

STAFF ANALYSIS
DISCUSSION REGARDING
RACING CALENDAR PROPOSALS FOR
SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONTINUED CHALLENGES
OF PROVIDING FULL FIELDS AND ATTRACTIVE RACE CARDS
FOR THE WAGERING PUBLIC

Race Date Committee Meeting
September 27, 2017

ISSUE

In preparation for the May 24, 2017 Race Dates Committee meeting, the industry was asked to submit proposed racing calendars for 2018. Proposals were received from: California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF); Sonoma County Fair (Santa Rosa); Golden Gate Fields; Watch and Wager LLC at Cal Expo and Los Alamitos (thoroughbred).

However, at that meeting rather than focus on specific race date allocation at the present time, the Committee solicited a broader discussion from stakeholders and other interested parties addressing the industry's continued challenge of providing full fields and carding attractive race cards for the wagering public. The Committee at this July 21, 2017 meeting continued its discussion regarding racing calendar proposals for southern and northern California.

In preparation for the September Race Dates Committee meeting, the industry was notified that staff was in receipt proposals that were submitted for the May 24, 2017 meeting of the Committee, and additional information concerning 2018 proposals, including new or amended proposals would be accepted. Subsequent to this notification, an amended proposal was submitted by the Sonoma County Fair (Santa Rosa).

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for discussion.

2018 proposals received for the May 24th meeting are as follows:

California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF)

Alameda County Fair - Oak Tree at Pleasanton: June 13 - July 10

California State Fair: July 11 - July 31

Humboldt County Fair: August 15 - August 28

CARF submits the following requests on behalf of the Humboldt Fair

- Race without overlap;
- Maintain traditional August dates until the 2017 overlapped Labor Day weekend results can be evaluated.
- Work with Sonoma County Fair to accommodate their race meeting.

Alameda County Fair (Oak Tree at Pleasanton Fall): September 19 - October 2

Big Fresno Fair: October 3 - October 16

Sonoma County Fair (Santa Rosa)

Alameda County Fair - (Oak Tree at Pleasanton): June 20 - July 10

California State Fair: July 11 - July 24

Santa Rosa: July 25 - August 14

Humboldt: August 15 - August 28

Sonoma County Fair (Santa Rosa) (Alternative Proposal Submitted September 2017)

Alameda County Fair - (Oak Tree at Pleasanton): June 20 - July 10

Santa Rosa: July 11 - July 31

California State Fair: August 1 - August 14

Humboldt: August 15 - August 28

Golden Gate Fields

Golden Gate Fields: December 20, 2017 - June 19, 2018

(Fairs): June 20 - August 21

Golden Gate Fields: August 22 - October 2

(Fairs): October 3 - October 16

Big Fresno Fair: October 4 - October 17

Golden Gate Fields: October 17 - December 18

HARNESS

WATCH AND WAGER LLC AT CAL EXPO

December 26 - May 12

October 20 - December 23

Watch and Wager anticipate racing on Friday, Saturday with the exception of Tuesday evening, December 26, 2017.

THOUGHTBRED RACING AT LOS ALAMITOS

Los Alamitos Race Course

Los Alamitos facility respectfully requests the allocation of five (5) weeks of thoroughbred racing and three (3) weeks of fair racing.



a California joint powers agency

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May 11, 2017

Mr. Rick Baedeker, Executive Director
California Horse Racing Board
1010 Hurley Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Baedeker,

As requested by Board staff, the California Authority of Racing Fairs respectfully submits the attached proposals for Northern California racing dates at CARF member Fairs in 2018. Horse racing is conducted at the CARF member Fairs shown below.

- Oak Tree at Pleasanton (Summer)
- California State Fair
- Humboldt County Fair
- Oak Tree at Pleasanton (Fall)
- The Big Fresno Fair

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Swartzlander
Interim Executive Director

Cc: CARF Racing Fair CEO's

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Proposed Racing Dates for CARF Member Fairs in Northern California
2018

2018 DATES:

- June 13 – July 10
 - Alameda County Fair - Oak Tree at Pleasanton Summer Meet
- July 11 – 31
 - California State Fair
- August 15 - 28
 - Humboldt County Fair

CARF respectfully submits the following requests on behalf of the Humboldt County Fair:

- Race without overlap.
 - Maintain traditional August dates until the 2017 overlapped Labor Day weekend results can be evaluated.
 - Work with the Sonoma County Fair to accommodate their race meet.
- September 19 – October 2
 - Alameda County Fair - Oak Tree at Pleasanton Fall Meet (formerly Stockton)
 - October 3 – 16
 - The Big Fresno Fair

Please note that this proposed schedule shows inclusive calendar blocks proposed for each Fair. Specific racing dates may vary within those proposed blocks. Date ranges reflect Host status unless otherwise noted.

2018 CARF Member Fair Preferred Hosting Dates

2017

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

RACE DAYS TBD

	-	-
Cal Expo	-	-
Humboldt*	-	-
Oak Tree at Pleasanton Fall	-	-
	-	-
Total CARF Member Fair Days		

2018

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12				

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2				
			17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

* CARF requests Humboldt race unoverlapped.
 CARF requests Humboldt maintain their traditional August dates until the 2017 overlapped Labor Day weekend results can be evaluated.
 CARF and Humboldt will work with the Sonoma County Fair to accommodate their race meet.



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September 12, 2017

Mr. Rick Baedeker, Executive Director
California Horse Racing Board
1010 Hurley Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Baedeker,

The enclosure with this letter is Sonoma County Fair's (Wine Country Racing) submittal for the proposed 2018 horse racing dates. This submittal includes a replica of the dates submitted in May of this year as well as an alternative proposal.

As you are aware the Sonoma County Fair's horse race meet saw a significant decline in handle from 2016. Although the Chrims report shows the attendance at our meet being up over 2016 our paid reserve seats for the races were down over 2,500. The reserved seats are where we see our more knowledgeable betters whose participation result in higher handles. We strongly believe this decline is due to the shift of our traditional dates in July to all being run in August. The last week of racing overlapped with the start of the school year where we saw many of our regular patrons (teachers, aids etc.) back at work.

The proposal we submitted in May for 2018 would have the Sonoma County Fair race meet begin the last week in July and end during the second week in August. This mimics the dates we were allotted in 2016. We strongly believe these dates are much better for the industry as well as for the Sonoma County Fair.

As an alternative we have presented a proposal that has the Sonoma County Fair running immediately after the Alameda County Fair with the State Fair following. Strategically the swap of race dates between the Sonoma County Fair and the State Fair provides for a more even distribution of opportunities for our turf horses. As currently exists there is no turf racing for eight weeks in the north during the summer with the State Fair following The Alameda County Fair. Additionally we believe

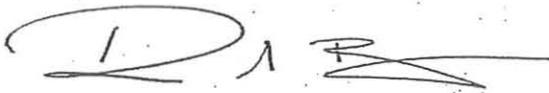
At the Fairgrounds:
Golf Course
RV Park
Jockey Club
Wine Country Racing
Fair Foundation

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that this change would increase the field sizes of our turf races, increase the betting handle and purses.

We appreciate the Commissioner's consideration of these proposals and look forward to the Date's Committee meeting on September 27.

Best Regards,



Rebecca Bartling
Chief Executive Officer
Sonoma County Fair
Wine County Racing

CC: Sonoma County Fair Board of Directors

At the Fairgrounds:
Golf Course
RV Park
Jockey Club
Wine Country Racing
Fair Foundation

Santa Rosa - 2018 Proposed Racing Dates

LIVE RACE DAYS TBD (Previously submitted in May 2017)

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19				

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sacramento	2 weeks
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Santa Rosa	3 weeks
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Santa Rosa - 2018 Alternate Proposal for Racing Dates

LIVE RACE DAYS TBD

June						
Sun.	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19				

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14				
			29	30	31	

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Santa Rosa	3 weeks
Sacramento	2 weeks

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017
COMMITTEE MEETING

There is no committee material for Item 2