

Ex-sewage plant out as site for displaced California course

SALINAS, Calif. — The ongoing saga surrounding creation of a golf course here to replace the soon-to-be shut down Sherwood Greens Golf Course has taken another twist.

If and when a replacement course is built, it won't be at the Salinas City Sewage Treatment Plant, as planned earlier. The City Council has voted to switch the intended site from the old sewage treatment plant to a more sylvan site in the city.

The new site, however, may mean delays in getting a new course built as the terms of a lease are worked out between the city and Monterey County, which owns the proposed new site. City officials hope to begin construction on a new replacement course as soon as possible to be ready for an April 1998 opening.

Sherwood Greens Golf Course will close in the spring of 1998 and converted into playing fields and parking area as part of a sports complex to be called the Rodeo-Sherwood Regional Recreation Area.



The boulder-strewn 14th hole at Giants Ridge Golf Club, a Jeff Brauer design in Biwabik, Minn.

Brauer project opens despite obstacles

By HAL PHILLIPS

BIWABIK, Minn. — Three years ago, a turf war between bickering governmental factions nearly scuttled an 18-hole course project here in the state's iron range region. But architect Jeff Brauer stuck to his environmental guns, patiently assuring opponents that a golf course would not tamper with the ecosystem.

Brauer's perseverance will pay off this

month when Giants Ridge Golf Club opens for play. The Arlington, Texas-based architect has made full use of a spectacular north woods setting, routing the course over and around natural boulder fields, wetlands and ancient pines. Designed with help from touring pro Lanny Wadkins, Giants Ridge stands to be Brauer's most high-profile project to date.

"Well, it's actually the lowest profile project we've done, in terms of mound-

ing," Brauer said. "We didn't have to manufacture much because the site is so special. I think because of the site, this is definitely my best work. But the best one is always the next one."

A former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Brauer can list several acclaimed projects in his portfolio, among them Wild Wing Plantation near Myrtle Beach and TangleRidge Golf Club in Grand Prairie, Texas. Yet Brauer believes Giants Ridge should surpass them both.

The irony? The project nearly fell apart in 1994, when state and county environmental organizations disagreed on project approval. The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), administered by St. Louis County, okayed the project while the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) disagreed. Seems the DNR didn't think the county had the technical knowledge to decide one way or the other.

In response, the DNR asked for a full-blown Environmental Impact Study, the first ever requested for a golf project in Minnesota — indeed, the less stringent Environmental Assessment Worksheet had never been requested for a golf project in Minnesota.

After the state's Environmental Quality Board ruled in favor of St. Louis County, two citizens groups immediately filed suit to stop the project. The suit

Continued on page 12

WHAT YOU NEED IS A WAY TO STAND OUT.

