

**[(DENR) GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 01-
97, November 05, 2002]**

**PRESCRIBING THE GUIDELINES IN GRANTING OF FAVORABLE
RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF GOLF COURSES**

WHEREAS Executive Order No. 342, issued by President Fidel V. Ramos on 6 June 1996 provides that *No Environmental Compliance Certificate shall be issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the construction, development and operation of golf courses unless favorably recommended by the Golf Course Construction and Development Committee (Committee);*

WHEREAS the same Executive Order No. 342, empowers the Committee to adopt and promulgate standards for the construction, development, and operation of golf courses taking into consideration, among others, the protection of the environment, the conservation of natural resources, and the optimum land utilization;

WHEREAS Philippine Agenda 21 embodies the basic framework for sustainable development for the country;

WHEREFORE, the Committee hereby adopts the following requirements in securing favorable recommendation for the issuance of ECC:

SECTION 1. Standards of an Environmentally and Socially Friendly Golf Course Development Project. —

A. *Siting/Location*

1. It should not be located within the environmentally critical or sensitive areas, like proclaimed National Integrated Protected Areas, wetlands, and/or other areas where Protected Areas, wetlands, and/or other areas where development is prescribed by a Presidential Proclamation.

2. It should not be located in areas considered as prime agricultural land, i.e., rice production areas, and it shall not, in any manner, be in conflict with, nor contribute to the loss and reduction of the food production of the locality in relation to the national objectives. If at all possible, it should allow agricultural crops production.

3. It should not be located in areas covered by Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law unless it has been legally converted for golf purposes.

4. It should not be located in areas where there is water shortage problem.

5. It should not be located in areas where existing land use is incompatible with the construction and development of golf courses. It shall respect adjacent land use by granting the easement of right-of-way in appropriate locations even during the planning and throughout construction and operation phases.

6. Golf courses shall, preferably, be situated in presently degraded areas, such as landfill sites, mined areas etc.

7. It shall not result in a large scale terrain modification.

B. *Resource Use and Protection*

1. There shall be minimal clearing of vegetation and a 40:60 ratio for forest/vegetation/wetlands to the golf course.

2. It shall promote biodiversity by providing adequate natural habitat enhancement, restoration, rehabilitation and refuge for affected and displaced wildlife; and creating a diverse environment such as grasslands, wetlands, mini-forests and rice paddies.

3. It shall be compatible with other resource systems and complements their protection so that there will be no negative impacts on nearby and related ecosystems.

4. It shall not unduly compete for, deplete or pollute water resources as it has an integrated water recycling system or its design of irrigation, drainage and retention system provides for efficient use of water and protection of water quality.

5. There shall be minimal modification of creeks and waterways diversion and any terrain modification should result in slope stabilization.

C. *Design*

1. It shall ensure social acceptability by closely working with the community from the planning, and throughout the entire development process, and by providing opportunities for public participation in the course of its operation.

2. It shall be the policy of the owners, developers and the management to protect the environment and to ensure equitable sharing of benefits to host community.

3. Its facilities and activities shall foster Filipino pride and appreciation and respect of Filipino culture and values.

4. It shall be developed and managed in conformity with the uniqueness of the natural ecosystem in which the landscape and facilities blend harmoniously with the setting and scenery.

5. It shall provide protective measures such as maintenance of buffer zones to protect high quality surface water resources or environmentally critical or sensitive areas.

D. *Construction*

1. Strategies shall be developed and implemented to effectively control sediment, minimize the loss of topsoil, protect water resources and reduce

disruption to wildlife, and plant species designated environmental resource areas are developed and implemented.

2. Construction and turf development are scheduled to allow the most efficient progress of the work while optimizing environmental conservation and resource management.

3. Immediate revegetation of opened areas during the construction phase shall be a priority.

E. Operation and Maintenance

1. Waste Management

a) Zero-waste management for all its facilities shall be observed

b) Grass cuttings and other organic materials shall be composted for agronomic use

c) Disposal of chemical rinsate shall not increase the potential for point or non-point source pollution

d) A system for proper disposal of other waste products, such as, used motor oil, unused solvents, etc., shall be developed/adopted.

2. Water Usage

a) Irrigation patterns shall be planned to meet the needs of the plant materials to avoid over watering.

b) Effective management of water use shall be adopted to prevent unnecessary depletion of local water resources.

c) Adoption of environmentally acceptable effluent irrigation systems shall be highly preferable.

d) Locally available environment-friendly raw materials, products and processes shall be preferred, whenever possible.

3. Fertilizers/Chemical Usage

a) Use of nutrient products and practices that reduces the potential for contamination of ground and surface water, e.g., use of slow-release fertilizers and organic products; and

b) Proper warning shall be made to inform golfers and guests about chemical applications.

4. Plant protection and maintenance

a) Principles of integrated plant management, or one that relies on a combination of common sense practices of preventing and controlling pests (e.g. weeds, diseases, insects) shall be adopted.

b) Plant materials in greens, tees and fairways that are drought-resistant and well-adapted to local environmental conditions shall be used to ensure efficient management and provide the desired playing characteristics.