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Supervisors back golf course study

By: Cheri March

The El Dorado Hills Golf Course may get to keep its title as gateway to the community.

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors last week gave the El Dorado Hills Community Services District the go-ahead to initiate a golf course feasibility study.

Supervisors unanimously agreed to split the cost of the \$28,000 study 50/50 with CSD.



Rusty Dupray

"We're very interested in that golf course," said Supervisor Rusty Dupray. "It's the gateway to the county and to El Dorado Hills."

CSD requested the study to determine if the property, closed by owner Parker Development on Jan. 15, would be marketable as a golf course. Bill Parker, president of Parker Development, cited a decline in revenue as the reason for closing the course.

Local golfers have since rallied to reopen the course, which was frequented by Oak Ridge High School students, families, and senior citizens.

Residents also want to retain the area as open space, which they say adds property value and character to the community.

El Dorado Hills resident Wendy Slepian coordinated a rally outside the greens immediately after the course closed, and supporters have written numerous letters to The Telegraph.

The study will also consider other uses for the course, though Dupray said that, at this point, he isn't interested in operating the course as anything else.

"It would be my first choice to operate it as a golf course," he emphasized.

Though Parker owns the property, the county controls its zoning, Dupray said.

"I'm personally not interested in changing it from open space and recreation," he said. "I don't know of any Plan B right now. We're still working on Plan A."

CSD Planning Director Dianna Hillyer said Parker will likely retain ownership.

"Parker has made it clear that they're not interested in selling, but they're looking at a long-term lease," she said.

Hillyer said the National Golf Foundation (NGF) would conduct the study, which could take six weeks.

"We'll make a presentation once we get the information," she said.

One of CSD and the community's prime concerns since the closure has been deterioration of the green, which Hillyer said is being managed.

"We've visited it, looked at it, and I can't speak for it myself, but they've got three guys working on it," she said. "They're keeping it mowed and watered."

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