

Monterey County SPORTS

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GOLF NOTEBOOK

Improving Poppy Hills: Second green gets makeover

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The second hole at Poppy Hills Golf Course will soon be taking on a whole new look.

In recent weeks, work has begun on the construction of a new green on the 174-yard, par-3 hole.

Previously, the green on No.2 had evolved into what had become two greens, one sitting

higher above the other with a tier in the middle.

Under the change, the two greens, each about 3,000 square feet in size, will become one 7,500 square feet green.

"The goal is to improve the hole," said Tyler Jones, acting CEO for Poppy Hills Inc. and the Northern California Golf Association. "We felt like it would be a dramatic

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Expected to be completed sometime before the end of the year, one of the big differences that players can expect is that

the surface of the new green, unlike the old "upper" green, will be clearly visible from the teeing area.

In another big change, the three sets of bunkers that

previously protected the left portion of the green will become one massive bunker. There will also be a new sort of 'tongue' area near the front of the green that will give players the option of using a putter or another club.

According to Jones, the project had been discussed for the past year. The renovation work is being done under the

auspices of architect Robert Trent Jones II, who originally designed the course (home to the NCGA) in 1986.

"When it's complete, it will be a better looking hole both to the eye and playability-wise," Jones said. "It will be receptive to more shots."

While work continues on

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No.2, changes are also being made to the par-3 17th hole. There, the tee box area will drop down in height and increase in size, becoming a ribbon tee.

In lieu of the construction on No.2, the par-5 4th has been temporarily converted into two holes, a par-4 and a par-3, making the course a par 71.

The course hosts a number of significant NCGA events throughout the year. It also joins Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill as one of the three venues used during the annual AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.