

Haggin Oaks Golf Course

“Teeing Off on Safety”

Issue

Has Haggin Oaks Golf Course, a public golf course owned by the City of Sacramento, followed proper procedures in maintaining its facilities?

- Have buildings been erected at Haggin Oaks Golf Course without building permits?
- Is water drainage from washing golf carts contaminating a creek?
- Did the contractor who was awarded the project file bankruptcy before the cart washing equipment was operational?
- Are oak trees endangering the golfers?

Reason for the Investigation

The Grand Jury initiated this investigation as a result of a citizen's complaint.

Method of Investigation

Building Permits: The Grand Jury contacted the City of Sacramento Development Services Department to obtain a print-out of all building permits that have been issued for construction at any time at the Haggin Oaks Golf Course. Copies of permits for the cart washing machine were also reviewed.

Water Drainage: The Grand Jury made an on-site inspection to determine the extent of drainage into the creek. The EPA website was examined and personal interviews conducted.

Contractors Business Status: The Grand Jury, conducting web searches of Sacramento Business (a website on Sacramento businesses by the California Secretary of State), Sacramento Better Business Bureau, and Contractors State License Board to determine the business status of the contractor.

Oak Trees: The Grand Jury conducted a site visit with the Operations Manager to

review conditions of the trees.

Background

The Department of Convention, Culture and Leisure (CCL) manages the Capital City golf courses (including Haggin Oaks), as well as the Sacramento Zoo, the Sacramento Marina, the Sacramento Convention Center and Old Sacramento. Each project under CCL control is assigned to a project manager. Projects include the addition of buildings, remodeling and modernizing, improving of waste management, recycling, and protecting the environment. Projects on City property are not required to have building permits. Where property includes open space with large stands of trees, maintenance of trees becomes part of on-going property maintenance.

Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1.1: The City of Sacramento does not require a permit when work is completed on City property; however, the CCL did obtain permits for these projects.

Finding 1.2: According to City records during the past five years all construction projects have been completed under a building permit.

Recommendation 1. None. The Grand Jury commends the Department of Convention, Culture and Leisure for going beyond the City's construction requirements.

Finding 2.1: The cart washing machine was added to eliminate water standing in and around the cart barn. This machine conserves water by recycling and filtering it as carts are washed without polluting the creek.

Finding 2.2: This machine was operational after installation, but as of this writing out of service because of a broken part. The manufacturer and the contractor are negotiating a repair under terms of the warranty.

Recommendation 2. It is recommended that the course Operations Manager notify CCL as soon as the equipment is operational.

Finding 3.1: This installation used the Request For Quote process to identify the most responsive contractor.

Finding 3.2: At the time of the complaint the contractor had not filed for bankruptcy.

Recommendation 3. None

Finding 4.1:The City is aware of the tree problem and is addressing the issue by hiring an arborist to visually inspect the trees.

Recommendation 4. The Grand Jury recommends that the CCL post along the course signs warning of possible falling trees

Response Requirements

Penal Code sections 933 and 933.5 require that specific responses to both the findings and recommendations contained in this report be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court by October 1, 2009 from:

- **The Department of Convention, Culture and Leisure (CCL)**