

California judge blocks environmentalists' efforts to overturn Ojai Valley golf course development

OJAI VALLEY, Calif. — A Superior Court judge upheld Ventura County's approval of a golf course, denying the Environmental Coalition's request to block the project.

The Board of Supervisors approved Farmont Corp.'s plans for an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse facilities after the company showed the project would use up to 407 acre-feet of water per year—about one-fifth the water to which the company was entitled.

Farmont gave up its other water rights to get project approval.

Judge William Peck rejected the coalition's claim the project violated county policy banning new golf courses, unless non-drinking water is used for irrigation or sufficient drinking water exists.

Although Peck decided for the developer, he noted reading the county law literally would require rejecting the project, and urged the county to revise the ordinance.

The Coalition's attorney rec-

ommend Peck's decision be appealed.

The 18-hole, 113-acre course, designed by Pete Dye, could open in 1996. The project includes a 19,890-square-foot clubhouse and a 20-player driving range.

Farmont is owned by Japanese media tycoon Kagehisa Toyama, an avid golfer. Players must pass a golf test and pay as much as \$150,000 for club membership. Only 35 rounds of golf will be played per day.

Miss. layout delayed by pols

GREENWOOD, Miss. — A proposed public golf course here has been shelved for the year despite the recent decision to go forward with the project.

Study committee member John Emmerich said he was sorry about the course being put off.

But the decision, he said, does not mean the course is in jeopardy.

Council President and State Senator David Jordan an-

nounced that he was unable to get the one and a half-cent golf course tax onto the appropriate Legislative committee's agenda for approval as a local and private bill. The committee chairman, Jordan said, would not consider the tax because it was going solely for the golf course.

The purpose of the tax was to help raise revenue to give the multimillion-dollar course some financial cushion while it got underway.

Alabama's Trent Jones Trail now fully operational

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The last two of the state's seven Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses are fully operational.

Courses in Butler and Calhoun counties join courses already in operation in Jefferson, Houston, Lee, Madison and Mobile counties.

Silver Creek in Anniston is the last course to come on line.

The \$100 million Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail venture is part of course owners Retirement Systems of Alabama's attempt to further diversify its investment of the state's \$13 billion pension fund for the state's teachers, government employees and judges.

The Trail is expected to reap millions in tourist dollars for the state.

Cooper teams with ClubCorp on Ark. facility

HOTSPRINGS VILLAGE, Ark. — Cooper Communities Inc., and Dallas-based Club Corp. of America announced a joint venture to build a \$7.4 million private membership golf course and country club here. The golf club, named Diamante, will feature an 18-hole, 7,500-yard golf course.

Access to the course will be limited to property owners and their guests of the 320 single-family homes and 130 townhomes to be developed around the course.

Cooper's first private golf course holding will be sodded with zoysiagrass and the greens will be seeded with bentgrass. It is scheduled for completion for spring 1995.

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