

Balboa Island Preservation Association



The gem of Newport Beach

March 12, 2019

Councilman Herdman
City of Newport Beach (District 5)
Cc: Jack Callihan, BIIA
Bcc: Preservation Supporters

Re: Removal of Astro Turf

Dear Councilman Herdman,

Per your March 10, 2019 response on Nextdoor regarding the removal of Astro Turf below each tree on Marine Ave, we understand that the Astro Turf will be removed by the BIIA, and that the BIIA has a gardener on the payroll who has been assigned this priority. To date I have not heard about any scheduled removal.

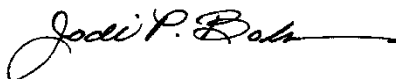
At this juncture we are concerned that in spite of multiple tree assessment reports, which were completed more than three months ago, and arborists who are experts in this area, noted that the Astro Turf that is bound and wrapped on each tree is detrimental to our 'Special Trees' and that to date no such action to remove the Astro Turf has been forthcoming. The BIPA's arborist has made it abundantly clear that the presence of this material at the base of the trees has materially decreased the ability of these trees to uptake water, properly drain water and hinder their ability to process oxygen and could negatively impacted the health and longevity of our Special trees.

Furthermore, a recent inspection of the tree bases has yielded the finding that in spite of the rains we have experienced in the past weeks, the soil under the Astroturf bases are totally dry.

We would like that you direct your attention to this effort to ensure the removal of this material preferably no later than this Sunday (March 17, 2019). We also ask not cover the tree well bases until proper vetting of the appropriate material, if any is necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please ask the BIIA to confirm when removal of the Astro Turf is completed.

Kind regards,



Jodi P Bole, BIPA and its members