

[WATER MANAGEMENT]

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



To curb its water woes, Pasatiempo Golf Club is negotiating with its water district to access unused, reclaimed water being sent to the Pacific Ocean. by Katie Tuttle

Water is a big part of maintaining courses' pristine esthetics, especially in the stress of summer heat and drought. So what happens when water restrictions in your area prevent you from irrigating as often as you need?

A lot of California courses use recycled water as part of their irrigation regimen. In the past, this water was just piped out to the ocean. Now, it's being used to replace fresh water.

Pasatiempo Golf Club hopes to join the ranks or recycled water users in late 2014. Currently, the California course gets its water from the city of Santa Cruz, and is under a constant threat of a water shortage. Because of this, Pasatiempo is seeking an alternative that is both environmentally friendly, as well as the best choice for the course.

"If we have another drought year, we'll be in a fairly severe water restriction next year," says Scott Hoyt, Pasatiempo general manager. "It will definitely affect the condition of the course."

In steps Scotts Valley. The city produces more reclaimed water than it has customers for, so the access water is sent out to the Pacific Ocean. Pasatiempo is already in the position to have the water piped to the course for irrigation, but there is still one big step they have to take first.

"We have to put in an underground tank to store the water," says Hoyt. The underwater storage tank will have three separate chambers: one for the fresh water from Santa Cruz, one for the recycled water from Scotts Valley, and one for the well water from the well on the course. "To ensure our long term future, we want to use all three sources and mix them, depending on the exact quality of the water, and where it's being put: on the greens or

fairways or roughs. No matter what happens, meaning if one of our sources has a problem, we're still in good shape to keep the golf course in the type of condition we need to keep it in."

Another step the course needs to take is to negotiate a final price on the recycled water.

"We have not finalized any kind of negotiating with the [Scotts Valley Water District] relative with the price they want to charge us, or guarantee of supply," he says. "If we're going to spend all this money and go through all of this, obviously we want a fair price. We need them to guarantee supply for 50 years, meaning if they expand their system and decide they have other customers, they can't cut us off."

Money seems to be the only downside of the project. The club has currently invested five million dollars in the project, meaning they have had to cut back on money being spent elsewhere.

"[It] hinders us from making any further improvements and it slows down any other necessary improvements. We need to focus on this; we need to figure out how to pay for it," Hoyt says. "It's going to take us 10 to 12 years to pay it off, so it certainly hinders any future improvement."

Still, there's no reason for anyone to be against the project.

"There's no reason not to be supportive of the idea," says Hoyt. "There can't be one person that's not supportive of the idea. We want to take something that's currently being shipped out into the Pacific Ocean, that [Scotts Valley] is getting zero dollars for. We're going to save fresh water. We could save 40 million gallons a year of fresh water for the city of Santa Cruz."

Katie Tuttle is GCI's assistant editor.



From THE FEED



GCI had the U.S. Open covered from every angle last month. Of course, Matt Shaffer got to show off Merion Golf Club from the cover of our June issue (and if you haven't gotten to see it in motion, now's the time to check out the GCI app!) but our own Pat Jones was also reporting live from the ground. Though superintendents had plenty of nice things to say about the course, not as many thought enough recognition was given to the crew's hard work.

Jerry Coldiron@CaribeTurfman

Seriously, Johnny Miller & his grain comments are so ridiculous!! He made this marathon US Open nearly unbearable. Will be muted tomorrow!!



↑ **Tim Walker@timwalkercgcs**

I think it's funny everyone is killing miller - Matt shaffer has been bragging about the old bent grain



↑ **Jerry Coldiron@CaribeTurfman**

Matt knows his greens Just seems on TV more inconsistent grass types & soils leading to dry/wet areas, Not grain



Pat Jones@GCIMagazine

"Superintendents make choices on a daily basis" affecting pace but "sometimes their hands are tied" - Rand Jerris of #USGA



↑ **Sean Wilson@mseanw67**

The superintendents' hands are always tied. They set the course up the way they are told.



Mr. O'Mell@spartygrad95

OK. Berman IS WORSE than Miller.



↑ **Pat Jones@GCIMagazine**

Tough choice...equally awful?



↑ **Mr. O'Mell@spartygrad95**

I'd rather listen to stories of 63s. Anne grain than stupid nicknames



Join the conversation
on Twitter @GCIMagazine!



JUST ANOTHER TOOL

The next time you're about to throw away an old set of blades, stop and ask yourself "could these still be useable?" If the answer is yes, you could be able to make some money off of them, while also helping out someone who needs them.

Back in May, Stephen Tucker started partschanger.com, a site similar to ebay, where superintendents can sell old parts, equipment, build a store, or put up wanted ads, among other things.

"I think we are all trying to find ways to not just save money but be more economical," Tucker says. "I am always trying to figure out better ways to do things, and so I figured maybe this could help some of us get rid of some clutter, put a few dollars back into the budget and in the end help another club who may need it."

Tucker doesn't just see the site as a resource for superintendents. He also sees people such as technicians, dealers and sports turf managers using it as a place to sell and buy cheaper products.

"With parts prices going up, equipment prices going up, etc, I think any way we can save money we should do it. It's just another tool for the tool box."



U.S. Open Photo Recap

GCI's Pat Jones and John Kaminski were on the ground at Merion CC and behind the scenes during last month's U.S. Open. Check out the iPad or iPhone app version of the July issue for a candid look at the big event.

