would conserve potable water by available Florida water tax would help make more H2O available encouraging golf courses to use effluent. The problem is availability and cost. Some courses are located far from a reclaimed water facility, making it impossible or economically impractical to build pipelines needed to carry effluent to the course. Is it fair to charge courses more for potable water if reclaimed water isn't available? Brantley asked. Industry officials also fear effluent prices could skyrocket since suppliers are not regulated by state government and are free to raise prices as they see fit. The effluent supplier for one Florida course recently quadrupled its price from 10 cents per 1,000 gallons to 40 cents. Brantley said. We'd like to see some sort of regulation of reclaimed water companies so prices don't go out of sight, the Florida Golf Council director said.

"We'd like to see some sort of regulation of reclaimed water companies so prices don't go out of sight."  
— Bob Brantley

The Legislature heads back to Tallahassee in January to discuss reapportionment. It could also work on the water tax or wait until the regular session begins in February, Brantley said. But debate will continue between now and then, he assured. Industrial, agricultural and recreational users must obtain the consumptive use permits upon which the proposed tax is based. Brantley said agriculture is likely to receive a tax exemption or some type of tax credit because most of the water it uses, agriculture supporters argue, is returned to the water table. Golf courses do the same thing and the water returned to the water table is usually much cleaner, he added.

"Is it fair to charge courses more than they can afford? They're ready on the beaches for the 1991 U.S. Open assault Narrow fairways, long rough, strategic bunkers and lightning-fast greens. Welcome to the U.S. Open—the toughest major test in golf.

Preparing a course for this kind of battle is no easier than playing it. It takes years of hard work. Fortunately, certified Golf Course Superintendent Chris Hague and Minnesota's Hazeltine National—site of the 1991 U.S. Open—have been there before.

"I've been here since 1982," says Hague, "and the club has prepared for two U.S. Women's Opens, the PGA Grand Slam and the U.S. Seniors Open since hosting its first U.S. Open in 1970.

"Our John Deere equipment has been a big help this time around. I've got 15 John Deere machines that we've used in everything from course reconstruction to daily maintenance.

"The new 1200 Bunker and Field Rake has been a very pleasant surprise. We've found that it does a better job and is physically easier to operate than other machines we've tried. The style of the rake fits with our plan to keep firm, smooth bunkers. In fact, it's done such a good job that it was the only machine we allowed in our bunkers all last year."

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Superintendent Chris Hague depends on a John Deere 1200 Bunker and Field Rake to help groom one of Hazeltine National's more than 100 bunkers for the 1991 U.S. Open.

Pebble Beach memberships question in air until July 2

MONTEREY, Calif. — Who will play Pebble Beach National Club, the scheduled new name of famed Pebble Beach Golf Links, has been the subject of speculation for months. The answer to that puzzle, and when the first swing will take place, should be clear early in July.

The owner, Pebble Beach Co., said it will wait until July 2 for the Monterey Board of Supervisors to study plans for privatization of the oceanside course.

The study, according to board Chairman San Karas, will determine if the sale of memberships constitutes development as defined by Monterey County.

If so, the permitting process and a public hearing will be required before selling memberships.

The owner plans to call for two hours of meetings a day for members, and guarantees an extra 30 minutes daily for public play.

Member price has been pegged in the $550,000 range, high tariff by American standards.

That figure apparently is considered more realistic than exorbitant by Minoru Isutani of Tokyo, Japan, owner of Ben Hogan Property, which owns Pebble Beach Co.

Isutani and his Cosmos World Corp. executives are "very much concerned" about local residents' opposition to future residential development in Pebble Beach.

To market the memberships, two companies reportedly would be created: "Pebble Beach Japan" and "Pebble Beach USA."

The Board of Supervisors and the State Coastal Commission declared that any change in the use of any of the golf courses within Del Monte Forest, including creation of a membership program, requires a coastal permit.

A Tokyo source said September is the earliest Cosmo World would sell memberships in Japan.