

So. Calif. proposal gets planning board OK

ALPINE, Calif. — The local planning board, in a special meeting, voted 10-4 to recommend approval of the Stagecoach Ranch golf course development.

The fate of this project is now in the hands of the county Planning Commission that will deliberate soon.

At the recent Alpine planning meeting, many discussed the project's wastewater treatment facility.

The developer, Golf Ventures USA, will need to build a reclamation plant to process the wastewater from the project's 131 homes so the 365-acre, 18-hole golf course can be properly watered. The

plant could cost as much as \$4 million.

Some feared the plant's presence in the Southern California town.

Alpine Planner Ann Pierce explained to the *East County Weekly*: "Adding Stagecoach Ranch to the County Town increases the boundaries by one-third.

"The treatment plant opens up a nightmare of growth-inducement."

Most local businesses in the area, however, applauded the development project.

Pat Boatwright of the Alpine Chamber of Commerce said 78 percent of the member businesses support the golf course.

Ill. farm to become golf course

ROCKFORD, Ill. — Hillis and Frances Swanson have applied for a special-use permit to turn their 140-acre farm into an 18-hole golf course.

To be named Swan Hills, the development would include a clubhouse with a pro shop, snack shop and bar area.

Hillis Swanson told the *Rockford Register Star*, "It's not our desire to make a big profit, we just want to leave it green, and I don't know any other way than to turn it into a golf course."

This is the second time the Swansons have tried to develop a golf course on their property.

In 1987, the Boone County Board approved the project, but it came crashing to a halt when the developer the Swansons hired could not provide adequate financial support.

The Swansons are now working directly with Midwest Irrigation of East Dubuque, Ill. The couple is hopeful the county will approve the golf course a second time.



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Mowing style made Augusta play longer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Many golfers noticed a difference in the way grass was cut at this year's Masters. The unique mowing method — from the greens back toward the tees — was employed during the opening rounds.

"It makes the course a club, maybe two clubs longer on the uphill holes," Lee Janzen, a co-leader after the first round, told the *Toledo Blade*.

John Huston, the first-round leader in the 1990 Masters, said up-grain mowing is sporadically evident at other PGA Tour events.

"A couple years ago at Bay Hill, the 18th fairway was split right down the middle," he said.

"Half of it was mowed in one direction, half in the other. It made a 40-yard difference on your tee shot."

Ga. to finance state park track

WAYCROSS, Ga. — Money to design the 18-hole course at Laura Walker State Park will be included in the state budget for the 1994 fiscal year, according to State Rep. Harry Dixon (D-Waycross).

Dixon, who has been working on getting a golf course for the park near his hometown since 1988, persuaded the House to allocate \$150,000 for the design.

The 18-hole layout will be adjacent to Laura Walker State Park property and State Route 177.

Hawaiian facility gets green light

HILO, Hawaii — The Board of Appeals has upheld the planning commission's decision to grant Akahi Joint Venture a use permit to build a 27-hole golf course at Opihiale, South Kona.

The 4-3 vote removed the last barrier for development of the controversial project, first approved in 1992.

The plan is to build the golf course and clubhouse on 324 acres.