



CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

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SUMMARY OF CHRB ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS 5-13-2026

The California Horse Racing Board conducted a meeting Wednesday, May 13, at the Cannabis Control Appeals Panel Hearing Room in Sacramento. Chairman Gregory Ferraro chaired the meeting, joined by Vice Chair Oscar Gonzales and Commissioners Dennis Alfieri, Damascus Castellanos, Brenda Washington Davis, and Peter Stern.

The audio of this entire Board meeting is available on the CHRB Website (www.chrb.ca.gov) under the [Webcast](#) link, accessed through the Media Room tab. In brief:

- The Board approved a regulatory amendment to add pin-firing, blistering, and other counter irritants to the list of prohibited veterinary practices.
- The Board approved the license application for the Los Angeles County Fair to conduct a race meet at Los Alamitos Race Course that will operate from June 19 through July 5. This daytime thoroughbred meet runs concurrently with night quarter-horse racing at Los Alamitos.

Significantly, Orlando Gutierrez, the track's marketing director, spoke about increasing their in-house simulcast programming with additional cameras and personnel beginning July 3 to mitigate the loss of significant coverage by FanDuel TV. This FanDuel TV reduction will begin in July by removing most personnel involved in production in the nation, followed by the total elimination of the signature FanDuel TV channel in 2028.

Vice Chair Gonzales continued this discussion later in the meeting by reading aloud a letter to FanDuel TV from the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters organization urging them to reconsider the phase-out, emphasizing its impact on workers. Gonzales advocated writing

another letter suggesting that FanDuel TV meet with industry leaders to explore options. Commissioner Castellanos concurred.

- The Board approved the license application for the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club to conduct a race meet in Del Mar that will operate from July 17 through September 7.
- Vice Chair Gonzales repeated his urging of stakeholders to find ways to increase field size, particularly for 2-year-olds and turning-3-year-olds that form the foundation of quality racing.
- In his report to the Board, Executive Director Scott Chaney reminded commissioners that the CHRB will fall under the newly created Business and Consumer Services Agency beginning July 1, and reported that Governor Newsom recently appointed Rohit Chopra to lead BCSA: “We look forward to working with Secretary Chopra.”
- The Board approved the distribution of \$123,257 in race day charity proceeds by the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, plus another \$79,914 in a voluntary distribution by DMTC, to 10 beneficiaries.
- The Board approved a request by Northern California Off-Track Wagering, Inc. (NOTWINC) to use market access fees to help offset simulcast expenses.
- Dr. Francisco Uzal with the University of California, Davis, provided his annual update on the Postmortem Program, which is designed to better understand the nature of catastrophic injuries and to use that information to help prevent such injuries in horses.
- The Board approved separate applications by DK Horse LLC (DraftKings Racing) and AmWest Entertainment LLC to offer advance deposit wagering in California.
- The Board renewed the license for Santa Clarita Lanes to offer minisatellite wagering at its Santa Clarita business. Simulcast executive Rick Baedeker took this opportunity to announce that he soon will fully retire from all horse racing positions and that longtime harness racing executive Ben Kenney will assume leadership of simulcasting services in the state.
- The Board approved amendments to its Conflict of Interest Code updating titles and classifications of personnel required to file annual Statements of Economic Interests.

- The Board approved modifications to the distribution of market access fees by agreement between the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club and the Thoroughbred Owners of California.
- The Board approved five applications by organizations to continue operating simulcast wagering facilities for a period of five years.

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