

Russian course

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said Snyder, because of the property it sits on, because it is in Asiatic Russia, where golf is an unknown commodity, and because it is in Russia with whom the United States fought a cold war for 40 years.

Richardson said the peninsula is at the same latitude as Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. and Barcelona, Spain. Its temperatures are mild and comfortable in the summer, and cold and blustery in the winter but with little snow cover.

"Winter playing conditions will be much like Pebble Beach [in California] and the Pacific Northwest," Richardson said.

Snyder said the property is the most spectacular he has had to work with in his 35 years as a golf course architect.

It is beautiful, rich, rolling land that sometimes falls and other times softly ebbs down to the Sea of Japan.

"It is rocky, in some places going down 100 feet or more to remote beaches," Richardson said. "There are some big rock outcroppings—waves crash, blue water sprays..."

Richardson and Snyder will design two golf courses in the first phase of the project's 10- to 15-year buildout. One lodge will be built in that first phase.

Plans call for eventual construction of three resorts. Amenities will include a gambling casino and hunting, fishing, scuba diving, wind surfing, horseback riding, boating, and skeet shooting facilities.

To this point, developers do not know how far they will have to go to bring in utilities. It could be four miles or 50, Reaney said. The land planners are also working on other facets of the infrastructure.

The speed of construction will be "driven by economic conditions, timing and demand," Reaney said.

"Everything is poised and ready to go," Richardson said.

The principals have been working on the project since 1989 and Reaney said the Russian government "is excited about it."

But the delay has been insuring the investment money.

"You're on a frontier and you have to be careful," Reaney said. He is trying to work out a certified lease, guaranteeing that the government won't step in and take over the property after it has been developed.

Moscow officials have approved the project. But the government is still in turmoil and the ruble's value is shaky.

Snyder and Richardson have identified seven sites for golf courses at The Peninsula, with plenty of opportunity for links-style layouts. The routing for the first 27-hole course has ocean, valley and canyon nines—the ocean nine sporting seven holes on the sea.

Three other course complexes have also been targeted.

They will all be connected by just one figure eight-shaped road with no traffic except shuttles, golf cars and possibly horse-drawn carriages.

Northern Calif. GA builds on success with Poppy Hills

Group plans track in Livermore Valley

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — President Bob Foster has announced the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA) has entered into an agreement to develop an NCGA public golf facility near Livermore.

"In an effort to continue our effort to enhance the membership services of the NCGA, our board of directors has unanimously endorsed the agreement

to build a championship golf facility on a site in the rolling foothills of the southeast Livermore Valley," said Foster of plans to develop second NCGA golf course.

"The NCGA membership has experienced tremendous growth in the past five years. Our needs for future tournament play and affordable golf demand attention. We feel this project will be very beneficial. Past President Jerry Blackmore has been instrumental in helping to put the deal together.

"The NCGA-owned Poppy Hills

Golf Course on 17-Mile Drive in Pebble Beach opened June 1, 1986. Our course in Livermore will be called Poppy Ridge and will be a championship facility of 27 holes," Foster continued.

NCGA membership provided Poppy Hills with 76 percent of its 1992 play. It was used for the NCAA Men's Championships in 1991 and is now part of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am rotation.

Poppy Ridge will be located in the Wine Region of the South Livermore Valley and, with the fi-

nalization of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the expansion of this wine region has been set in motion.

Poppy Ridge will be developed jointly with The De Silva Group Inc. Plans call for construction of the facility to begin a year after final plan approval. Gene Bates Golf Design has prepared the initial route plan for Poppy Ridge.

Foster said the NCGA would continue to try to buy Mather Air Force Base course.

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