

**Table 2**  
**Estimated Sales of Crumb Rubber Made from California-Generated Tires<sup>8</sup>**

Category	2014		2015	
	Millions of Pounds	Percent of Total	Millions of Pounds	Percent of Total
Paving	46.4	47%	56.7	52%
Turf Infill	22.5	23%	26.2	24%
Ground Rubber/Nuggets	15.5	16%	16.8	15%
Molded & Extruded	12.1	12%	8.6	8%
Other/Unidentified	2.8	3%	1.1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>100%</b>

Buffings from retreaders are counted separately from crumb rubber and are not included in recycling rates (since the retread tires they originated from are already counted under retreads). Buffings are used extensively in certain market segments, especially pour-in-place playground surfacing, molded products, and landscape mulch products. In 2015 California processors received approximately 17.5 million pounds of buffings, most of which was produced by retreaders located in California. Buffings are currently in high demand, with relatively high pricing.

Overall, the crumb rubber market appears likely to grow modestly in 2016. Demand in the major segments of paving, turf infill, and ground rubber/nuggets was fairly strong in 2015, and processors report each of these may be up again in 2016. Despite growing diversity and innovation in the molded/extruded segment, volumes remain low and declined in 2015. California has ample crumb rubber production capacity that has not been fully utilized, especially with the permitting of a new facility in Stockton in January 2016. The crumb rubber industry is highly competitive, both among California-based producers and with out-of-state producers who also supply a portion of in-state demand. Production has fluctuated within tight boundaries since 2000, and absent a quantum leap in existing market demand or emergence of a new, high-volume application, California’s crumb rubber industry may not be able to grow substantially beyond its current size.

CalRecycle is supporting crumb rubber market development in a number of ways, including: funding and participation in Caltrans’ “PG+5” Committee investing new

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<sup>8</sup> The number of PTEs flowing to each crumb market segment as listed in Table 1 may not correlate consistently with reported volumes of crumb rubber produced in Table 2. This is because the yield rate (i.e., the amount of crumb rubber produced per PTE) varies by producer. Also, Table 2 is not adjusted to account for imported tires from out-of-state used to produce crumb rubber. Lastly, in some cases discrepancies may also be caused by starting and ending inventories.