

San Jose airport land eyed for potential golf course

SAN JOSE, Calif. — With an eye on 160 acres of vacant land in the San Jose International Airport approach zone, city councilors here are discussing the best ways to ease the city's golf course shortage.

City administrators will continue to study using about 60 acres of the vacant land for a nine-hole golf course and driving range. The course and range would be considered temporary, meaning they would close after 15 to 20 years.

However, this area also serves as the proposed site of the elaborate Guadalupe Gardens. Councilman David Pandori said

the approach zone is an ideal spot for a central garden which would call for 140 acres of orchards, flowers, meadows and a number of educational exhibits — all in the shadow of the airport.

Councilwoman Charlotte Powers, a member of the golf course subcommittee that recommended the garden as a course site, said the garden plan was "wonderful," but not entirely realistic.

Under the subcommittee recommendation, a smaller garden could open on the land surrounding the golf course and range. Profits from golf would go toward completing the

garden once the golf course closed.

Two other options exist for providing more area golf courses:

- The city will continue to look into building an 18-hole course along the Coyote Creek north of Capitol Expressway. This plan has been criticized by environmentalists who say the area represents the last river habitat of its kind in the Bay Area.

- A third plan calls for the city to form a partnership with the owners of the Pleasant Hill Golf Course. The plan would not add a new golf course, but rather prevent the club from being transformed into a subdivision.

South California remodel should finish by October

DOWNEY, Calif. — The \$4.5 million renovation of the 101-acre Rio Hondo Golf Course is on schedule for an October reopening here. The renovation began last November after five years of planning.

The sod has yet to be laid, but golfers touring the site already give the course rave reviews, observers told the *Press Telegram*. Features of the newly designed course include a computerized irrigation system, Crenshaw bentgrass on the greens and Tifway II hybrid Bermudagrass on tees and fairways.

More than \$2 million in surplus money generated by the course helped pay for the overhaul. The work was financed with municipal bonds that future course income will repay, Mayor Robert Brazelton said.

The course was founded in the 1920s and sold to the city in 1970.

LA seeks \$600K annual lease for Hansen Dam GC

PACOIMA, Calif. — A draft proposal for a private firm to take over operation of Hansen Dam Golf Course asks for at least \$600,000 annually in guaranteed rent to the city.

Drafted as a "request for proposals" from private firms, the document was developed by the Los Angeles city parks department staff for consideration by the mayor's office, which has not yet decided whether to seek private bids for Hansen Dam or other golf courses.

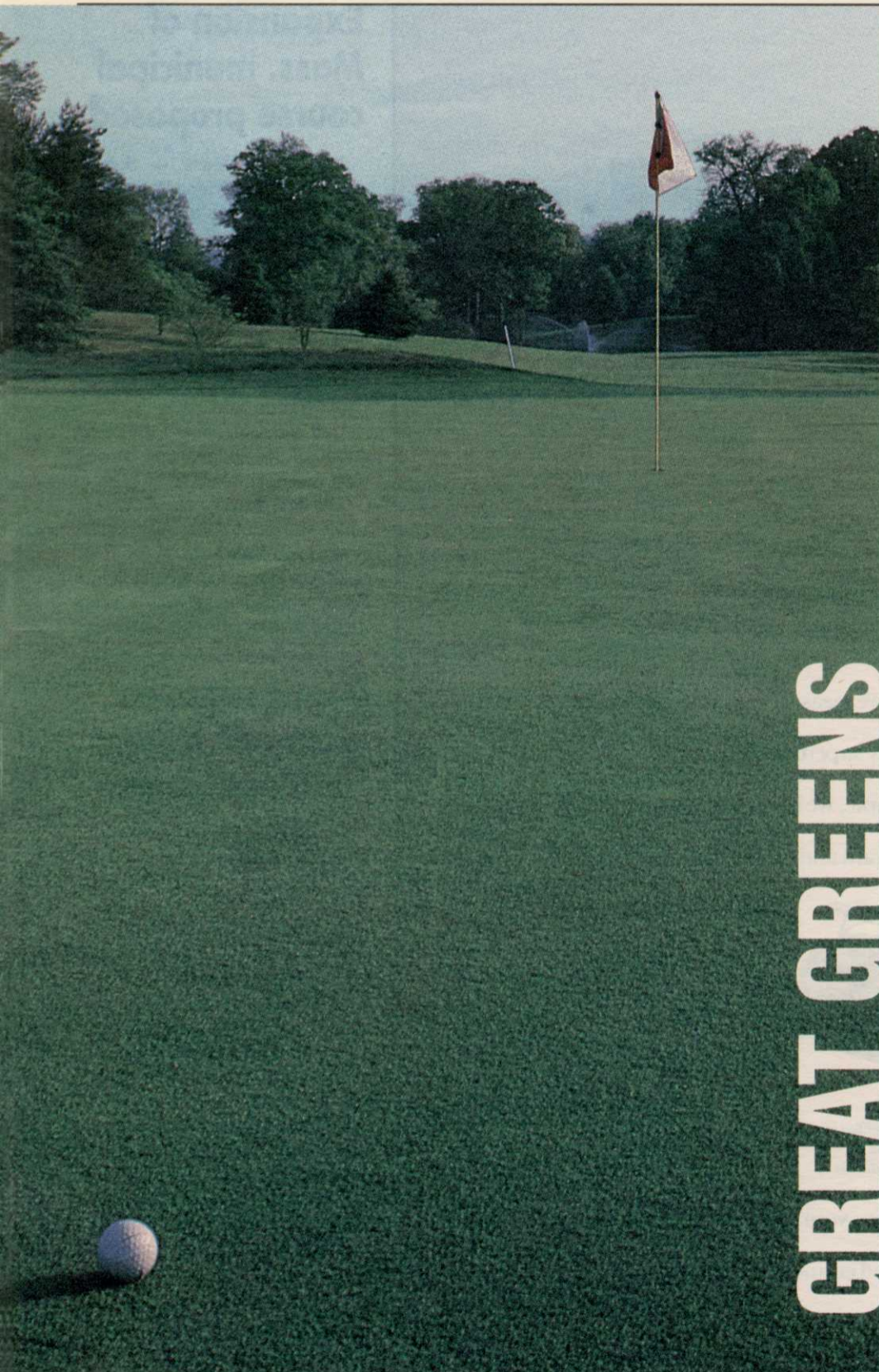
Across Los Angeles, 13 city-owned golf courses produced net revenue of \$2.2 million annually. One private firm, American Golf Corp., has estimated it could produce \$6 million or more annually for the city if given the contract to run the golf courses.

Sun City project underway near Sacramento

ROSEVILLE, Calif. — Del Webb Corp. has begun construction of a retirement community here in suburban Sacramento.

Plans include 3,500 homes, a Billy Casper signature golf course, recreation lodge, and other amenities.

Site general manager John Murray said during construction the development will generate more than 600 jobs. Murray said Del Webb is also planning new communities near Austin, Texas and Hilton Head, S.C.



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