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 Ripley, is urging that Southern California veggies may have to be trucked in from other regions.

"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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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.

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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 putting 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.

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Safety-minded lawyer urges 'mulligan' ban

By JAY FINEGAN

NEW YORK — "NO MULLIGANS!" If there is one sign to the dangers of wild golf shots.

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