



## Case Study

### Helen Bernstein High School Athletic Complex

#### **FlexSand® Action synthetic turf infill reduces health concerns for Helen Bernstein High School**

When the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) began building the new Helen Bernstein High School and its 90,000 square feet of athletic fields, officials looked for options that would limit lead exposure and other health concerns. Stephen Sharr, director of new construction for the Central Region of the LAUSD, notes that FlexSand Action infill and DOMO Varioslide Supreme™ artificial turf were specified for use at the Bernstein fields.

The fields will not only be used by students of the school, but also by residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, so eliminating the lead exposure associated with traditional infill material technologies was a priority for Sharr and his team. "We were assured that neither the DOMO artificial turf nor FlexSand Action infill contains detectable levels of lead or other potentially hazardous materials," notes Sharr. The high school, part of the nation's second-largest school district, is the first facility to use FlexSand Action infill as a cushioning material on athletic fields in the LAUSD.



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Stephen Sharr, Los Angeles Unified School District



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## A safe alternative that contains no heavy metals or harmful chemical compounds

FlexSand Action uniquely combines two engineered elastomers and high-purity quartz sand, to create a specially formulated synthetic turf infill. This new infill solution contains no heavy metals or harmful chemical compounds, unlike traditional infill material technologies, and minimizes health and environmental concerns, a key issue for Helen Bernstein High School.

Maureen Lynn, General Manager for FlexSand Action's producer Mineral Visions, Inc., notes that product development targeted health concerns, among other performance aspects. She continued: "As a result of our efforts, we have engineered a truly superior system using an FDA approved elastomer." FlexSand Action's food-grade material is approved for use around fresh-cut produce, meats, and cheeses, and even has applications in medical and personal hygiene materials. In other words, its safety for use by Bernstein High School students is well established.

## FlexSand performance qualities also keep players cooler, help reduce injuries

Park West Sports Systems Inc., in Ranch Santa Margarita, California, installed the artificial turf at Bernstein High School, and spread FlexSand after installation. Tom Ricci, the company's president, said that customers are becoming more interested in alternative infill technologies for environmental reasons, and also for their better performance characteristics. And, he notes, the district selected FlexSand Action to protect its players and the local community.

Specifically, FlexSand Action keeps players and fields cooler and players more comfortable, thanks to its coating that absorbs less heat than traditional infill material technologies. "A field that uses FlexSand Action will be about 20°F cooler during the day than a similar-sized field using a traditional infill," states Lynn.

Lynn continues that FlexSand Action has excellent shock absorption qualities, and combined with its UV resistance, retains those properties under even the harshest weather and playing conditions.

Other FlexSand qualities—including leach resistance to protect the environment, recyclability at the end of its useful life, fire safety, better ballast, reduced kick-out, and superior blade support for the DOMO turf—contributed to LAUSD's decision to specify FlexSand Action.



"...we have engineered a truly superior system using an FDA approved elastomer."

Maureen Lynn, FlexSand General Manager

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