Turf research tax in hands of Ariz. Legislature

By Mark Leslie

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Legislation that would assess 10 cents per round played at golf courses in the state to fund turfgrass research and activities is in the hands of the Arizona state Legislature.

House Bill 2471, which would form the Arizona Turfgrass Commodity Council, was to go to the House floor at the end of February. If passed into law, it will go into effect July 1 and the first collections from golf courses will take place in October, according to Mark Clark, president of the Cactus & Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Clark reported "real cohesive ness" in the golf industry in support of the bill. It is endorsed by the Arizona Women's Golf Association, Junior Golf Association of Arizona, Arizona Golf Association, Southwest Section of PGA, Arizona/Nevada Club Managers Association and Cactus & Pine.

The Commodity Council, if approved, will allow the industry to self-finance appropriate programs beneficial to the green industry.

The council would be funded by assessments on golf course facilities based on the number of rounds played. Moneys would fund, among other things, research of low water-use grasses, thus promoting water conservation; research on the effects of various chemicals used on turfgrass; and research on the environmental implications resulting from golf course use of treated wastewater.

The council would be composed of 15 members appointed by the governor. They would represent the six participating organizations, city parks, public schools and other interests.

Similar commodities groups have been successfully formed for agricultural products — to promote research and marketing for their industries. This would be the first in the country for golf.

More information is available from Turfgrass Research and Communications, Inc. at 602-821-8145.

Indiana theme park to include course

PLAINFIELD, Ind. — A $120 million theme park proposal embracing 120 acres for a golf course and land set aside for future development has been unveiled by officials of GRP Development Corp. of Bloomfield. They hope to open in the spring of 1997 a 425-acre complex at Ind. 39 and I-70 near Plainfield. Plans also call for a 65-acre theme park with 30 acres of commercial development, plus 65 acres of parking.

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