

Put another way, if you are “hydrologically isolated”, this permit probably doesn’t apply to you.

In addition to paying a \$1,500 annual fee, permit holders are required to collect representative samples, analyze them for the pesticide used in and just outside of the treated area, and prepare a report. The annual cost for complying with this permit depends on the number and type of pesticide applications being made.



The list of pesticides approved for aquatic use in California is limited to the following ten (10): 2,4-D, acrolein, copper, diquat, endo-thal, glyphosate, fluridone, imazapyr, sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate and triclopyr. Non-ionic surfactants are also allowed. Special circumstances apply to the use of acrolein and copper that includes California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and the pre- and post-season assessment of biological resources.

Permit Benefits

So what do you get out of this permit except a divot in your budget? Simply put: protection. The citizen lawsuit provision of the Clean Water Act provides an opportunity for anyone (read environmental advocacy groups) to sue you if they feel you have adversely impacted water quality. Although not bullet-proof Teflon, the permit provides significant defense against such a suit.

Speaking of lawsuits, since 2002, a variety of lawsuits have resulted in confusion regarding the need for the aquatic weed permit. Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear further bellying, effectively putting an end to the debate and once and for all stating that a permit is, in fact, needed.



What About the Rest of the U.S.?

Although not likely to affect us in California, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) just published a draft of their nationwide permit intended for use in states without an existing permit. See: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=410. Because California has had a permit in place since 2002 and the California permit appears to be more stringent than the proposed EPA permit, California will likely keep their permit and not adopt the EPA permit.

The Crystal Ball: What Does the Future Hold?

Because SWRCB staff are currently working on a new permit, potential changes are ahead. Its best to stay informed. You can join the SWRCB “aquatic weed control” list serve by going to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

Learn more at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/docs/aquatic/permit.pdf.

Rule #3: Injunction Dysfunction: Be Aware of Gobys and Frogs

Heads-up Bay Area Superintendents. Last month, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California issued an injunction that protects 11 federally listed threatened or endangered species, including the tidewater goby, from 75 pesticides in 8 Bay Area Counties as a result of a suit by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). The injunction requires the use of no-spray buffer zones. Find out if your course lays within an affected area at: <http://137.227.242.165/sfb/index.html>. Details on the list of pesticides and species can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/espp/litstatus/factsheet.html>.

Similarly, in 2006, the same U.S. District Court issued an injunction related to another CBD action. This time, buffer zones are needed for the use of 66 pesticides in parts of 33 counties to protect the Red-legged Frog. Find out about the list of pesticides and if your course is within one of the areas requiring protection at: <http://www.epa.gov/espp/litstatus/redleg-frog/steps-info.htm>.

About the Author: Michael Blankinship has been a GCSAA member since 2001, is a DPR licensed pest control advisor and a California registered professional civil engineer. His Davis-based consulting firm solves problems related to permitting, compliance, water quality and natural resource management for golf course owners and operators throughout the Western U.S. Learn more at www.h2osci.com. Reach Mike at (530) 757-0941 or mike@h2osci.com.



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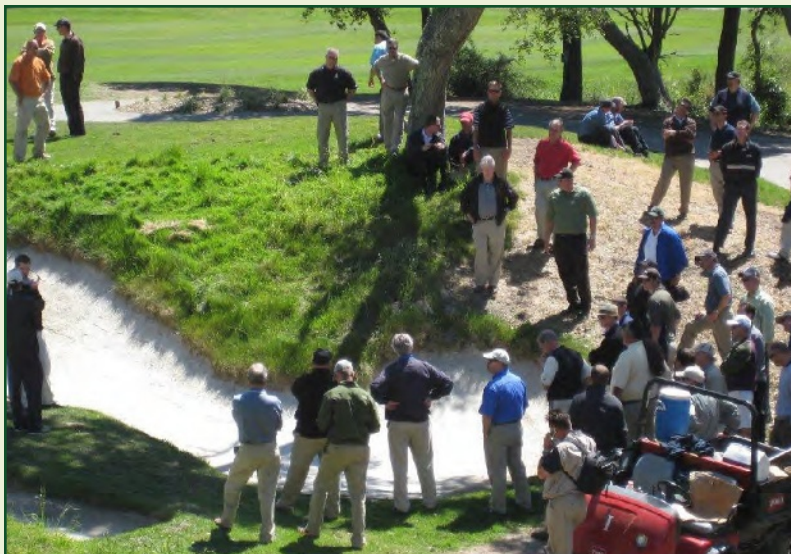
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My 2010 U.S. Open Experience at Pebble Beach

By Tim Powers, CGCS, Crystal Springs Golf Course

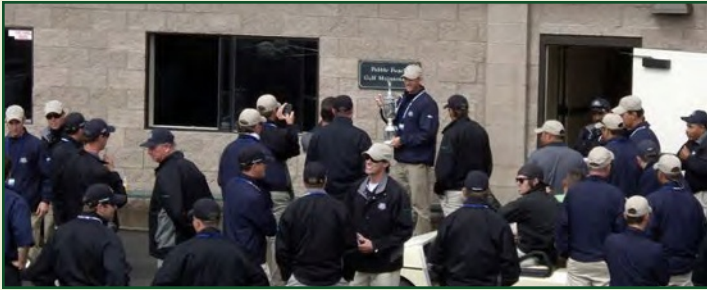
I just completed the fantastic opportunity of volunteering at the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links. This was the fourth Open that I have worked at and the ninth that I have attended. I highly recommend it to anybody to experience a major tournament. It is particularly important to the younger guys to see what it takes to put on an event of this magnitude.

The USGA sends the host superintendent to the Open for five years prior so they can see everything that is involved and to make sure that all bases are covered. The USGA will have their own person onsite for two years to take care of logistics such as parking, traffic, bathrooms, evacuation procedures, volunteers, transportation, tents & hospitality, merchandise, television, radio, media, tickets, etc. Chris Dalhamer is the golf course superintendent at Pebble Beach

and did a fabulous job preparing the course for the event. Jack Holt has been the assistant at Pebble for 30 years. He and three other staff members were working their 4th Open Championship. Billy Hausch is another assistant superintendent.

There were 70 full-time volunteers including people from Australia, Japan and Bermuda plus 70 part-time volunteers. We were put up at Robert Louis Stevenson School with shuttles to run us back and forth. We were visited by three superintendents who formerly worked at Pebble including Mark Michaud, Tom Huesgen, and Eric Greytok. We had meetings in the hospitality tent every morning at 4:15 am to go over the duties. There was a list on the wall of everybody's tasks and what carts they were using. All equipment was ready to go with whatever tools that were needed. The days are very





long but you have time to nap on couches, cots or grass. We were given lots to eat in the tent after jobs. I never eat that much food. Nobody went hungry and the catering staff did a super job as well as the regular Pebble Beach Grill Team of Rick and Clayton.

The USGA was happy with how the course played and the players mostly said it was a fair setup. The staff did a great job building new



tees and bunkers. The fairway bunkers looked fantastic with a gnarly fescue edge to them. Many of the fairways were cut right into bunkers and to the edge of the cliffs. Pat Gross was the USGA agronomist and he had clearly done his homework. I even got the chance to meet

Lance Barrow, a USGA guest, who is the producer of CBS Sports, Golf. He invited me to tour their production truck which I will do in the future. The weather was all over the place from cool and foggy to bright and sunny but I was prepared with the right clothing.

The US Open trophy was brought to the shop so everybody could get a photo taken with it. The maintenance staff followed the last group up the 18th fairway on Sunday. Everybody was thrilled that there wasn't a playoff. Lexus brought in Hall of Famers to sign autographs including Johnny Miller, Annika Sorenstam, Tom Watson, Raymond Floyd, & Mark O'Meara. They added to my collection of memorabilia. The crowds were capped at 32,000 per day so it wasn't too hard to get around unless you were trying to follow Tiger. I hope I get the opportunity to work at the Olympic Club in 2012.

I want to thank Chris, Pat, Jack, Billy and the entire staff at Pebble Beach for their great job. And congratulations to Graeme McDowell on his even-par victory!

(More photos next page)



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