

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 8, 2008  
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 1277  
AUTHOR: A. Maldonado

**BILL SUMMARY: Synthetic Turf**

This bill would require the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) to conduct a study on the effects of synthetic turf and natural turf on the environment and public health, and to provide a copy of this study to the Legislature and post a copy on the Waste Board's website by September 1, 2010.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

The Waste Board estimates the study would cost approximately \$200,000 Tire Recycling Management Fund. These costs could be absorbed within existing resources. Finance notes that the Waste Board considered an action on April 22, 2008 to fund a \$200,000 interagency agreement with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) on this subject. The Board adopted this item.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it is unnecessary. The Waste Board will be entering into a contract for \$200,000 with OEHHA to study the health aspects of synthetic turf fields, which in turn will result in better informed decisions about the product.

The use and application of synthetic turf is increasing because it's easy to maintain. Synthetic turf does not require mowing, watering, fertilizing, pesticides or maintenance equipment. Synthetic turf resembles natural turf and is a layered system that includes a drainage layer, a backing system, and 'grass blades' that resemble natural turf.

The filler is a soil-like substance created with sand and/or granulated recycled tire rubber or other materials. Synthetic turf is used on sports fields, but is increasing in popularity among local governments to replace turf near roadways, on medians, and around public buildings. Also, it is being used as an alternative to residential lawns.

However, synthetic turf can spread drug resistant bacteria and other harmful organisms because they are easily transferred by inanimate objects in the environment such as polyethylene (i.e., a plastic used in synthetic turf fibers).

Because synthetic turf uses crumb rubber from recycled tires, the Waste Board has provided grants to local government agencies to install synthetic turf fields. While fields have been installed around the country as football, soccer and baseball/softball fields, questions have arisen as to whether the crumb rubber releases chemicals or particles that could be inhaled by people playing on these fields, leading to adverse health effects. In addition, questions have arisen about whether crumb rubber turf fields cause skin abrasions that are more serious and more prone to bacterial infection than abrasions occurring on natural turf. The interagency agreement between OEHHA and the Waste Board will evaluate these health issues.

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Analyst/Principal (0671) K. DaRosa	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**

**AUTHOR**

**AMENDMENT DATE**

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A. Maldonado

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SB 1277

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	
3910/Waste Mgmt	SO	No	B	\$100	B	\$100		--	0226
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0226	Tire Recycling Management Fund, Calif								