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Thru The Green published bimonthly by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

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# OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2010

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## OFFICE NOTES / BARBARA MIKEL



Hope all of you have gathered your foursomes and made your reservation for the Fourth Annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament. Sequoyah Country Club will be a great venue for the end of July. To “The First Lady of GCSANC,” Myrtle Wagoner, one of the dynamic duo for which this tournament is named, a special get well message from all of us. Wish both of you could join us this year!

As you visit the GCSANC WEB site for current and upcoming meeting and events, look at these new features. The Board of Directors calendar for this year includes dates, locations and times. If the meeting is a webcast it is so noted. Board meetings begin at 7:00 am and you are always welcome to join us. Another feature available on the web site is Board Minutes. Stay informed on board discussions and decisions by reading the minutes. Use your member “Jobs” password for access. If you do not have it, send me an email request.

Your interest in the business and sport of golf was boosted by the recent decision of Judge Susan Illston. Judge Illston’s ruling from June 24 cited SFPGA’s (San Francisco Public Golf Alliance) “unique interests...in maintaining Sharp Park specifically for use as a golf course,” concluding that SFPGA’s interests are not necessarily an interest shared by the other defendants. The ruling allows the SFPGA to join the entire lawsuit—both in the liability and potential remedy phases according to Mr. Carr, chair of Morrison & Foerster’s Environment and Energy practice group and co-chair of its Cleantech group, which regularly handles matters involving the federal Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and their California counterparts. Morrison & Foerster has a long history of supporting environmental causes in the Bay Area. You can lend your support to this effort by writing a letter of support to the San Francisco and Pacifica elected officials. A link to addresses for these folks can be download by clicking here. More information, visit the SFPGA web site:

<http://sfpublicgolf.com/action.html>



## NORCALENDAR

### JULY 25

**Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship & Research Tournament**  
*Sequoyah Country Club*

### AUGUST 22

**Tri Chapters Meeting, GCSANC/SNCSA/CGCSA**  
*Stockton Country Club*

### SEPTEMBER 26-27

**Assistants Bootcamp**  
*Monterey*

### NOVEMBER 6-8

**California GCSA Annual Meeting**  
*Silverado Country Club*

### DECEMBER 9

**Holiday Gathering**  
*Ole Del Monte Golf Course, Monterey Hyatt Regency*

### JANUARY 9, 2012

**GCSANC Annual Meeting**  
*The Course at Wente Vineyards*

More Details? [www.gcsanc.com](http://www.gcsanc.com) “Events” tab

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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**Thor Larson**  
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### RECLASSIFICATION

**William Hausch**  
Pasadera Country Club  
*Superintendent Member*

## NAUMANN’S NORCAL NEWS

Summer has been going along in a very interesting fashion. With unusual rains and a fair share of heat spells this is one year to remember. I wonder what is next in store for Nor Cal?????..... **Kyle Marshall** has accepted the superintendent position at Summit Pointe Golf Club in Milpitas. Kyle is replacing the departing **David Snyder** who has chosen to go back to more predictable weather in Arizona. Kyle had most recently been the assistant super under BOD Member **Jon Christensen** at Monarch Bay Golf Course before moving south. Prior to that he was the Supt. at Chevy Chase Golf Course in Southern California...

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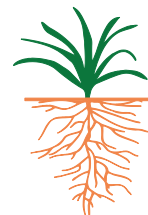
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## GLENN MATTHEWS

*The Course at Wente Vineyards*

Benevolence has been one of the cornerstones of the game of golf and of our association for many years. As a purely volunteer organization members serving the board do so with the intent of helping the organization thrive and prosper. Annually we host several events for members featuring special education, guest speakers, trade shows, field days, and of course, golf.

In July we invite all members and guests to attend the annual Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament at the beautiful Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland. In years past this event was played as a partner competition, but the Board has made a significant change in the format to encourage greater participation and attendance. Going forward the event will be billed as an Invitational and members will form 4-man teams to compete in a 2-best ball format.

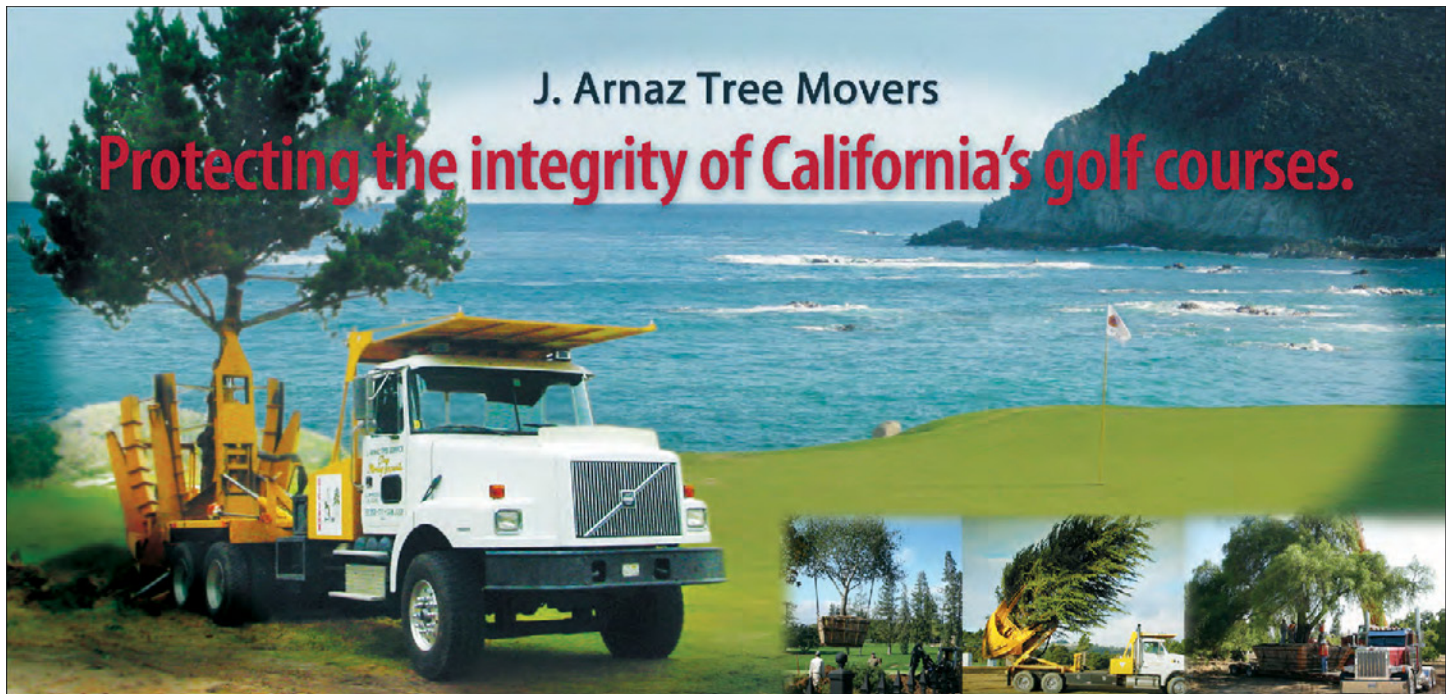
Members can form teams with a superintendent, assistant superintendent, club member, greens committee

chairman, owner, vendor, general manager, or pro. The idea is to show off the professionalism of our association and invite influential people who will contribute to the success of the event by participating in the competition and auctions.

During my years as a college student I was fortunate to be the beneficiary of scholarships from the San Diego, Southern California, Central California, and Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Associations. The funds were crucial to my financial stability and helped me achieve my educational and professional goals. The Clifford and Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament is our opportunity to continue the long tradition of benevolence.

I look forward to seeing you all at the event!

Glenn Matthews



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## BUNKER SHOTS

*Ramblings from a Semi-Warped Perspective*

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Tiger is injured again. How the heck do you keep getting hurt as a pro golfer? Golf isn't a contact sport like hockey or football. Which reminds me, hey Tiger, why do you keep trying to look like a line-backer?

And my request to Phil, please go to a bigger-sized shirt. The small-medium you are sporting is just not right.

Have you seen "Morning Drive" on the Golf Channel? Erik and Gary are great, but have you checked out their sidekick Holly Sonders? Whew! Between her and Christina Loren, the weather gal on KNBC, their reporting will open your eyes first thing in the morning!

Driving around in traffic has been bugging me lately. I almost rear ended a guy with Vermont plates twice the other day. He kept making complete stops at stop signs. Jeez, this is California. I thought my air bag was about to blow!

Speaking of stopping, before smart phones what the heck did we ever used to do at red lights? My Status Update was almost from the back seat of that guy's car from Vermont!

Now to Harley riders, yes you look bad and all, but can you just have your attitude without all that noise? Jeez that is annoying. I thought a helicopter was landing on my car the other day. I'm sort of glad you have to wear ear plugs to ride your own bike.

Then there are the golfers. It is sort of a love/hate thing with most of us. I hope your golfers don't try to pull as much stuff as they do at my place. Rules seem to be for the other guy, especially if nobody is watching. People just don't think about using common sense. I don't know who said it, but common sense just isn't very common!

Finally, it is nice to see the GCSANC Board coming up with fresh ideas for meetings and heavily promoting them. I just wish the economic times were better and so many of us weren't so worried about our occupations. I think now, more than ever, we need to get away from our daily grinds. Although with technology, it is basically impossible to get completely away anymore, at least GCSANC still gives us the opportunity. Let's make the effort to get to more meetings. They are something we can't allow to fade away.

## RESPONSE TO BUNKER SHOTS

Dear Brian,

I would like to respond to Ken Williams' Bunker Shots in regard to where he takes a shot at the PGA Tour wearing steel spikes.

First, I contend that no one can honestly claim they lowered their handicap after the introduction of "soft spikes, or even played with fewer putts per round. They became popular after Raymond Floyd could not win golf tournaments but was still popular enough to be a pitchman for a bad gimmick.

The reason the people who make their living playing golf wear steel spikes is because they are in an athletic contest and they need solid footing. I no longer play golf but when I was playing wearing soft spikes, I experienced at least two miss hit shots a round because of losing my footing due to the absence of steel spikes.

In the 1980s, the USGA began a study of putting surfaces using different types of shoes with soles other than steel spikes. All types

of knobby soles were used, some were even for sale in golf shops. Those shoes were later banned from golf courses. They published the first half of the study and continued on but then suddenly halted the study, failed to publish the second half report, and refused to discuss it ever again. And then along came soft spikes and USGA jumped on this one. They had someone doing heir huckstering for them and the clubhouse carpets were saved. If the USGA were really honest about this they would change their motto from "For The Good Of The Game" to FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUBHOUSE CARPETS because that is what it is all about. It is really quite simple. Keep spikes out of the clubhouse and establish shoe changing facilities.

With the knowledge available; the assistance available; the materials available; and the modern equipment available, if a superintendent cannot maintain excellent putting green conditions on his course he has missed his calling and should seek another line of work.

Sincerely, Gale L. Love

## TWEETS FROM THE OPEN

**Luke Donald**

*(Luke\_Donald)*

Thinking about moving to Northern Ireland!!

**Kelly Tilghman**

*(KellyTilghmanGC)*

Rory McIlroy has now reached the age of the youngest competitor in the field...16 under.

**Bubba Watson**

*(bubbawatson)*

What should I wear today??

**Kelly Tilghman**

*(KellyTilghmanGC)*

Phil Mickelson favoring the Democrats at Congressional. All of his misses are way left.



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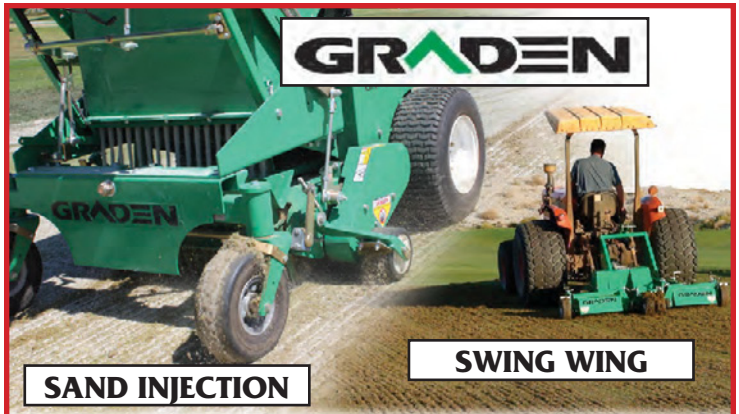
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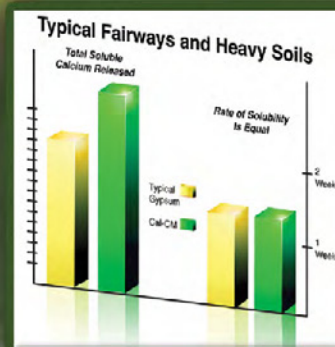
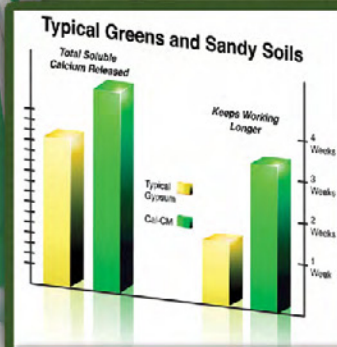
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# AFFILIATE DIRECTOR PROFILE

**Name:** Dave Wilber

**Employer:** Sierra Pacific Turf Supply and Sierra Pacific Turf Services

**Position:** Director of Agronomy/Road Monkey

**Years in the Business:** 29

**Previous Employment:**

Owner, Wilber Turf and Soil Services, 1992-2007

GC Supt. and Const Supt., Colorado and Northern Cal, 1986-1992

**Education:** Northeastern Colorado, Landscape/Turf Mgmt.

Colorado State, Turf Management Brookside/William Albrecht Fellowship, Soil Science

**GCSANC Work or Interests:**

Current Board Member, Affiliate Rep. Ed. Committee, 2009-2011

Board of Directors (affiliate rep.), 1994-1996

**Other Organizations:** Contributing Editor, *Golfdom Magazine*; Blog Author, Turfnet

**What was the first car you ever owned?** 1972 Ford P/U stolen from my dad.

**How fast did you drive it?** Faster than it was supposed to go. And I drilled holes in the muffler to make it sound cool. *Editor's note: Dave also had a 2006 Suzuki Huyabusa motorcycle which he drove to 176 MPH.*

**What is your favorite band?** Why is everyone always asking me this? There is no one answer.

**How did you get into the business?** Mike Kosak (now GM at Sonoma GC) hired me as a high school kid in Colorado to pick rocks and shovel sand on a grow-in. I was hooked.

**What did you learn that they never taught you in college?**

If ever caught in a bomb scare at London Heathrow Airport, just order tea and quietly make your way to The Tube, then to Kings Cross Station, then to Edinburgh and then to St. Andrews.

**Please list your fantasy foursome:** The Edge, Jimmy Page, Bill Murray, me with Tom Bastis as my caddie.

**What is #1 on your bucket list?** To take bass lessons from Flea, Stanley Clarke and Billy Sheehan.

**What's the best bit of professional advice ever tossed your way?** The people at the club who don't like you the most are the ones you should be having breakfast with on Saturday morning.

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?** The number of wonderful superintendents that I can call friends and who have invited me into their world. Joining Sierra Pacific. Being asked to write for TurfNet.

**What's your favorite restaurant?** Buchon in Yountville tied with my favorite taco truck always parked at a gas station in Napa.

**Beer or wine?** Stupid choice.

**Favorite course to play:** Ballyneal, Holyoke, CO. (2nd. Macrihanish GC, Scotland)

**iPod top 5:** (current) Led Zeppelin, The Black Dub, Stanley Clarke, Foster The People, Beastie Boys.

**What's your favorite vacation spot?** Anywhere where no one knows about or talks about golf.

**Favorite hobby:** Computers and tech gadgets followed by cooking.

**Strangest thing you've ever seen on a golf course:** A hot air

balloon crashed on a newly seeded fairway on a grow-in I was doing. It was just surreal.

**Name your top superintendent influences:** Mike Kosak, Armen Suny, Ed Miller, Jeff Spangler, Jeff Markow, Walter Woods.

**Name your top life influences:** See Above. Add Jesus and ½ of Don Naumann.

**Lowest score you ever shot and course:** 82, Pacific Dunes

**Worst comment a superintendent ever made to you (Affiliate):** "Since you already know it all, why not just apply for the job you are about to cost me."

**The hardest part of your job:** Hours and Miles. Also the best part, however.

**The hardest part of selling to superintendents (Affiliate):** I don't really sell. But I hate listening to the excuses of why they feel the need to do business with people who they don't like or don't do the job.

**The most rewarding thing in your job is...** I've met the best friends I know in the whole world in our business.

**Few people know I'd like to...** Learn Thai and Indian cooking in Thailand and India from Thai and Indian people.

**If you weren't in the business of growing grass what would you be doing?** Playing Bass. Writing. Hairdressing. Being a Sommelier.

**What's in your garage?** A Harley. Tools. Gadget boxes. Sound gear.

**What's in your closet at home?** Logos from around the world and too many shoes.

**What's in your office?** More computer gear than I care to mention. A mini recording studio.

**What magazines do you subscribe to?** Magazine? What's that?

**Do you collect anything, and why?** Guitars and basses because they talk me into taking them home.

**Worst piece of equipment ever owned?** A Jac Tri-King. We called it the Shop King.

**Worst place you have ever slept?** When I first started consulting I slept in a lot of airports and rental cars to save money.

**Stupidest thing your wife has asked you to do?** Stop thinking about grass.

**Closest to death you ever came?** I was caught in a flash flood in Tulsa, OK and had to climb onto the hood of my car while it was swept away.

**The invention that you thought of but someone else made the million dollars and not you?** The iPod.

**Do you expect to collect on social security?** If they let me stay in America, sure.

**What were your favorite activities as a child?** I was always a geeky kid. I liked watching *Star Trek*. I was a high school and college rodeo team member. Playing music.

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# Early Golf In America

By Sean Tully



Digging deep into early American history one can find a handful of references to golf as early as the 1700s. It wouldn't be until 1873 for golf to take a foothold in North America and then it was in Canada at Royal Montreal Golf Club. It would be another 11 years for an American course to take shape and pay homage to golf in Scotland by taking the name of St. Andrews Golf Club. Looking to the Bay area we can see that golf first makes an appearance at Burlingame in 1893. From all that I have been able to read it appears that Burlingame was the first golf club in California and one of the earliest courses West of the Mississippi. Yes there are some other courses that make this claim, but I have yet to see anything that can prove their point.

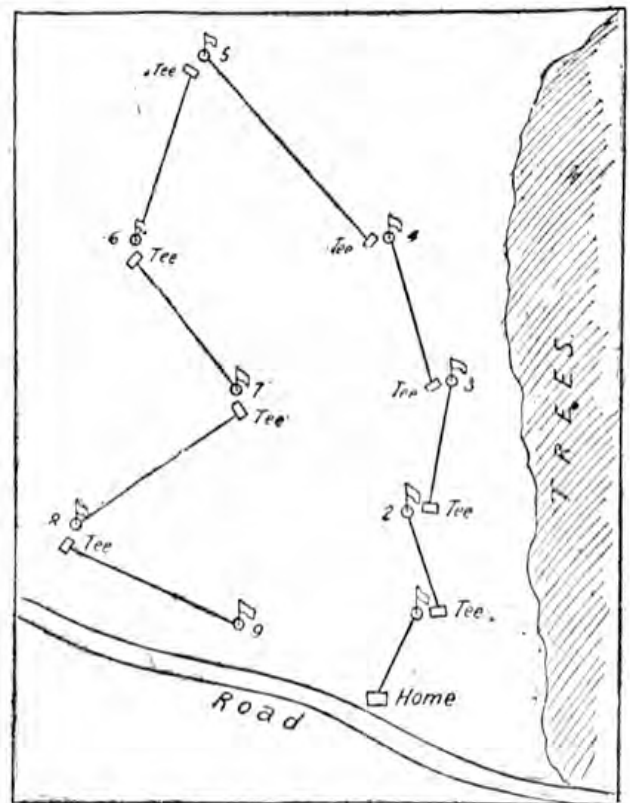
Of all the questions that I am asked the one that comes up the most often is: what is the oldest course west of the Mississippi? A number of courses use this in their marketing to gain publicity to their given course, but it is often self-defined. The more obvious themes are how many holes the course had when it was first formed and if it is still on the original property. We may never know for certain which course was the first and would have to do a lot of research to come to some sort of a conclusion.

Golf was a new game that was finding its way as more people made the transition from an agrarian society to that of the industrial age. Land was often leased and rudimentary routings were laid out with simple clubhouses built or adapted into an existing home. Most courses were laid out as only nine holes and as the game found more followers the need to add holes or move to another more suitable property was prevalent. As our cities grew the courses were pushed out of the cities in search of more land. A course like San Francisco Golf Club is on its third site after moving from the Presidio looking for an 18 hole course and getting away from the cavalry maneuvers that were run over the course. They would have to move from their second course as it was to be subdivided, so the club was looking again for another property and settled on their current location.

to such an extent that the city would struggle to keep up with its popularity.

One of the more interesting things that I look for is old routing maps of golf courses that can show just how simple the original golf courses were laid out. The earliest courses were laid out in as little time as to place some stakes in the ground to represent a tee and another green. The greens as described at the Presidio were little more than 15 feet in diameter with a small red flag to mark the "goal" as it was called in a newspaper article.

The article went on to describe the game to the non-golfing public which highly outnumbered those that played golf at the time. Over the next 30 years golf would grow



MAP OF THE GOLF LINK NOW BEING PREPARED ON A TRACT OF LAND WEST OF THE PRESIDIO. THE FLAGS MARK THE GOALS.  
*[From a sketch by Mr. J. H. Harby, a golf designer.]*

## Last Issue's Quiz Solution

The photo in the last issue was of the 9th hole at Lake Chabot, a course designed by Willie Lock.



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GEN AD JUNE 2011

## Letter from California GCSA President Rafael Barajas, CGCS

It is an honor and a true privilege to lead this association for the next twelve months. I would like to thank my fellow board members for their vote of confidence and for trusting me with this awesome responsibility. I promise to work hard on your behalf to ensure our association remains strong and prospers into the future.

In May, we had the opportunity to take part in a strategic planning session, facilitated by GCSAA staff members Steve Randall and Richard Pavlasek. The session is always energizing! Hearing input from the entire board to build on our strengths and understand areas our chapter can improve helps create a road map for success and helps us to move forward.

I would like to share a few outcomes from that session and goals for the coming year. First, the strength of the California GCSA is working on your behalf to represent our members in Sacramento. All of us understand the impact legislation may have in our profession. To capture the essence of our work in this area, we will launch communication titled "California Capitol News," or as our board called it CCN in the coming weeks.

The purpose of this message is to not only provide updates on legislative issues, but to highlight the work done in this area. Our government relations chairs, Jim Ferrin and Jim Alwine, are working to inform and advocate on behalf of the membership. The California GCSA needs to tout our efforts in this area and we see CCN as a way to deliver the message directly to our members.

As we move forward during these tough economic times, we must remain focused on issues that impact our industry. To no surprise, water is at the top of the list even though the drought is supposedly over. We need to work very closely with water agencies and local government, focusing on two primary initiatives. First, we will endeavor to create an open line of communication with the appropriate agencies with the objective of affording superintendents a voice as it relates to the type of water restrictions that would be reasonable and appropriate for golf course properties. Secondly, we hope to get as many golf course superintendents as possible involved in a public relations campaign aimed at communicating and educating the local government and water agencies as to the kind of proactive and voluntary water conservation efforts already initiated and implemented throughout our industry. Our efforts to conserve water shall be for naught if not communicated and brought to the forefront. Our Government Relations Committee will continue to monitor the approximately 40 initiatives on CGRC's "radar." These initiatives are in the areas of water conservation, pesticide regulations, and labor. The State of California is broken, but this doesn't stop them from bringing new bills to the table that could have a direct impact on our business.

We also need to continue to enhance our web site. We feel the site has taken great strides over the past year. We view our web site as a key communication tool and we want you to visit the site on a regular basis. Content and messaging will be relevant and timely for

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