Two new holes approved at Olympic Club

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The California Coastal Commission has approved the Olympic Club's bid to add two holes to a new six-hole golf course it is building on land overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

In return for the approval, the club will be required to buy reclaimed and surface water to irrigate its fairways (rather than pump ground water from nearby Lake Merced) and to provide public access to the beach. To help provide a continuous walkway along the coast, the club granted the National Park Service a 31-acre parcel of rugged upland and beach.

Another interesting development in the agreement is a demand that the 136-year-old club—which has hosted several U.S. Opens and PGA Championships—issue a signed promise not to discriminate on the basis of sex or race in its membership policy. The club has historically only accepted white men to its membership.

Many local citizens and environmental groups criticized the agreement. The land that will be developed has been a popular spot for walking, jogging, picnicking and hang gliding.

The Olympic Club ran into trouble last year completing its new six-hole course, which lies in both San Francisco and San Mateo counties. Though the club got approval to develop four holes from San Mateo County, it had to get approval from the Coastal Commission to add two holes in San Francisco.

Ala. designer readies course

BREMEMEN, Ala. — White Pines Golf Course, scheduled to open in July, carries a unique distinction. The course is owned by a woman, Beck White, who also designed and developed the course.

White built on 165 acres of reclaimed mining land relying heavily on information provided by the National Golf Foundation and the advice of James Thursby, who built Mountain View Golf Course in nearby Graysville.

"Naturally there's ups and downs with a project this size," White said. "But I don't regret doing it. That's not to say I wouldn't have done a few things differently, though."

The course is located off Interstate 65 north of Birmingham.

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