



Golf Course Water Conservation FAQs



Why are the golf courses still green when we are in a severe drought?

The golf courses use reclaimed water on the turf at both Buena Ventura & Olivas Links. Using reclaimed water is significantly less expensive than potable fresh water and far more environmentally responsible, especially in drought conditions. Reclaimed water keeps the turf in excellent condition year-round.

Why do the golf courses have access to the reclaimed water, but the city parks do not?

Due to the close proximity to the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility near the Ventura Harbor, the golf courses are easily able to access the reclaimed water available from that facility. The main distribution line of reclaimed water runs directly along the golf course's property along the Santa Clara River levy. Marina Park and landscaping in the Ventura Harbor area also use reclaimed water.

What other efficiencies has the golf course employed to help with drought conditions?

Both golf courses use paspalum grass for their fairways; seashore paspalum at Olivas Links & platinum paspalum at Buena Ventura. Paspalum was chosen for its salt tolerance and water conservancy abilities in our dry, coastal environment. Part of the golf course maintenance is aerification of the turf & the use of wetting agents to allow for better irrigation penetration. The soils then act as a natural bio-filter for the reclaimed water as it seeps back into the ground. Olivas Links also has 58 acres of native areas, which do not require water for maintenance.

In addition to efficiencies in course watering, KemperSports' 'Green to a Tee' program also ensures that consumables at the course are recycled and all green waste (grass clippings, etc.) is composted and reused throughout the courses.

Why is there water in the hazards at Buena Ventura while the Olivas Links water hazards are low?

The water hazards at Buena Ventura are lined, allowing the water that fills them from the course run-off & rain to be maintained while the water hazards at Olivas Links are not lined and are only filled by rain, run off from watering the courses and nearby farms. Thus, in a drought such as this, the hazards at Olivas Links are low if not dry.

What's planned for the future to maintain conservancy during this period of drought?

Both Buena Ventura & Olivas Links will continue to utilize reclaimed water to keep the courses green. Coming soon to Olivas Links will be the conversion of the driving range to make it a low maintenance practice area with artificial turf target greens and decomposed granite on the range floor. The tee area will be irrigated and the use of the Natural Grass Tee will be Fri – Sun and the Artificial Turf Tee will be used Mon – Thurs. This will allow for less fertilizer and soil amendment use in the spring and summer and limited use of products in the winter months.

