El Segundo selects Golf Planning Services to manage construction of muni track

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Golf Planning Solutions, a golf course construction management and consulting firm, has been awarded a contract for construction management services by the city to build its golf facility, The Lakes at El Segundo.

The "Lakes" will consist of an upscale, nine-hole golf course, a 60-station, two-level driving range, and a clubhouse with food and beverage services. It was designed by Halsey Daray Golf of La Mesa, and will be located on Sepulveda Boulevard just south of El Segundo Boulevard.

Groundbreaking was in June, with the grand opening planned for next spring. Golf Planning Solutions is owned by Lowell M. English, vice president of the Southern California Golf Association, and Thomas C. Bauer, a committeeman on the Southern California Golf Association rules and competition committee.

Bonita Bay unveiling set for mid-November

BONITA BAY, Fla. — A bird's-eye view of Bonita Bay shows nine new fairways and greens taking shape as the community adds a third 18-hole championship golf course by splitting one of its existing courses and adding nine new holes to each half.

The front nine of the Marsh course, opened in 1985 and ranked ninth in the state and 85th in the nation by *Golf Digest*, has been closed since mid-May. The greens are being rebuilt to United States Golf Association specifications.

By mid-November, the new Marsh will open, along with nine holes of Bay Island, Bonita Bay's newest course. Bay Island's remaining nine holes are scheduled for completion in late 1994.

"With initial site work completed, we already can see that the views are even more incredible than we had imagined," said Ed Rodgers, vice president of club operations for Bonita Bay Properties, Inc.

All three courses were designed by Ohio-based course architect Arthur Hills. Many fairways border wetlands sloughs and other natural areas which comprise one-quarter of the Bonita Bay site. While three of Creekside's holes border Spring Creek, part of Bay Island will run along the western edge of Bonita Bay and offer dramatic views of Estero Bay.

Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. built the Marsh and Creekside, the second Bonita Bay course, and will build Bay Island as well.

Nugent creations Heritage Bluffs, Koolau GC open

CHANNAHON, Ill. — Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club, the Channahon Park District's newest facility, designed by Dick Nugent, opened for public play Aug. 3. Meanwhile, the new Nugent-designed Koolau Golf Course in Kaneohe, Hawaii, has been given a USGA Slope Rating of 152 from the back tees, second only to Pine Valley for the highest rating in the United States.

Ron Read, director of the USGA's Western Region, said: "When a youngster thinks he is good enough for the PGA Tour, he should play Koolau four times. If he scores 288, I will beg and borrow all the money I can get to put him on the Tour."

Set in the crater of an ancient volcano at the base of the Koolau mountain range that splits the island of Oahu, the course faces a 2,000-foot vertical wall on one side and offers a breathtaking view of Kaneohe Bay on the other. Natural vegetation and pocket plantings of tropical varieties enhance its beauty.

"All other courses pale by comparison because the site is so dramatic," said Nugent, whose construction management division also supervised building of the course. "It's the pinnacle of any architect's career to get a site like this. There is almost a spiritual aura to it."

The course is located on 280 acres less than 10 miles north of Honolulu and below the famed Pali Lookout. It took 2 1/2 years to carve out this track. Environmental requirements were stringent. Virtually all the wetlands on the property, as well as four archaeological sites, had to be preserved.

Located on 166 rolling, wooded acres just north of the Des Plaines River, Heritage Bluffs features four tee boxes at each hole, with the par-72 course playing at lengths ranging from 4,967 to 7,106 yards.

A two-row computerized irrigation system was installed to ensure great conditions on the bentgrass fairways, and the putting on greens built to full United States Golf Association specifications.

