Cosmo World scales down plans

SUNLAND, Calif. — Saying it has resolved environmental concerns, Cosmo World Corp. has submitted scaled-down plans for development of an 18-hole public course in the Tujunga Wash area near Lake View Terrace.

Cosmo World shelved plans for an 18-hole layout last year because of the threat to an estimated 40 endangered plants and animals near the course. The company now plans a smaller, 18-hole course and clubhouse, according to Mark Armbruster, an attorney for Cosmo World, a subsidiary of Kajima Engineering and Construction Inc.

Armbruster told the Daily News of Woodland Hills, Calif., "Instead of a PGA-tournament level type of golf course, this is a regular 18-hole golf course that will minimize the amount of turf that needs to be put in and won't disturb any of the surrounding wildlife."

Cosmo still faces opposition from several area homeowners associations. It will need approval from the city Planning Commission this summer for a conditional-use permit. If that happens, Armbruster said the course could be open in 1997.

CourseCo to manage Crystal Springs

BURLINGAME, Calif. — CourseCo, Inc., a Northern California-based course management company, began operations at the 18-hole Crystal Springs Golf Course on April 1 with plans for a $3 million improvement program.

CourseCo, which manages Mather Golf Course in Sacramento, Riverside of Fresno and Deep Cliff just down the road from Crystal Springs, will operate Crystal Springs and provide construction management for Crystal Springs Golf Partners, L.P. The partnership plans significant capital improvements to the facilities beginning sometime in the second year of occupancy of what will be a 20-year lease with the City of San Francisco Water Dept.

Major planned improvements include a complete clubhouse remodeling, turfing, target greens, a second deck on the driving range, and rebuilt tees and bunkers.

Courses In America Rally 'Round Primo.

For information, call 1-800-395-TURE. 'Primo' is a registered trademark of Ciba-Geigy Corporation. Always read and follow label directions.

The first course to use Hendershot's idea was Warshaw Plantation East near Myrtle Beach, S.C., which was built in 1995. Course officials there budgeted for 40 percent reductions in irrigation and fertilization. So far, the soil is holding well and the water use is at the level predicted.

Hendershot also planted The Rain Trap System in another course in Winnipeg, Canada, last year. New courses under construction in Houston and Phoenix are scheduled to have the system installed this year.

Hendershot, 66, came up with the idea several years ago after witnessing a tire fire at a nearby tire recycling center. Extensive research led him to two key conclusions: there is no really good way to dispose of auto tires and people dispose of 250 million tires a year.

For decades, tires have been burned for energy, buried in landfills, and ground up and used as fill. But there has usually been an environmental or economic drawback.

One characteristic of tires that stuck in Hendershot's mind was they didn't decompose or rot and would therefore make good containers for dirt, concrete or even water. Hendershot and his partners have formed a Santa Rosa-based company called Tire Farms using more than a million tires in building a typical, 18-hole course.

Before its first on-the-job application, the Rain Trap System was planted in a test patch of fairway at the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University in Fresno. Research found it to be a scientifically reliable, passive, sub-irrigation system to recycle water and additives.