

----- Original Message -----

From: "mailto:dshelburne@sandi.net"Shelburne Dana

To: "mailto:tcfiel dturf@cox.net"tcfiel dturf@cox.net

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 8:11 AM

Subject: FW: Field Turf

FYI

Dana Shelburne, Principal

La Jolla High School

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelburne Dana

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 8:11 AM

To: Watts Jim

Cc: Chico Loren; Dossantos Bill; Kiesling Bob; Flores Geno

Subject: RE: Field Turf

Having gone down the tedious road of fundraising (several times), I know how hard it is to raise money-so I want the best value for my dollar. And having dealt with several companies, I know the value of working with one that has a true warranty based on years in the business. And having heard the cries for repair and monetary help by schools who chose an inferior product with a worthless warranty, I am concerned that good money might once again go to an unproven product from a Johnny-come-lately business which might not even be in business in two years.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why, having been burned, the district doesn't go with a proven product. My students have to play on these inferior fields, and frankly Mira Mesa and San Diego High fields have degraded, are dangerous, and are causing injuries. Pt. Loma's field has already come apart at the seams-literally.

I haven't looked closely at artificial surfaces for a while now, but the specs I saw are inferior to what I know works. Why not make the specs equal to those of Fieldturf, then let those who want the business raise their standards?

Did anyone interview coaches or students about this? They would know better than anyone how the various surfaces work-or don't work.

There is a reason these other guys are cheaper. Durability, playability, and safety are directly connected to the amount and quality of the backing, the plastic grass fibers, the sand infill, and the rubber infill. **Fieldturf has shown itself to be the only reliable product out there,** and there is a reason that the schools which have taken the time to do the research, raise the extra money and install Fieldturf. Torrey Pines High, Henry High, Hoover High, Grossmont High, Grossmont College, the Chargers all have Fieldturf and have no complaints. By contrast, every other school with some other product is having durability and warranty problems.

I have no vested interest in Fieldturf, but am passionate about not installing inferior fields which end up costing more in the long run and pose dangers to our students. Mira Mesa and San Diego have been in dangerous disrepair for a couple of years now, and no one is doing anything about it-the schools don't have the money and the district isn't stepping in. Athletes are being injured as they catch their cleats in these other turfs-rubber has migrate/deteriorated, backing has come apart. How long before someone sues for obvious neglect of a known problem?

Sorry to jump in at what seems to be the last minute, but **we are going down the wrong path here. Raise the specs bar, and let those who have the talent compete.** To do anything less will allow everyone to repent at leisure.

Dana Shelburne, Principal

La Jolla High School

-----Original Message-----

From: Watts Jim

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 4:25 PM

To: Shelburne Dana

Cc: Chico Loren; Dossantos Bill; Kiesling Bob; Flores Geno

Subject: RE: Field Turf

Dana: Thank you for sharing your direct experience and concerns. I absolutely agree that we want to ensure that our limited funds are spend appropriately, especially in the case of artificial turf where there is a considerable expense and **expectation of at least a 10 year usable life.** I am very familiar with the problems at the fields you mention and that was what prompted us to develop a synthetic turf and all weather track contract that could be used by multiple sites.

We also evaluated multiple manufacturers and determined that Fieldturf and A-turf were the

only acceptable products. We have modified our specs during the bidding process to adjust the requirements in response to input from both manufacturers. I think that as a result of this input we have created a spec that let's these two manufacturers compete on a level playing field (to use the sport's analogy). I know Fieldturf would like to be listed as a proprietary product so there was no direct competition and frankly, there are some areas where Fieldturf is unique and superior. However, the A-turf product should also be a suitable product for district use if they meet the requirements we have identified.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your perspective.

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelburne Dana

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 1:17 PM

To: Watts Jim

Cc: Chico Loren; Dossantos Bill; Kiesling Bob; Flores Geno

Subject: Field Turf

Hi Jim,

A former teacher/coach at LJHS sent me a copy of an email that was sent to you by Tim Coury of Fieldturf and, having no background, can only guess that some spec has been written for artificial turf which the district may declare the standard. If that is the case, I hope you will entertain a few words from me on the topic, as I have the longest relationship with artificial surfaces in the district and have seen some huge mistakes made at other sites.

For us, the initial concern was safety and durability. We did exhaustive research and chose Fieldturf. Seems we were right, as we have had no field-related injuries-for either the home team or the visitors-in the five years we have had Fieldturf, and it plays today as well as it did at age one. By contrast, some of these other fields are becoming dangerous as they decompose.

Compare that to the all rubber fields at San Diego High, Mira Mesa, or Pt. Loma. Those fields, especially the first two, are coming apart, and students are starting to suffer injuries related to catching cleats, etc. For verification, you should speak with some of those in M & O who have been around these fields. Jim Gonzalves and Randy Altmeyer come to mind. I am not overly familiar with other companies that do a sand and rubber mix, but I would check them to be sure they sew rather than glue their products. I would also be concerned about the type and amount of sand and rubber used, as that is key to the playability of the surface, its ability to stop the rubber from migrating (and causing invisible divots that twist ankles), its drainability, etc.

You also need to delve into what activities void warranties. We, among other things, throw the discus on our field, and we place hundreds of chairs on the surface for graduation. Neither is a problem for our warranty, yet either action would void the warranty on most fields, including the one recently installed at, I believe, Pershing. Check with Gonzalves about that one.

You should also check the history of companies in this business, as I have had to deal with several who tried-and in some cases succeeded-in selling fields by lying about our satisfaction with Fieldturf. What I discovered is a very volatile market where companies come and go with regularity, leaving customers with warranties that are worthless. And those with whom I spoke seemed to have no real experience nor any conscience when it came to doing whatever they needed to do to make a buck.

Also, I may be the only administrator whose has had two separate fields installed by two separate companies. The first experience, while done well in the end, required constant adjustment and, in the end, final preparation by the Fieldturf installers, as the finished aggregate surface was not sufficiently smooth for installation. My second experience was with a company that had installed several fields and the process was flawless from start to finish. Take it from me: you do not want to baby-sit a company with no experience in field preparation. You will lose time and money, as you will be forced to micro-manage by the day. An experienced company will also be a source of great design-build suggestions which have worked at other sites, especially around issues of drainage, water, electricity, and spare conduit.

I hope I am not out of place with this info, but I feel as if I know more than most about these surfaces and I want the district to get safe, durable surfaces for students [mine included] and value for any money spent. The old axiom that you get what you pay for is really true here!

If I haven't yet bored you to death and you need more information, I am happy to help in any way you feel beneficial.

Thanks.

Dana Shelburne, Principal