



Agenda Item # \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Neil Miller, Director of Public Works  
Juan Price, Maintenance Superintendent  
Lindy Coe-Juell, Senior Management Analyst

**DATE:** November 21, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Consider Approving the Installation of Synthetic Grass Around Metlox Fountain

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the installation of artificial grass around the fountain in the Metlox Plaza. The City will work with CleanStreet, our landscape contractor for the Metlox Plaza, for the installation of the artificial turf if City Council gives approval.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

Sufficient funds have been budgeted in the Public Works operating budget to cover the cost of the installation (approximately \$20,000).

### **DISCUSSION:**

Staff has found that the sod surrounding the fountain in the main Metlox Plaza has been difficult to maintain because of the high amount of foot traffic in the area. Many people enjoy use of the grassy area surrounding the fountain; it is often crowded with parents, kids and dogs. The sod has been replaced several times since the Plaza opened due to wear and tear.

The process of replacing the sod around the Metlox fountain has several disadvantages. It takes time away from other landscape maintenance activities. It is inconvenient to the public as the newly placed sod must be roped off for a week following installation to allow the root system to take hold, which limits access to the space surrounding the fountain. The replacement of the sod is also an additional maintenance cost to the City of approximately \$5,000 per year.

Spurred by the disadvantages of maintaining the sod, staff conducted research regarding the installation of artificial grass. Staff obtained several samples of artificial grass and were very pleased with the appearance. Installation of the artificial grass would cost approximately \$20,000 and has several advantages over the natural sod. The artificial grass does not require watering or mowing. The artificial grass is expected to last 12-16 years. With the one time installation cost of \$20,000, the City would see a recovery of that expense in four years relative to the \$5,000 per year sod replacement cost. The artificial grass also requires little maintenance. It can be cleaned by rinsing with a hose and raking if necessary.