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# KTUA helps renovate Torrey Pines Golf Course



Photo courtesy of KTUA  
Torrey Pines North Golf Course.

## By Mark Armao

The American Public Works Association's San Diego chapter gave a 2017 "Project of the Year" award to the recently completed renovation of the Torrey Pines North 18-hole golf course, which was designed with the help of KTUA Landscape Architecture and Planning.

The design-build project was administered by the San Diego Public Works Department, and overseen by project officer Kevin Oliver and Mark Marney, the city's director of golf operations.

Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. was the prime contractor, with KTUA providing its services as a sub-consultant. The design team also included renowned golf-course designer Tom Weiskopf, O'Day Consulting Engineers and Bryant Taylor Gordon Irrigation Design.

KTUA senior associate Chris Langdon led the firm's efforts on the project, which included re-designing and constructing new tee boxes, fairway bunkers, greens, golf cart paths and new course irrigation.

Langdon led the design and planning effort to identify and remove five acres of turf from areas not typically in play. The grass was replaced with natural groupings of native shrub plantings in open areas covered with decomposed granite.

The shrub groupings are spaced in a way that allows golfers to locate and play errant shots that land in the newly landscaped areas.

"We coordinated quite a bit with the golf course designer, Tom Weiskopf, especially when some areas were close to greens and tee boxes," Langdon said. "We had to harmonize the logistics of how the holes play, how golfers drive their golf carts, how walkers play the course."

With aesthetic enhancement, the five acres of new landscaping will reduce the water usage in those areas by more than 80 percent.

To conserve water, course designers and managers are increasingly choosing to remove unnecessary turf areas, Langdon said.

"Because of [Torrey Pines] popularity and huge visibility, hopefully we have created a model for other courses around the country and the world," he said.

KTUA principal Kurt Carlson, an avid golfer who has worked on past projects at Torrey Pines, said that Langdon was a perfect fit for the project.

"That place is so beautiful that I wanted to make sure whoever was involved would respect the idea of the course and work well with the golf course architect," Carlson said. "Chris not only loves the sport but is very talented and has a lot of good experience working with contractors."

The award will be celebrated at an APWA awards luncheon on May 11. With the award, the project is automatically considered for an "Outstanding Project of the Year" award, which will be selected in the fall.

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