California generates more than 40 million scrap tires every year. While nearly 75 percent of used tires are recycled, the rest still end up in landfills or illegal stockpiles. If not managed properly, scrap tires are a potential threat to both California’s environment and public health and safety. Illegally stockpiled tires also pose a fire risk and are attractive habitats for rodents and insects.

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, known as CalRecycle, is dedicated to advancing California’s waste tire reduction efforts by promoting the use of tire-derived products. Through the department’s Green Roads program CalRecycle is reducing the amount of tires disposed in California’s landfills by putting waste tires to new use as RAC and TDA.

What is RAC?
Rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) is a proven product that has been used for road rehabilitation projects for more than 30 years. RAC contains ground tire rubber, asphalt binder and other aggregate materials.

Why is RAC Beneficial?
Cost-effective:
• A longer lasting, more durable pavement that resists cracking, rutting and shoving
• Requires no special paving equipment
• Can be used at reduced thickness compared to conventional asphalt

Safe:
• Provides a skid-resistant surface and prolonged color contrast with striping and markings

Environmentally friendly:
• Reduces noise pollution with noticeably lower tire noise
• Uses thousands of waste tires per lane mile

What is TDA?
Tire derived aggregate (TDA) is made from shredded scrap tires and is used in a wide range of construction projects. These uses include retaining wall backfill, lightweight embankment fill, landslide stabilization, vibration mitigation, and various landfill applications.

Why is TDA Beneficial?
Cost-effective:
• Less expensive than other lightweight fill materials
• Requires less excavation than soil fill when used for landslide repair

High-performing:
• Lightweight, free-draining characteristics help solve engineering problems

Environmentally friendly:
• TDA reduces need for mined resources such as pumice and gravel
• Keeps thousands of tires out of landfills with every application