Water crisis looms in S. California

By JOEL JOYNER

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Radical changes in California water policy could leave Southern California golf courses in a "world of hurt," according to agronomist Mike Huck, of the U.S. Golf Association's Green Section. From his base here in the southwest region, Huck has been tracking a complicated battle between environmentalists, farmers, municipalities, government officials and others over the future of water distribution in the Golden State. Indeed, the unfolding situation portends such dire consequences that one water-resource specialist, engineer Dana Rippley, is urging that Southern California

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Dramatic new Dragon course opens in remote 'Lost Sierra'

By DOUG SAUNDERS

CLIO, Calif. — The surging economy has been the catalyst for numerous golf-driven real estate developments around the country. Every region has seen the creation of new golf courses, including some areas where you would least expect it. A prime example is Gold Mountain, located in this tiny hamlet in California's Sierra Nevada mountains. Here, in a town of 200 located in a county that has only one stop light, is a 1,300-acre development situated on a two-lane mountain road overlooking ranch land, the Feather River, a solitary railroad track, and the towering Sierra peaks. Is this where you want to retire? Why not, is the philosophy at Gold Mountain. The developers, Dariel and Peggy Garner, have made their mark in such various business ventures as marketing wood by-products overseas, developing banking software, and growing specialty vegetables. Their diverse interests and imagination lead them on a search for a natural setting, a place to settle down. They stopped looking when they found this remote area of Northern California known as the Lost Sierra.

"We were trying to find a place that we could retire to, but what we found was a place of such solitude and natural beauty that we felt we should share it with others," explained Peggy Garner.

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Going East: Simplot buys Lange-Stegmann, to extend POLYON deal

By ANDREW OVERBECK

BOISE, Idaho — Simplot Turf and Horticulture (Simplot T&H) continues its eastward march with the acquisition of the professional product line from St. Louis-based fertilizer formulator Lange-Stegmann. The deal includes the Lange-Stegmann production facilities for its professional products in the golf, landscape and lawn-care markets. The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Located on the Mississippi River, the newly acquired production facilities provide Simplot T&H with efficient inter-modal distribution service to a large segment of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. "This allows us to move east," said Bill Whitacre, Simplot T&H president. "The mountains are a natural barrier for our operations in the West. The Lange-Stegmann facility has a phenomenal location right on the Mississippi and has access to an inter-modal barge terminal. The efficiency of having that location right in the heart of the United States is really an opportunity for us."

Simplot T&H will also add Lange-branded greens-grade and utility vehicles

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Safety-minded lawyer urges 'mulligan' ban

By JAY FINEGAN

NEW YORK — "NO MULLIGANS!" If there is one sign that every golf course should post prominently, that would be it. So says lawyer Robert D. Lang, who has drawn fresh attention to the dangers otherwise-of wild golf shots.

In a recent cover story in the Journal of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), Lang cites numerous personal injury cases in which errant shots struck golfers, caddies, spectators and even motorists. Among the potential defendants, he said, are the golfer who hit the shot, the course or club owners if a suit alleges negligent
Dragon course
Continued from page 1

In the layout, design, and construction of the 472 homesites, the Garners formed an alliance with Taliesin Architects, based in Scottsdale, Ariz. The firm is the continuation of Frank Lloyd Wright’s architectural practice. The layout of the project and the homes themselves are created from Taliesin plans that stress Wright’s concept of organic design that connects a structure to its natural surroundings. Roads, homesites and golf course all blend together to form a striking design plan.

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To create a golf course that fits this organic philosophy, the Garners interviewed several firms before settling on Robin Freeman, the Hawaiian-based golf architect whose internationally acclaimed designs include Mauna Lani, home of the Seniors’ Skins Game.

“Robin Freeman has a tremendous sensitivity to the land. He came here on numerous occasions to make sure the construction of the course would blend in with our overall concept. What he has created is a very bold statement,” said Darien Garner.

Freeman’s golf course offers five tees on every hole and a rolling serpentine layout that slips over a variety of elevation changes. The course captures the rugged terrain with intriguing uphill and downhill shots. The large fairways give the golf course a bold and in many ways

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