Effluent users seek balance in cost, laws

By HAL PHILLIPS

Irrigating golf courses with reclaimed water is nothing new. But in Arizona and Florida, course developers and managers are struggling to reconcile the responsible use of effluent with the state-derived pricetag.

"We want to be good citizens," said Jack Mathis, president and acting executive director of the Florida Golf Council. "Eleven percent of Florida golf courses use reclaimed water. But golf courses can't be the entities that absorb the cost."

Golf courses in the Sunshine State need permits from the local water management districts in order to pump ground water. These permits say courses must use effluent if it's "available," and if it's "economical."

Availability is one thing. But according to Mathis, utility companies are selling the treated water for anywhere between $1 and $2 per 1,000 gallons. That's $20,000 dollars a month for water many golf courses can't afford elsewhere.

"We don't really have a water problem in Florida, other than March, April and part of May," said Mathis. "What's happening is, golf courses are caught in a device. Utilities have a dire need to get rid of this effluent, and they're seizing the opportunity to stick it to golf courses."

And who determines what is "economical?"

"That language has not been challenged yet," said Mathis. "But it's only a matter of time."

In Arizona, where life would be unimaginable without water and air conditioning, golf course developers are scrambling to get their hands on reclaimed water. But golf courses can't be the entities that absorb the cost."

"We don't have a water quantity problem. We have a water management problem," explained Bill Runin, president of the Arizona Golf Association. "The state and individual municipalities want effluent use, but there's no incentive economically."

"When it comes to irrigating Arizona golf courses with ground water, there is no statewide moratorium. However, individual counties have imposed serious restrictions. Maricopa County, for example, has mandated the exclusive use of effluent for irrigation, as has the city of Tucson."

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BRIEFS

PORT ORANGE, Fla. — The Golf Club at Cypress Head, a 18-hole private golf course five miles east of Port Orange on Route 250, opened Oct. 25.

Owner Frank Kessler's daughter Candy, who competed on the mini-professional tour, is director of golf, Timothy Thomas course superintendent.

Glenmore opens

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Va. — Glenmore Country Club, an 18-hole private golf course five miles east of Charlottesville on Route 250, opened Oct. 15.

Owner Frank Kessler's daughter Candy, who competed on the mini-professional tour, is director of golf, Timothy Thomas course superintendent.

Glenmore's tradition as a great horse farm where cattle and prize-winning thoroughbred horses were raised has been carefully maintained. Now, a 20-acre sod rolling glens and meadows, the area is rich in Colonial American history.

The two nine-hole loops, designed by course architect John LaFoy of Taylor's, play from 5,100 to 7,000 yards. The par 3 fourth hole drops 100 feet from tee to green and can be stretched to 250 yards, and a 70-foot bunkers fronts the 13th green.

Siberian resort planned by Fream

Ronald Fream of Santa Rosa, Calif., has completed master plan drawings for the Dalreo Resort being developed at Khabarovsk, Siberia, Russia. The facilities will include an executive meeting center, business hotel, casino, health spa, and championship golf course.

This Russian American joint venture is the first world-class golf resort in Siberia. The 18-hole, par-72 course is designed not only for major competitions at 6,400 meters, but with five sets of tees, it plays to 4,800 meters. A golf teaching academy is part of the project. Provision has been made for a second 18-hole course when demand increases.

The Dalreo project will cater to Russian and Japanese business men and tourists. Summer golfing tourists from Japan, Taiwan, and Korea will be the secondary market. Ground-breaking will occur in the spring of 1993.

$14M Scottsdale project draws from aqueduct

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The City of Scottsdale, in conjunction with several local golf developments, is building a new distribution line for non-potable water from the Central Arizona Project's (CAP) aqueduct.

The $14 million project will consist of 14 miles of 36-inch pressurized line, 1.5 miles of 20-inch gravity distributed line, five pumping stations, an 8-million gallon reservoir, and a 62,500-gallon steel tank. Construction costs of the public/private venture will be shared by the city and participating golf course developers.

The CAP takes water from the Colorado River and diverts it into a canal, which provides drinking and irrigation water to California and Arizona. A group of area golf courses—all served by the new distribution line—transferred their water rights to the city of Scottsdale in exchange for $5 million. The remaining $9 million was picked up Continued from 24

Lost City hopes visitors will find Gary Player track

BOPHUTHATSWANA, Africa — "The Lost City," a $1 billion mega-destination resort under development here, soon may be the destination of golf fanatics.

An 18-hole, par-72 golf course, the first desert-style track to be laid out in the south African region, will be the centerpiece of recreational amenities.

Rock and Water Escape Systems Inc., an Irvine, Calif., firm specializing in simulated rock and water features, is playing a major role in creating the opulence and mystique of a royal African kingdom resurrected after being destroyed by an earthquake and abandoned for centuries. The Gary Player-designed course, scheduled to open next April, will use the natural bushveld terrain, with rock features and eroded gullies incorporated as hazards.

A crocodile pool highlights the 13th hole. Greens will have six distinct pin placings. Each hole will have between four and five tees.

Most of the terrain of the course at The Palace of the Lost City borders the Pilanesberg National Park. Golfer may see rhinos and bucks as they wait to tee up.