

Cosmo World scales down plans

SUNLAND, Calif. — Saying it has resolved environmental concerns, Cosmo World Corp. has submitted scaled-down plans for development of an 18-hole public course in the Tujunga Wash area near Lake View Terrace.

Cosmo World shelved plans for an 18-hole layout last year because of the threat to an estimated 40 endangered plants and animals near the course. The company now plans a smaller, 18-hole course and clubhouse, according to Mark Ambruster, an attorney for Cosmo World, a subsidiary of Kajima Engineer-

ing and Construction Inc.

Ambruster told the *Daily News* of Woodland Hills, Calif., "Instead of a PGA-tournament level type of golf course, this is a regular 18-hole golf course that will minimize the amount of turf that needs to be put in and won't disturb any of the surrounding wildlife."

Cosmo still faces opposition from several area homeowners associations. It will need approval from the city Planning Commission this summer for a conditional-use permit. If that happens, Ambruster said the course could be open in 1997.

CourseCo to manage Crystal Springs

BURLINGAME, Calif. — CourseCo, Inc., a Northern California-based course management company, began operations at the 18-hole Crystal Springs Golf Course on April 1 with plans for a \$3 million improvement program.

CourseCo, which manages Mather Golf Course in Sacramento, Riverside of Fresno and Deep Cliff just down the road from Crystal Springs, will operate Crystal Springs and provide construction

management for Crystal Springs Golf Partners, L. P.

The partnership plans significant capital improvements to the facilities beginning sometime in the second year of occupancy of what will be a 20-year lease with the City of San Francisco Water Dept.

Major planned improvements include a complete clubhouse remodeling, turfing, target greens, a second deck on the driving range, and rebuilt tees and bunkers.

Calif. firm turns to old tires for water collection

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Used automobile tires — the ongoing bane of recyclers and environmentalists — are the key ingredient of a new irrigation system devised by a former Chicago industrial engineer.

Robert Hendershot, a holder of 13 patents who founded the Candy Manufacturing Company in Niles, Ill., 32 years ago, came up with the idea of slicing old tires in half like a bagel and layering them open side up 12 to 15 inches under fairways and roughs. By offsetting the layers, more than 90 percent of the surface area has tires underneath.

Hendershot says his Rain Trap System is environmentally friendly in several ways. The cut tires are kept out of landfills and they become shallow bowls that collect water, fertilizer and pesticides. Captured moisture and additives then bloom upward through the soil. Golf courses that use the Rain Trap System, he says, need less water, fertilizer and pesticide.

The first course to use Hendershot's idea was Warshaw Plantation East near Myrtle Beach, S.C., which was built in 1995. Course officials there budgeted for 40 percent reductions in irrigation and fertilization. So far, the soil is holding well and the water use is at the level predicted.

Hendershot also planted the Rain Trap System in another course in Winnipeg, Canada, last year. New courses under construction in Houston and Phoenix are scheduled to have the system installed this year.

Hendershot, 66, came up with the idea several years ago after witnessing a tire fire at a nearby tire recycling center. Extensive research led him to two key conclusions: there is no really good way to dispose of auto tires and people dispose of 250 million tires a year.

For decades, tires have been burned for energy, buried in landfills, and ground up and used on roadways, but there has usually been an environmental or economic drawback.

One characteristic of tires that stuck in Hendershot's mind was they didn't decompose or rot and would therefore make good containers for dirt, concrete or even water. Hendershot and his partners have formed a Santa Rosa-based company called Tire Farms. Tire Farms uses more than a million tires in building a typical, 18-hole course.

Before its first on-the-job application, the Rain Trap System was planted in a test patch of fairway at the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University in Fresno. Research found it to be a scientifically reliable, passive, sub-irrigation system to recycle water and additives.



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