

## Coastal Commission rejects golf resort

PALOS VERDES, Calif. — In a major blow to development of the Palos Verdes Peninsula coast, the state Coastal Commission has recommended the rejection of a golf course and residential development proposed along the Rancho Palos Verdes shoreline.

Commission planners said the so-called Hon-Zuckerman project does not provide enough open space and public access to the beach. However, the project developers charge the report is full of "misinformation" provided to the commission by project opponents.

Developers Barry Hon and the Zuckerman family want to build 83 homes and an 18-hole golf course on 268 acres near the San Pedro border. Pete Dye has been retained to design a link-style

public course.

The project was approved by the City Council in May. But the approval was appealed to the Coastal Commission, which has ultimate jurisdiction over coastal development. The Commission's report concluded the proposal violates Rancho Palos Verdes' coastal plan and the state coastal act.

The developers insist their plans provide plenty of public open space, including trails, beach access, a park, and wildlife habitats. "We tried to provide factual information to the [Coastal Commission] staff, and it appears as if they've ignored all the information we gave them, Ken Zuckerman said of the report. "It's a very one-sided analysis."

## Penn State first to offer turfgrass major

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — The board of trustees at Penn State University recently approved the College of Agricultural Sciences' turfgrass science major, the first of its kind to be offered among the country's land-grant universities.

Dr. Thomas Watschke, professor of turfgrass science, said Penn State's agronomy department designed the major to prepare graduates for the wide variety of jobs available in the rapidly expanding turf industry.

In addition to the curriculum's four specific turfgrass science courses, turf majors are required

to take 15 credit hours of basic business classes, such as accounting, business, law, finance, marketing and labor/industry relations. While 17 students pursued Penn State's turfgrass science option five years ago, there are more than 40 in the program today. Watchke predicted 50 percent of those will pursue careers in the golf course industry.

## Fla. official settles lawsuit

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Former Indian County Commissioner Doug Scurlock has agreed to pay Prince Contracting Co. \$5,000 to settle a lawsuit alleging he had a conflict of interest when he voted to award a golf course contract to former business associate Guettler & Sons Inc.

Scurlock maintained he was innocent and said he agreed to the settlement to avoid mounting legal fees.

The suit claimed Scurlock's work with Guettler last year on an Ocoee project influenced his decision when commissioners voted 3-2 in February to award the \$1.95 million, 18-hole expansion of county-owned Sandridge Golf Course to Guettler. Prince was low bidder.

Scurlock was defeated during September's county commission elections.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Circulation Manager, *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 3047, Langhorne, PA, USA 19047.