



Date: April 22, 2015
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.L.*
From: George Chapjian, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine *G.C.*
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Updates on City of Long Beach Golf Course System

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) would like to provide several updates on our City of Long Beach Golf Operation.

American Golf Corporation (AGC) has run the City's golf courses since 1984, and conducts an annual "competition" between all of its 95 golf course properties called the AGC Tour. The AGC Tour compares actual performance to projections in a cumulative ranking of 18 different categories related to operating the course. In 2014, El Dorado Park Golf Course finished #1 in the entire company, while Recreation Park 18-hole Golf Course finished #12 and Skylinks Golf Course finished #20. The relationship between the City and AGC has been a beneficial one that continues to provide our residents (and other golfers) one of the best municipal golf systems in the nation.

All five of the City's golf courses are irrigated with reclaimed water and, therefore, will not fall under any impending water reductions (El Dorado Park Golf Course does have the ability to irrigate their putting greens with fresh water, but will follow any upcoming reduction protocols). It should be noted that, as water has supplanted labor as the biggest cost in operating facilities, the entire golf industry has been at the forefront of water conservation and the use of best practices related to water. As such, AGC is currently attempting to put together a team comprised of a golf architecture firm, a golf construction company, an irrigation consulting firm and a landscape architect that would propose and implement a turf conversion plan for four of our five golf courses (Heartwell Golf Course is considered too compact for such a project to result in significant water conservation). This project would be completed using the Metropolitan Water District's Turf Conversion Program, and if this team can come to agreements that ensure reimbursement for services rendered, the project will proceed.

If eventually determined to be feasible, the project could lead to converting significant areas of irrigated turf into drought tolerant ground coverings. Before any construction would begin, public input and recommendations from the PRM Golf Advisory Committee would be incorporated into the construction plans for each course and AGC would submit the final plans to the City Manager for approval as landlord of the courses. Any cost savings resulting from this project would be realized by AGC, but those savings could not be determined until the amount of turf to actually be removed can be calculated and the cost to establish

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new drought tolerant ground coverings can be determined. As the work would be planned for "out of play" areas, the project is not expected to impact play or the revenue received by the City.

Finally, the Virginia Country Club (VCC) is planning a major course renovation project between June and September of this year. During this time, the 400+ members of VCC will be looking for places to play golf. While keeping within all current policies on advanced reservations, resident discount fees and tournament bookings, AGC will be working with VCC to provide playing opportunities to their displaced members during this project. This will result in an increase in play on the City courses, which can easily be accomplished without inconveniencing current residents or other golfers.

Should you have any questions on these updates, please contact me at x-3172.

GC:bl

cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney
Laura Doud, City Auditor
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager