

Golf courses could lose federal emergency funding

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel moved recently to bar the Federal Emergency Management Agency from spending disaster relief funds on golf courses.

"This is the first step in preventing FEMA from assisting a lot of municipal facilities on down the road; that's what's going on here and we're starting out with golf courses because it's politically easy to do," Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., told The Associated Press.

Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., asserted that spending on disaster relief has tripled in the past five years in part "due to the declaration of disasters where nobody knew there was a disaster."

But Democrats on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee opposed Bond's efforts to require stricter rules for a presidential disaster declaration.

The panel, on a 10-7 party-line vote, approved a Bond amendment denying disaster funds for public golf courses. But the committee stopped short of endorsing his effort to rewrite the disaster declaration rules.

"The thrust of this amendment is to move more of the cost away from the federal government and toward state and local governments," said Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla. "Disasters are difficult to prepare for and difficult to define."

Congress has spent more than \$12 billion on disaster relief since 1995. FEMA asks Congress for more money whenever disaster relief funds are depleted.

Bond said FEMA gave \$ 872,000 to the Indian Wells Golf

Course in Myrtle Beach, S.C., a public course. Democratic lawmakers accused him of discriminating against golfers who can't afford private clubs.



Private courses, noted Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., would remain eligible for low-interest loans through the Small Business Administration.

COURSE PLANNED FOR ABANDONED NJ LANDFILL

BAYONNE, N.J. — The State Department of Environmental Protection has granted Orion of Elizabeth New Jersey (OENJ) Corp. conditional approval to use an abandoned landfill as part of a 36-hole golf facility. The 403-acre site is located in the Constable Hook industrial area south of the Military Ocean Terminal. The 69-acre city dump site must be capped before construction. Plans also call for land to be reclaimed from the harbor. Ron Garl has done a preliminary design for a 36-hole facility that will include 18 public and 18 private holes.

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LaFoy remodels N.C. golf course

GOLDSBORO, N.C. — The Goldsboro City Council has approved spending \$2.7 million to renovate the Goldsboro Golf Course.

Architect John LaFoy will oversee the renovation, which will include new greens and tees, concrete cart paths, reshaping and regrassing of fairways and roughs, renovated drainage and a new irrigation system. Treated wastewater will be used to irrigate the facility.

The city will acquire the course in October and plans to close the course for about a year to make the renovations.

EAGLE GREENS OPENS GA TRACK

MONROE, Ga. — Providence Club, a new residential golf community here, will open its semi-private golf course Oct. 1. Eagle Greens, which operates four golf communities in northeast Georgia, is the course developer. Course Crafters of Gainesville is the course architect.

