

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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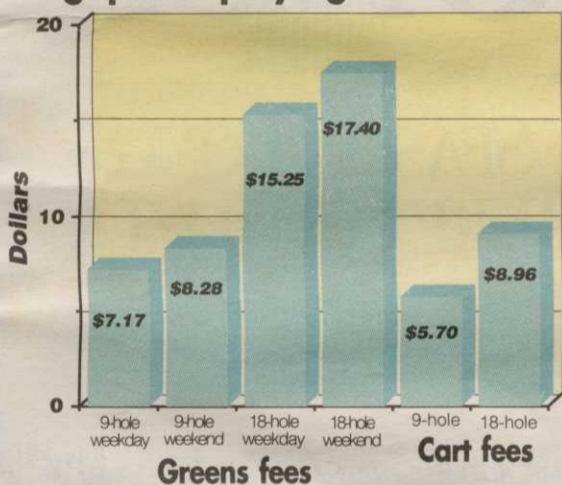
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Hawaii council nixes impact fees

By Peter Blais

The Honolulu City Council has unanimously overridden Mayor Frank Fasi's veto and adopted a golf course development policy that rejects the mayor's suggested \$100-million impact fees.

Instead the policy encourages developers to integrate the golf course project into the local community while setting strict social, economic and environmental requirements.

Bill 129 establishes guidelines for judging among the numerous propos-

als submitted for review annually on the island of Oahu, where at least 40 courses are in preliminary planning stages.

But critics complain the ordinance still fails to address how many more courses should be allowed on the island or where they can be located. One of the primary areas of concern is near already crowded Kaneohe Bay on the northeast side of Oahu, where another 14 courses have been proposed and residents are concerned about the bay's water quality.

"The ordinance is rational and scien-

tifically based," said Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services, a Wheaton, Md.-based firm that has done environmental risk assessments in Hawaii. "It takes the proposals, provides a rational basis for making decisions, and requires that good people are available to manage the turf."

Cohen, who testified at an August workshop concerning Bill 129, agreed that the number of courses and where they should be located are important issues that still need to be addressed on

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One of the most talked-about holes at architect Tom Fazio's Ocean Course at Pelican Hill Golf Club in Newport Beach, Calif., is the 13th. It features two small greens fronted by a large area of coastal scrub and sand. The Ocean Course opened in November. A second 18-hole venue at Pelican Hill — the Canyon Course — is slated for completion some time later. The project was developed by The Irvine Co. For more on Pelican Hill and other new golf courses, see pages 27-43.

Photo by John Connell

The Best of 1991

The annual *Golf Course News* survey votes are in. The winners are:

Architect:
Tom Fazio
story, page 27

Builder:
Wadsworth
story, page 27

Resort Developer:
Landmark Land Co.
story, page 45

Conditioned Resort Course on Tour:
TPC at Sawgrass
story, page 17

Sherman Hollow dealt a blow by Vt. board

By Peter Blais

The Vermont Environmental Board has denied the latest attempt to obtain a building permit for the Sherman Hollow Golf Course in Huntington.

But course developers, who have spent seven years and hundreds of thousands of dollars seeking approval for the multimillion-dollar resort under the state's strict Act 250 development

See related story on Squaw Creek, page 17.

law, are not giving up.

They feel the board made "substantial mistakes" and are asking it to reverse its ruling, according to Sherman Hollow President Paul Truax.

"It's a step we had to take within 30 days of the board's decision," said Truax,

who submitted the appeal on the final day of the one-month deadline.

The board denied the latest reconsideration for a land-use permit — which included the developers' promise not to use chemical pesticides or fertilizers — because of problems regarding waste disposal, streams, water supplies and soil erosion.

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USGA puts rebuffed TRACS on hold

By Peter Blais

The U.S. Golf Association Green Section has temporarily shelved plans for its new construction consulting service after receiving complaints from golf course architects and builders that it

represents competition and unnecessary oversight.

Green Section Director Jim Snow still hopes to establish the program, but will delay its launch until some "unfortunate misunderstandings" are clarified.

Snow announced the introduction of Turf Renovation and Construction Services in mid-November.

Headed by Mid-Continent Section Director Jim Moore, TRACS is designed as a

Continued on page 39

Opposition derails TRACS for time being

Continued from page 1

quality control service, providing course owners and directors access to USGA professionals, who make sure course construction and renovation projects are done properly and to the developers' specifications.

Some controversy arose when architects Mark Hayes and Jerry Slack invited Moore to explain the program during their presentation for a project at Oklahoma State University. Although Moore explained he was not endorsing the Hayes/Slack proposal, and that TRACS was available to anyone, some architects felt Moore's presence could be interpreted as favoring one proposal over another, Snow said.

Rumors soon spread that the Green Section was hiring golf course architects and intending to compete with architectural firms for certain services, Snow said.

"Golf course architects were surprised, upset and I don't blame them," Snow said. "Until the architects understand what we're trying to do, we'll wait on the program."

Snow contacted American Society of Golf Course Architects President Tom Clark of Kensington, Md. Snow explained the program and gave Clark information on TRACS to circulate to his members.

Clark said he has received some negative initial feedback from architects and builders.

"I understand what the USGA is trying to do," the ASGCA president said. "But they have gotten off to a rocky start. They should have conferred with the architects and builders more in the first place."

"The idea of quality control is good. But the USGA should concentrate more on things like their testing labs. You send a sample to different labs and you get different results. That should not happen."

Snow said that, although TRACS may look like a competitive threat, "It is not our intention to take money out of architects' pockets."

Many architects have a different view, according to Clark.

"It's definitely potential competition," he said. "Some firms do mainly remodeling jobs and see course operators thinking the USGA is hiring on to do the same jobs."

Snow's assertion that smaller architectural firms could benefit from the additional expertise did not impress Clark.

"If you call yourself a golf course architect, you should be able to do the same field tests TRACS will do," he said.

TRACS has received "mixed reviews" among builders, according to Phil Arnold, executive director of the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

"In theory it's a laudable program, delivering a quality product and one the owner wants," he said. "The test will be in seeing how it actually

works. We'll have to wait and see it in a particular setting.

"Some felt that a lot of what TRACS plans to do overlaps with what architects or superintendents already do.

"One member, who is probably one of the top three or four builders in the country, said 'I build quality golf courses and I'll continue to build them, whether the USGA is there or not.'"

Ecology short course offered at Virginia Tech

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A turfgrass ecology and management short course is scheduled Jan. 27-31 at Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education on the Virginia Tech campus.

Dr. David R. Chalmers, extension agronomist-turf at Virginia Tech, will direct the program.

Thirteen faculty members from turfgrass-related disciplines will provide 36 lecture and laboratory contact hours of instruction.

Massacre Canyon reopens as Golden Era Golf Course

JAN JACINTO, Calif. — The Massacre Canyon Inn Golf Resort, closed more than a decade, has reopened as the redesigned Golden Era Golf Course.

Floods wiped out several holes when the San Jacinto River dike, which borders the course to the south, broke in the late 1970s.

The Church of Scientology bought the land in a bankruptcy auction in 1978. The course was closed in 1980.

The former 27-hole course has

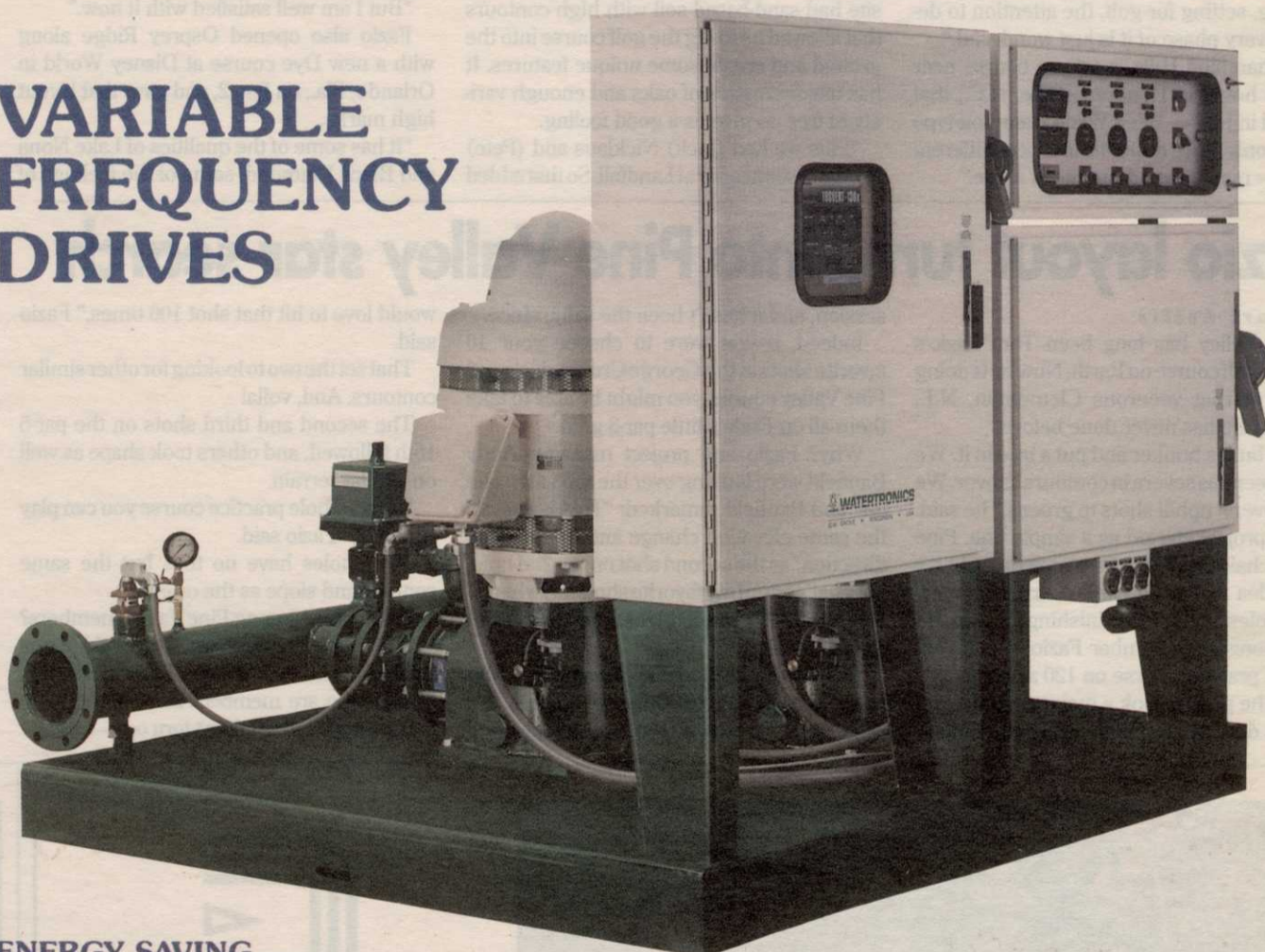
been seeded with winter rye grass and includes a newly-built 5,000 square foot clubhouse.

In 1987, Herbert Krauch, a retired editor of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, and others neighboring the golf course called for its return. The Scientologists agreed to build the golf course in a compromise with Riverside County officials that allowed operations of their studios beyond 1990.

The course is managed by Jeremy Duda of Golfcorp, a management firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas.

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