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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

AUGUST 8, 2010

CHRB INSPECTING SANTA ANITA MAIN TRACK

ARCADIA, CA – The California Horse Racing Board has arranged for Dr. Michael “Mick” Peterson, the renowned professor of engineering at the University of Maine, to inspect the main track at Santa Anita Park this coming week in accordance with the CHRB’s responsibility to inspect and evaluate racetracks for safeness.

CHRB Executive Director Kirk Breed will join Dr. Peterson at Santa Anita on Tuesday to begin the review. Dr. Peterson already is under contract with the CHRB to train its project engineers for an ongoing track safety standards program. That contract has been amended to include an independent evaluation of the Santa Anita track surface. Dr. Peterson is widely considered to be the foremost authority on racing surfaces, particularly synthetic surfaces, such as the one at Santa Anita. He has developed test protocols that have been used at more than 30 thoroughbred racing venues.

The CHRB has been monitoring developments at Santa Anita during attempted repairs of a drainage problem in certain areas of the track, as have representatives of the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) and California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT). The CHRB will invite the CTT, TOC, and Santa Anita officials to go over the findings from this review. A full report will be provided to the public.

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