



AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE GOLF COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: January 5, 2016

Department: Beaches, Parks & Recreation
Prepared By: Gus Nelson, Golf Course Manager

Subject: *Agenda item 4A: Forward Tees*

Discussion: Forward tee project is a top priority and work commenced after winter overseeding on some behind the scenes items like re-aligning sprinklers and re-programming irrigation for several of the tee areas. We will begin mowing out new tees on the flat areas next week then moving on to those that require grading.

Subject: *Agenda item 4B: #17 green expansion project*

Discussion: The expansion of the #17 green has been completed. It will take a few weeks of mowing, topdressing and fine tuning before the green putts like the rest of the green.

Subject: *Agenda Item 4C: Nursery green*

Discussion: The nursery green project has been delayed a bit due to more rain than was anticipated. This is still a top priority and should be completed by spring. The project is necessitated by the ongoing infestation of greens 2 and 11 with swine cress, a weed which is difficult to control with chemicals and more suited to 'cupping' out.

Subject: *Agenda Item 4D: General tee improvements*

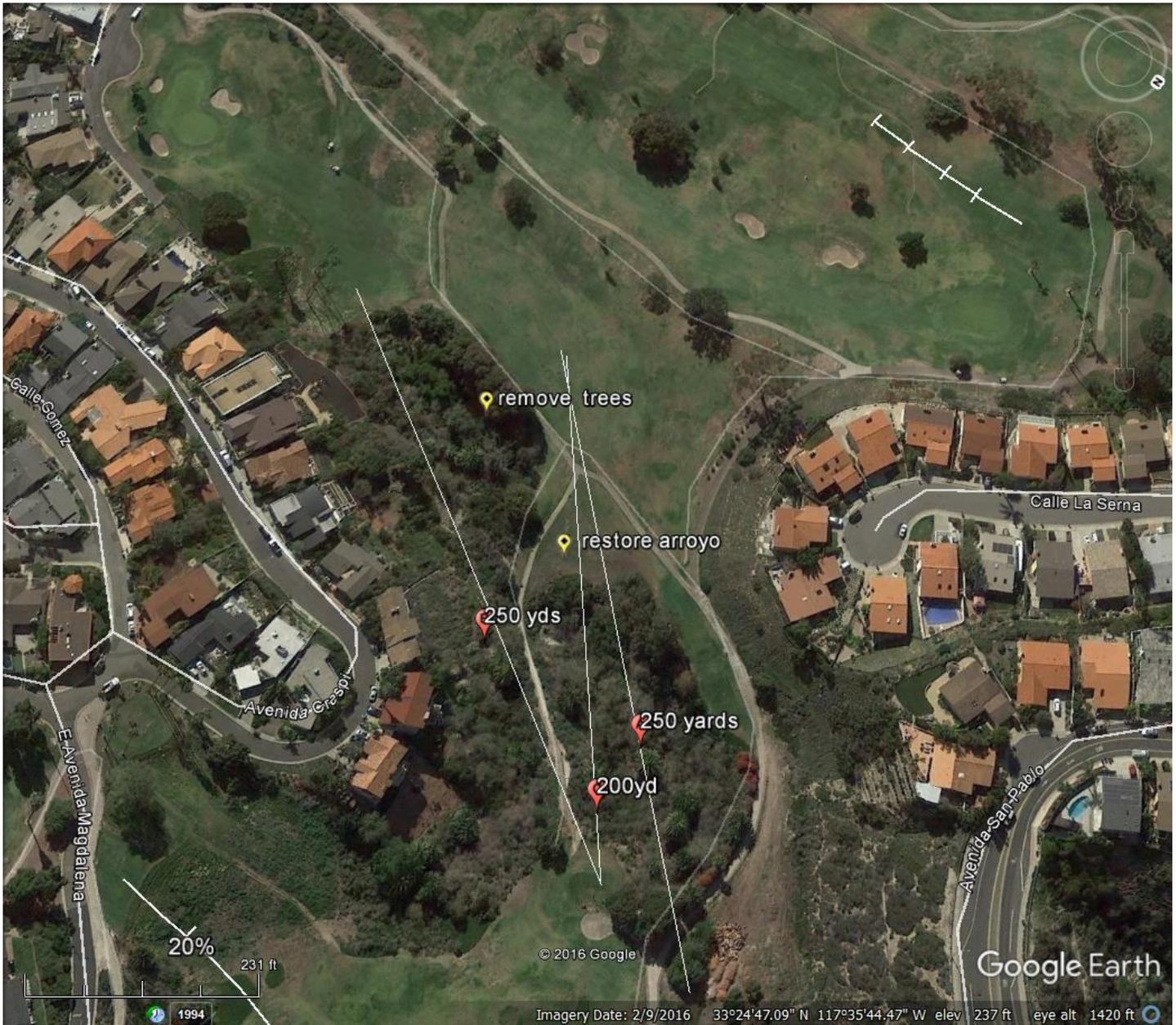
Discussion: Council awarded funds to do tee top renovations of select tees. Hole #1 is complete and will open this week. Upcoming projects include the stripping and re-leveling of the par 3 holes (2,9,13,15). Hole 11 will also be done if funding remains. Hole 1 was completed in house, the remainder will utilize outside contractors so we can focus on the forward tees and the nursery green project.

Subject: *Agenda Item 5A: Reconsideration of the project for #16tee and associated amenities*

Discussion: Improvements to the 16th tee and hole in general were the top priority of the golf committee last year but were not funded during the budget process. Golf staff and the greens subcommittee would like to bring the item back for reconsideration.

The initial request is for design work to alter the master plan of the hole in order make it more resemble the original design of the hole. This plan would involve relocating tee boxes, removal and relocating a new restroom to replace the existing one, and re

working of the cart path around the tee area, which is currently in a state of disrepair. In addition, work would be done to the fairway and rough to remove trees and restore a natural arroyo to the left side of the hole. Such work might also include the addition of retention bunkers along the left side of the fairway and reworking of the cart path which is currently on the left side.



The general poor state of this hole currently combined with the vision to return it to past design principles represents the greatest single opportunity to improve the course in an impactful way. The hole was originally a 'cape hole,' a common design element in traditional golf architecture in which the hole bends around or along a hazard, forcing the player select a route that most suits his game. Generally, more risk

translates to more reward, and players seldom choose wisely. A well known example of a cape hole from the same era is #18 at Pebble Beach.

In addition, the removal of the trees would not only return the original strategy, but also bring back a sweeping ocean view that is currently lost. The arroyo restoration would also significantly improve the aesthetics of the hole.

Currently, the presence of trees restrict the direction of shot to a narrow opening or to a blind shot over the trees. Some long hitting golfers may choose to drive through the arroyo in hopes of clearing the chasm. Re-designing this hole would remove the line of eucalyptus trees and relocate the tee box to a more appropriate distance for today's golfers. The existing bathroom would most likely need to be relocated to accommodate moving the tees.

Subject: ***Agenda Item 5B: Discussion of emergency work to repair path near #16 tee***

Discussion: The path near the restroom by #16 tee has been in a declining condition for some time. Recent storms have undermined the path and some emergency work will be necessary. The broken and loose section(s) will need to be removed and repaired. In addition, over the holidays a cart struck the support post for the restroom, severing it at its base. A temporary support has been installed until such time it can be properly repaired.

Subject: ***Agenda Item 5C: Commendation for outgoing Committee Member Kevin Kellerman***

Discussion: Staff and the Committee thank our friend Kevin Kellerman for his years of service on the Golf Committee and wish he and his wife a happy retirement in Scottsdale.

Subject: ***Agenda Item 6: Communications***

Discussion: Formal communications to the Golf Manager since the last meeting:

- There was a complaint about carts not being allowed on the fairway
- There was a complaint about cart damage on wet fairways
- There was a complaint about noise in the am on #6 fairway
- There was a complaint regarding the door handle to the CH downstairs bathroom which is maintained by the restaurant.
- There was a complaint about a strong smell in the main clubhouse bathroom which is maintained by the restaurant
- There was a complaint about palm fronds falling on neighboring properties
- There was a complaint regarding an irrigation head out of adjustment and hitting an adjacent home

Subject: *Agenda Item 7: Staff Report*

Discussion: Winter is here and last year's anticipated El Nino looks to have finally arrived a year late! We have been experiencing large amounts of rain for the first time in several years.

First, the good news: we need the rain. The rains will flush the soil of salts that have accumulated over several years of drought. The reclaimed water we use to irrigate with is very high in salts and without rains the salt builds up, first affecting trees then eventually the grass and the soil itself also. We also save a ton of money on irrigation since for the last several years we have had to water regularly during winter.

Now the bad news. In the near term, rain is bad for business, especially when it happens on weekends and holidays as seems to be the case thus far this year. People don't golf in the rain. Even when the skies clear and people want to go out we must sometimes restrict carts to the path which discourages many. Rain also delays projects as the ground becomes too wet to work with or the small crew is diverted to deal with storm clean up, which is always an issue because storms do cause direct damage. As the soil becomes saturated and the wind howls, some trees will topple. This is especially true after so many years of drought have restricted the size and reach of the tree roots that anchor down the trees. We lost one large eucalyptus behind #3 and will need to remove another there when it is dry enough to get the trucks to it. If the pattern of rain continues we can expect more to follow.

In other news, the restaurant and city put artificial turf in at the wedding chapel since we last met. It looks nice and will solve what was turning into a real maintenance headache. Attached is a report from the USGA from their recent annual visit, and the November and December rounds and revenue will be discussed at the meeting.