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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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**PANELISTS NAMED FOR RACETRACK SURFACES FORUM**

ARCADIA, CA – Hall of Famers Richard Mandella, Gary Stevens, and possibly Russell Baze will be among the jockeys and trainers who will join with horse owners, public handicappers/horseplayers, racetrack operators, veterinarians, racing secretaries, track maintenance experts, and the manufacturers of synthetic surfaces this Wednesday when the California Horse Racing Board conducts a Special Purpose Meeting for a comprehensive discussion of California's racing surfaces.

The meeting in the Baldwin Terrace Room at Santa Anita Park will be webcast through a link on the CHRB website (<http://www.chrb.ca.gov>) beginning at 10 a.m. Additionally, HRTV will broadcast highlights and selected interviews. There will be a break for lunch around 1 p.m.

Some panels will be moderated by a panel member. Non-moderated panel members each will be allowed up to five minutes (unless extended by the Board) to make a presentation of their views. Each panel session will be followed by questions from the Board members: Chairman Richard B. Shapiro, Vice Chairman John Harris, and Commissioners John Amerman, John Andreini, Jesse Choper, Marie Moretti, and Jerry Moss.

“As we approach this session, we hope to hear all views and opinions on both traditional and synthetic surfaces,” said Chairman Shapiro. “This information exchange should be beneficial to all participants, including the Board. Everyone shares the common goal of finding the best course for our industry. We hope this meeting and similar information exchanges will provide us with the guidance and insight to succeed.”

Vice Chairman Harris said the purpose of the meeting is to get a good cross section of opinions and data on the performance of synthetic tracks to date. “We are going into this session with a clean slate, and while a variety of opinions exist on synthetic surfaces in general, we feel it will be beneficial to the entire industry to hold this session and share knowledge and insight,” he explained.

Jockeys Garrett Gomez, Aaron Gryder, and David Flores will participate in the first panel, along with Stevens, now a host on HRTV, and Terry Meyocks, national manager of the Jockeys' Guild. Baze and Victor Espinoza also have been invited.

The manufacturers or representatives of the three engineered synthetic surfaces installed at

four racetracks in California will compose the second panel, joined by a track expert, Dr. J.P. Bardet. The surface representatives are Michael Dickinson (Tapeta, Golden Gate Fields), Jim Pendergest (Polytrack, Del Mar), and Paul Harper (Cushion Track, Hollywood Park and Santa Anita).

Trainers participating in the third panel include Mandella, Bob Baffert, John Shirreffs, Doug O'Neill, Eoin Harty, David Hofmans, Ed Halpern, John Sadler, and Ed Moger. Mike Harrington and Ron Ellis also have been invited.

Track maintenance experts will form the fourth panel: Richard Tedesco (Santa Anita), Juan Meza (Golden Gate), Dennis Moore (Hollywood Park), and Steve Wood (Del Mar).

Official veterinarians, researchers, and practicing veterinarians will compose the next panel, including Dr. Rick Arthur, Dr. Susan Stover, Dr. Gregory Ferraro, Dr. Joe Dowd, Dr. Kim Kuhlman, Dr. Diane Isbell, and Dr. Jeff Blea.

Racing secretaries and directors of racing forming the sixth panel include Sean Greely (Golden Gate), Tom Robbins (Del Mar), Mike Harlow (Santa Anita), and Rick Hammerle (Santa Anita).

J. Paul Reddam and Marsha Naify will be among the owners on the seventh panel, joined by Drew Couto, president of the Thoroughbred Owners of California.

Public handicappers and racing analysts Brad Free, James Quinn, and Bruno De Julio will form the eighth panel.

Racetrack operators will close out the meeting. Those panelists will be Ron Charles (Santa Anita), Eual Wyatt (Hollywood Park), Joe Harper and Craig Fravel (Del Mar), and Robert Hartman and Peter Tunney (Golden Gate).

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