Palmer to design course at former missile plant site

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. — In terms of golf course design, General Dynamics landed a giant.

Arnold Palmer announced his course design company is drawing up plans for a golf course to be bisected by Sixth Street and bordered by Milliken Avenue. "The area is perfect for it," said Palmer, citing the area's sizable population combined with a lack of public golf courses.

The announcement comes three months after General Dynamics unveiled plans to build a public golf course on the site of its former missile-production facility. The course will take up about a quarter of the 375-acre site.

The defense contractor is asking the city to rezone the remainder of the property for a mixture of commercial, office and residential uses. Given rezoning, the company intends to sell this part of the property, according to Dick Hadfinger, director of the property management division.

In addition to an 18-hole course, the complex will feature a clubhouse and practice facility. Estimated construction costs will total $10 to $15 million.

Developer Stephen Eimer, working as a consultant to General Dynamics on the project, anticipates the project will receive City Council approval this summer, in time for a late 1995 opening.

Developer angry, opponents pleased over Calif. settlement

GOLETA, Calif. — A settlement paving the way for a new golf course across from Dos Pueblos High School has infuriated developers and pleased environmentalists here.

Environmentalists agreed to drop their Superior Court lawsuit — which sought to overturn the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors' approval of the project — when Dos Pueblos Golf Course Partners agreed to build a 900-foot-by-86-foot creek with wetland corridors for wildlife. The developers also agreed to build a 50-foot, densely vegetated buffer zone near Glen Annie Creek.

"I will never, ever plan to build anything here again," John O'Shaughnessy, managing partner of Dos Pueblos, told the Santa Barbara News Press. "I wanted to build a golf course for the middle class, with greens fees of $25. Now the price will have to be $35."

O'Shaughnessy said the lawsuit cost $938,000 in legal fees and design changes will cost $104,000. Environmentalists objected most to grading on the project that would bury 1,500 feet of Devereaux Creek with dirt.

With construction set to begin in July, the 18-hole public golf course and clubhouse will be built on 156 acres at the northwest corner of Glen Annie and Cathedral Oaks roads.

Financial deal assures Minn. muni's future

NORTH MANKATO, Minn. — North Mankato Golf Association has reached a tentative agreement with the City Council that guarantees the association's long-term financial support for North Links Golf Course and opens up the possibility of adding 18 holes, creating a 36-hole municipal facility.

Under the agreement, the golf association will pay $40,000 a year to the city for five years. Half of the annual payment will go toward the purchase of additional land, the rest toward the existing course's debt and improvements.

The debt was caused by an estimated $750,000 overrun in the course's construction, which created a $430,000 shortfall. The course lost $175,000 its first year.

One tenet of the agreement is the city will keep an option on 200 acres of additional land.

III. course could make comeback

TUSCOLA, Ill. — Mayor Dan Kleiss has announced the proposed Tuscola golf course may be back on track, depending on the status of the city's mall project.

Although the city had given up on the golf course project about two years ago, the Tuscola Area Improvement Association, a local development association, has taken on the task of trying to reivate interest in the course.

"Things are still very preliminary," said Kleiss, "A lot of the developer's interest is tied to the mall's announcement."