Oregon citizens group forms to oppose golf on ag land

HILLSBORO, Ore. — Golf courses in agricultural zones are becoming a source of concern. The Washington County Farm Bureau is upset over the number of approved and pending courses in this county's rural areas. Opponents say courses compete for limited water supplies and present possible conflicts with agricultural practices such as chemical spraying.

A group calling itself the 1,000 Friends of Oregon is asking the Legislature to ban courses in exclusive farm use (EFU) zones throughout the state. Agriculture is seen as a $450-million industry in Washington County.

Mary Kyle McCurdy of 1,000 Friends said, "Golf courses are a land-intensive nonfarm use, and (current) restrictions are not enough to keep them from chewing up prime farmland."

Water hazards to help erosion problem

MORRO BAY, Calif. — Water hazards to catch upstream erosion now choking the Morro Bay estuary will feature plans for a 320-acre golf course at the base of Hollister Peak.

The site, about three miles north of Morro Bay near Highway 1, also lists 160 acres for play, 20 acres for a clubhouse, pro shop, lodge and other recreation facilities and 140 acres as potential open space.

"Tom Courtney is project architect and Robert Trent Jones Jr. designer of the 18-hole course. Sweet peas now are grown on this site. "Historically," said Courtney, "the existing agricultural operation on this property has recorded a 10-year average water consumption of 290-acre feet per year."

Allowing for about 90-acre feet for continued agricultural use on 240 acres of land across Highway 1 from the proposed golf course, the project still would use 1,500 percent less water than now used on the whole site, Courtney said.

Jack Franklin, A. J. Wright and John Q. Hammond bought the property in 1985. An original plan called for construction of 200 homes and 100 retirement condominiums on the property. The current plan does not call for housing.

$20M community project breaks ground in N.C.

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Grading and clearing is under way for an 18-hole golf course that is the first stage of a planned $20-million community near the Rock Creek-Interstate 40-85 interchange in eastern Guilford County.

Four holes have been rough graded and four others are being cleared.

The course, named after nearby Stoney Creek, is scheduled to open in the summer of 1992.

Mike Weaver is chairman of the Weaver Cos., a real-estate development firm handling the project for Klaussner Industries, a German-owned company with U.S. headquarters in Asheboro.

Plan in 3rd year passes 1st test in approvals

WHITEHALL, N. Y. — The proposed Willow Pond Golf Course has hurdled its first phase.

The town's Planning Board has approved the concept of the nine-hole golf course.

Although the board approved placement of four single-family homes on four lots, golf course and driving range, construction still is pending approval by the Washington County Department of Health, which will consider the site's water and sewage requirements.

Town attorney Ed Bartholomew said, "Any project like this, especially a golf course, will be subject to local, county and state approval."

The project has been in the planning stages about three years.

The current 147-acre development includes: 14 single-family lots, restaurant, clubhouse, golf course and the remaining land to be developed in phases upon planning board approval.

PLCAA drops Moody

Doug Moody, who had been deputy executive director of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America since 1985, was a victim of a budget-cutting move. His position was terminated.

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