

THRU THE GREEN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 1990

MEADOW CLUB GOLF RESULTS

FIRST PLACE—54 --\$25.00

J. Doyle
P. Galea
A. Scholthauer
D. Sexton

SECOND PLACE—55—\$20.00

J. Lloyd
H. Cochran
D. Naumann
D. Ballard

THIRD PLACE—60—\$15.00

M. McCraw
G. Santana
R. Gai
P. Cain

MIRA VISTA GOLF RESULTS-SCRAMBLE FORMAT

HANDICAP 0-60

FIRST PLACE-60-\$25.00

D. McDonald
R. West
E. Atkinson
J. Guisto

SECOND PLACE-62-\$20.00

R. Kelsey
R. Singh
T. Sullivan
Ram Pal

HANDICAP 60 AND UP

First place-62-\$25.00

A. Claudio
E. Martin
L. Messa

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G. Love
R. Gai
D. Paul
T. Jackson

ALL WINNERS RECEIVE THE PGA GIFT CERTIFICATE

PGA GIFT CERTIFICATES

GCSANC gift certificates are coming! An agreement between the PGA Northern California Section and the GCSANC Board of Directors has resulted in a gift certificate program that will be honored by golf course pro shops whose professional is a member of the PGA Northern section. This program will be instituted immediately. Hopefully this will make it easier to cash in winnings and give the opportunity to receive needed or wanted golf supplies and accessories. All you have to do is attend a monthly meeting, win a certificate, head to a pro shop, and pick out what you like. The pro shop staff mails the certificate to the GCSANC office for redemption. Certificates will be good for 90 days from the date of issue. Any questions can be answered by a board member.

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THRU THE GREEN

EDITOR

JEAN LADUC

1356 Munro Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008

OUR OBJECTIVE: The collection, preservation, and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge and to promote the efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses. Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.



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(408) 865-0360

PRESIDENTS

MESSAGE

Once again, we had an excellent turn out for our monthly meeting and program. It was held at the Meadow Club in Fairfax and those of you didn't attend missed an excellent buffet, a well put together program on trees and an opportunity to play on a quality golf course. **David Sexton, CGCS**, our host, had everything in fine shape and the hospitality extended our group was greatly appreciated. So, thanks again Dave and thanks also go to Mr. Mac and his efficient staff.

If any of our members do read this column, then I would like to remind them of what our responsibilities as members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California are:

1. Adhere to the Association Code of Ethics.
2. Dressing in good taste at all meetings and when playing golf. Coat and tie are required unless notified otherwise. It is also your responsibility to notify your guest.
3. Members are limited to one guest.
4. All members and guest must attend meeting and meal in order to have golfing privileges.

5. Golf at any other time than a meeting is a special privilege that must be arranged in advance with the superintendent on the course you wish to play on.

In order to promote the fact that we are a professional organization it is up to all of us as Directors and Association members to act in a professional manner.

So think about it.

Joseph Rodriguez, CGCS
President

1991 Supt/Pro

Need an excuse to practice your golf game. Always wanted to play an exclusive golf course? Well then mark your 1991 calendar now...Monday, July 15, Superintendent Golf Tournament, San Francisco Golf Club, San Francisco, CA.

SUPERINTENDENTS INSTITUTE
MOUNTAIN SPRINGS, SONORA
OCTOBER 10, 11, & 12, 1990

A LOOK AHEAD

October 10-12

Superintendents Institute,
Sonora

November 9

Claremont

November 29, 30

GCSAA & GCSANC Annual
Seminar, Pleasanton

December 7

Larry Lloyd Memorial Tournament
and Christmas Party, Laguna Seca
GC

January 7, 1991

Hidden Valley CC, Middletown, CA

February

GCSAA National Convention

March

Joint Meeting with USGA, NCGA

April

GCSANC Annual Meeting,
Rossmoor

May

Open

June 13

Orinda CC

July 15

Supt./Pro Tournament, San Francisco
Golf Club

August

Oakland A's Baseball Game,
Oakland Coliseum

September

Richmond CC

WHERE IS MOUNTAIN SPRINGS ?

The following are directions on how to get to Mountain Springs Golf Course for the Superintendents Institute October 10-12.

If you are coming from the Bay area, go east on 580 to highway 120 to Manteca. Continue east on highway 120 to Oakdale to the foothills. 120 becomes 108 east 40 minutes out of Oakdale. When you arrive in Jamestown, go through the town to the first light and make a right turn on Lime Kiln. Go two miles out to Mountain Springs Road and turn right. Follow this road to the golf course.

WHERE IS SONORA OAKS HOTEL?

Once you arrive in Jamestown, continue on highway 108 towards Pinecrest. **DO NOT TAKE THE SONORA EXIT!!!!** SONORA OAKS HOTEL is five plus miles out of Jamestown and will be on your right. If Sonora Oaks Hotel is full at the time you make your reservation, you will be referred to the Alladin Hotel

SELECTING THE RIGHT GRASS

For the moment, let's suppose you chose the perennial ryegrass shown in question number 1. You may have got the best buy on the seed you selected but if you don't make the correct calculations when preparing to overseed there is a good chance money is being tossed out the window.

1. The seed company sold you a perennial ryegrass which has the following label information:

Brand Seed
XYZ SUPER PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Purity: 97.05
Germination: 92%
Crop: 3.3%
Hard Seed: 0%
Inert: 0.7%

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS

Larry Norman has left Pebble Beach Golf Links to become the Golf Manager at Sonoma National Golf Course in Sonoma. Sonoma National is undergoing a complete renovation and should be open for play in December of this year...**Pete Dempsey** at Adobe Creek GC in Petaluma recently opened the golf course for public play. It also went through an ownership change with J. Grande from San Francisco purchasing it from Duffel Homes. J. Grande is a Japanese owned company...Pebble Beach Company recently was sold to Cosmo World, a Japanese based company. Included in the purchase was Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill GC, Del Monte GC, The Links at Spanish Bay, The Lodge and other Del Monte Forest Properties. All Supts. are excited about the change and feel the purchase will be nothing but good for the golf courses...**Jim Prusa** is the new general manager at Ridgemark Country Club in Hollister.

Fluorescence: 2.5%

Noxious Weeds: None Found

Using the information on the seed label:

a) Calculate Pure Live Seed (PLS).

b) The seeding rate is 250 pounds per acre, calculate how many tons of seed would be needed for 300 acres.

c) How many pounds of annual ryegrass is there in a 50 pound bag of seed?

d) To avoid misapplication of expensive perennial ryegrass, how can you calibrate the spreader

to accurately release 35 pounds per 1,000 square feet? (perennial ryegrass = 225,000 seeds per pound)

2. What is the ideal soil temperature when overseeding perennial ryegrass?

(Answers are on page 5)

ORGANIC ADDITIVES AND THE ROLES THEY PLAY

Turfgrass areas, especially new golf courses, are located on sites with many varied soil conditions. The terrain may be hilly, flat, swampy and the soil gravelly, sandy, heavy clay or peat. In some cases, there may even be little or no soil.

Organic matter will increase the water holding capacity of sandy soils and improve the air-water relationships of heavy clay types of soil.

Examples of organic matter for turfgrass areas are: peat, sawdust, rice hulls, gin trash, bagasse, sewage sludge, manures, and compost. Leaves, grass clippings, straw and other similar materials may be used in the compost. Local availability is frequently the determining factor in the choice of an organic amendment.

However, choice should always be based on an understanding of the characteristics and behavior of the material.

Organic additives may be classified on basis of rate of decomposition as dynamic and static forms. Static types like peat, sawdust and some types of hulls, require a much longer time to decompose than the dynamic types like manure, spent mushroom soil and compost.

Sawdust and peat are two of the more widely used organic additives for turfgrass soils. Both are satisfactory materials when used in accordance with their known properties.

SAWDUST

Among others, Burton and Associates at Tifton, Georgia, and Waddington and Associates at Massachusetts have shown the value and limitations of sawdust. The desirability of using material that has undergone partial decomposition is generally recognized. Sawdust from hardwoods decomposes more rapidly than that of softwoods, thus nitrogen tie-up and, therefore, need for supplemental nitrogen, is greater than hardwood sawdust.

Waddington reported germination and seedling growth were suppressed by some fresh sawdust materials. Ash and red oak sawdust produced the more severe toxic effects. Abnormal seedlings and stunted roots occurred when extracts from these were used. Nitrogen added to the mix did

not overcome these deleterious effects. Merion bluegrass was more susceptible than Pennlawn fescue, Highland and Seaside bentgrasses. These adverse effects are not apparent in sawdust weathered for two to seven months. When fresh sawdust must be used, Waddington suggests mixing with soil, potting, seeding and comparing germination with seed planted along.

PEAT

Peat is probably the most widely available of all organic materials. It is an easily obtainable, usually uniform source of stable organic matter. Frequently there is confusion with regards to peat terminology and classification. Problems associated with peat use may be avoided if the characteristics of the various kinds of peat are known.

Peat is the remains of plants that have accumulated and undergone partial incomplete decomposition in water or excessively wet areas such as swamps and bogs.

Among the more important differences in physical and chemical properties are botanical composition, water-holding capacity, stage of decomposition, organic matter content, nitrogen content and chemical reaction (pH). Peat is brown, reddish brown or black, depending on its state of decomposition and moisture. It may be fibrous or non-fibrous, depending on its botanical composition and its state of decomposition. Criteria for purchasing peat are generally available and should be taken into account when they are purchased.

SEDIMENTARY PEAT accumulates on the bottom of the comparatively deep water zones of the swamp or bog. These peats are derived from algae, plankton, water lilies and various other pond weeds. Tissue from these plants decomposes rather completely. This, along with the type of decay, produces a highly colloidal, almost black, rubber-like peat. Because it accumulates on the lake bottom, this material often contains large quantities of mineral matter such as marl, silt and clay. Such material has very poor physical properties and is undesirable as a soil conditioner. Musser points out that this material is sometimes used in golf course construction with disastrous results.

MOSS PEAT is formed principally from

sphagnum, hypnum and other mosses. It is sometimes called "peat moss". It is derived mostly from sphagnum and is light tan to brown in color, lightweight, porous, high in moisture-holding capacity and highly acidic. Hypnum moss peat is darker brown and its physical properties are similar to reed-sedge peat. When incorporated into soil and lime is added, moss peat will decompose at a moderate rate.

SPHAGNUM MOSS or "top moss" is the young residue or live portion of the plant and should not be confused with the partially decomposed moss peat. Top moss is marketed for packing, for use as a mulch and for starting cuttings rather than for soil improvement.

REED SEDGE PEAT is formed principally from reeds, sedges, cattails and similar plants.

Commercial lots of this peat differ in their degree of decomposition, acidity and organic matter content. Partially decomposed lots are reddish brown to brown and are somewhat fibrous. Those in a more advanced stage of decomposition are darker in color. They are intermediate in their moisture-holding capacity and nitrogen content. They usually contain moisture and mix readily with sand or soil.

PEAT HUMUS is peat that is at an advanced stage of decomposition—one of the original plant remains are identifiable. This compares to the cultivated peat classification used by Musser. It is dark brown to black, low in moisture-holding capacity and has a medium to high nitrogen content. Peat humus has a high lignin content and is more resistant to further breakdown than moss or reed sedge peats.

Other peat-like soils that are high in organic matter and are offered for sale in a general category, are placed in the **ORGANIC SOIL** category by Lucas et al. They include sedimentary peat, "black-dirt," (muck) soil, topsoil and black humus. The authors caution against the use of such materials for

con't. from page 4

soil improvement unless they have been tested for and have acceptable levels of acidity and mineral content. Much has undergone extensive decomposition and in comparison with peat, is low in organic matter.

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Peats with a pH below 5.0 are called "low lime"; above 5.0, "high lime." Many local peat deposits are often quite high in acid content, and may be high in salt if the bog is located in marshy seacoast areas. Before these peats are used on turfgrass, they should be tested.

Reed sedge and peat humus deposits may sometimes contain weed seed. The surface layers of such deposits, especially if they have been under cultivation, may be heavily infested. Care should be exercised to avoid bringing in such materials to a sports field or golf course. Subsoil peat and moss peat are usually free of weed seed.

Article by Dr. Jim Watson, Vice President/Agronomist for The Toro Company. The feature was originally prepared for the Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue University

THANKS DAVE

Many thanks to Dave Sexton, CGCS, and the staff at the Meadow Club for the fine accommodations and food for the September meeting. The program on trees was very informative. If you would like any of the handouts or information, please contact Rod Kilcoyne for the information.

con't. from page 3

Answers to selecting right grass

1. a) Pure Live Seed (PLS) = %Purity x % Germination

$$PLS = 97\% \times 92\%$$

$$PLS = 89.2\%$$

This tells you 89.2% of the perennial ryegrass in the bag is viable seed. All seeding rates are based on Pure Live Seed count. If you want to seed 35 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. it would be necessary to sow 39 pounds of seed from the bag. The calculation: 39 pounds x 89.2 % = 35 pounds OF viable seed.

1 b) Step 1
250 lbs./A

$$89/24 = \text{seeding rate}$$

Step 2
280 lbs./A x 300 A = 84,000 lbs./300A

Step 3
84,000 lbs./A

$$2,000 \text{ lbs./ton} = 42 \text{ tons of seed}$$

Had you failed to use the Pure Live Seed calculation you would have ordered:

$$\underline{250 \text{ lbs./A} \times 300 \text{ A}}$$

2,000

$$\text{lbs/ A} \times 300 \text{ A} = 37.5 \text{ tons of seed}$$

REMEMBER: All seeding rates are based on a Pure Live Seed count

1 c) First, you needed to know the term fluorescence means annual ryegrass on the seed label. In the case of this label the fluorescence is 2.5 %. Multiply 2.5% times 50 lbs. and you find that you are buying 1.25 lbs. of annual ryegrass per 50 lbs. of seed. A quick calculation (84,000 lbs. of seed x 2.5 %) shows 2,100 pounds of the 84,000 pounds is annual ryegrass.

If you paid \$.70/lb. then \$1,470 of the total \$58,800.00 went for annual ryegrass. Obviously, the ideal situation is to buy perennial ryegrass with 0% fluorescence present in the bag.

1 d) When calibrating a spreader for seed application think small - reducing the rate down to the number of seeds per square inch. This way, at a glance, you can tell if the seed is being sown at the correct rate.

Calculation Of Seed Per Square Inch

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Step 1} & 35 \text{ lbs./ 1,000 sq. ft.} & \times \\ 112\% & = 39 \text{ lbs. / 1,000 sq. ft..} & \end{array}$$

(PLS)

Step 2

$$39 \text{ lbs.} \times 225,000 \text{ seeds/lb.} = 8,775,000 \text{ seeds/ 1,000 sq.ft.}$$

Step 3

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \underline{8,775,000 \text{ seeds / 1,000 sq. ft.}} & & \\ 1,000 \text{ sq. ft.} & & = \\ 8,775 \text{ seeds / sq. ft.} & & \end{array}$$

Step 4

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \underline{8,775 \text{ seeds / sq. ft.}} & & \\ 144 \text{ sq. in./ sq. ft.} & & = 61 \text{ seeds/} \\ \text{square inch} & & \end{array}$$

Once you have a mental picture of how much ground the seed should cover at 35 lbs. /1,000 sq. ft. you will have a better chance of applying the seed at the desired rate.

2. The latest research from Texas A&M indicates the ideal soil temperature, at a four inch depth, is 72 to 75 degrees F.

Article from Rub of the Green, August 1990

FOR SALE

USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Acme Grindrite manual reel and bedknife grinder, fair condition

Toro Rake-o-Vac, older model, with thatching reel, runs ok, need minor work

Cushman 12 hp Runabout, poor condition, but running

Ryan sod cutter, old Jr. model, poor condition

Smithco sand trap rake, runs, needs second gear

Cushman topdresser, good condition

Hahn verticutter, walk behind unit, poor condition

All equipment sold as is. Call for more details on each piece. MAKE OFFER - no reasonable offer refused.

Richard Lavine, CGCS
Peacock Gap Golf Course
(415) 454-6450

FOR SALE

1980 Model Toro HTM-175 seven gang mower. Hour meter reads 1976 hours. Good Condition. Asking \$7,000.00. Contact Dale or Rod at (707) 257-9525. City of Napa.

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

at San Geronimo Golf Course

Please send resumes to:

Rex Noah, Superintendent

P.O. Box 331

San Geronimo, Ca 94930

MEMBERSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

30 Day Wait Up

Associate

Dharam Pal, City of San Leandro

Affiliate

Dale Siemens, Daylen, Inc., Fresno

Subject to 30 Day Wait

Class B

Timothy Johnson, Pebble Beach
Andrew Moyers, Santa Teresa Golf Club,
Subject to Class B Exam
Gary Carls, San Jose Muni

Affiliate

Herb Kast, Skywest GC, Hayward

Application to Upgrade by Meeting Attendance

Romain Roberts, Bay Meadows GC
Charles (Chuck) Weatherston, Castlewood CC

Passed Class A Exam

Jim Hustings, Woodbridge CC

HOST FOR SEPTEMBER

Our host for the September meeting is Frank Barberio. Frank began work at Mira Vista Golf and Country Club in 1961. He was part of the maintenance crew for two years and became the Assistant for the next twelve years. Frank became the Superintendent in 1977.

Mira Vista Golf and Country Club was designed and developed during the early 1920's. The course was originally nine holes and was known as the Berkeley Country Club. It was later expanded to eighteen holes and then became private in 1934. The golf course is located in the El Cerrito hills. Course rating and Yardage: Reg 68.7, 6216 with par 71.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Update On The Hayden/ Van De Kamp Initiative

The Hayden/Van De Kamp Initiative is now qualified for the November ballot. This politically motivated initiative will have tremendous impact on the entire business community, agriculture, state and local governments, taxpayers and consumers. The following is information on the economic impacts of the Hayden initiative as prepared by Spectrum Economics, Inc. in San Francisco, CA.

Water

The initiative would cause a substantial rise in water cost and availability while water supplies would be diminished throughout the state.

-It would reorder the state's existing regulation over water distribution, granting fish and wildlife first call on water resources, ahead of both people and agriculture.

-Industry and government would have to spend billions of dollars to meet the initiative's "Health-Based Water Standards". For example, chlorine-based water treatment would be prohibited. This treatment is widely used to eliminate formerly common diseases such as typhoid, cholera, dysentery and hepatitis.

Energy

The initiative would simultaneously impose higher energy prices and create barriers to reducing energy consumption.

-The call for large and rapid reductions in carbon dioxide would result in significantly higher gasoline prices. (Approximately 25 to 50 cents per gallon).

-Electricity prices would also increase by more than 20%.

-The initiative's ban on CFC's and methyl chloroform would increase the difficulty of obtaining energy efficient building materials and appliances. CFC's serve as excellent insulator and are widely used in buildings and refrigerators.

Automobiles

The Hayden Initiative would raise the cost of automobiles and potentially constrain car use.

-In addition to higher gasoline prices,

consumer choices of cars would be restricted to those with fuel efficiencies of 40 MPG or better. (The current automobile fleet averages 21 MPG.)

-Diesel fuel used for commercial transportation would have to be rationed to meet emission standards.

-Most automobile air conditioners would be rendered useless due to the restrictions on the refrigerants used to re-charge these units.

Agriculture

The initiative would raise the price and lower the quality on food available to Californians.

-It would cause the state's food distribution system to be disrupted through restrictions on diesel fuel and refrigerants.

-By targeting both active and inert ingredients, the initiative would prohibit up to 2/3 of the pesticides currently being applied to the state's crops. This immediate reduction in available pesticides would significantly reduce crop production. Relating this initiative to its impact on golf course, most pesticides used on golf courses would be banned. The following is a list of materials that would no longer be available: Tersan 1991, Daconil 27876, Banner, Fore, Rubigan, Bayleton, Parquat, Goal, Dicamba, Kerb, Sencor, Roundup, Prograss, Surflan, Ronstar, Treflan, Dursban, Diazinon, Morestan, Nemacur, Modap.

Due to the restriction on pesticides, golf course will probably have to rely solely on cultural, mechanical, and IPM control programs to mitigate pest and disease problems.

Discrimination

The Hayden Initiative's high cost would be disproportionately distributed to low-income families, blue collar and union workers, and the elderly on fixed incomes.

-Californians would face higher prices than people in other states for electricity, transportation, food and consumer products.

-The increase in pollution abatement prices would drive some businesses out of state or out of business completely.

-It is estimated that by the year 2000, employment would be reduced by more than 1 million jobs. Construction

activity would be reduced as the state's economy slows. Union and blue collar jobs would be most severely affected.

Science

There is no evidence that adults or children face higher mortality rates due to contaminated drinking water or pesticide residues on food. With the exception of smoking related lung cancer, overall age and population adjusted cancer rates have virtually stayed the same or declined over the last 20 years. There is abundant scientific studies indication that the increased availability of fresh fruits and vegetables has strongly contributed to a healthier, longer-living populations.

There is inconclusive evidence that human-induced fossil fuel emissions have contributed to global warming. Efforts to more accurately predict future climate changes are under way-including a proposed \$1 Billion federal research program-with results expected within the next 3 to 5 years.

Expanded Authority

The Hayden Initiative would grant authority over these and all other environmental laws in California to a single individual, with a multi-million dollar budget, whose authority would supersede the state legislature, executive branch, and local governments. The initiative would greatly expand the authority of unelected state and local bureaucrats.

-A single environmental advocate would have "the full and complete enforcement of all laws in the state of California relating to environmental protection and public health."

-Local water quality permitting boards would be given exclusive authority over existing and new economic development, including zoning, superseding city councils and county supervisors.

-Tom Hayden, one of the co-sponsors of the initiative, has expressed interest in running for the environmental CZAR position if the measure passes in November.

The overall costs of the Hayden Initiative, should it become law, would be staggering. The initial cost of implementation is estimated at \$3 billion. This initiative would dramatically alter the California lifestyle, significantly impact the low-income

population and the elderly, reduce future employment growth, and cost business-large and small-billions of dollars

The "No Campaign"

The California coordinating council has already been working for one year to defeat the proposed initiative. This group is supported by the California Chamber of Commerce, C.A.P.C.A., Western Ag. Chemical Association, and other concerned groups. For the past year, they have been conducting focus groups and voter opinion polls to see how they can best defeat the measure. In addition, these groups have lobbyists who are working to protect the interests of agriculture and the business community.

One of the most interesting facts that came out of the focus groups was that when Tom Hayden's name was associated with the initiative, it lost more than 40% popularity with the voters. This is a good thing to know when talking with friends, neighbors and club members about the initiative.

The "No Campaign" is set to go into full swing now that the June primary is over. Campaign strategies have been carefully planned, and the California Coordinating Council says we have a very good chance of defeating the measure.

What You Can Do

First, study and be familiar with the Hayden Initiative. The more you know, the better prepared you will be to answer the questions from neighbors and club members. Be prepared with facts and not just emotion.

Second, talk with your neighbors and club members about how serious this initiative is to the California economy and the future of the golf industry. Once people hear that the initiative will cost tax payers \$3 billion, eliminate the use of their air conditioners, and cause a substantial increase in unemployment, nobody will want to vote for it.

Third, Write an article for your club newsletter telling them about the impacts of the Hayden Initiative. The more information we can pass on to people, the chances are better for defeating the initiative in November.

Article seen in August, 1990 Rub of the Green

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Northern California**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL



KENNETH A. SAKAI, CGCS
CITY OF SUNNYVALE
P. O. BOX 3707
SUNNYVALE CA 94086