Developers seek to maximize effluent use

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counter: Most effluent is sold to golf courses at a rate of approximately $800 per acre foot (one acre foot amounting to 318,000 gallons). Golf facilities are allowed from 4.0 to 4.9 acre feet, per acre, per year — which is enough to ward off the scorching desert sun. Unfortunately, reclaimed water is very expensive and it simply isn’t available in outlying areas, where golf courses might be built. The most painful irony is this: Most major cities are dumping the treated effluent for nothing. Even Tucson returns nearly 80 percent of its effluent to the water table.

Rodin believes this roundabout water policy is hurting the development of reasonably priced golf courses in Arizona. Ritzy resorts and private clubs can foot the bill, while daily-fee ventures never get off the ground — the foreseeable margin is too tight.

“I don’t know where it’s going to end,” he said. “There’s no question that golf is key to tourism here. If we can’t get more reasonably priced golf courses here, we’re in trouble.”

The permitting process in Arizona isn’t much help. In order to obtain an aquifer protection permit, golf course owners have to prove reclaimed irrigation water won’t percolate into the ground water. Considering the state’s sandy soil, this is no small task.

Further, golf course owners must use only enough water to allow for plant growth, plus evaporation. This essentially means no percolation. “You show me a guy who can grow healthy turf without percolation and I’ll show you God Himself,” maintained Rodin.

As state agencies in Arizona and Florida continue to set regulations — and precedent — on the use of reclaimed water, Mathis and Rodin agree the golf course industry must mobilize.

“It would be safe to say it is a very dynamic situation,” said Mathis. “Unless we take a pro-active approach and meet these things head on, we’ll get blindsided.”

Scottsdale program benefits city, courses

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up by the golf facilities, which include Troon, The Boulders, Desert Highlands, Desert Mountain and the TPC of Scottsdale.

State Farm Insurance Co. and D.C. Live-stock Co. have joined the project by contributing $694,000 apiece. Both firms have golf courses in the planning stages.

“This program provides real advantages for the golf courses and the city,” explained Marty Craig, water resources engineer for Scottsdale. “We feel like this is a long-term solution. This should provide water for 100 years.”

The project was made possible by the November 1989 passage of nearly $287.2 million worth of general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding a variety of public works projects called for in Scottsdale’s five-year capital improvements program. Approximately $80 million of that package was committed to non-potable and potable water delivery systems for the North Scottsdale area. The city is also planning a $52 million water treatment facility.

A $1-million, 16-inch potable water distribution line, extending approximately five miles will be constructed concurrent with the non-potable line, according to Phil Turner, PE., project manager for Greiner, Inc., the city’s construction administrator.

Plans call for the CAP/Non-Potable Water Distribution System to enter service....

The untreated water will be stored in the new reservoir, which is the first step toward a city-operated wastewater treatment plant. When that plant is completed, the reservoir and pipeline will begin to transport effluent.

Flickwir joins LinksCorp. as VP

NORTHELFIELD, I1. — LinksCorp, a national golf course acquisition firm and management company, has named David Flickwir executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Flickwir. 41, joins LinksCorp from American Golf Corp. in Santa Monica, Calif., where he had worked for 13 years, most recently as vice president of acquisitions. He also was responsible for developing leads, financial analysis and negotiating contracts for public, private and resort golf courses.