New life for Arizona projects

By MARK LESLIE
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Arizona golf course construction industry has a pulse again. The $14 million Reclaimed Water Distribution System (RWDS) is the newest phase of the master plan, begun in the 1960s, to irrigate the West. Next up will be the 1995 startup of an effluent plant that will treat water from the major development area in north Scottsdale. That water will be reinset into the pipeline.

New tax laws, economy drive trend toward for-profit clubs

By MARK LESLIE
Changing tax laws and difficult economic conditions are causing a massive move of not-for-profit golf courses into the for-profit realm.

Karsten Lab to address desert issues

By MARK LESLIE
TUCSON, Ariz. — Golf courses in desert regions can expect to reap benefits from major research that will be conducted at the University of Arizona's new Desert Turfgrass Research Facility and Karsten Laboratory for Turf Science here.

One-stop shop comes to Asia

By AL PHILLIPS
GAPORE — After months of posturing on both the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Connex Private Ltd. appear to have joined forces, thereby creating a single mega-show serving the entire Asia-Pacific region, the event will be "two events under one roof," not a single show. Each show will retain its own staffs, resources and, presumably, autonomy. These simultaneous events will be held March 24-27, at the International Merchandise Mart in Singapore.
New water supply opens faucet on Scottsdale area development

Continued from page 1 and as more development occurs, more effluent will come on line and less CAP water will be used, said Virgil Robinson Jr., director of agronomy for Desert Mountain Golf Course.

"We will be able to move into the next century in water use," said Scott Nair, superintendent at The Boulders in Carefree.

"It makes the availability of water much more predictable for all those courses that have been planned for a number of years but were not built," said Tim Bray, president of Southwestern Community Resources of Scottsdale, who helped ramrod the project through the bureaucratic process.

The pipeline is designed to deliver 20 million gallons of water a day. This has developers negotiating for water rights so they can get stalled projects off the ground. According to aptly named Scottsdale Mayor Herb Drinkwater, the city is receiving a call a day from interested developers.

That may be an overstatement, said Bray, who represents prospective golf courses wanting to join into the system. But indeed, he said: "We've sold initial capacity for 11.5 million gallons. We have 8 1/2 million left. Another 2 million will be gone in the next two months. And we will fill out the capacity in the next 24 months. As we get closer, people will buy capacity to be assured they will have the water when they are ready to build."

To buy 1 million gallons of capacity, a developer will pay about $850,000, according to Bray, whose role was to organize golf course developers to participate in a partnership with the city and get the project designed and built. Buyers then pay a water resource development fee to buy water to put into the pipeline.

"On this line up Pima Road there will be 20 golf courses eventually," Robinson said.

"Until now, would-be developers have had to prove they had a 100-year supply of water," said Robinson. "The aquifers were shut down. This [RWDS] was one way they could be assured a 100-year water supply and still build the golf courses and other developments, too."

Bray said when the effluent plant goes on line in 1995 the Colorado River water will be used as the city's drinking water.

"By the year 2000 we [courses] should be switched totally onto effluent," he said.

• • •

"It's a real boost to the clubs in the area and the city to get this system on line," said Cal Roth, director of golf course maintenance operations for the PGA Tour's Tournament Players Clubs. "Our superintendent there, Tighue Shields, has worked for quite some time with other superintendents and city to help make this happen.

"One of the major concerns of the city was to get golf courses off ground water. We're glad to be able to finally do that."

"I'm excited," said Nair, "because right now every day I wonder where I'm going to get my water. I have rates that vary fivefold and I don't get to pick and choose. It depends on what source is available.

"But things may be carefree again in Carefree."

Existing courses like The Boulders have relied on such varying sources of water as effluent from their own housing developments, ground water purchased through municipalities, Scottsdale potable water, and CAP-treated water through communities.

The Boulders is laying two miles of pipe to tie into the main pipeline. It won't be operational until October, but Nair said: "I can't wait until I'm on line. It's going to make my life and my job a lot easier."

Robinson, too, is happy the pipeline is running, despite some computer problems and clogged water filters from heavy sediment, freshwater clams and snails.

Even the agronomy problems that will come with salts and heavy metals from effluent pale when compared to the longtime problem of finding available water, period.

"I have more problems just getting water on a day-to-day basis than ever have worrying about what quality of water I get," Nair said.

"We're all going to have to face the fact that drinking water is not going to be an acceptable alternative for recreational use," he added. "We are willing to take the pressure and challenge to better use the source that we will have. If we have a high sodium or chlorine level, we'll just have to manage around that problem. People have been doing that for years. There are a lot of courses on effluent in Southern California, Tucson and Texas."