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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

BOARD WORKING WITH INDUSTRY ON SANTA ANITA WAIVER

SACRAMENTO, CA – Planning continues for the replacement of the synthetic surface at Santa Anita with a dirt oval and the CHRB is working with management and horsemen in the preparation of a request for the Board to waive the rule requiring a synthetic surface.

As Santa Anita officials consult with engineers and have dirt analyzed for its suitability as a racing surface, the CHRB has provided them with requirements and guidelines for the granting of a waiver. CHRB Executive Director Kirk Breed advised Santa Anita to take the following steps:

- Appoint a project manager.
- Develop a construction management plan that includes the time sequence of all activities from permit submission and approval through the CHRB completion inspection and the first use of the track.
- Schedule committee meetings of representatives from the CHRB, Santa Anita, the California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT), and Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) to review and consent to the design and surface material.

At the August Board meeting, Chairman Keith Brackpool instructed the CHRB staff to work closely with Santa Anita to obtain the necessary approvals from all levels of government. He said the waiver application, to be considered at the September 23 Board meeting at Fairplex Park, should include expert opinions, track specifications, and other information that would help the Board be “absolutely sure that the surface we change to is better than what we currently have.”

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