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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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**WAGERING SERVICE BOOSTS FEES TO CALIFORNIA TRACKS**

SACRAMENTO, CA – A foreign wagering service has agreed to pay higher fees for access to California wagering pools as a result of joint efforts by the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB), the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), and Magna Entertainment Corporation (MEC), which owns the two thoroughbred tracks currently in operation, Santa Anita Park and Golden Gate Fields.

Darwin All Sports, an account wagering system based in Australia, had been listed as a secondary recipient of the Maryland Jockey Club, another MEC enterprise. This allowed Darwin to merge its wagers into the California pools at a favorable “foreign” rate and without negotiating its own contract with horsemen and host tracks.

When it came to the attention of the CHRB that representatives of Darwin were said to be soliciting clients in North America, the Board asked MEC officials to review their arrangements with Darwin. This resulted in MEC advising Darwin to either negotiate new contracts directly with host tracks or lose the privilege of merging wagers into racetrack pools. Darwin signed contracts with the MEC tracks at higher rates agreed to by the TOC.

“The Horse Racing Board is constantly on the lookout for illegal betting operations and ones that overstretch the parameters of their contracts,” said CHRB Chairman Roger Licht. “We appreciate the fact that Magna fully cooperated in this effort.”

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