

## GOVERNMENT UPDATE

### Florida officials hold off on Green Point

BY PETER BLAIS

Florida Gov. Bob Martinez and the Cabinet will likely wait until after November elections to decide the fate of the Panhandle's proposed Green Point Golf Resort Community, according to a developer.

At an Aug. 14 meeting, the government officials told Franklin County planners they cannot make a decision on the controversial development along the shores of environmentally sensitive Apalachicola Bay until the county revises its comprehensive plan to include the resort, said developer Jack Dodds.

"They basically delayed the vote until after the election," said Dodds. "It hasn't been shot down. It isn't dead."

Critics fear the 540-acre project — which includes an 18-hole course, homes, bed-and-breakfast rooms and business space — could pollute the state's largest oyster fishery.

Dodds said his group has moved golf holes, developed state-of-the-art storm-water runoff systems, reduced residential density and hired specialists to ensure the project won't pollute the bay adjacent to economically depressed Franklin County.

The Franklin County Commission, state Department of Environmental Regulation and both the House speaker pro tempore and

### Fertilizer dealers meet legislators

Approximately 250 dealers who supply fertilizer and crop protection chemicals converged on Capitol Hill in late July for the fourth annual Agri-Dealer Legislative Conference, jointly sponsored by the National Agricultural Chemicals Association and The Fertilizer Institute.

The joint communications effort is a key part of the strategy to let lawmakers know first-hand their dealer-constituents' views. Dealers from 40 states visited 175 congressional offices to deliver the joint NACA/TFI message that industry is meeting the challenge of increased regulation.

The agricultural chemical and fertilizer representatives expressed their concerns over the 1990 farm bill, the threat of environmental or energy taxes, the need for relief from commercial drivers' license requirements, and chemical export restrictions.

"It is significant that member companies from both our associations strongly supported this effort and focused on critical issues common to both industries," TFI President Gary Myers and NACA President Jay Vroom said in a joint statement.

NACA and TFI are planning to co-sponsor the Agri-Dealer Legislative Conference in 1991.

speaker designate support the project.

The state Department of Community Affairs, which oversees land-use planning in environmentally sensitive areas, and about 600 fishermen oppose it.

"We'll continue to negotiate," said Dodds. "The project is simply on hold until we can resolve these issues."

### Minus \$311M, Honolulu opens municipal course

BY PETER BLAIS

The West Loch Golf Course will open this month as a municipal facility now that the Honolulu City Council has officially rejected a \$311 million Japanese bid for the course and permits to build two more.

"We're just putting the finishing touches on it now," said Rom Duran, executive assistant to the city's managing director. "It should open in early September."

This summer's unanimous City Council vote against Jurigi Co.'s offer of \$111 million for the Robin Nelson and Rodney Wright-de-

signed course, plus \$200 million for the two permits, ended a bitter struggle between Mayor Frank Fasi and the council.

Fasi wanted to use the proceeds from the sale to build three municipal courses and a number of recreation projects.

The council countered that the West Loch property was originally condemned to be used as a municipal course and must not be sold to a company that would eventually turn it into a private facility.

The battle waged through the spring and summer in both the

council chambers and the press.

"The community supported the idea (of the sale). But the council held fast," Duran said.

West Loch cost the city \$20 million to build. Considering Jurigi's willingness to pay more than five times that price for the facility and the difficulty of obtaining a golf course building permit for a private developer in Honolulu, Duran believes Fasi may put future city-built courses up for sale.

"Given the current mayor, if such an opportunity came along again I think he might follow the same procedure," the city official said.



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