

## USGA

### Cleaning Up Effluent Water

By Pat Gross, Southwest Director

USGA Green Section

**M**ore and more courses are using effluent water for irrigation. From an environmental perspective, golf courses and large turf areas are an excellent place for the use of effluent water - most turf species are relatively tolerant of effluent water, the water supplies a small but beneficial amount for nutrients for turf growth and the dense turf canopy filters impurities before the water enters the groundwater table. From a superintendent's perspective, effluent water can have negative impacts on turf and plant growth, with the main concern being high levels of soluble salts. Producers of effluent water will say there is no way to regulate the amount of soluble salts in effluent without the use of extremely expensive reverse osmosis equipment. Increased salt levels come from various sources, but the greatest single contributor to the high salt levels in effluent water are household water softeners, and more specifically, self-regenerative softeners. Self-regenerative softeners are the types that require the homeowner to add large bags of salt pellets on a routine basis. In an effort to reduce the overall salt load in effluent water, many water districts have encourage homeowners to use "exchange tank"-type water softeners that are serviced by private local distributors at central plants. This type of softener release only a small fraction of the salt released by self-regenerative softeners. Unfortunately, local ordinances to require the use of such water softeners have been ruled invalid because (believe it or not) California already has state statutes governing the use of water softeners.

In an effort to improve the overall quality of effluent water and reduce the total salt load, the Irvine Ranch Water District and other water agencies in the State of California, are attempting to amend or appeal the existing state statutes and enact SB-1006, which addresses the use of self-regenerative-type water softeners. This new bill allows local agencies with legitimate concerns about waste water salinity to regulate the self-regenerative softeners, and its application is limited to the areas of the state that are impacted by salt and wastewater. This bill can have a tremendous positive impact on water quality for golf courses, which are believed to be the largest user of effluent water in the Southwest. The increased salt load from water softeners is not only a concern for golf courses, but other agencies in California are concerned about the accumulation of salts in groundwater basins that are used for drinking and irrigation. SB-1006 will help protect the state's water supplies and protect the long-term quality of effluent water for golf courses, agricultural, and other non-potable water demands. Please write to your California State senators and assemblymen to urge their support of SB-1006. /

### Grass Carp Use Statewide

Good News!!! According to our State legislative advocate George Steffes, the triploid grass carp will be expanded statewide as of January 1, 2000. Provisions in Senate Bill 472 (Maddy 1997) called for a review of the current program before June of this year. Section 5 (e) of SB 472 states: If the department's annual report is, for any reason, not submitted on or before June 1 of the year due, it shall be conclusively deemed to be the finding of the department that effective June 1 of that year, the use of triploid grass carp to control aquatic plant pests should be expanded statewide.

Use of the triploid grass carp will be according to the laws and regulations of Senate Bill 472. Congratulations go out to Jim Husting, CGCS for all of his hard work and devotion to this matter! /

### "Thru the Green" On-line?

A golf Web site developer has approached GCSAA about providing on-line newsletter services to affiliated chapters. The technology provided by this company, Golsolutions.com, is designed so that editors may set up their chapter newsletters on-line, via a Web browser - such as Internet Explorer or Netscape. Any chapter member with Internet access may then go to the site and read the latest news and information available regarding your chapter. Through the site, the GCSANC would be able to distribute articles, post announcements and meeting agendas, deliver timely news, and disseminate other chapter-related information to members.

To get a firsthand look at the site, and view examples of how announcements, postings and chapter newsletters appear on the site, go to: <http://www.golsolutions.com>.

At this time, GCSAA is gauging interest from chapter newsletter editors, executive directors/secretaries and leaders to determine the level of interest in this type of service. We welcome your feedback. You may send e-mail directly at mail to: [dbretthauer@gcsaa.org](mailto:dbretthauer@gcsaa.org) or mail to: [jsatterlee@gcsaa.org](mailto:jsatterlee@gcsaa.org). /

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