Water agencies cited for ending feud, cooperating

Southern California's dwindling water supply, roiled the past five years by a power struggle and at least one legal challenge, may see more cooperation.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Imperial Irrigation District were honored at The Irrigation Association's International Irrigation Exposition and the National Irrigation Symposium in Phoenix, Ariz.

These long-feuding water agencies last year had signed an agreement expected to be a model for other water agencies seeking more efficient ways to use water.

The association's prestigious National Water and Energy Conservation Award also was presented The Environmental Defense Fund, a national organization in part responsible for creating a negotiating climate leading to the historic pact.

Metropolitan will pay Imperial about \$97 million to build conservation facilities in the agricultural district and another \$23 million for indirect costs over the first five years of the program.

Another \$2.6 million will be paid annually to cover Imperial's direct program cost.

Metropolitan will finance 16 conservation projects in the Imperial Valley and, in turn, will receive an estimated 106,100 acre-feet of water per year that would be saved.

The projects included automated control structures, concrete lining of earthen irrigation canals and new reservoirs. The conserved water will remain in the Colorado River and be available for Metropolitan to import into its service area through its Colorado River Aqueduct.

Metropolitan provides water service to more than 14.7 million people in Los Angeles, Ventura, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties. Imperial delivers the Colorado River's water to agricultural users of about 500,000 acres of farmland in the Imperial Valley.

Carl Boronkay, Metropolitan general manager, said: "Implementation of this landmark water conservation endeavor between the farmers in the Imperial Valley and urban Southern California

exemplifies the growing role water management and conservation will play in meeting the state's water needs.'

He added that Southern California loses dependable water supplies while the population is increasing at a rate of 300,000 per year.

Redhawk opening delayed

Developers of the 18-hole Redhawk golf course in Southern California want things just right, so opening won't take place until early 1991.

The course was completed some time ago. Decision to delay opening was based on infrastructure improvements not yet complete and Mother Nature.

The grasses have not established themselves as firmly as we would have liked," said Larry Heffner, senior executive vice president of Great American Development Co., developer of the course and surrounding 1,300acre master-planned community off Highway 79 in the Temecula Valley area of southern Riverside County.

The 140-acre course was designed by Santa Rosa-based Golfplan/The Fream Design Group in conjunction with professional Mark O'Meara.

Farm seen as course site

APPLETON, Wis. - Developer Thomas Purdy hopes to build an 18hole championship golf course here.

If an annexation petition is granted to enable servicing by the Appleton water and sewerage system, construction of the course and community development, located on the Purdy family's 1,237-acre Apple Hill Farms, will begin early this year.

in 1993 or 1994. Cost is estimated between \$4 and \$5 million.

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