



# CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SUMMARY OF CHRB ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS 7-8-2026**

The California Horse Racing Board conducted a meeting Wednesday, July 8, 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, Thomas Hudnut, and Peter Stern.

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

- The Board approved the license application for the Los Angeles Turf Club to conduct a thoroughbred meet at Santa Anita Park that will run from September 25 through November 1. This meet will include simulcast wagering on the 2026 Breeders' Cup, which will be run the final two days of October at Keeneland Race Course.

Santa Anita General Manager Nate Newby reported there will be purse increases for many categories of races at the meet. And as a prelude to the Breeders' Cup, Santa Anita will offer 14 stakes races the first two weekends, some of which will be prep races for Breeders' Cup races.

- The Board approved the license application for the Los Alamitos Racing Association to conduct a thoroughbred race meet at Los Alamitos Race Course that will operate from September 11 through September 20. This daytime thoroughbred meet will run concurrently with night quarter-horse racing at Los Alamitos.
- The Board approved the formula and agreement to provide funding for the CHRB for fiscal year 2026-2027. The total stakeholder contribution is \$13,157,000.

- In his report to the Board, Executive Director Scott Chaney said, “Fiscal year 25-26 has just concluded and it is important to report that there were 51 total catastrophic injuries—33 of which were musculoskeletal, the lowest total yet again. That is from approximately 7,000 unique horses at regulated facilities during the fiscal year. While one fatality is too many, recognizing the progress that California has made in the area of animal welfare is important. For context, in calendar year 2008 there were 345 (total catastrophic injuries) and in calendar year 2019 there were 128. The (current) extremely low number represents years of hard work by the CHRB and stakeholders. Importantly, the regulations and policies that we have created here in California have served as the model for other states and countries and in a very real way, have driven the pursuit of animal welfare around the globe. Our work is not done, but the progress we have made is undeniable.”
- The Board approved amendments to CHRB rules to establish uniform, statewide maximum ages for racing and workouts and to standardize the age at which maidens are ineligible to start. Henceforth, thoroughbreds and quarter horses older than 10 will not be permitted to either race or work out. The upper age limit for standardbreds will be 14. And maidens can be no older than 6.
- The Board approved amendments to the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for California licensed jockeys, a program that is funded by half of a percentage deduction from all advance deposit wagering (ADW) bets that originate in California. Significant among the changes, participants will be permitted to choose their own investment options based on their personal risk tolerance.
- The Board approved the re-elections of Angie Carmona, Dr. James Dunn, Lucy Lawrence, and Eric Sindler as directors of the California Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Foundation.
- The Board approved two equine sales—The Los Alamitos Equine Sale on October 3 and 4 at Los Alamitos and the Fasig-Tipton sale at Fairplex Park on September 30.

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