

Phoenix city officials enter fray with plan to save Adobe GC

PHOENIX, Ariz. — In the latest installment of an increasingly bitter two-year fight, the Phoenix City Council has stepped in with a plan to save the Adobe Golf Course, a course built in the 1920s in one of the city's most prominent neighborhoods. The owner of the Adobe course has said it wants to develop housing on the golf course property, or receive fair compensation.

In exchange for preserving the Adobe course, the council voted to allow the owner, Kabuto Arizona Properties, to build up to 70 units on about five acres near the course's clubhouse. The building would not affect the course.

Kabuto, however, has said the council's decision does not go anywhere near far enough and that the matter will most likely end up in court.

Debate surrounds Calif. course entrance

CATHEDRAL CITY, Calif. — Just how important can an entrance to a golf course be? Well, if you're officials in the neighboring cities of Cathedral City and Rancho Mirage, very.

Cathedral City officials have been miffed by the Ritz-Carlton's plan to have the main entrance to its new \$12.5 million golf course in neighboring Rancho

Mirage. The 18-hole course will be built on 86 acres in Rancho Mirage and 105 acres in Cathedral City along the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Cathedral City officials have said that the city had been promised its own golf-cart entrance, while the developer Winchester Development Co., the company building the golf course, said the idea was dismissed long ago. Cathedral City officials have said a separate Cathedral City entrance would provide convenient access for residents and also help lure hotels as part of their efforts to revitalize downtown.

One possible compromise is a free shuttle service from Cathedral City to the golf course's main entrance in Rancho Mirage, although no final decisions have been made.

Environmentalists fail to stop Ojai, Calif. golf course

OJAI, Calif. — An environmental group has lost again in its efforts to stop an exclusive 18-hole private golf from being built by a company owned by Japanese media tycoon Kagehisa Toyama. But questions remain whether the course will ever get built.

The Environmental Coalition of Ventura County has been trying to prevent the Farmont Corp. from building its course on its Ojai Valley property. The proposed 18-hole layout, designed by golf course architect Pete Dye, would be built along Highway 150 west of the Ventura River. The facility will also include a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse and restaurant, three lakes covering 800 acres and a driving range. Players would reportedly have to pass a golfing test before being allowed to play the course and only 35 rounds of golf would be allowed daily.

The project has been tied up in litigation since 1993. An attorney for Farmont has said the chances the course will be built are decreasing and that Toyama is old and in poor health.

PUBLIC GOLF FORUM DATES SET

YARMOUTH, Maine — October 26-27 will be the dates for the *Golf Course News*-sponsored Public Golf Forum, the leading conference for managers and superintendents of public-access golf facilities. The two-day event will be held at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

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