

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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# **RACING, BREEDING AND** **STABLING INITIATIVES** **COMMITTEE MEETING**

of the **California Horse Racing Board** will be held on **Thursday, March 23, 2017**, commencing at **10:00 a.m.**, at the **Bayview Lounge (Turf Club) at Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy, Berkeley, California**. Non-committee Board members attending the committee meeting may not participate in the public discussion, official committee vote, or committee closed session

## **AGENDA**

### **Action Items:**

1. Discussion and action regarding a **report and update from the Pacific Racing Association (Golden Gate Fields) and the Northern California Stabling and Vanning Committee on the projected availability of stalls at Golden Gate Fields through the remainder of its race meeting and the projected timeline for reopening the Alameda County Fairgrounds at Pleasanton for off-site stabling and training.**
2. **General Business:** Communications, reports, requests for future actions of the Committee.

Additional information regarding this meeting may be obtained from Jacqueline Wagner at the CHRB Administrative Office, 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95825; telephone (916) 263-6000; fax (916) 263-6042. A copy of this notice can be located on the CHRB website at [www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov). \*Information for requesting disability related accommodation for persons with a disability who require aids or services in order to participate in this public meeting, should contact Jacqueline Wagner.

## **RACING, BREEDING AND** **STABLING INITIATIVES** **COMMITTEE**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman Madeline Auerbach, Chairman  
Alex Solis, Member  
Rick Baedeker, Executive Director  
Jacqueline Wagner, Assistant Executive Director

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM  
THE PACIFIC RACING ASSOCIATION (GOLDEN GATE FIELDS) AND THE NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA STABLING AND VANNING COMMITTEE ON THE PROJECTED  
AVAILABILITY OF STALLS AT GOLDEN GATE FIELDS THROUGH THE REMAINDER  
OF ITS RACE MEETING AND THE PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR REOPENING THE  
ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS AT PLEASANTON FOR OFF-SITE STABLING AND  
TRAINING

Racing, Breeding and Stabling Initiatives  
Committee Meeting  
March 23, 2017

ISSUE

At its November 16, 2016 Regular Meeting, the Board approved Pacific Racing Association's (PRA) application for license to conduct its December 26, 2016 through June 20, 2017 race meeting at Golden Gate Fields (GGF). PRA representatives indicated that PRA was in the process of adding stalls at GGF to bring the total number of stalls to 1,500. They said in recent years, the combined inventory of horses stabled at GGF and the Alameda County Fairgrounds at Pleasanton (Pleasanton) has been less than 1,500. PRA saw no need to continue paying to keep Pleasanton open as an authorized training facility at a cost of \$200,000 per month. Half of the cost of keeping Pleasanton open is paid by GGF; the other half is paid from purses. PRA agreed to reinstate Pleasanton in the stabling and vanning program on May 1 due to the anticipated influx of newly turned 2-year olds, which would grow the inventory and require additional stalls. The Board in, approving PRA's license application, determined that 1,500 stalls at GGF would be sufficient for at least the first few months of the race meeting and that Pleasanton initially would not be used as an authorized training facility. However, the Board stated the matter would be reviewed in the spring to determine whether Pleasanton would be needed prior to May 1, 2017.

ANALYSIS

PRA has performed monthly inventories of horses stabled at GGF since the beginning of its race meeting. In February, the inventory determined there were 1,225 horses stabled at GGF, 50 of which were 2-year olds. GGF currently has 1,455 stalls. PRA is still in the process of adding additional stalls to bring the total to 1,500. However, construction has been hampered by rain.

The 1,225 figure is about 200 below historical combined averages for the two facilities; GGF and Pleasanton. Some horses previously stabled at Pleasanton have been relocated to Los Alamitos and are racing in southern California. The 2015 California foal crop exceeded 1,700. More than 1,000 of these foals have been nominated to the Golden State Series of restricted stakes and purses, which suggests that at least that many 2-year olds will require stabling in Northern and Southern California at some point.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Committee hear from the PRA and Northern California Stabling and Vanning Committee representatives.



*a California joint powers agency*

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March 9, 2017

Rick Baedeker  
Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board

Dear Rick,

On December 10, 2016 Northern California principals voted on and passed a 2017 Northern Stabling & Vanning (S&V) plan. At that time, CARF representatives voted against the plan due to concerns regarding the closure of Pleasanton as an auxiliary site during critical spring/summer months.

The S&V plan was discussed at the December 2016 CHRB meeting and CARF's concerns were heard, but no action was taken. At this time, the CARF Board of Directors took action to authorize the signing of the subsequent S&V Agreement so that the mechanism for eliminating the deficit could move forward.

CARF has significant concerns regarding the current S&V Agreement:

- 1) The ability of Golden Gate Fields (GGF) to accommodate 2-year-olds and large out-of-state stables. GGF is not able to keep a trainer's horses in close proximity, thereby creating split stables and a hardship on horsemen and help.
- 2) Statistics compiled by CARF's Racing Secretary show 11 Northern California trainers have left and don't plan on returning eliminating approximately 70 horses from the circuit.
- 3) Opening Pleasanton May 1 offers only 45 days for Thoroughbreds to prepare on a dirt surface and for Emerging Breeds to train.
- 4) Closing Pleasanton July 11 eliminates a "home base" for fair circuit trainers, creating the need to make multiple moves of horses and equipment causing potential financial hardship for owners, trainers and help.
- 5) When Humboldt closes Sep 5 there is no fair track open for dirt only horses or EBs until Pleasanton opens on 11 Sep.

CARF agrees that paying off the S&V deficit and not incurring any future deficit is paramount to the health of Northern California racing. We believe California principals can work together to address our concerns with the 2017 agreement and create a 2018 S&V Agreement that fits the best interests of Northern California owners, trainers, backside workers and horses.

Respectfully Yours,

  
Larry A. Swartzlander  
Interim Executive Director