

	CITY OF PALM DESERT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES	
	Subject	Artificial Turf/Synthetic Grass in Public Rights-of-Way
	Policy No.	PW-001
	Date Issued:	September 26, 2024
	Approved by	Resolution 2024-_____
	Authored by	Public Works Department

I. INTRODUCTION

In December 2016, Legislature enacted Senate Bill (SB) 676 prohibiting local jurisdictions from enacting or enforcing any regulations that prohibit the installation of drought-tolerant landscaping, synthetic grass, or artificial turf on residential property. In accordance with Government Code Section 53087.7, the City has the authority to enact reasonable restrictions on the type of artificial turf/synthetic grass that may be installed and the design of its installation.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose is to protect and enhance the health, safety and general welfare of the City in addition to protecting the water usage and water quality to be consistent with the state and federal regulations and permits, including the Clean Water Act.

- A. Eliminating the discharge of debris from artificial turf/synthetic grass products, such as plastic blades, crumb rubber, nylon and other synthetic components, into stormwater runoff;
- B. Improve the absorption and retention of storm water through the use of natural drought-tolerant landscaping using living plant material;
- C. Eliminating solid waste generated by the disposal of synthetic grass and artificial turf products;
- D. Improving public health and safety by removing exposure to potential environmental carcinogens found in artificial turf/synthetic grass products.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Artificial Turf" and "Synthetic Grass" is artificial or synthetic non-organic material that simulates the appearance of organic sod, grass, or lawn ground cover, and includes outdoor plastic carpeting. Artificial turf/synthetic grass does not include painted natural organic grass or sod.

IV. GENERAL POLICY

The use and installation of artificial turf and synthetic grass landscaping material is prohibited in City public rights-of-way. This includes but is not limited to medians, parkways, landscaped areas around public facilities, and city parks. This policy does not prohibit the use of artificial turf/synthetic grass for residential and private properties. The City may modify the policy from time to time as it may deem necessary or as required by law.