

Condensed golf course could help speed play

MURRIETA, Calif. — It was only a matter of time. Norm Achen of Temecula and a group of investors are looking into a brave new style of golf experience that would reduce the amount of time it takes to play a round in half and cut the price of greens fees.

Achen envisions a compressed golf "course" where players would hit their drives and successive shots from a series of hitting stations that would have a ratings system to evaluate the shots. Under Achen's plan there would be no strolling down the fairway between shots to find one's ball.

Achen and his investors are hoping to build

the condensed "course" on a barren 33-acre site in Murrieta. He said he is confident he could charge lower greens fees because the maintenance costs for a 33-acre site would be far less than those for a 150 to 200-acre site common to standard golf courses across the country. Achen estimates construction costs at \$2 million.

If the concept proves successful, Achen and his investors, who have incorporated as Duplicate Golf Inc., will try to market the idea in golf franchises internationally, particularly in countries like Japan, where golf is extremely popular but land is very expensive.

Palm Springs to add layout

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — The City Council is considering a proposal to build a 27-hole golf course resort designed by Byron Nelson's architectural firm.

The Palm Springs Classic resort, which would include a 400-room hotel, up to 500 vacation ownership units, and 30 acres of offices for research and development, retail, and light industrial business, is awaiting approval of a final environmental impact report, a general plan amendment, a preliminary planned develop-

ment design plan, and grading plans.

The proposed builder is D.T. Palm Springs Inter-Continental Golf Center Enterprises.

The council is also considering a request for a conditional-use permit for a night-lighted golf driving range in Palm Springs separate from the resort and the possibility of shifting \$1.2 million from the city's wastewater treatment plant fund to an expansion project at the municipal golf course.

Gen'l Dynamics breaks ground on Palmer track

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. — Ground has been broken for an 18-hole public golf course designed by Arnold Palmer on land adjoining the closed General Dynamics missile plant.

The course is part of the Empire Lakes development. The defense contractor will spend \$10 to \$15 million on the course.

Although General Dynamics owns the property that includes several large industrial and office buildings, the defense company will be responsible only for the development of the golf course. The company is seeking other firms to develop the remaining facilities.

The course is expected to open by December and will feature a Palmer Golf Academy. There are also proposals to develop a hotel/conference center.

Calif. officials reject polluted course location

FRESNO, Calif. — Contamination problems at the site proposed for the new Airways Golf Course have prompted city officials to abandon those plans in favor of renovating the existing golf course.

The state Department of Health Services found groundwater contamination from cleaning solvents dumped at the Fresno Air Terminal site many years ago.

City officials said the contamination probably dates back to World War II when the area was Hammer Field air base.

Terry Cooper, a city transportation director and Fresno airport's manager, said the airport has been proposed for the state's Superfund list.

The recent contamination problems are the latest blow to the course's fading hopes.

Since at least 1989, plans have called for a new \$4 million course. The course was supposed to open in 1991.

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