

WATER CONSERVATION GROUP BRINGS OPPOSING FACTIONS TOGETHER

The Golf Course Water Conservation Group (GCWCG) in San Diego, CA, has successfully held discussions among developers, governmental agencies, and environmental forces regarding the water efficiency and ecological compatibility of golf courses. By bringing together groups that are usually on opposite sides concerning the construction of new golf courses, GCWCG was able to exclude greens from Stage 4 water rationing laws in San Diego.

"It's a win/win situation for existing and future golf courses in San Diego County," said John Moore of Hydro-Scape Products, who is vice president of GCWCG. "We have been able to bring together build-

Water District staff to share information about how golf courses are operated and the methods they use for water conservation."

Results from water audits performed on more than 70 San Diego area golf courses have been helpful in the discussions. The audits are available free of charge to all golf courses wanting to assess their water usage.

Margarite Engles, program director of Large Water Audit Programs in San Diego, reported, "Generally, we've found them [golf courses] to be over 80-percent efficient in their water usage." She added that they achieve this high rating partly because

employ full-time irrigation managers. Although many golf courses still use potable water for irrigation, the majority use runoff, effluent, recycled, or well water.

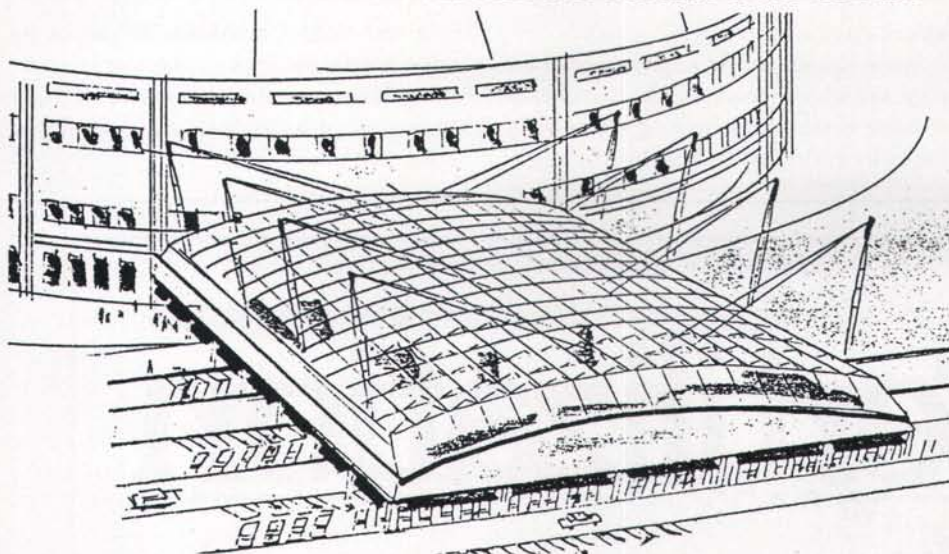
Moore said that GCWCG also arranged discussions between developers and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club. The talks revealed that both parties were trying to accomplish the same thing for the land. The group is planning future meetings with the Audubon Society and the Native Plant Society.

"Golf courses are very pure environments," said Moore. "They provide a wildlife habitat, sanctuary for migratory waterfowl, clean and cool air, abundant plant life, and water sources. Golf courses use very few pesticides. Those are mainly fungicides and fertilizers, which do not find their way into the groundwater."

Encouraged by the spirit of cooperation, the water conservation group predicted that golf course construction will continue in San Diego. "We all want the same things for the environment," said Moore. "We just weren't aware of it."

Additional information on GCWCG and dates of its meetings are available from Moore at Hydro-Scape Products, (619) 560-6611.

GREENWAY OFFERS SOLUTION FOR INDOOR GRASS



Modular units of natural turf are located in a greenhouse-like structure during non-active periods.

The Greenway Group in Horsham, PA, believes it has solved the riddle of having natural turf playing surfaces indoors. Thomas Ripley, group coordinator of the company, recently announced the development of the Integrated Turf Management (ITM) System. Ripley claims ITM provides the first transportable turfgrass system for use indoors or on top of artificial surfaces.

Dr. Henry Indyk, former turf specialist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, joined Greenway to help a development team complete the design of the system. The company also utilized staff from its sod, nursery, consulting, and distribution groups for the project.

The patent pending system incorporates a lightweight growing medium, modular transport units, and a greenhouse-like structure to give sports complexes the ability to interchange surfaces according to events. "The ability to convert fields back and forth between systems will benefit the athletes as well as the game," states Ripley.

The transportable, self-contained units of natural turf permit an indoor facility to replace wear areas, change turf varieties, offer field configurations for different sports, or cover artificial surfaces in a matter of hours. They are relocated to a controlled environment for maintenance during non-active periods.

ATHLETIC FIELD SPORTSTURF SEMINAR

The Ohio State University (OSU) Athletic Fields/Sportsturf Seminar will be held on January 29-31, 1991, at the Parke Hotel in Columbus, OH. The program will provide basic information on the maintenance of athletic fields and sportsturf facilities.

Emphasis will be on principles of agronomy, soils, entomology, and plant pathology. Specific topics include soil management, construction systems, cultural practices, weed control, turfgrass insects, soil mixes, turfgrass selection, fertilization, and turfgrass diseases.

The seminar is designed for athletic field and sportsturf managers, supervisors, and support workers involved in the maintenance of turfgrass facilities. Attendees will qualify for recertification credits from the Ohio Department of Agriculture for Licensed Pesticide Applicators and Ohio Parks and Recreation Association members will qualify for continuing education credits.