



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Vivian Deutsch

Outreach Coordinator, SFV Climate Reality Project

climatereality.sfv@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TERRY SAUCIER AWARDED “PIONEER WOMAN OF THE YEAR”

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (CD3) Awards San Fernando Valley Climate Reality Leader Terry Saucier as “Pioneer Woman of the Year”

Reseda, CA, September 29, 2024 – Terry Saucier, founder and leader of the SoCal Stop Artificial Turf Task Force, has been chosen by Councilmember Bob Blumenfield to be honored with Council District 3’s “Pioneer Woman of the Year” Award. Mayor Karen Bass notes, "This year, we celebrate the theme ‘Pillars of Change: Women in Public Service,’ commemorating our esteemed honorees leading the way for future generations of female leaders." Councilmember Blumenfield’s Environment, Climate and Energy Policy Advisor David Giron, who nominated Terry, also attended the ceremony.

Terry’s community outreach and concerns over the damaging impact of artificial turf inspired her to take action. In 2023, she created the SoCal Stop Artificial Turf Task Force, a coalition of like-minded organizations and leaders whose aim is a ban on all new installations of artificial turf in Los Angeles and surrounding communities.

Terry says, “There was a time when we thought artificial turf was environmentally friendly, that it reduced water usage. However, we now know that artificial turf is terrible for the climate, it is a danger to the health and safety of our communities, and it contributes to biodiversity loss.”

When Terry, a Tarzana resident, initially brought her concerns to her school district, they refused to discuss the matter or offer alternatives to parents, teachers or staff. “I felt compelled to act and speak out,” says Terry. “I had to determine what, if anything, I could do to stop the installation of artificial turf at these schools.”

After a state bill was passed allowing cities to ban artificial turf, Terry turned her attention from the local school district to the city of Los Angeles, with a goal of getting a ban on new installations of artificial turf in LA. So far, the Los Angeles City Council has passed a motion to study the impacts of artificial turf. Terry’s coalition will continue to work with the city, advocating for a ban.



Terry Saucier with CD3’s David Giron



The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER



Concerned as both a parent and environmentalist about climate change, environmental justice, and the world we are leaving for future generations, in 2020 Terry joined the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Climate Reality Project, where she serves as Chair of the Programming and Sustainability Committees. She also recently became a member of the Climate Reality Los Angeles Chapter's Biodiversity and Ecosystems Committee.

(The Climate Reality Project, is an international action-focused volunteer organization founded in 2011 by former Vice President Al Gore.)

Terry has always been a passionate community and environmental advocate. In 2015, she joined the Tarzana Neighborhood Council where she is currently a board member; as North Area Representative and Chair of the

Outreach Committee, she works with the Chamber of Commerce, local community, public officials, and schools, as well as co-chairing the annual Earth Day festival and poster contest. She is also a member of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. Since 2016, she has volunteered with the Los Angeles County Animal Control Equine Response Team, caring for horses and large animals that have been displaced during emergencies.

Terry's passion for the fight against artificial turf has inspired hundreds to band together and work to get this toxic, dangerous substance out of our schools and communities. This award highlights a shining example of the impact one person can make when they care deeply about their community. Terry says, "My experience reinforces that there is strength in numbers. Success is possible, and optimism is warranted in the environmental movement."

About SFV Climate Reality:

The Climate Reality Project San Fernando Valley Chapter meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of every month, 7pm-8:30pm. Education is provided for the community by monthly guest speakers on environmental science, activism, and policy, with follow-up actions guided by the monthly meeting topic. Meetings are open to all who want to take action on climate change and connect with like-minded environmental partners.

Register for meetings [HERE](#) (or use <https://bit.ly/SFVCR>). For more information about the Chapter, visit: <https://www.sfvclimatereality.org>.

Threads – [@sfvalleyclimate](#)

Facebook – www.facebook.com/groups/SFVClimateReality

Instagram – www.instagram.com/climatereality_sf

YouTube – <https://bit.ly/SFVCRyoutube>