



March 03, 2010 (revised 3-10-2010)

California State Assembly  
Offices of the Honorable  
Lori Saldana, Assembly Member  
76th Assembly District  
Capitol Office  
PO Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Dear Assembly Member Saldana,

Thank you for recognizing the value of clearly defining the use of artificial grass and synthetic turf materials as water and energy efficient solutions by introducing Assembly Bill 1793 on February 10, 2010.

*"This bill would provide that a provision of any of the governing documents of a common interest development would be void and unenforceable if it prohibits, or includes conditions that have the effect of prohibiting, the use of artificial turf or any other synthetic surface that resembles grass."*

ASGi, its Board of Advisers and its members would like to join you in support of the adoption of this relevant legislation.

Artificial grass and synthetic turf solutions provide property owners with beautiful, flexible landscape options when properly and professionally installed. Synthetic grass surfaces help to save water, reduce chemical usage, lower air pollution, decrease dust and erosion while managing water shed. The key to achieve these conditions are that these materials are properly specified and installed - using permeable surfaces, installation guidelines and materials.

US manufactured materials dominate our California market and are brought to the state to support the fastest growing segment of the artificial grass industry - landscape and leisure sports\*. It is estimated that over 20 million square feet of artificial turf was installed in California, last year, by local contractors.

Whether used for residential lawns, landscape projects for common property or specifically for golf, bocce or playfields, California's synthetic turf market is home grown, the largest market in the US. We are seeing an expansion of business to business, retail and installer revenues; adoption by existing landscapers along with new business start-ups. The revised Landscape Model Use Ordinances, that become enforceable this year, can be satisfied easily because most of the styles of grass are permeable and provide realistic, adaptable solutions for property owner's landscape and sports activities areas.

In recent years, several studies\*\* have shown that average annual water use to maintain lawn in Southern California's drier communities may be as high as 55 gallons of water, per square foot. In damper climates, Northern Californian residential lawn rate of irrigation may average approximately 35 gallons, per square foot.



Let's use an average water savings of 45 gallons per square foot and apply that to the 20 million square feet installed last year alone. You can see that last year's crop of artificial grass saved Californians an estimated 900 million gallons of water; virtually eliminated the use of 2 cycle engines, weed/feed/pest control products and decreased dust and erosion on every square foot installed.

Though state\*\*\* and regional programs are embracing water reduction many common property landscape architectural guidelines may require that residents install lawns. Water districts, recognize the value of synthetic grass solutions by providing aggressive rebate programs for its use, and yet, so many of the common property guides will not allow the use of artificial grass within residential or commercial use communities.

Over the past 36 months, prominent counties, cities and municipalities in the state, with previous ordinances banning the use of synthetic grass surfaces have overturned these rules and are now advocates for the use of artificial grass solutions. To allow common properties the use of guidelines that are contrary to the core of the initiative to save water seems counter-productive.

In closing, we extend our support of your efforts and ask you to call upon us for any additional help we can provide to forward Assembly Bill 1793 into law.

Sincerely,

Annie Belanger Costa  
Executive Director  
ASGi

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Board of Advisers

BBP & Installation: Robert Circle - Stone Creek Construction  
Watershed Management: Mark Rehbein - Rehbein Systems (ResiSolutons)  
Grooming: Milo George - Professional Sports Field Solutions  
Testing: Dr Blair Leftwich - Trace Analysis  
Design & Consultation: Joseph DiGeronimo - DMA Consulting  
Special Applications: Patrick J Carr- Runway Safety

ASGi Members and Market Partners in support of this new legislation,

Act Global Sports - John Baize - Austin, TX - Manufacturer/Surfaces  
CC Grass - Alan Wang - California/China - Manufacturer/Surfaces  
Challenger Industries/EnvyLawn - Steve and David White - Manufacturers/Surfaces  
CRM - Mike Harrington - Phoenix, AZ - Manufacturer/Infill  
DreamTurf - John Davidson - Seattle, WA - Wholesale/B2B  
Duce Construction - Greens or Grass - Patricia Duce - Northern California - Installer/Reseller



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ASGi Members and Market Partners in support of this new legislation,

Everlast Turf - Chris Dalstrom - Los Angeles, CA - Installer/Reseller  
Fairmount Minerals/FlexSand - Joel Eaton - Cinn, OH - Manufacturer/Infill  
ForeverLawn West - Brian McGibbon - San Jose, CA - Installer/Reseller  
Garber Seeders - Shane Brown - South Charleston, Ohio - Equipment Manuf  
GeoTurf USA (Limonta USA) - Domenic Carapella - New York City, NY - Manuf/Installer  
Golden Scrap Tire - Jana Nairn - California - Manufacturer/ Infill & Recycled Rubber Bark  
Groom Industries - Frank Beach - Salt Lake City, UT - Manufacturer/Tools  
HunnyDo Grass - Brian Pierce - Hesperia, CA - Installer/Reseller  
One Putt Greens - Bob Diaz - San Diego, CA - Installer/Reseller  
PlayfieldTurf - Jeff Kraus - Rancho Dominguez, CA - Wholesale/B2B  
Playfield USA - Lee Bradshaw - Tucson, AZ - Wholesale/B2B  
PolyGrass, Inc.- Scott Ose, Partner, Fremont, CA - Installer/Reseller  
Pregra Grass - Ashlyn Linville - Temecula, CA - Wholesale/Retail (CostCo)  
Purchase Green - Tony Vena - Southern California - Wholesale/B2B  
Synthetic Turf Solutions - Arvo Pikkarainen - Cinn, OH - Installer/Wholesale/ B2B  
TerraFirma Landscape - Ron Johnson - Dana Point, Calif - Installer/Reseller  
TurfBond - Randal Enterkin - Woodstock, GA - Manufacturer/Seaming  
TuFFGrass, Inc. - Paul Costa - Sacramento, CA - Installer/Reseller  
Turf Authority - Alan Krausen - Southern California - Installer/Reseller  
Turf Group, Inc. - Sean Packer - Southern Calif - Wholesale/B2B

\* “Artificial Grass Global Market – 2007-2009” – AMI Research & Consulting

\*\* City of Roseville Water District; MWDOC, MWD

\*\*\* Senate Bill 7 - 2009 Water Conservation Act