

Arizona Department of Water Resources

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Janet Napolitano,
Governor
Herb Guenther,
Director

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office
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ADWR fines Green Valley golf course for conservation violations

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther announced today that the San Ignacio Golf Course in Green Valley reached a settlement agreement with the Department over violations of ADWR's mandatory conservation requirements. The course owners will pay up to \$17,350 in fines, he said.

Investigation found that the course had exceeded the annual groundwater use limits established in ADWR's Third Management Plan for the Tucson Active Management Area.

In reaching the settlement, ADWR agreed to waive \$37,350 of the \$54,700 in civil penalties accrued from violations that occurred between 2003 and 2005. Guenther cited the course management's voluntary removal of five acres of turf and efforts to improve course efficiency as factors in his decision to reduce the penalties.

Additionally, to identify the potential for future conservation, the facility's management must submit the results of a professional irrigation audit to ADWR by the end of 2006. ADWR will allow no reductions in fines for any violations that may occur in 2006 or 2007.

The turf removal by San Ignacio tracks a broader trend towards smaller courses. "Golf courses built in the last 15 years in the Tucson AMA have, on average, 15% less turf than courses built before that date," said Laura Grignano, Tucson AMA turf and industrial specialist. "Our turf allotments have had a lot to do with that."

"Overall the golf industry has done a good job of saving water," said Guenther, "but the public expects water to be conserved, and we will continue to pursue all violations vigorously."

For additional information, contact:

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