

# Industry Hills' Award-Winning Ways

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Industry Hills Golf Club has long been known as one of the Southland's most reputable facilities, a great set of championship golf courses built by past SCGA President Bill Bryant.

The William Bell design has gone through some notable improvements at the hands of Casey O'Callaghan that have made the recently renovated Eisenhower and Zaharias layouts (better known as The Ike and Babe) more progressive and ecologically friendly. They've also garnered the 31-year-old Industry Hills major recognition, being named the 2010 National Golf Course of the Year by the National Golf Course Owners Association.

Industry Hills, a host to numerous SCGA championships and USGA qualifiers, joins an elite group of courses that have won the award, including 2006 winner Pebble Beach Golf Links. The honor is based on four criteria: exceptional quality of the course; exceptional quality of the ownership, management and service; outstanding contributions to its community; and significant contribution to the game. Sitting atop a landfill in City of Industry along with Pacific Palms Resort, the course turned an eyesore into one of Los Angeles' premier golf and conference facilities.

"The renovation guarantees that golf enthusiasts will enjoy the courses at Industry Hills Golf Club for years to come," says Dave Youpa, the club's PGA director of golf for nearly two decades. "These are large, mature golf courses with huge trees; lush, wide fairways; and unique bunker styling. People love the layout; it challenges golfers of all levels without being unfair."

Thanks in part to what it calls a focus on green technologies, Industry Hills now uses 100 percent reclaimed water for its irrigation and maintenance through a new, state-of-the-art Toro irrigation system, an upgrade it accomplished during its renovation. Additionally, special collection systems under both the two-tiered driving range and certain fairways collect methane gas from the landfill on which the course sits, which is then used by the resort to run generators and boilers for heating and air conditioning.

Another quirky maintenance tactic was the owners' hire of a goat herder during its renovation to clear the thick vegetation that had grown for years on the hillsides, instead of utilizing the type of polluting machinery that is usually employed for such work.

"We brought in a herd of 300 goats and a goatherd and turned them loose," Youpa says. "You can't believe how much, and what, goats will eat."

In the end, Industry Hills, which has hosted a number of SCGA Championships, has a priority of maintenance standards for continued success.

"The two main reasons for truly appreciating a golf course are the quality of the layout and the consistency of the maintenance," Youpa says. "Of course, our maintenance has to be top-notch at all times, and we are constantly working hard to keep it that way."