

Mr. Adam Turner, Executive Director  
Mr. Alex Elvin, DRI Coordinator  
All Martha's Vineyard Commissioners  
Martha's Vineyard Commission

Oak Bluffs Planning Board

re: DRI 352, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School  
Artificial Turf Athletic Field

January 12, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed artificial athletic field at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

I write as a Tisbury resident concerned about the health of our island's waterways. The proposed field lies within the watershed of Lagoon Pond, a valuable Tisbury resource that is already stressed by septic, fertilizer and storm water runoff. Installation of this artificial athletic field can only make water quality worse.

I am concerned about the long term impact of installing, maintaining, and disposing of the proposed field. Chief among my concerns is the leaching of toxic contaminants from the field into surrounding groundwater. These contaminants may include micro plastics, PFAS, disinfectants and biocides, as well as the herbicides, fungicides, and adhesives required to maintain the plastic carpet. Most worrisome, these contaminants are difficult to detect, impossible to remove, and may enter the island's food chain. The proposed infiltration chambers near the field are unlikely to remove these contaminants.

Further, significant local environmental efforts have been made to reduce the use of plastics on the island. Installation of this artificial field runs contrary to this effort and the emerging culture of the Vineyard. I am convinced that natural grass athletic fields can be constructed to provide similar benefits to local athletes, while helping reinforce local environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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