Hawaiians just say no

Committee turns down potential $291-million profit

BY PETER BLAIS

The Honolulu City Council Human Services Committee has voted against the city's proposed sale of West Loch Golf Course to a Japanese company, likely killing a deal that would have netted the city $291 million. Mayor Frank Fasi hoped to use the proceeds for recreational purposes and three new public courses.

Jurigi Co. bid $111 million this spring for the new municipal course, which cost the city $20 million to build, and offered $200 million in impact fees if the city eventually approved two other golf course construction applications.

The committee voted 4-1 against Jurigi's offer. Committee Chairman Neal Abercrombie said his committee had two primary objections.

First, Abercrombie explained, the land was originally condemned for a municipal course and should be used for the new municipal course, which cost the city $20 million to build, and offered $200 million in impact fees if it had been used for other purposes.

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Dry spell plagues Florida

BY PETER BLAIS

Late spring showers improved the situation somewhat. But Florida remained in the throes of a straight early-season drought that left wells at record-low levels in some parts of the state and resulted in water restrictions that threatened many courses.

Because of weather patterns that generally move storms diagonally from northwest to southeast Florida, south Florida courses were not likely the problem will show up at any other courses, Fetter said. "We feel we know exactly what happened, what (production) run the contamination occurred in, and where it went."

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Tainted fungicide damages courses

BY MARK LESLIE

A fungicide contaminated with a foreign chemical killed turf on about 10 golf courses in five states, according to its manufacturer, O.M. Scott & Sons.

Atrazine, the active ingredient in Scott's Bonus S herbicide, mistakenly got mixed into a batch of FF-II, a fertilizer-based fungicide used primarily to control snow mold, said Jim Fetter, Scott's vice president of marketing.

The mixing was done last fall but it wasn't until weather warmed up this spring that it was discovered at several courses in Michigan, two in Minnesota, and one each in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky.

It is not likely the problem will show up at any other courses, Fetter said. "We feel we know exactly what happened, what (production) run the contamination occurred in, and where it went."

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Exceptions
While Jones pointed to the California and New Jersey regions as among the most difficult to deal with, others like the Midwest are relatively easy, he said.
Ron Kern, who with brother Gary has dealt with COE's St. Louis, Louisville and Detroit divisions, said: "Our main problem is not any inability to work with them, but their lack of staff. We always do a lot of point work to try to minimize the time it takes... and so there are no surprises later on."
Jones said he has had many surprises. His Squaw Valley project in California was a classic example, he said. According to Jones, the local water district notified COE and others before conducting hearings. The COE did not respond. "And in the last minute, after this approval process had been negotiated and permits were being issued, they came to us and said, 'You forgot us. We have jurisdiction because there is a dry creek in this area, and now you have to go through our process.'" Jones said.
"That is a tactic, or a bureaucratic policy, that seems to be repeating itself throughout the country. They are a late-comer... After the developer has gone through negotiations to accommodate the other boards, the Corps comes in and re-invents the wheel."
The difference between regions, he said, shows "there is no consistency in their interpretation of their mission" which is "the water quality of navigable waterways."
Individual interpretation by COE employees is also puzzling, Jones said. "The guys in the field seem to take wide latitude on whether they think it's of interest or not. And rerouting because of delays."
Half of environmental agencies and commissions impose more stringent provisions on golf courses than non-golf projects.

Hills said, "The Corps and the EPA — if you take their directions literally — are either adding a tremendous amount of cost to development or they're stopping it."
"The pendulum has swung a long time — from the Corps to the environmental groups to the state and local. And the translations (of laws) have made it very difficult for recreational and all other kinds of development to be accomplished."

Jones, who strove to improve the regulatory process while ASGCA president in 1989, was adamant that the COE is "missing the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law."
"The policy-makers... would do citizens (us) a service if they would administrate the general policies more efficiently and quickly," Jones said. "The bureaucrat says, 'I'm busy. I need more staff,' which is a typical response. They can review a project quickly. But in a war of attrition it's easy for some of the administrators to say, 'I have to think about it and do nothing...'' then it is to say, 'I approve it with these conditions.'"
Jeffry Moorman

Blackwolf Run nabs Moorman as head pro

PGA Class A member Jeffry Moorman, 35, has been named head golf professional at Blackwolf Run, a championship golf course in Kohler, Wis. Moorman has 10 years experience in the golf industry, including five years as a head golf pro and four years as an assistant head pro at several Midwest courses. He comes to Blackwolf Run from Christmas Lake Golf Club in Santa Claus, Ind., where he had been head golf professional for nearly four years. Moorman was also head pro at Maplecrest Country Club in Goshen, Ind., and assistant pro at Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis. Moorman has a bachelor's degree in general business administration from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

VanMiddlesworth at Lake Aid

John VanMiddlesworth has been named the national and export sales manager for Lake Aid Systems. VanMiddlesworth was previously the eastern regional sales manager. VanMiddlesworth will be responsible for a sales force throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and the Orient.

Lake Aid Systems manufactures and sells aeration equipment for both wastewater and fresh-water applications, including wind-power aerators.

Elsewhere...

Anne C. Seiler has been promoted to marketing manager with Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc. She manages the marketing programs for the firm's golf course design and development projects.

Birnie Whitlow and Paul Syverson have joined Doug Sault as associates in the golf clubhouse architectural firm of William Zinsser Associates based in Boulder, Colo. Syverson is the project architect for Los Angeles International Golf Club and Whitlow was the project manager for Golf Club of Oklahoma and Marbella Golf and Country Club in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

Art Shepherd has been promoted to Northern District manager of Kubota Tractor Corp.'s Central Division. For the past three years, Shepherd served the Colorado and New Mexico territories as a Kubota regional sales manager. Prior to joining Kubota, he was vice president of sales for Spray Rite Manufacturing for four years.

Tom Gentile, principal of Gentile Associates in Mission Viejo, Calif., has announced that Richard W. Murray has joined his firm in a partnership renamed Gentile Murray Associates. Murray has a bachelor's degree in business management and a 20-year career in sales and marketing, and will expand the representation throughout Southern California for the firm's Drip Equipment.

Kevin Buchanan has joined the staff at LABB Systems as product support manager for TRIMS Grounds Management Software and will be responsible for organizing product training seminars in addition to providing technical support to TRIMS users. Buchanan has a strong background in accounting with special emphasis on DOS, Lotus and WordPerfect.

ASGCA survey

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