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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

APRIL 4, 2008

**COMMISSIONERS HARRIS AND CHOPER CONFIRMED BY
SENATE**

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Senate voted unanimously Tuesday to confirm Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s appointments of John Harris and Jesse Choper to the California Horse Racing Board.

Vice Chairman Harris has served on the Board since first being appointed by Governor Gray Davis on November 9, 2000. He was reappointed by Governor Davis in 2003, and then reappointed by Governor Schwarzenegger last September. Commissioner Choper has served on the Board since March 30, 2007. All appointments to the CHRB are subject to Senate confirmation.

“I am pleased by the reappointment and confirmation, and I intend to work hard to keep racing moving forward,” said Vice Chairman Harris. “The overall horse-racing industry in California and nationally is facing many challenges, including competition from other forms of gambling and other leisure activities, rising costs, flat revenues, and an aging fan base.

“There are no simple solutions to these challenges, but horse racing has a proud heritage and contributes significantly to the California economy. It combines a beautiful sport with an opportunity for people to use their intellectual prowess to compete against others in the very stimulating exercise of handicapping races. Horse racing is the only sport in California that can legally be wagered on, and Advance Deposit Wagering (account wagering) allows horse racing to enter every home in the state. I am very optimistic that we can address these problems and continue moving forward.”

Commissioner Choper said, “Of course, I am pleased to be confirmed. The problems facing the industry are especially formidable. I have found my time on the Board to be both challenging and rewarding.”

Vice Chairman Harris owns and operates Harris Farms in Coalinga, a major livestock and crop operation, which also includes Harris Ranch Restaurant and Inn on Interstate 5 near Coalinga. He has owned thoroughbreds since 1958 and is a prominent breeder of racehorses. He was elected a director of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association in 1974, served as the organization’s legislative chairman for 20 years, and was twice elected CTBA president. He served as CHRB chairman in 2003 and 2004.

Vice Chairman Harris also has served on the boards of the Breeders' Cup, Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), Grayson-Jockey Club Research Board, and the Center for Equine Health/UC Davis Advisory Board. He is a member of the Jockey Club, and currently serves on the boards of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America and the Pacific Legal Foundation. John and his wife, Carole, live on one of their horse farms on the Kings River east of Fresno.

Commissioner Choper joined the faculty at the University of California's Boalt Hall in 1965, where he served as dean for 10 years and continues to teach as the Earl Warren Professor of Public Law. Previously, after graduating from law school, he served as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren. He taught at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and the University of Minnesota Law School. He also has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, lectured at major law conferences throughout the world, and written several books and numerous articles on the law.

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