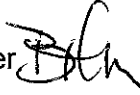




MEMORANDUM

Date: January 26, 2016
To: City Council
From: Bryan Montgomery, City Manager 
SUBJECT: Discussion regarding the use of Recycled Rubber for Playgrounds

Background

Last year the City was awarded \$55,000 in grant funding from the State of California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to purchase and install rubber bark at the Holly Creek Park playground, which was completed late last year. This form of tan bark is much more durable than wood bark and provides a superior fall surface from a safety perspective and is ADA compliant. The rubber park also significant reduces maintenance costs compared to wood bark or sand that has to be constantly groomed and replaced.

As you know, California has some of the strictest environmental regulations in the country and has deemed the product safe. The product also exceeds standards set by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Also, as a recycled and reused product, thousands of tons of waste rubber are diverted from landfills. Notwithstanding this determination, a local resident has expressed concern as to whether at some later date the material would not be deemed safe. (Staff believes that the recent studies and concerns have related more specifically to small rubber pellets that are used in artificial turf, not to the playground bark/mulch).

In response to the expressed concerns, Vice-Mayor Higgins requested that this matter be formally on the agenda for Council discussion.

Here are some links from some vendors you sell the product:

<http://www.internationalmulch.com/recycled-rubber-for-playgrounds/>

<http://www.costco.com/NuPlay-Playground-Mulch-Made-From-100%25-Recycled-Rubber.product.11671313.html>

<http://www.groundsmartrubbermulch.com/playground-rubber-mulch/>

Here are links to studies about the use of the product:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/publications/Detail.aspx?PublicationID=1206>

<http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/forms/wastetires/rubbermulchfactsheet.pdf>