conclude in Q3 2015.

**5. Sonia M. Sotomayor Learning Academy – Project to Address Defective Synthetic Turf Field**

*Intensive Support and Innovation Center, Board District 5 - Kayser*

- *Project Background and Scope* – This project will replace the approximately 81,900 Square Foot synthetic turf field.
- *Project Budget* -- \$1,323,309.
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2 2015, and conclude in Q3 2015.

**6. Washington Preparatory Senior High School – Project to Address Defective Synthetic Turf Field**

*Intensive Support and Innovation Center, Board District 1 - McKenna*

- *Project Background and Scope* – This project will replace the approximately 100,000 Square Foot synthetic turf field.
- *Project Budget* -- \$1,597,475
- *Project Schedule* – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q2 2016, and conclude in Q3 2016.

## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Stephen English, Chair**  
L.A. City Controller's Office  
**Pamela Schmidt, Vice-Chair**  
Early Education Coalition

**Quynh Nguyen, Secretary**  
LAUSD Student Parent

**Scott Folsom, Executive Committee**  
Tenth District PTSA

**Stuart Magruder, Executive Committee**  
American Institute of Architects

**Paul Escala**  
CA Charter School Association  
**Garrett Francis**  
Assoc. General Contractors of CA  
**Elizabeth Lugo**  
LAUSD Student Parent  
**Abigail Marquez**  
L.A. City Mayor's Office  
**Ron Miller**  
L.A. Co. Federation of Labor AFL-CIO

**John Naimo**  
L.A. Co. Auditor-Controller's Office  
**Scott Pansky**  
L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce  
**Betty Valles**  
AARP  
**Barry Waite**  
CA Tax Reform Assn.  
**Susan Linschoten (Alternate)**  
L.A. Co. Auditor-Controller's Office

**Joseph P. Buchman – Legal Counsel**  
Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP  
**Thomas A. Rubin, CPA**  
Oversight Committee Consultant

**Gary C. Anderson, PhD 1947-2015**  
Bond Administrator  
**Daniel Hwang**  
Administrative Analyst

## RESOLUTION 2015-19

## BOARD REPORT NO. 426-14/15

**AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC  
EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE SIX PROJECTS THAT  
ADDRESS DEFECTIVE SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS**

WHEREAS, District Staff proposes that the Board of Education amend the Facilities Services Division's (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve six projects that address defective synthetic turf fields at six schools with a combined project budget of \$8,432,758 as described in Board Report 426-14/15 attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, The District has installed 65 synthetic turf fields during the last 15 years. All of these fields contain a variety of "infill" material between turf fibers to offer cushioning and imitate the natural grass-feel; and

WHEREAS, when synthetic turf fields emerged on the market, the common infill material that was installed was crumb rubber (ground-up recycled tires), however, because of the environmental and health concerns associated with this material, the District has stopped using crumb rubber as infill material and revised its specification to include a greener alternative known as thermoplastic elastomer (TPE); and

WHEREAS, TPE material from a Chinese manufacturer known as Regalfill was installed at twelve LAUSD school sites in the period from 2010-2012, and has been found to lose consistency and clump together sticking to athletes' cleats causing a health and safety risk; and

WHEREAS, in two cases, this caused a hardened condition which resulted in a failed G-Max test, a test conducted to determine if a field is soft enough to absorb the impact when a player falls; and

WHEREAS, the District's Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) ordered the closure of these two fields until this issue is resolved; and

**RESOLUTION 2015-19****AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC  
EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE SIX PROJECTS THAT  
ADDRESS DEFECTIVE SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS**

WHEREAS, the District has determined that this particular brand of TPE is a defective product; and

WHEREAS, the product has been excluded from the District specifications for future synthetic turf installations, and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is assisting to evaluate the District's options to seek recourse from the manufacturer among others; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the two schools where synthetic fields have been restricted from use due to failed G-Max tests, Sonia M. Sotomayor Learning Academy and Sandra Cisneros Learning Academy, be reopened as the fields are important to the instructional and extracurricular programs at the schools; and

WHEREAS, construction at these two sites will commence immediately in Q2 2015 and is anticipated to be completed during Q3 2015, and will begin on the other four sites in Q2 2016 and is anticipated to be completed during Q3 2016; and

WHEREAS, the remaining six sites that contain TPE infill will be closely monitored for a change in their condition, and projects will be brought to the Board if they need to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, these actions are consistent with the District's commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the project is funded by Bond Program funds associated with the School Upgrade Program Critical Repair category of need; and

WHEREAS, District staff has concluded that the proposed SEP amendment will facilitate implementation of the FSD SEP, and therefore, it will not adversely affect the District's ability to successfully complete the FSD SEP; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

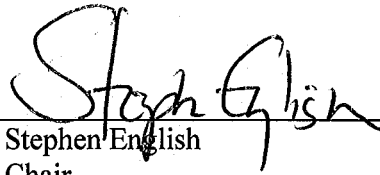
1. The School Construction Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee recommends that the Board of Education adopt an amendment to the Facilities Services Division (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve six projects that address defective synthetic turf fields at six schools with a combined project budget of \$8,432,758 as defined in Board Report 426-14/15 a copy of which is attached hereto in the form it was presented to the BOC and is incorporated herein by reference.


**RESOLUTION 2015-19****AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC  
EXECUTION PLAN TO DEFINE AND APPROVE SIX PROJECTS THAT  
ADDRESS DEFECTIVE SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS**

2. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and posted on the Oversight Committee's website.
3. The District is directed to track the above recommendation and to report on the adoption, rejection, or pending status of the recommendations as provided in section 6.2 of the Charter and Memorandum of Understanding between the Oversight Committee and the District.

ADOPTED on March 26, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: 9  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
ABSENT: 5

  
Stephen English  
Chair

  
Quynh Nguyen  
Secretary