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PRESS RELEASE

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SUMMARY OF CHRB ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS 11-18-2026

The California Horse Racing Board conducted a meeting on Wednesday, November 18, at UC Davis. Chairman Gregory Ferraro chaired the meeting, joined by Vice Chair Oscar Gonzales and Commissioners Dennis Alfieri, Damascus Castellanos, Thomas Hudnut, 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 voted to name Commissioner Stern its new chairman after Chairman Ferraro announced that he is relinquishing that role. (See linked news releases in Media Room on CHRB website.)

  "I was appointed by the governor in terms of a crisis with animal welfare issues being the number one. And eight years later, we've come a long way in animal welfare," said Dr. Ferraro as he announced that he was stepping down as chair, though he remains sitting on the Board. "What you need now is a chairman who has the talent for AI and all that technology stuff," he continued before nominating Commissioner Stern to the position of chair.

  Commissioner Hudnut expressed the admiration of the Board for the service of Dr. Ferraro: "Let's thank the outgoing chairman for getting us through some tough times."

  In accepting the position, newly elected Chairman Stern said, "I've been in technology for 25 years...There's a lot of things we need to take into consideration. We need to keep moving forward. We need to increase our viewership and increase purses...I appreciate the opportunity to take on this position." (Open audio file for meeting to hear his full statement.)

- The Board approved the license application for the Los Angeles Turf Club to conduct a race meet at Santa Anita that will operate from December 26 through June 20. General Manager Nate Newby cautioned that due to predicted severe weather, "We can expect adjustments due to anticipated rain." CHRB Executive Director Scott Chaney interjected his appreciation for the cooperation of all tracks in adhering to the CHRB inclement weather policy as part of the industry's efforts to protect horses and riders.

  The discussion of the Santa Anita application turned into a long debate over purse levels detailed in the purse agreement between the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) and Santa Anita. The focus was on the levels of purse increases for horses entered in certain Cal-bred races (increasing by $2,000) compared to corresponding purses in open-company races (increasing by $6,000). Supporters of Cal-breds argued that the purse increases for both categories should be the same. TOC President Bill Nader explained that giving a higher bump to open races might help stem the drain of horses to other jurisdictions offering much larger purses. Because the Board has no legal authority to dictate purse levels, and the only option was to not approve the Santa Anita license, the commissioners let the purse agreement stand, while asking those involved to settle their differences before the next meet application is considered.

- The Board approved the allocations of racing dates for 2007 as follow: Santa Anita, December 23 (2026) June 22; Los Alamitos, June 23 through July 8; Del Mar, July 7 through September 7; Los Alamitos, September 8 through September 21; Santa Anita, September 22 through November 2; Del Mar, November 3 through November 30; Los Alamitos, December 1 through December 21, and a full year for the quarter horse meet at Los Alamitos, December 23 (2026) through December 21. Allocated dates include simulcast wagering on non-racing days. Actual race dates will be determined in the individual license applications for each meet.

- The Board agreed again to opt-into collecting fees for the Horseracing and Safety and Integrity Authority (HISA) to cover California's share

of the anti-doping and medication control program and the racetrack safety program for calendar year 2027.

- The Board agreed to enter a voluntary implementation agreement with the Horseracing and Safety and Integrity Authority (HISA) and the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit (HIWU) to provide enforcement services. The credits California receives for these services greatly offset the assessments HISA charges California for its share of the HISA program.
- The Board approved the license application for the Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing Association to conduct a meet at Los Alamitos that will operate from December 26, 2026, through December 19, 2027.
- The Board approved the license application for the Los Alamitos Racing Association to conduct a meet at Los Alamitos that will operate from December 4 through December 13. This and other daytime thoroughbred meets at Los Alamitos run concurrently with night racing at the track.
- The Board approved for public notice a regulatory amendment to prohibit the use of counter-irritant practices on any racehorse in its jurisdiction, including pin-firing, freeze-firing of shins, the application of blistering agents, and the injection of any substance intended to create inflammation or a counter-irritant effect.
- In his report, Executive Director Scott Chaney said, “I wanted to make the Board aware that Watch and Wager withdrew its application for a new standardbred meet schedule to begin at Fresno this month. There is a pending sale of the company that has made the logistics of putting on a race meet difficult. Should there be a change in the sale status there is a small chance that a meet could begin in January, but in my view, that is unlikely. There is also some discussion of a fall meet in 2027. I want to thank the Big Fresno Fair for their commitment to racing and their willingness to take on this new venture.”
- As is customary each year, the Board delegated authority to the executive director to address routine operational and regulatory matters, such as adjustments to post times and the cancelations of place or show pools when requested by a racetrack.

- The Board approved the distributions of three race-day charity proceeds: $13,690 by the Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing Association to four beneficiaries; $2,855 by the Los Alamitos Racing Association to four beneficiaries; and $75,751 by the Los Angeles Turf Club to 10 beneficiaries.
- The Board approved the renewals of licenses for six platforms to provide Advance Deposit Wagering services for a period of two years: TVG Network, Churchill Downs, Watch and Wager, Lein Games, NYRA Bets, and Game Play Network
- The Board approved the license (renewal) for Norco Racing and Sports to operate The Derby Room minisatellite wagering facility for a period of five years.
- The Board authorized the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association to conduct a horse sale at Fairplex on January 19.
- The Board approved six routine matters, including the use of market access fees.

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