

Environmental opposition expected to stall work on Stockton, Calif. layout

STOCKTON, Calif. — Developer Dave Fisher and his partner Bart Robertson expect to face stiff opposition from environmentalists and the Miwok Indians in future public hearings about their proposed golf course community.

Fisher and Robertson plan to develop 200 out of their 875 acres in northern San Joaquin County. They hope to build million-dollar homes and an 6,906-yard, private, 18-hole golf course that would only be played by the residents and their guests.

The builders bought the land in 1988 and hired

golf architects Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf to design the course.

"A golf course is a way of preserving the land, like Pebble Beach and Cypress Point," explained Fisher to the *Stockton Record*. "It's like a walk in nature."

Environmentalists, however, beg to differ with Fisher, who has spent \$750,000 on studies and efforts to appease concerned groups. They feel developing historical land is illogical and not right.

Maple Creek Ltd. buys Brefank's interest in Stuart, Fla. golf community

STUART, Fla. — A developer and other investors recently purchased 406 acres off the Florida Turnpike for \$3.3 million. They plan to build a golf course community that will feature an 18-hole design and single-family homes.

Maple Creek Ltd. bought the land from Brefrank Inc., which had tried unsuccessfully to build Escorial Country Club. Brefrank, a development corporation run by Harold Jacobsohn, suspended its plans to build Escorial in early

February in order to concentrate on a golf course community in nearby Summerfield.

Jacobsohn said his firm wanted to focus on Summerfield instead of trying to work on two projects at one time.

Although the new owners have not submitted any plans to the county, Robert Kramer, attorney for Maple Creek, said construction could begin later this year. The golf course could be ready for play by November 1994, he said.

Calif. court upholds county approval of Oakdale track

MODESTO, Calif. — A Superior Court judge has ruled that Stanislaus County officials acted legally when they approved the building of a 27-hole golf course on 600 acres east of Oakdale.

The Stanislaus Audubon Society sued to prevent construction of the golf course, claiming the county acted without the required environmental impact report in approving the project on the Willms Ranch.

But county officials maintain that developers modified the plans so an environmental impact report was not needed.

The Audubon Society argued in its suit that the project comes within the jurisdiction of the California Quality Act, which does require a full environmental impact report before a project can be approved.

Audubon Society attorney Bill Yeates also argued the project would threaten wildlife habitat and contribute to air and water pollution problems.

Environmental group threatens lawsuit

OJAI, Calif. — The Environmental Coalition of Ventura County said it will file a lawsuit to overturn a Feb. 2 approval of a golf course project near Ventura.

Ventura County supervisors here approved a Farmont Corp. plan to build a golf course, driving range, three lakes and restaurant on 113 acres west of Rancho Matilija. Architect Pete Dye will design the course.

The Environmental Coalition's Spokesman Alasdair Coyne said the lawsuit will address the same issue the group has raised previously. Coyne said allowing Farmont to use drinking water to irrigate the golf course is banned by the General Plan, the county's blueprint for development.

Coyne sees this 1989 policy as absolute. County officials disagree; they contend the golf course can be allowed because it will use less water than has historically been used on the property.



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