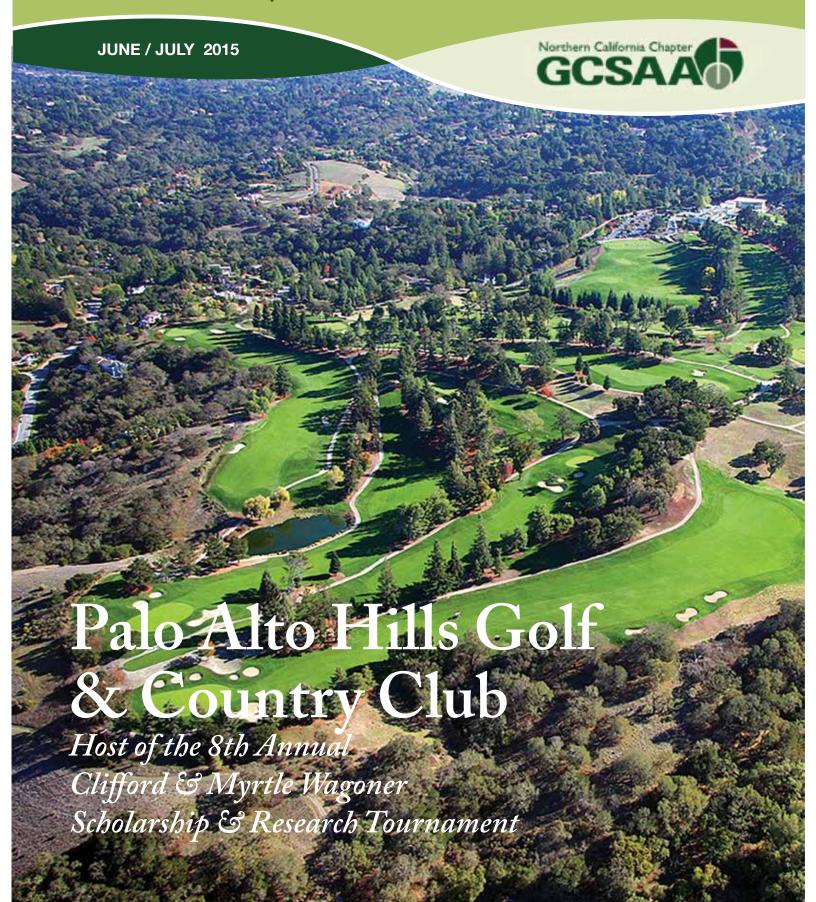
THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California



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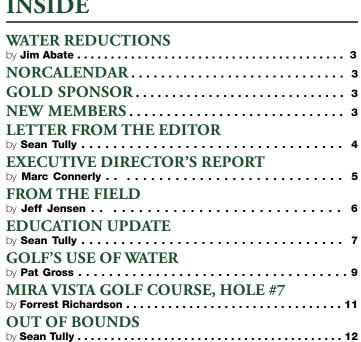
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INSIDE

Research Tournament.



On the Cover: Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club, host of the 8th Annual Clifford & Myrtle Wagoner Scholarship &





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LIFE ON THE ROAD

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Water Reductions: 8%...15%...25%...40%???

By JIM ABATE, 2015 GCSANC President, PGA Tour Agronomy

8%, 15%, 25%, 40%, we have heard all of the numbers and all of the rumors about which course and water district has which amount to reduce. Each and every water district has a mandated goal of 25% reduction from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB); it is up to their discretion as to how to achieve that goal.

When it comes down to simple math, a 40% reduction on large-scale users will have greater impact to the water district meeting their goal. After much discussion and hard work by members of the Northern California Golf Industry Water Conservation Coalition, we are in a place where course can submit an "Alternate Means of Compliance" request not to fall under the two days per week restriction. If you have not done so, you are not currently in compliance with the law.

By now, I am confident that every course impacted by the SWRCB emergency regulation is very familiar with your current conservation requirements. I applaud the efforts of our members most directly impacted by the regulations. In fact, we are all impacted in some way or another, or we will be in the future. Members using recycled water may have their supply wane due to conservation efforts by homeowners and communities. Members that are using well water are not currently under regulation, but all signs point to an expeditious change in the monitoring process from Sacramento.

The most current data released from SWRCB was a statewide reduction of 13.5% in April compared to 2013 data. Hopefully, with a few months of conservation effort, that number will increase and we will be closer to the 25% goal. I hope, and I am sure that we all are hopeful that these initial low numbers do not create greater reductions for our industry.

Please continue to promote our industry and facilitate a strong working relationship with your water district representative. Looking towards the future, please ask your district about recycled water coming to your area – we know it is expensive, but eventually it will be a necessity for survival!

We have been fortunate in Northern California to have experienced some late season rains. The accumulations have helped, but it is still going to be a long, dry summer with turf teetering on the brink. I appreciate all of the teamwork and camaraderie in these trying times.

Please take a moment to view the attached links.

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2015/pr060215_water_conservation.pdf

http://www.gcsaa.org/gcm-magazine/2015/june/the-drought-in-california

Regards,

Jim

Jim Abate President, GCSANC

NORCALENDAR

August 10
Tri-Chapter Meeting
Coyote Creek, Morgan Hill

October 27
Institute

Fountaingrove Country Club, Santa Rosa

December 4
Holiday Party
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Sand Channel Drainage Richard Bayley

Silverado Resort & Spa Patrick Ringenberger

The Club at Crazy Horse Ranch Ed Winiecki

> West Coast Turf John Marman

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Letter From the Editor

By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

As we find ourselves entering the second half of the year, water restrictions are in place with many of our fellow superintendents finding their water use being reduced significantly. With water playing such a large part of our day to day operations, I would be remiss not to include something that could benefit our members in regards to water use.

Our last newsletter had an informative article written by Craig Zellers on control system replacement. In this newsletter, Pat Gross, USGA Western Regional Director, has written an article relating our current drought to those in the past and efforts by the USGA to better position golf moving forward.

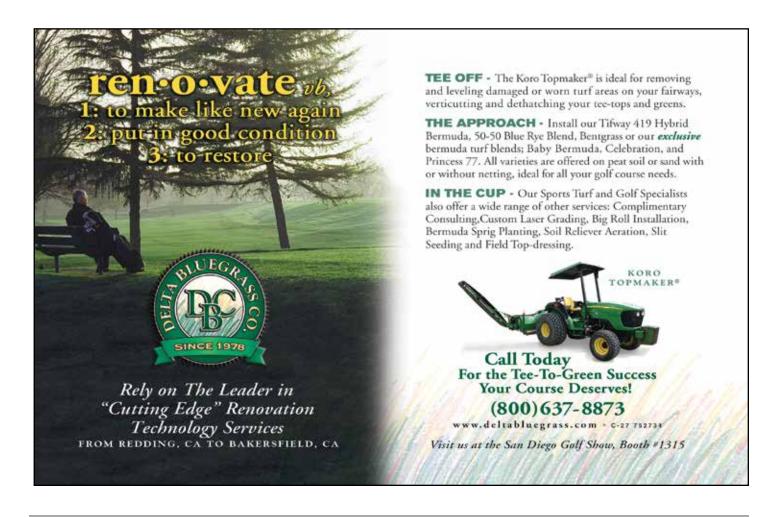
Also, there is another article that gets into the design of a golf hole written by Forrest Richardson, ASGCA, regarding his work on the 7th hole at Mira Vista.

In the last newsletter, I left out the links to the podcasts I mentioned in the "Out of Bounds" article. The links are here for you to enjoy:

99% Invisible — Teddy Bears and Shifting Baseline Syndrome https://soundcloud.com/roman-mars/99-invisible-146-mooallempalooza?utm_source=soundcloud&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=email

Memory Palace— I Have Not Yet Begun To Rot!

http://thememorypalace.us/2010/01/episode-25-i-have-not-yet-begun-to-rot/
•





Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

With the Governor's Executive Order now three months in the past, and the resulting flurry of activity with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and local water districts largely quieted down, my attention has turned to other matters, although many of them are still water-related.

On the topic of water, there are three initiatives that are on my radar; one in the near term, one in the medium term, and one more long term.

The immediate issue relates to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO). The MWELO was created as a result of fairly recent legislation aimed at regulating the water efficiency of new and "rehabilitated landscapes." The Ordinance applies to both residential and commercial landscapes.

Jeff Jensen and Craig Kessler testified on behalf of the industry at a DWR hearing on MWELO last month in Los Angeles, and I testified at a hearing in Sacramento, accompanied by GCSA Sierra Nevada member Kurtis Wolford.



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For new landscapes, MWELO is fairly straight forward in its applicability; it applies to any new landscape in excess of 2,500 square feet. While we have issues with some of the provisions relating to new landscapes, the effects of those provisions on the golf industry are irrelevant now and for the foreseeable future, with no new courses being built.

It is with "rehabilitated landscapes" where the concerns become much more significant. First, the definition of "rehabilitated landscapes" is ambiguous. In one section of the requirements, it defines the term as a landscape in which 2,500 square feet or more is renovated, **the renovated landscape area exceeds 50% of the total irrigated landscape area**, and the work is completed within one year. In another section, it simply states that any renovated landscape in excess of 2,500 square feet must comply.

That distinction is significant to large landscapes like golf courses. If any landscape renovation in excess of 2,500 square feet triggers the requirements, then virtually any courses renovation must comply. If, on the other hand, the 50% of total irrigated landscape area threshold must be met to trigger the requirements, then a very small percentage of course renovations will likely be subject to MWELO's very restrictive requirements.

Another concern about the ordinance as written relates to the areas within golf courses that are intended for recreational purposes. We have submitted language to DWR recommending that tees, greens, surrounds, fairways, and roughs are intended for recreational use, but areas of purely ornamental horticulture, areas of removed turf, areas of California friendly drought tolerant species, and areas not covered by irrigation systems are not intended for recreational use and should be exempt from the ordinance.

There were also concerns of a highly technical nature regarding the irrigation efficiency, precipitation rates, master valves, and mulch requirements under MWELO. Both Rain Bird and Toro, as well as others outside the golf industry, testified vehemently regarding the unattainable standards that have been specified in the requirements.

We expect to know very soon whether DWR listened and responded favorably to our recommendations regarding the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, as the final draft of MWELO is expected any day.

Continued on page 15

From the Field

By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

The GCSAA Board of Directors has revised the Member Standards proposal after receiving additional input from members

over the past six months.

The proposed model continues to be based on a sliding scale of formal education, superintendent years of experience and continuing education. The scale is based on a combined formula of 20 points, with a set point value assigned to your level of formal education and a variable combination of continuing education and experience. Service points will no longer be a component of eligibility. To view the proposed scale, visit proposed model for Class A eligibility.

Class A renewal requirements continue to necessitate a total of 5 points over a 5-year period. However, they have been enhanced to include a minimum of 3.0 education points rather than the current minimum of 2.0 education points. Service points will now be focused on golf centric activities only. To view the list of education/service point activities, visit education/service points. Possessing a pesticide license or passing the GCSAA IPM Exam will continue to be a requirement of eligibility and renewal.

In another positive step forward, individuals may maintain Class A status when they no longer hold a golf course superintendent job, but have secured employment within the golf industry, as long as the ongoing requirements continue to be fulfilled. This puts our organization in line with other similar industry professional associations.

Additionally, the Superintendent Member classification will be renamed Class B. This will assist potential employers, media, policymakers and the golfing public in clearly understanding the three professional classifications of GCSAA membership.

The proposal will be finalized at the 2015 Chapter Delegates meeting in October, and then presented to the membership for vote at the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed model or would like to provide feedback to the GCSAA board of directors, please email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org. Further updates will continue to be provided at www.gcsaa.org.

I hope you all had a great 4th of July holiday and made sure to spend some time with friends and family. Thank you again for all of your support. •





Education Update

By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

There are a lot of sources of information online that can help us with our work-related issues. We have Turf Grass Information Files (TGIF) that can be accessed through the GCSAA website http://www.gcsaa.org, and there are two other websites that you should also be looking at for additional golf course related information:



USGA: The USGA has recently updated their website, and it has some easy to share videos and articles. I particularly recommend taking note of the USGA's Water Resource Center, a wonderful source of information that Pat Gross has had a big role in bringing forward. Be sure to read his article in this newsletter! http://www.usga.org/course-care/water-resource-center.html



I also recommend viewing the following video:

http://www.usga.org/videos/2015/03/17/case-studies-in-water-use-efficiency-in-california-4117768770001.html



Another more local source of information is the Weed Research and Information Center—University of California Cooperative Extension and Research Station.

http://wric.ucdavis.edu/index.htm



For those on Twitter, below are some interesting people to follow if you are not already!







Insects can really hurt a golf course. But not as much as a lack of funds.



The Environmental Institute for Golf is helping GCSAA chapters raise funds for turfgrass research, and you can help. All you have to do is donate a round to our online auction. The funds raised will go to agronomic studies, awareness, scholarships and other education programs.

Donate today. Visit rounds4research.com.

Auction Date: June 8-21, 2015

Questions? Contact Mischia Wright, Associate Director, EIFG 800.472.7878, ext. 4445 • mwright@gcsaa.org



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Golf's Use of Water – Everyone is Feeling The Pressure

By PAT GROSS, USGA Green Section

The ongoing drought is not expected to go away soon, and golf courses in California and throughout the West are coming under increased scrutiny to justify water use. The press, members of the community, and especially non-golfers question whether irrigating a golf course is a wise use of water when supplies are so limited. Let's face it - golf courses are conspicuous users of water. People drive by a green golf course and automatically assume that an excessive amount of water is being wasted to keep the grass lush green while they are being told to quit watering their home lawn or rip it out altogether. While their assumptions are not always justified, it is important to educate members of the community, politicians, regulators, the press and golfers about what the industry is doing to cope with a limited water supply. The challenge today is accessing and sharing accurate information regarding golf course water use.

Dealing with drought is not a new issue for the golf industry - Articles in the USGA Green Section Record magazine dating back to 1945 and even prior to that highlighted the challenges golf courses were facing as a result of drought. The articles reported on research that was being done on maintenance practices that conserve water and the breeding of new grasses that use less water. That research has continued through the present day and has yielded objective scientific information on how much water turfgrass uses, and methods to irrigate turfgrass efficiently. The good news is we have the information! The golf industry has been preparing for this challenge for decades. Our task as an industry is to assemble and share this information to as wide an audience as possible so that those not familiar with golf course water use will have the necessary information to develop an informed opinion.

<u>The USGA Water Initiative</u> – The USGA believes that water is the most critical issue facing the game of golf. The USGA Water Initiative is addressing this issue in several ways:

- Supporting ongoing research on water conservation at land grant universities throughout the country.
- Establishment of the USGA Water Resource Center website.
- Sharing of information on irrigation and water use efficiency through the USGA Course Consulting Service and the Green Section Record.
- Demonstrating at USGA Championships that using less water is better for playing conditions, even if the turf is

slightly brown as viewers are likely to see at Chambers Bay, site of the 2015 US Open.

USGA Water Resource Center website – Assembling and organizing decades of research and information on golf course water use is one of the main goals of the Water Resource Center website. While the target audience for much of this information over the years has been golf course superintendents, it is now equally important to share this same information with other audiences that have a stake in water use. These audiences include:

- Community This is a non-technical audience that includes neighbors, regulators, the press and politicians. These people need to know why golf courses need water and how they manage this valuable resource.
- 2. <u>Golfers</u> This is another non-technical audience that needs to understand how water affects their game. An important goal is to educate golfers to support and prefer less than lush green conditions and embrace the concept of firm and fast.
- 3. Golf facilities This is a technical audience that includes superintendents as well as general managers, golf professionals, owners and committees. They understand the importance of golf course water use. They need the information and support to conserve water. The goal is to assemble and organize existing resources for this audience so that they can be readily accessed while providing justification for their programs with nongolfing audiences.

The website can be accessed through the following link: www.usga.org/water

Another aspect of the USGA Water Resource website is the interactive map that features case studies from throughout the country as well state BMP's for golf course water conservation. This is a feature of the website that will constantly be updated as new case studies are added to the collection.

It is important to note that several organizations are actively involved in supporting the golf industry and its use of water including the GCSAA, PGA, CAG, SCGA, and NCGA. It is fair to say that everyone is fully invested in the importance of golf course water use and doing their part to use this valuable resource as efficiently as possible. While the current circumstances are daunting, the golf industry is in better position than ever before to demonstrate cutting edge water conservation practices while allowing the golf business to survive and thrive. •

Around we go...



L-R, Closest to the Pin winner Mike Basile (Professional Turf Management) and GCSANC Secretary/Treasurer Brian Boyer (Cinnabar Hills Golf Club)"



GCSANC Vice President Brian Boyer joins Rachelle Reali, winner of the Ladies Longest Drive contest



L-R, Jason Sloan (Frontier Golf) and Ty Butler (Brio Golf) enjoy the Scholarship and Research Tournament reception at Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club



The team from Cinnabar Hills Golf Club celebrates following the Scholarship and Research Tournament



L-R, Jim Ferrin, Joor Bol, Roger Jerez, and Chris Herzog, winners of the First Place Net foursome



Mira Vista Golf & Country Club / Hole No. 7

By FORREST RICHARDSON, ASGCA, Golf Course Architect

When Mark Fine and I first visited Mira Vista, we were told the 7th Hole was a nightmare. Not only was the green nearly impossible to hold, but the 200-yard plus, uphill tee shot made par (three at the time) a rare happening. While par is not a given (at least it shouldn't be), the situation brought back the story my mentor, Arthur Jack Snyder, told about his tenure at Oakmont Country Club (The Oakmont).

At Oakmont during the early 1950s Jack was named head superintendent in order to get the course ready for the PGA Championship and US Open. During his time there, Jack rebuilt the par 3 No. 8 green, "The Sahara." Lew Worsham, Jr., Oakmont's head professional, explained to Jack that rarely would golfers reach the green, and if they did the ball would usually roll off the back due to the long club used for the tee shot. Jack used native Allegheny River sand, rebuilding the green with a slight upturn at the rear. He also built new tees so that members and ladies would have flexible yardages from which to play the hole. It was well received, and is played today to the same green surface built by Snyder.

At Mira Vista we had a similar issue: severely sloping green and extremely long (and uphill) tee shot. It was more of an endurance test than strategy. Our eventual solution was to make the hole a bit longer by tucking a new green further up the hill and left of its original location. By doing so we created a "par 3.5," or as we explained to the club, "A par 3 or 4...it's for you to decide."

Mira Vista's original design was the brainchild of Robert Hunter, who not only found the land for the founders (of which he was one), but also was responsible for the design. Alongside Willie Watson, Hunter crafted the clever routing of Mira Vista. Today it is virtually unchanged, taking advantage of the ridges and valleys high above El Cerrito. Mira Vista may well have the best views of any club in Northern California.

In allowing the club to determine par at No. 7, we shifted that responsibility to the members, causing them to think about the strategy and how the hole could play mightily into deciding matches. Their final decision was to make it a par 4, but allow for the option to play it as a par 3 in certain events.

The hole now plays much as Hunter had seen it in its early days, as a "bogey score" of 4 as was shown for No. 7 on old scorecards. (Bogey score was the term used to describe the score a decent player would be expected to make.) The hole as we redesigned and built plays about 240 yards to an elevated green with significant undulations and levels. This places a premium on thinking ahead to what club a player wants to play for a particular cup location. Or, as is possible, a go-for-all tee shot to overcome the diagonal bunkers short of the green and run up to the perched green. This bold play comes with significant risk. A cup cut on the front left, for example, cannot be reached if a ball is way to the back. It is simply an unattainable place to hold even the most delicate of bumps. That front (short) location has become the new pitfall, as is reaching the bunkers or coming too close to them off the tee. Players cannot see the green at all if they venture too far toward the high-faced bunkers.

Our work at Mira Vista was a terrific experience. We not only transformed the club, but improved turf conditions by removing trees and opening circulation. The course is now back to its roots with the hallmark bunkers and strategy of Hunter evident at every shot and green. As we have said about our work, "Mira Vista now embraces the classic features of a golf course from the Golden Age. Our best hope is that Robert Hunter is smiling down upon it."

Forrest Richardson works out of his offices in Phoenix and Los Angeles. Mark Fine works from his Philadelphia base. Together they collaborated on Mira Vista and are now working on projects in Southern California.

Out of Bounds



By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

Here is some more information, not always directly related to our work, but with the intention of sharing thoughts and ideas that might change your thoughts or perspective on things.



Memory Palace
Episode 45— Heard Once
This will change the way you think about the experience of music!
http://thememorypalace.us/2012/07/
heard-once-2/

On another note, I recently visited Bob Klinesteker at San Francisco Golf Club and one of our conversations centered around some photos of a water pipe that Bob and his crew found while doing some digging on property. As one can see in the photo this "pipe" is very old but for the most part largely intact. What makes it interesting is that it is made of redwood and was used to move water underground. Bob wasn't sure what its specific use was, but it was certainly old and very interesting in that it was still viable.

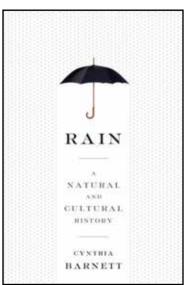
In doing some research I came across a very interesting article on water conveyance from over 100 years ago. The idea that they would have used pipe that was made of wood is remarkable on any scale, but when you figure a pipe made of wood at a circumference of 9 feet, it's hard to imagine. The article not only shows the early relationship California had with water, it also shows the extremes they had to go to get water to where it was needed.





The article may be found at the following link: http://www.notechmagazine.com/2010/09/wooden-stave-pipes.html

And for some light reading...



Rain

By Cynthia Barnett

I heard the author talk about her latest book on the radio and found it to be very interesting. With the impact of the drought here in California, I'm sure she could write a whole new book on how California culture uses water and our dependence on rain.

Here is a review from the New York Times, and the

second link is an interview the author did on NPR:

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/19/books/review/rain-a-natural-and-cultural-history-by-cynthia-barnett.html? r=0

http://onpoint.wbur.org/2015/04/22/cultural-history-rain-weather-drought

Until next time! •

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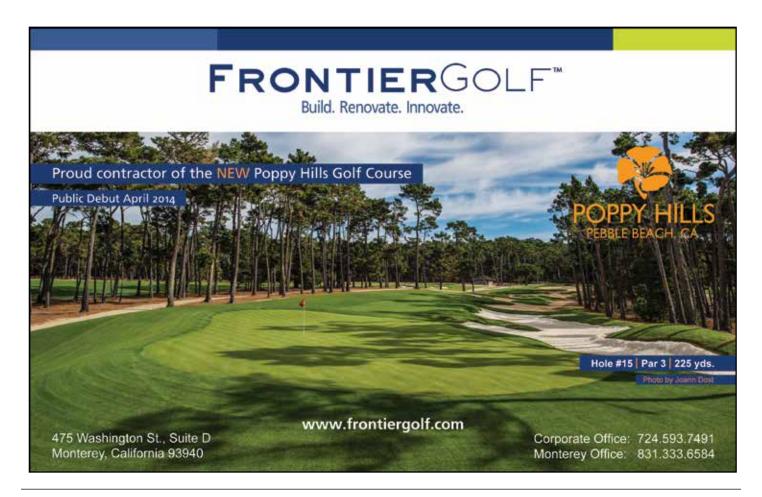
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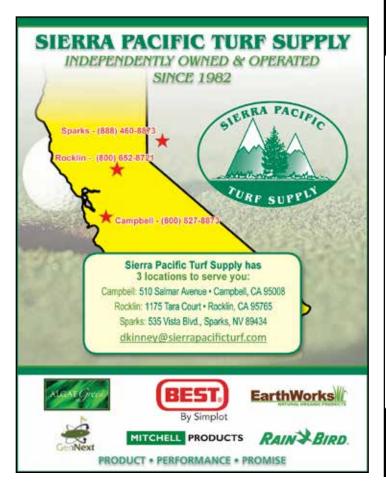
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The medium term initiative relates to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) regulations, which are the result of legislation passed last year mandating the development of groundwater sustainability regulations. DWR has begun identifying "issue topics," developing discussion papers, and conducting webinars on the regulations, and I plan to immerse myself in this process, stay fully aware of the proceedings, and keep the golf industry informed as the development process unfolds.

The long-term initiative will be to facilitate discussions at the state and local level about increasing the number of courses on recycled water, and breaking down the barriers to that progress (e.g., financing, infrastructure, etc.). Given the drought and the attention paid to golf's water consumption, there has probably never been a better time to push for public policies and programs that will enable more courses to convert to recycled water.

While water-related initiatives remain a high priority for GCSANC, of course, they are not the only thing on our plate. Following the development of a new sponsorship program earlier this year, we have embarked on a focused sponsor recruitment campaign. As a result, Pacific Coast Seed has become our newest Gold Sponsor, and Sunbelt Rentals has

committed to a Titanium Sponsorship. Additionally, we have revised the sponsorship program renewal dates to make it more convenient for sponsors. Renewal dates for all sponsors will now be November 15, coinciding with the date for membership renewals, and meaning that sponsors will now need to make a payment just once per year instead of twice.

The association is also in the planning stages for upgrades to the website. The timetable for the upgrades is still somewhat unknown, but I hope that we will have the updated site in place by early next year.

Finally, the Northern California Golf Industry Water Conservation Coalition has been working for several weeks on a member survey regarding water usage and conservation practices. That survey will be released very soon, and we hope that you will take the few minutes required to complete the survey. We have been very cognizant of designing the survey in order to minimize the time necessary to complete, while still obtaining the most critical and important data about golf's use of water. We expect that the survey will be shared with other California GCSAA chapters so that a statewide report can be prepared and used by CAG and other industry leaders.

Wishing you a stress-free and enjoyable summer! •



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Life on the Road

By SEAN TULLY, Meadow Club

Editor's Note: I had some nice comments about this section of the newsletter, with a couple other people offering up some ideas of their own. I'll be sure to get some others involved, but until then, here are some more restaurant recommendations from Jeff Roberts. I'm happy to see Comforts in here, as I can vouch for the Chinese chicken salad. It is good!

Pluto's (Palo Alto and San Jose) http://www.plutosfreshfood.com

For great salads or sandwiches, this is tough to beat. The hook is that they are constantly grilling chicken, turkey or tritip for the sandwiches or salads. One of the features of the salads is that you have your choice of 7 toppings; everything from hard boiled eggs to jicama to walnuts and strawberries. If you are responsible for the dinner for the family, you can cheat and get any of the meats and sides to take home. Does that work? I have heard of people doing this for their Thanksgiving dinner.

The Refuge - (San Carlos and Menlo Park) http://refugesc.com

Pastrami, Pastrami, Pastrami. Yes, there are other items, but this is the attraction here. Not that it is like a Michelin Star, but Diners, Drive Ins and Dives did a show on The Refuge. The pastrami is made on site and is wonderful. It is thick and moist and full of flavor. They like to give you the ability to enjoy the taste without too many flavors getting in the way. Pastrami and Swiss or a Reuben or the Toasted Slaw let the flavor stand out. If you are a real pastrami aficionado, you can go big and order a pastrami steak, a perfectly cooked hunk of meat. No trip here should be made without trying the Goofy Fries. These are french fries with chunks of pastrami smothered in a light cheese sauce. If you don't have to go back to work, the selection of beers is all world...literally. They specialize in Belgium and German brews that compliment the food.

New Mecca Cafe - (Pittsburg) http://www.newmeccacafe.com

There is a reason they call this Mecca. Residents of Danville and Alamo are known to make the drive out highway 4 to get to this gem. You will not leave with anything but a full belly and mental calendar of when you can drive back out to enjoy. The meal starts with a very tasty bean dip and fresh chips. That leads to a choice of Mexican standards that are all very good. They make it easy to get your fill as two of their specials are called The Flaco and The Gordo, with three and four items respectively. I don't think this was the original inhabitant of the

building. It seems more like a soda fountain than a hole-in-thewall Mexican restaurant.

Comforts - (San Anselmo) http://comfortscafe.com

I don't like to judge an eatery without much research, but with this place I make an exception. I have only had one item and I know that it is very popular as they have two sections of their refrigerator dedicated to the Chinese Chicken Salad. This salad comes in the classic to-go box for Chinese food, but once open it is anything but typical. The first thing you come across is a container of dressing that is a rice vinaigrette with a honey influence. An orange slice is next, then the good stuff. Sliced chicken, toasted almonds, sesame seeds and sliced onions mix well with the lettuce and deep fried rice noodles. I use the box as a giant bowl by dumping the dressing directly inside and starting my feast. They have two sizes: the small is a great meal for one and the large would feed two, and maybe more, with ease. The baked goods in the cases are also very tempting.

Willie Bird Turkey - (Santa Rosa) http://www.williebird.com

Once again, the no-frills look from the outside is deceiving. Willie Bird is known for its whole turkeys, but the real treasure is the deli. You have the choice of different types of turkey as in smoked, honey smoked, plain, turkey pastrami, and other meats, including chicken and game hen. The sandwiches are loaded with meat and the rolls are very soft. The turkey is the star, and I can say this turkey has the best flavor that I have ever had. They have picnic tables outside on which you can enjoy the soothing sounds of Hwy 12 about 60 yards away.

Iron Springs Brewery - (Fairfax) http://ironspringspub.com

You may have seen the "Am-Brew-Lance" driving around the Bay and wondered what it is. The converted ambulance with the slogan "Saving lives one beer at a time" is only the beginning. Once you head to the tiny burg of Fairfax, you are ready to have your taste buds overloaded. The beer is the main player here. They like very hoppy brews. Casey Jones and JC Flyer are the two popular IPA's. This is just the start, as the food lives up to the flavors of the beer. My favorite is the prawn tacos. They are a little spicy, but not over the top. They are served with black beans that make a nice addition to the tacos. The burgers are very good, as well as the chicken sandwich. Also not to be missed are the garlic fries. The chunks of garlic will leave no doubt what the main player is in this dish. •

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